

Cougars welcome rugby club

Rugby finds its niche at Clackamas and looks for funding to continue play in future

By Steven Weldon
Associate Sports Editor

Saddle up in the scrum; rugby has arrived at Clackamas Community College. The sport that has found its niche all over the United States is now a club sport here in Oregon City.

The band of 15 players with varied rugby experience from first year players to four years of high school and club team experience come together select Saturdays and battles teams from across the state from college teams to select club teams.

Travis Hedrick, who has four years of experience playing rugby, said, "We tried to get a team together at [Portland State University], but it fell through, so we started the club here."

While the team looks to have fun first and foremost, they face uphill challenges. Clackamas student and rugby club organizer, AJ Vanderpool

said, "We only have 15 players, so all of them have to play the entire game."

First year player Adam Decknadel said, "I love rugby; the team is full of good guys, too."

In their first game against the Oregon Rugby Sports Union Division Two team, the Cougars experienced a rough start and eventually fell 22-47.

While they lost handily, Vanderpool said, "We fought hard. It was tough."

While the scrappy underdog Cougars fell, they will not give up. The team has great chemistry for only playing with each other for two months, which will surely help them.

Their next game is against Southern Oregon University on Feb. 27.

Rugby, a sport very popular in the United Kingdom and Australia, has recently risen in popularity in Oregon. In fact, most high schools in Clackamas County have a way for kids to play rugby and even have youth clubs.

The ORSU Division Two and Three clubs, an adult club team, participates in the Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union league, battling eight teams from all across Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Clackamas's rugby club



Michael Bonn Clackamas

Rugby team members perform a two-on-one drill. Originally the team attempted to start a club at Portland State University but was unsuccessful.

has dedicated time to assist the Oregon City High School club.

The rugby team is also actively searching for new players, as they only have enough players to play the entire game,

no bench to be seen.

Also using their own funds and fundraising, the team has to purchase jerseys and even goalposts for their field, located off campus off of Leland Road in Oregon City.

Every sport has its beginnings, and rugby's beginning CCC starts now.

New players are welcome and can contact Vanderpool at (503) 314-9171 or email clackamasrugby@yahoo.com.

Basketball program uses technology to help keep stats

Sports move into the technological age as teams use the CyberSports program to keep stats

By Mark Foster
Sports Editor

In the past, a team's statistician has had the grueling job of keeping track of all stats for every member of a team. With technology on the rise, a program emerged which has eliminated the need to count stats by hand and eased the stress of statisticians around the globe. Helping to put that stress at ease is CyberSports, Inc.

Since its inception in the early 90s, CyberSports has only been growing. Both of Clackamas' basketball teams use the program for every home game.

Using this program helps to eliminate the time it takes to generate accurate stats for coaches to hand out to players as well as schools looking to recruit players.

Ernie Woods, chief designer and adviser to CyberSports, said about the program, "the statistician was once a bankless job and has really turned out to become a big one, and the statistician is a big part of the team now." He also mentioned that the University of Tennessee recently hired a person full time to run their CyberSports during games as well as practices.

Woods is no stranger to the world of statistics. He is the win-

ningest coach in Washington state community college basketball history and has worked with numerous NBA teams as well as national teams from Australia, Brazil, Germany and Sweden. Woods was also a consultant for Microsoft's "NBA Inside Drive 2000" video game.

One point Woods stressed was that schools who use CyberSports gain a definite competitive advantage over those who don't. Woods said, "With the online capabilities today, it has opened up a whole new world to schools like Clackamas."

The program is run during the game by a person using a computer who updates the program in real time.

Someone scores a basket, gets a rebound or a steal, it all goes right into the computer.

Reminiscing about years past, Woods said, laughing, "When calculators came out, I thought it was the greatest gift to mankind."

Alexa.com, a Web site information site, ranks CyberSports as the 135,462 most visited site in the United States and the 500,853 most visited site worldwide. Alexa.com also estimates that about 84.7 percent of the site's traffic comes from users in the U.S. with 15.3 percent coming from sources outside the country. CyberSports has also made its program available to soldiers overseas who are unable to watch games of family members and other loved ones.

A press release on the CyberSports Web site states, "The wealth of information that the CyberSports reports and charts produce has a definite impact on

the outcome of the game as coaches want access to the stats outsiders looking in, [the] Information Directors] and statisticians now have become a vital part of the team itself."

SID's were formerly used by the public and media relations people were used to pass out stats media during games. CyberSports has helped to change the role of the statistician in the sports world. They have become an intricate part of the statistical strategies that coaching staffs base their game plan around.

Each year CyberSports grows larger and gains more recognition from schools across the state. Woods cited his main reason for helping develop CyberSports as a hobby for us. It's just about giving back to the sport.

McGraw's BUTLAW BBQ

At Clackamas Community College