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Club crew takes to machines

Oregon's Club Crew team will row for 48 straight hours to raise money for upcoming regatta fees

By Kirsten McEwen
Freelance Reporter

Oregon's Club Crew team will begin its annual fund-raiser at 4 a.m. today. The team will then end it in the same fashion as it started — in the dark.

Club Sports

For 48 straight hours, until the clock hits 4 a.m. on Friday, 35 members of Oregon's crew team will take turns rowing on erg machines outside of the University Bookstore. Each member will row for one hour and then hand the machine over to the next teammate in line.

For more than 20 years, the team

has been putting on the fund-raiser in order to raise money to cover entry fees for upcoming regattas.

"We used to row in the middle of the EMU amphitheater in real water, but recently we have moved it to the bookstore location and we just use erg machines," crew coordinator Melissa Johnson said. "We really count on everyone to participate because it's a good time to make some money that will really help us out."

The club will set up two individual erg machines, and students will be able to buy raffle tickets on Wednesday and Thursday. A donation of \$1 will buy students one raffle ticket or students can donate \$5 and receive six raffle tickets.

By entering the raffle, students have the chance to win various electronic prizes and gift certificates to several Eugene restaurants and businesses.

The Ducks have been training all year, but this Monday marked the beginning of their first day of training outside — Dexter Lake — since the Thanksgiving holiday.

"We are really excited to finally get back on the lake since all winter we have just been training inside on the same erg machines you will see us using during the fund-raiser," Johnson said. Although Oregon has not been on the water for quite some time, they have managed to find other ways to compete. Last month, the Ducks competed in Erg-O-Mania in Seattle.

Seven rowers represented Oregon in the event. In the lightweight division, Oregon took home both "The Fastest College Female" and "The Fastest College Male" titles.

Oregon will host its first regatta at Dexter Lake on March 13. Evergreen State, Oregon State, Portland State and Washington State will all compete against Oregon. The regatta will mark the beginning of a string of eight straight weekend outings for the Ducks.

Kirsten McEwen is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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CRUNCH

continued from page 5A

the glove he had been wearing during Oregon's games against Arizona and Arizona State.

All systems are well for the freshman from Seattle. His wrist is feeling fine.

"It's the same as before the games," he said. "It's getting better every day, to be honest. It's not carefree. It's always on my mind, some of the stuff I do. But not enough to limit my game at all."

Brooks' next big challenge comes Saturday at Stanford. Not only do the Ducks take on the top-ranked Cardinal, but Brooks also gets his one and only chance to play on Maples Pavilion's infamous bouncy floor.

It's being replaced prior to next season during the arena's \$30 million renovation, but the Ducks will get to

play on it once more.

"I heard about (the floor)," Brooks said. "I'm going to be excited. We're all going to come out excited because they're No. 1 in the country. I don't know what to expect, though."

Still one of them

Luke Jackson is still one of six players in the nation who leads his team in points, rebounds and assists per game.

The Creswell native is averaging a Pac-10 second-best 22 points per game. He's doing this while grabbing seven rebounds and dishing out five assists per game.

The other five players are Stetson's E.J. Gordon, Nicholls State's Willie Depron, Eastern Washington's Alvin Snow, Southwest Texas State's Terry Conerway and Southern Illinois' Darren Brooks.

Jackson leads every player in every category, except for Gordon. The two

are tied in rebounds.

More Jackson

With 42 points against Arizona in a losing effort Thursday, the senior now has two of the top seven individual scoring efforts in a game by an Oregon player.

He scored 39 against Oregon State on Jan. 10, displacing Terrell Brandon — who had 38 against the Beavers in 1991 — for seventh all-time.

Jackson's effort against the Wildcats was one point less than the all-time Oregon record of 43. That mark was set by Greg Ballard in 1977.

Coincidentally, with 53 more points, Jackson will pass Ballard for third all-time on Oregon's career scoring list. Jackson has 1,777 points in 116 career games.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

BATTLE

continued from page 5A

The ninth-place Golden Bears (10-15, 3-13) have wins against Oregon, Washington State and USC. The Ducks (12-14, 4-12) sit at eighth in the conference, but close the regular season against California to decide which team will have the higher seed when the two likely meet in the tournament.

Freshman honors

Noelle Quinn, a UCLA guard, was

named Pac-10 Player of the Week on Monday, the second consecutive week that the freshman has earned the honor.

The Bruins split road games at California and Stanford during the weekend. Quinn averaged 19 points, 11.5 rebounds and six assists in the games. She also had the Pac-10's first triple-double of the season and the first of her career in UCLA's win against California.

Top 25 reports

Despite the four-team race for the

Pac-10's top seed, Stanford remained the only conference team ranked in the top 25 in both polls released Monday.

In the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll, No. 10 Stanford kept its ranking from last week. Arizona State, Arizona and USC all received votes, though none came in the top 30.

The Cardinal also remained No. 10 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll, while Arizona was the only other team to receive votes.

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

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RICE

continued from page 5A

The field does need a few additions before it meets the facility requirements for hosting a regional, though. It needs a lighted field, improved seating areas — where the crowd can actually see over the dugouts — and a larger press box. Also needed is a larger concessions stand and improved restroom facilities (i.e. more than two portable toilets).

Those are all mandatory improvements that Howe Field would have to include to be eligible to host a regional tournament.

When the original arena location announcement was made Oct. 4, 2003, Arendsen said she would have been happy if the athletic department had decided to renovate Howe Field for the softball program instead.

"If they had put seating all the way to the backstop and added lights here (I'd be happy)," Arendsen had elaborated. "But it's not in the best interests of the University. We're proud that they care about us and that they're going to take care of us."

With the setback in planning for the new arena, the athletic department administrators have some time to reevaluate the best interests of the department and the various programs

construction will effect. If they take care of the softball team, they will realize a campus locale will make the best fit.

They might also want to talk to the community again — not just Oregon's community directly south of Howe, but also the basketball and softball communities.

"I'm sentimentally attached to Howe Field," Arendsen said. "I respect the history of Howe with the many athletes and coaches and teams who have played here, not only for softball, but for baseball, our brother sport. The season we had last year is certainly tied to this. I don't think there's a more scenic park in the country — looking at the hills outside left field or my big, beautiful tree in right."

And just a two-block trek from the heart of campus. Howe is accessible to the athletes for practice and to the students for games.

In the race to have the biggest arena, the best recruits and more money spent on facilities than the team itself, Oregon can't forget why it is building a new arena in the first place: the athletes and the students.

There isn't a better way to reward a rising program like the softball team than to renovate a location they love.

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.