

Flag football remains popular fall sport

By Kyle Smith

The Clackamas Print

Flag football is back this year, with many new faces joining the activity. Meeting Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the week in the field near Roger Hall, flag football offers students a fun and physically demanding team sport in a convenient time slot.

The sport is a variation on American football, but has a few differences. Flag football is considered a non-contact sport with tackling and aggressive blocking forbidden. Instead, players wear a belt with hanging colored strips of fabric, or flags. Flags are pulled to signify a person being "tackled."

Since the sport is far less dangerous, padding and helmets are dispensed with, giving players a clearer field of vision, a wider range of motion and greater maneuvering ability, comparable to that of basketball or soccer players.

Although 30 people showed up on Friday to play. They split into two fields, each with two teams of seven. Sean Briare, the current coach in charge of the activity, said that teams typically play games to seven points, though some are played to 10 or 15 points, especially when the scores are close.

Went Acree, a Clackamas student, said he most enjoys "the environment, the football atmosphere, everyone is so competitive, no one wants to lose." He said he picked flag football over similar activities, such as Ultimate Frisbee, because of the competitive environment.

This is the first time I've ever played football. I never played it in high school or anything," said Ethan Moore, another Clackamas student who played in flag football.

Moore also enjoys the competitive side of the sport, though he acknowledges that there are still some risks. "There are some people who take it a bit too seriously," he said, referring to some of the players who initially treated the sport as full-contact football. Earlier in the year, a student broke his arm during a game. "But I'm not one of those people."

Neither is Mark Smith, though he doesn't mind playing rough. "I'd like full tackle football, but (flag football) is better than playing at all."

Smith likes the physical aspect of the sport, making a lot out of exercise, but he also enjoys winning. After all, a touchdown is a touchdown, whether or not you run the risk of broken bones.

Moore is excited about getting more people involved. "Students can go into the ASG and sign up that way," he said, "or if you just show up, we'll get your information and have you sign a waiver. You'll be good to go for the rest of the fall term."



All photos by Robert Morrison Clackamas Print

Portland's Spencer Bennet, No.16, prepares to face off against Everett's Landon Ferraro, No.13. The Winterhawks took on Everett on Oct. 20 at Memorial Coliseum and pulled away with a 2-0 win.

Winterhawks welcome wins

By Robert Morrison
Sports Editor

With the Timbers and Blazers getting most of the attention, some people forget that Portland has a Western Hockey League team. The Winterhawks won their first pennant in 1977 and haven't looked back since. Winning 10 pennants since then, they have also been the WHL playoff champions twice as well as the Memorial Cup champion twice.

This year the team has been off to a hot start. The 'Hawks currently hold a record of 10-2-0-1. With that record the team is good enough to be atop the U.S. Division of the Western Conference. They are also cur-

rently on a four game winning streak.

"I don't think (our record) reflects our talent. We aren't the most talented team in the league, I think it shows we're maturing," said Mike Johnston, head coach of the Winterhawks.

The team is full of new faces as well as old faces. The team has a number of first-year players this year that are looking to make a name for themselves. One of those players is rookie left wing Sven Bartschi. Bartschi was born in Langenthal, Switzerland, and recently turned 18. He also is ranked seventh in the league in points scored with 20.

"It's incredible. I play with a really good line," said Bartschi.

The Winterhawks have another

top scorer on the team in the form of Ty Rattie. Rattie is currently ranks third in the league in that category with 23. He plays the right wing for the Winterhawks. Rattie is in his third year with the Winterhawks and is only 17. In 61 games last year, he scored 17 goals but in only 13 games this year he has already scored nine, showing his maturity as a player.

"It feels good and it reflects the team," said Rattie. "It's been a good start for everyone."

Both offensive and defensive improvements have helped the Winterhawks to do well this year. Everyone on the team has done their part but improvements can always be made even to the best of teams.

Rattie believes the team

needs to improve their defense. "Defense wins games, defense leads to goals," he said.

One of the guys looking to help the Winterhawks in the defensive category is the star of the Portland vs. Everett game, second year Goalie Mac Carruth. Carruth is another one of the Winterhawks young talents. He is also No. 1 of 3 goalies on the roster.

"With three goalies, it's tough. It makes for healthy competition. None of us hate each other; it's just business," said Carruth.

The team is looking to make another run to the playoffs this year, although it's still too early to decide. The Winterhawks played 13 playoff games last year, and they are looking for another championship.



Winterhawks rookie Sven Bartschi rushes after the puck in the game vs. Everett at the Memorial Coliseum. Bartschi ranks seventh in the league in points.