

Pinball wizards, foosball junk

By Brad Boyer
Staff Writer

"He's a pinball wizard
There has to be a twist
A pinball wizard
S'Got such a supple wrist.
He's a pinball wizard
He's a scored a trillion more
A pinball wizard
The world's new pinball Lord."

This excerpt from the rock opera, "Tommy," typifies the growth in the interest of the exciting game of pinball. Two other games that are equally popular and commonly associated with pinball are foosball and pool.

All these activities are enjoying a rapid surge of interest. Nearly every tavern, bowling alley and college has one -- if not all -- of these games. The excitement and competition creates fierce matches that can be observed in any place that has these games.

One example is in the taverns around the Portland area. The Oregon Foosball Association has been formed and players represent their respective taverns in competitions within the league. Dr. John's Tavern in Gladstone is one establishment which sponsors a foosball team. Pool is also offered for inter-tavern action.

"The teams offer a great change for competition and there is a great deal of

interest," said Bruce Hedlund, manager at Dr. John's.

Hedlund said the teams are great attractions for the taverns and create a great deal of business. They feel that it is well worth the tavern putting up the small amount of money it takes to sponsor a team.

Pool is also a very popular game as was evidenced by the 200 students that signed up for the pool tournament held earlier this year at Clackamas Community College.

The college's student activities program intends to continue providing for this increased interest and have again secured the services of Jack White, world billiard champion. White is scheduled to give a clinic and conduct a pool tournament over a week's period again next year.

Although pool is still very popular, foosball is gaining fascination and recognition very rapidly. Foosball, a table game modeled after soccer, is no longer a luck game, but has become a game of speed and skill.

When someone needs to know about a game, one should go to a fanatic expert in order to understand the subject completely. Clackamas definitely has such an expert.

Associated Student Government President Michael Ayers, a self-proclaimed "foos-freak," is knowledgeable and talented in the fine points of foosball. Ayers has fine credentials as he and his partner, Sheldon Thingvold, compete for Dr. John's Tavern and are undefeated so far this year.

Ayers has competed in foosball for two years and eight months and appreciates the game because all kinds of people can compete and be good.



"It's a great game because it makes no difference," Ayers said.

He said that with a great practice, someone can compete very well. Ayers has a simple plan.

"If someone wants to learn, they must first get beat to beat \$30 in quarters learning why."

Foosball is also an excellent cause either sex can compete.


Ayers said there was no way going to be any quicker than when playing foosball.

"Foosball is a very even game. No difference is made concerning sex. When the ball hits the table, it's a battle."

Pinball, as one uneducated person stated, "is a game where no one is involved."

This statement does not try to disprove. It takes a little competition against someone with experience, flippers and the silver ball, and one gets a sudden realization that skill is a factor.

Various pinball machines have been manufactured. Since the release of "Tommy", however, one particular machine has had fantastic success -- "The Pinball Wizard." It is the goal



TRI-CITY BOWL
MOLALLA AVE.
AT WARNER-MILNE RD.
P.O. BOX 292.
OREGON CITY, OR. 97045
SEV HARKSON
OWNER MANAGER


**Pool
Pinball
Bowling**

635-2603

**ARBY'S
RECREATION**
29th and Powell Blvd.
Free Foosball 5:30 - 6:30
Mon. - Fri.

FOOSBALL - PINBALLS -
ELECTRONIC GAMES

**3 FREE GAMES
OF FOOSBALL
WITH COUPON**



EAST SIDE BOWL
3620 S. E. 35th Place
Portland, Oregon 97202

Pinballs
SUNDAY MORNING SPECIAL
3 lines for \$1.25
9-1 o'clock

WALAN MORGAN PHONE:
DOLLY MORGAN 235-7478

