



Emerald

The Oregon women's Club Sports rugby team is one of the more aggressive sports among the 35 offered through the University.

Club Sports offers 35 teams for many athletic backgrounds

Club Sports provides a co-ed atmosphere suited to the non-intercollegiate athlete

By Kirsten McEwen
Freelance Reporter

Do you practice your victory dance in the mirror instead of the battlefield? Or do you have a move you are dying to show off?

If so yes, Club Sports wants you! The EMU Club Sports program offers more than 35 different sports, and invites all University students, faculty and staff to get involved.

Club Sports

"It's fun, that is the bottom line," Club Sports office manager Lee Sullivan said. "Students get the chance to continue playing a sport they played in high school and it also gives kids the chance to try a sport they have always wondered about."

Club Sports is a competitive, co-ed recreational program designed to meet the needs of existing intramural and intercollegiate programs. It's administered and coordinated by students, who organize each club and select volunteer coaches.

The list of offered sports is long and diverse: Students can participate in any sport from Aikido to the triathlon. The program offers traditional university sports like baseball, soccer, tennis and volleyball, as well as more specialized sports such as crew, ice hockey, lacrosse and snowboarding.

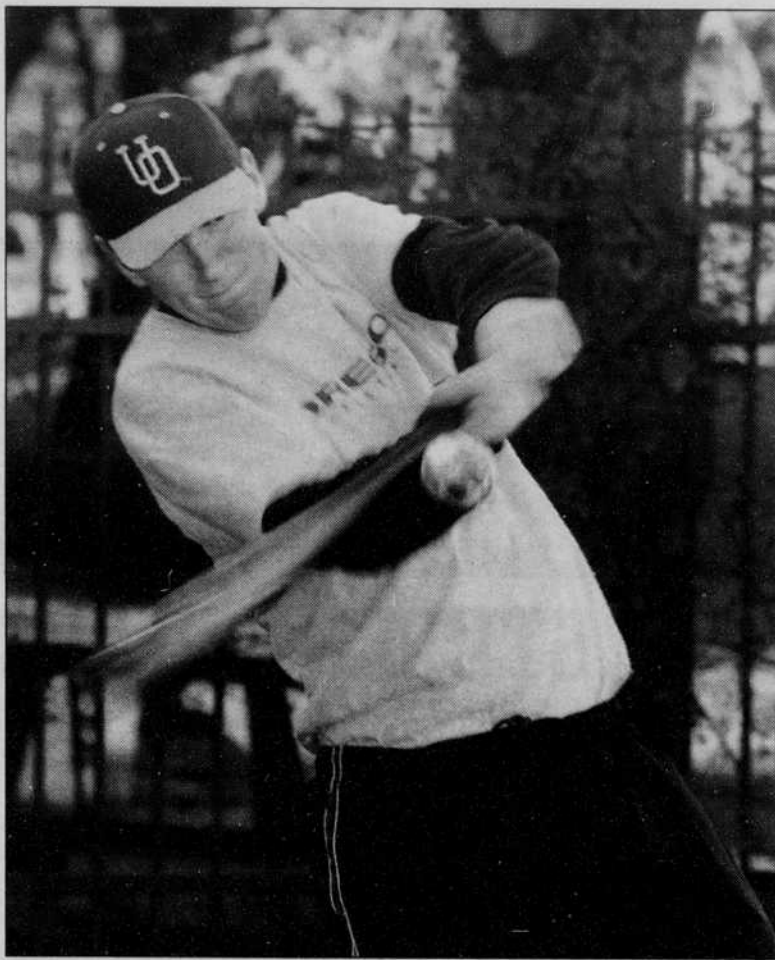
"Body building and paintball are two new sports we have added this year," Sullivan said. "They have both gained a lot of attention in the last few years."

Some teams, such as those for aikido and jiu jitsu, also participate in seminars and occasionally host their own. In fact, the Snowboarding Club hosts the Northwest Collegiate Snowboard Championships.

Most club teams participate in local and regional competitions, so teams often travel.

"Traveling enables Club Sports teams to challenge various colleges while getting the opportunity to compete outside of Oregon," Sullivan said.

Time commitments depend on the sport: Some teams meet five days a week, while others meet only



Mark McCambridge Senior photographer

The Oregon men's Club Sports baseball team spends practice on the turf field.

a few days a week.

"Each club starts off equal and where they go from there is up to them," Sullivan said. "Some clubs do the minimum, while others throw their heart and soul into it."

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Lee Sullivan
Club Sports office manager

Numerous teams have official Web sites highlighting records and achievements. Some sites also include schedule and tryout information. Club sports that do not have individual

Web sites still list information on Oregon's official Web site.

Teams will host an open house in the EMU's Fir Room Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. for students who want to learn more about the University's Club Sports programs. Each club's coordinators will also be available to answer questions.

Lauren Anas, the triathlon club's coordinator, encouraged all students to check out the open house, especially if they are interested in meeting new people with similar interests.

"I joined Club Sports because I came from California and I didn't know anyone," Anas said. "I had played sports all my life and thought it would be a great way to meet people. And I did just that. I met a group of healthy and strong individuals, and I even hang out with them outside of athletics."

Kirsten McEwen is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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