

Intramurals score with students

The intramural program at Clackamas is thriving, and students flock to sign up

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Sports Editor

All sorts of people are welcome – short, tall, fast and slow – in Clackamas' intramurals program.

Intramurals has been a staple at the college for more than 20 years. It continues to draw basketball enthusiasts of all kinds.

Head Volleyball Coach Kathie Woods started the program in 1983.

"A lot of people choose to do this instead of trying out for a college sport because they don't have the time, commitment or possibly the skill development, but they still enjoy competition," Woods said in an e-mail.

Staff member Bryan Fuentes, a work force specialist on campus, said of intramurals, "It gets me out of the office and into a different building on campus. I get to interact with students."

When the intramurals program first began, the community recreation department encouraged people from the local area to participate in activities such as open tennis tournaments and fun runs for the community.

However, the community program was dropped a few years ago due to lack of funds.

Traveling team

The intramural teams do not compete with schools outside of Clackamas, with the exception of racquetball.

"Intermural (instead of "intramural" – "intra" meaning within the school and "inter" meaning outside of the school) competition sometimes occurs in the racquetball league when we actually travel to other schools for competition," Woods said. "We have been to Chemeketa several times, and also to Mt. Hood and even Portland State."

When intramurals was initially established, it was active on a larger scale than it is currently. Clackamas even participated in competitions sponsored by Chrysler.

"... A long time ago, we ran a four-on-four basketball tourney that went intermural, and a very good team (the Clackamas Champion) went on to play at the national level," Woods said. "We actually hosted it, and our own Clackamas team played against Yale and several others."

"They almost won the thing. We all got nice jackets, and they almost won a car! It was exciting. That was back in the late '80s or early '90s."

"We also had a bigger budget, and I could actually



All photos by Kyle Steele Clackamas

Kathie Woods instructs intramural basketball players as to what teams will face off in that day's games. Woods started the program at Clackamas in 1983 and continues to run it today. The basketball teams meet every Tuesday at noon.

hire officials and do more with it," she added. "Then, I was needed to teach more classes in the department, and the intramural part turned more into an open recreation thing, and I was not in charge of that."

A new start

About eight years ago, the administration approached Woods, asking her to take over the program once more.

"So I had to start all over but with a smaller budget," Woods said. "Now we focus on one or two sports a term, with minimal equipment, and competition is self-officiated."

In the fall, flag football takes place on campus, and racquetball is offered through Eastside Athletic Club, although there is a fee to the club for their services.

"... We had four full football teams sign up, but only three stayed with the program," Woods said of flag football this past year. "I think they thought they weren't very good so they quit. That was too bad."

The annual Turkey Trot also takes place during November, and raises canned food for charity.

In the winter, basketball and racquetball are the featured sports.

"It's something to keep me active and in shape," freshman Mshaka Mitchell said. "It's a fun atmosphere, and you get to play with people you see every day."

"You get to meet new people and have a good time," he added. "There are lots of laughs and smiles."

Woods said, "This term, we also have four basketball teams, but they have been growing, and compe-

tion is very even, and it makes for a good league. People are still signing up on the already existing teams."

Information and rewards

The intramural department is always open to adding new sports if students are interested.

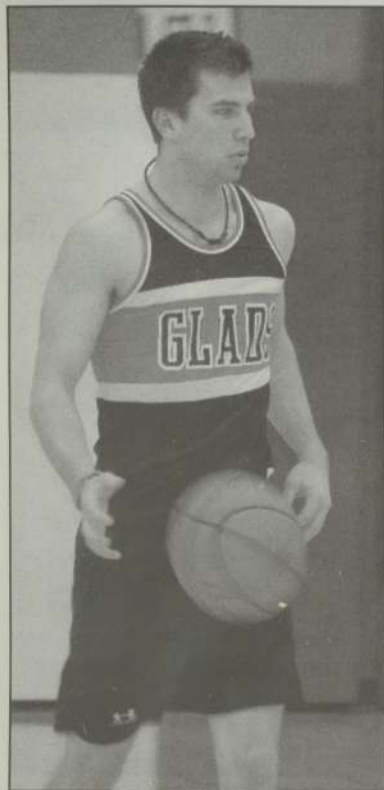
"If people want more, we try it," Woods said. "We tried an Ultimate Frisbee event, but it ended up not getting enough participants. We have also had fun runs, and also a tennis ladder. We used to have a very competitive softball league in the spring, but that was before the break in the program."

Intramurals is completely free for students and faculty. Prizes are given for the winning teams and individuals who participate.

"We give T-shirts to the champions, and then during the Turkey Trot at Thanksgiving, we give piggy banks," Woods said.

All information about the intramural program can be found on a bulletin board located in the lower level of Randall Hall at the bottom of the stairs. Sign-up notices are available there, as well as results, matches and pictures from events.

"Every term, I have the information on the first day of school on the bulletin board," Woods said. "I give two weeks for people to form teams and sign up. We start competition on the third week of the term. The league runs about four weeks, sometimes longer when we have a lot of teams and people do not get to play every



LEFT: Freshman Bill West dribbles the ball during game time. The sign-up for intramurals is located on the intramural board in the lower level of Randall Hall.

ABOVE: Intramural players, left, wait to tag into the game while onlookers sit on the bleachers and observe. According to Woods, students are currently requesting to join because the games have generated interest.