

Snowboard Team hopes to shred slopes

KAITLYN LATHROP

Contributing Writer

The Snowboard Team encounters freezing temperatures, carving through fresh powder, sore muscles and tearing down hills of fresh snow in practices that began Dec. 6. Their first competition was Jan. 12 and the season ends in late February.

Team members can choose from a variety of events in which to compete, such as Slopestyle, Banked Slalom, Halfpipe, Snowcross and Slalom. In Slopestyle, one rider at a time performs before the judges by going through a series of jumps and obstacles while performing tricks. During Slalom, the rider must pass through a series of gates in as little time as possible. In halfpipe, a rider maneuvers back and forth through a halfpipe performing tricks.

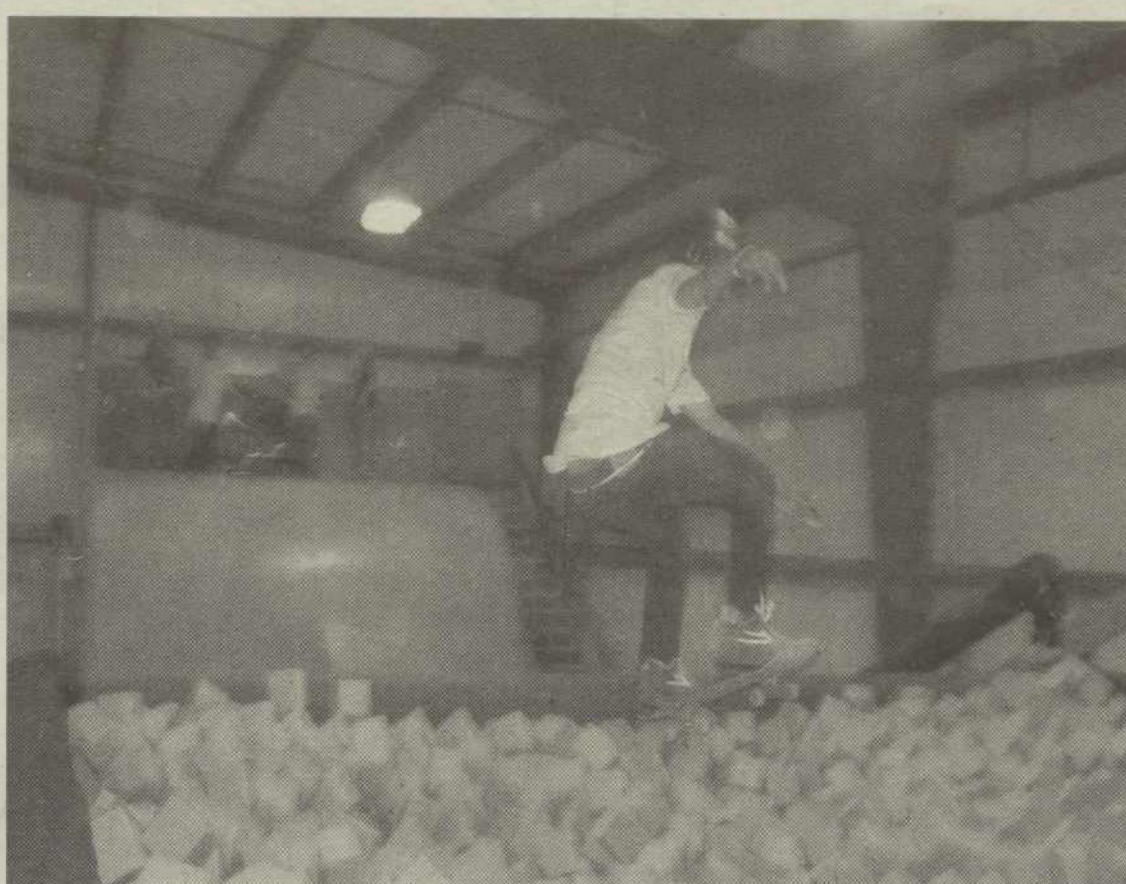
Pre-season training began in November with weekly dryland practice at school. Alistar Bunch, School Resource Officer, is the team's conditioning coach

this year. The team also went to Wendell's indoor facility to train on trampolines, skateboards and a foam pit.

"This was a great opportunity to learn the more complicated tricks and rotations needed to score high on judged competitions, without worrying about wiping out," Nannette Boggess, coach, said.

