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# 'Commitment, participation' vital for Club Sports teams

Club Sports teams are getting back into the swing of things with tryouts, games

#### **Kirsten McEwen** Freelance Reporter

It's official: EMU Club Sports doesn't mess around.

The program is committed to its sports, its players and to putting together competitive teams.

With that in mind, tryouts have begun for some of the clubs. For others, tryouts are right around the corner.

We have a few sports that have a limit on how many people can be on the roster.

Club Sports coordinator Club Sandy Vaughn Sports said. "For the majority of our sports, showing

up and participating means you made the team.

Men's soccer and ice hockey are two sports that have limited spots on their roster. Both clubs have been holding tryouts this week and will begin training soon after the final cuts are made.

Baseball will be holding tryouts beginning Oct. 11 and expects anywhere from 60 to 80 competitors to attend. The team, which will consist of 30 players, plays 24 games during the spring season and competes in the Northwest Collegiate Baseball League.

Practice begins the third week of October and continues throughout the fall, winter and spring terms. They play a number of varsity programs around the state and will host a weekend of games at Civic Stadium, home of the Class A Eugene Emeralds. The squad also travels to Canada, Washington and various sites around Oregon to play in tournaments. Last year, the team placed second in their division, just behind Western Washington.

"I started playing just because I was purely interested in playing the game again," second-year catcher Jon Loomis said. "But I stuck with it because I enjoyed the guys and the team atmosphere.

While some clubs are just beginning to hold tryouts, others have already started competing and practicing. Men's water polo has its first match this weekend at the Osborne Aquatic Facility in Corvallis. The team practices Monday through Thursday from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Even though water polo has begun its fall season, the team looks for new members on a continual basis.

Crew is another sport that has begun its fall training but is still looking for new members. The team is a member of the Pacific-10 Conference and the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association and participates in regattas during the fall and spring. This is where the word "commitment" comes into play. The crew team trains at Dexter Reservoir five days a week and meets at 5 a.m. No experience is necessary but the ability to commit to early mornings is a must.

"I have played a lot of sports, and crew is probably the most fun and most intense by far," returning rower Aaron Brent-Fulps said.

If being outdoors and on the water is appealing but 5 a.m. practices are not, then sailing is another club currently recruiting new members. The co-ed team sails at Fern Ridge Lake three times a week in the afternoon. The team competes against other colleges in the Pacific Northwest. It owns six Flying Juniors, a Santana 20, a Lido 14 and a Boston Whaler. Again, the club welcomes students of all skill levels.

"I starting sailing because I wanted to do something new," sailing member Sarah Higginbotham said I knew that crew was a huge time commitment and I still wanted to be on the water, just not a 5 a.m.

Tonight, Club Sports will be hosting an open house in the Fir Room of the EMU from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Students can visit with the coordinators from each sport and find out when each has scheduled tryouts or informational meetings.

"We really have every sport imaginable," Vaughn said. "We have a lot of non-traditional sports available and that is why finding a sport you are interested in is so easy.

Those unable to attend the open house can contact Vaughnin the Club Sports office, located on the ground floor of the EMU

Kirsten McEwen is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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An Oregon graduate in 1997 and a two-year volunteer coach thereafter, Galas has returned to become a Duck again after serving as an assistant coach for three years at Florida State.

"Part of it for me was getting Pac-10 experience," Galas said. "If you look at what the athletic department's done over the course of the last 10 years, it's just an exciting time to be a part of Oregon athletics, and it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

Galas focused his coaching on the goalkeepers while at Florida State and helped lead the team to two Sweet 16 appearances in three years. Now at Oregon, Galas will be able to

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work with all aspects of the team, including recruiting and coaching.

Galas became a father Monday afternoon at 1:15 p.m. His wife, Anna Galas, gave birth to their first son, Caleb Ryan Galas, who was 7 pounds, 12 ounces

### **Could the schedule** be any easier? Yes.

The Ducks seem to live on the philosophy that in order to be the best, one must beat the best. That's an explanation considering Oregon once again loaded its schedule with the best opponents around.

In 2002, the Ducks faced 11 NCAA tournament veterans from the previous season and 13 teams ranked in the top-25 at the time. And this year isn't much easier.

This time around, the Ducks play 10 veterans from last year's NCAA tournament, including defending national champions Portland, whom they face off with Friday.

### Peters still sticking around

Former Oregon standout Sarah Peters was drafted as the 28th pick in the fourth round of the Women's United Soccer Association draft last February by the San Jose CyberRays.

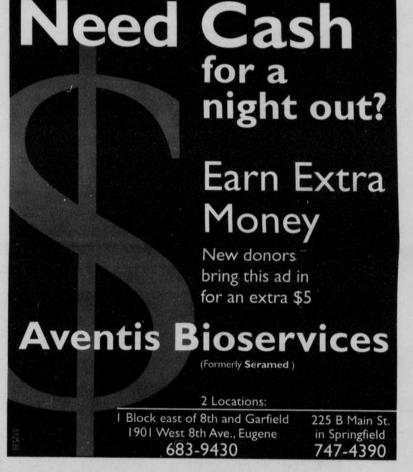
Yet, mainly due to injuries and troubles with her back, Peters is back in Eugene still helping out her team as a manager. Peters was a goalkeeper for Oregon from 1999-02, where she recorded 334 saves in 57 games.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.











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