Having to endure a two hour chartered bus ride to each practice and finding their own means of transportation to competitions at Mt. Hood Meadows could wear one down, but their positive results from previous seasons show just how dedicated the team is. They hope that it will reflect in their performance this year.

The Snowboard Team operates a little differently than many other school sports. To be eligible to participate, a team member must have their own lift pass, snowboard equipment and clothing. Numbered jerseys are provided for the



Nick Mcmillen, freshman, practices air maneuvers at a pre-season practice. The team trained at Wendell's indoor facilities, which offered them an opportunity to practice tricks instead of dryland training.

Photo submitted by Nannette Boggess

season and wearing a helmet is mandatory.

On Wednesdays after school, the team practices conclude with arrival back at the school at 11 p.m., making for a long day. Each rider directs his or her own training, based on their individual goals and ability. Coaches are present at practice, often assisting

first-year riders and reading them for competitive snowboarding.

Last season, the women's team won the Sato Cup for being the best women's team overall in Oregon. The men's team took third in halfpipe. Several seniors graduated last year, and their absence may be felt this season.

"We lost a few good seniors, but the rest of the team is progressing and getting better. I think we will be able to fill the gap and do really well," Thomas Pittenger, sophomore, said.

The first Three Rivers League competition is the banked slalom at Mt. Hood Meadows on Jan. 12.

Donate your spare change

Spare a dime

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There are many parents in places such as Mexico, Iraq and Africa that struggle every day to provide food and shelter for their children. We take for granted a roof over our head and food in our kitchen.

We probably won't be among those sleeping on the streets at night.

Even Oregon has a varied range of income. The median household income in West Linn in 2005 was \$75,300 and the average price of a house was \$619,900. In the large eastern Oregon Harney county, in the city Burns, houses were going for \$157,400 and the median income was \$25,900. The gap is vast.

And this is just within Oregon. Think of the difference between West Linn and Kenya, or even the difference between Burns and Kenya. Kenyan families can survive on one dollar a day. Imagine all those little extra things you buy like gum, Starbucks and candy. That one grande non-fat vanilla latte you buy every morning could feed a starving family for four days.

My intent is not to make you feel guilty, it is to make you aware. I hope this awareness will lead you to action. There are many ways to help those less fortunate. For example, the Oregon Food Bank will gratefully accept time, food or money.

You can help people in need by donating to one of the school's fundraisers. There are also clubs you can join that notify you with ways you can help, such as GATA. Recently we lost to Oregon City in the canned food drive but the point was not to win. The point was to provide food for people that cannot afford it.

Many grocery stores have little jars you can leave your spare change in; going to a better cause than sitting in your jeans pocket. Or you could collect all that spare change in your own jar and donate it to a charity of your choice.

So the next time you're out spoiling yourself with new Abercrombie jeans, remember how fortunate you are. Remember there are people in the world starving and homeless that you can help with your spare change.

Helmkamp's Hits

Patriots take one step closer to history

JON HELMKAMP

co-Editor-in-Chief

If you have any doubt in your mind that the New England Patriots are the best team in the history of the

National Football League, don't.

Prior to this season, the 1972 Miami Dolphins are the only team in the history of the NFL that had ever had a

perfect season. But consider this: that magical year when the Dolphins ran the table, they had 43 touchdowns and 5,195 total yards. This year's Patriots team has racked up 75 touchdowns and 6,850 total yards through the regular season. The leading receiver of that Dolphins team had four touchdowns, while this year for the Patriots, Randy Moss has 23. At this point, it looks like no team is going to stop them.

It seems like week after week, something happens that

Tony Romo, but even with their high octane offense and their fast defense, I think Tom Brady and his offense would be able to pick them apart.

The only team right now that I think would put up a decent fight would be the Green Bay Packers, a team that with Brett Favre as quarterback, Donald Driver and Greg Jennings on the outside as wide receivers and emerging star Ryan Grant providing the running game, seem to have everything going for them. The Packers only

It seems like week after week, something happens that only stokes the fire in the belly of the beast, encouraging them to play better:

only stokes the fire in the belly of the beast, encouraging them to play better. Whether it's a player of the opposite team guaranteeing a win against them or prolonged drama surrounding the claims that they spied against the New York Jets last season, they are only driven to prove people wrong.

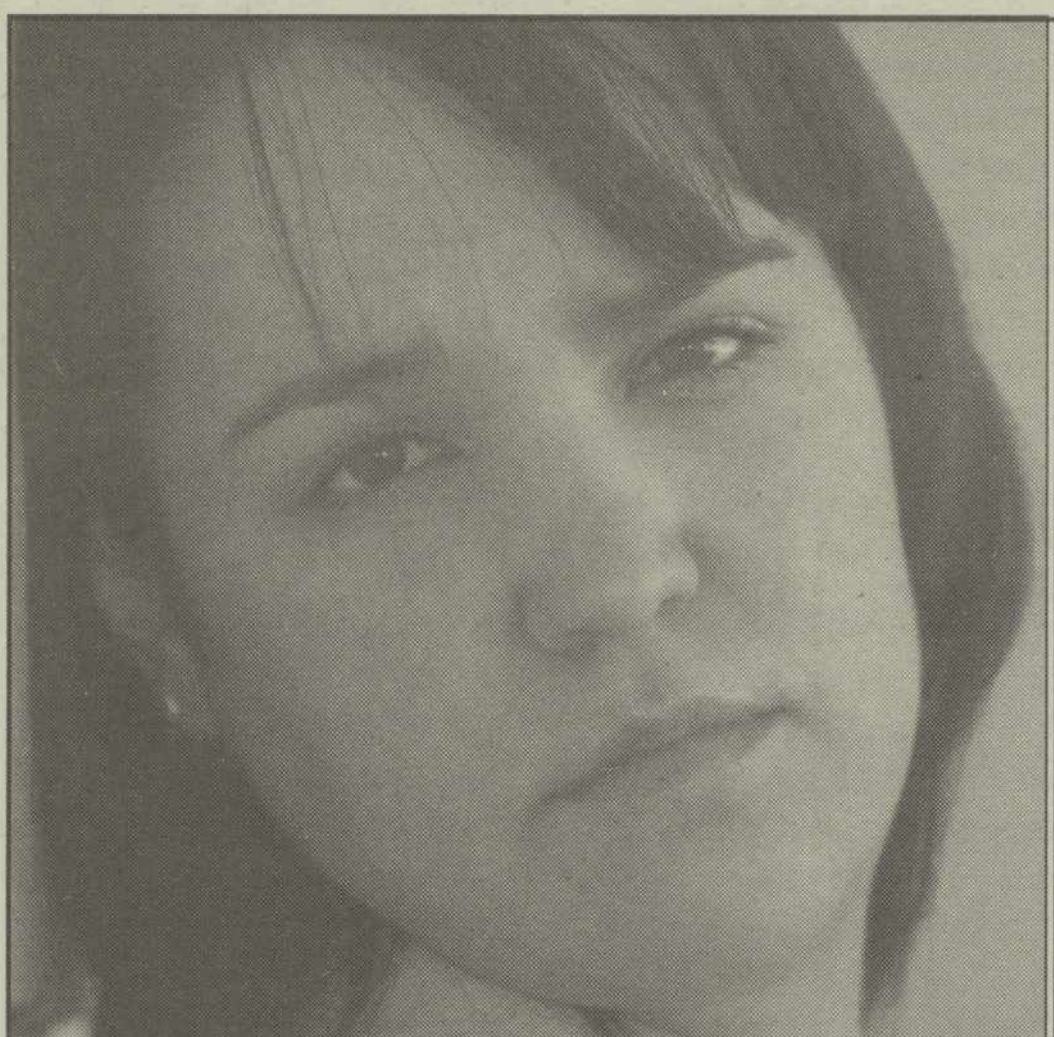
What will it take to stop a team of this caliber? I don't see another team in the league that can compete. Some said that the Indianapolis Colts could give them a run for their money, but that would have required a win against the now-infamous Chargers. The Chargers playoff stint just proved that anything is possible in the NFL this year.

Some say the Dallas Cowboys could compete under the leadership of the young

have 49 touchdowns on the season in comparison to the Patriots' 75, but have given up 26 in comparison to the Patriots' 34.

What amazes me is even when they have an off game and aren't performing at their best, they still find ways to win. In week 15 against the Jets, Brady only completed 14-27 pass attempts for only 140 yards and no touchdowns, yet they still managed to pull off a 20-10 win. That is the sign of a good team. They take care of business even when they aren't playing their best.

The Patriots are on track for a season of outstanding accomplishments and statistical achievements. For years, people could be looking back on this team calling them the best team in the history of the National Football League.



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