

Ramos promotes a rolling hockey

by DAVE MAGNUSON
Staff writer

GRESHAM — Few people have ever heard of the sport of ball hockey, but Mike Ramos, who lives just five miles west of Sandy, knows the sport well and believes when people try it, they will like it.

Ball hockey is a sport that resembles ice hockey on roller skates. But it also is similar to soccer, both in its pass-oriented offensive scheme and in its popularity in this country.

In the United States, ball hockey has started to receive a tremendous amount of interest. In fact, in 1992, the sport will be an exhibition sport in the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

Despite its gaining popularity in America, it still has quite a ways to go, said Ramos, who coaches the Storm youth ball hockey team, based in Vancouver, Wash. That club won its second straight national championship last month.

"It's compared to soccer," Ramos said. "Soccer's come a long way, but look how soccer's been struggling. For some reason, soccer's not a national sport (in the United States)."

Ramos said he would like to see the European-originated ball hockey integrated into a scholastic setting. He says he realizes it will take a good amount of publicity and increased fascination in the sport to accomplish that goal, but feels that once it catches on with more interested parties, the sport's popularity can only rise.

"I would like to see it into the school system in some way so that it will make it more competitive for us in real competition," Ramos said. "I really feel that after 1992 it will be included as a sport."

"People have no idea, no feel for what it is," he added. "When you introduce people, like the parents (of the players on the Storm team), all the parents want to play after they've seen it."

Ramos said another reason the sport hasn't caught on in America is the difficulty of understanding a new game. He explained the difficulty by cross-examining the situation.

"It's like an Italian foreigner,

who's never seen basketball. 'Gee, it's a real exciting game. You should see it.' The guy looks at the ball and he can't even catch, because he plays with his feet all the time.

"All of a sudden, you say, 'You throw this into that little hoop,' and it's difficult for him to believe that it's fun," he said, adding that Americans would tend to be the same way.

Ball hockey is a non-contact game — supposedly. Of course, with five players on each team continuously passing the lightweight ball of cork and a plastic covering, each trying to hit the ball into a goal, there will always be contact.

Playing periods in games are 15-minute halves, with a three-minute break between each.

As in soccer, there are penalties in ball hockey and they are handled in much the same way as soccer, with a free hit, similar to a free kick in soccer.

The "all hockey stick is made of four pieces of ash and is quite short, compared to sticks in other hockey sports. It is about 3-foot-9 inches long.

Ramos' interest in ball hockey began when he was a youth in Mozambique, Portugal. However, when he moved to the United States in 1959, that interest was unwillingly interrupted.

"In '59, I looked around and I didn't see anything," he said. "I didn't think to look in rinks, because we didn't have rinks there (in Mozambique). So I just dropped the sport."

Ramos said that 22 years later, he walked into a store in Portland and saw an advertisement of a ball hockey tournament in Olympia, Wash.

"I started a club right away and I've had these kids (on the Storm team) for five years."

He said his coaching involvement with ball hockey would not be as intense if it weren't for his wife, Kathie Ramos.

"I call her the manager (of the Storm). She manages the kids and handles the funds, organizes everything," Ramos said. "I couldn't do it without her organizational skills."



Mike Ramos displays ball hockey equipment.

Staff photo by Dan Saddler

Hunters will find out if applications OK'd

More than 108,000 Oregon hunters will find out sooner than expected if they were successful in getting their limited entry deer and elk hunts, thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the Multnomah Anglers and Hunters Club.

More than two dozen volunteers spent four days hand-stuffing big game tags, unsuccessful hunt notices or refund checks into envelopes and then readying them for mailing a day before the Aug. 11 deadline.

"The 75,000 hunters that were successful in getting their hunts should really appreciate the work of this club's volunteers, I know we sure do," said John Thiebes, controlled hunts coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The deadline for receiving the applications was July 1. Since then, the ODFW personnel have been entering application information for more than 200 limited entry hunts statewide into a sophisticated computer system.

The computer then checks for applicant errors, categorizes by hunt, cross-references hunters for group applications, and finally draws the successful hunters.

According to Thiebes, both successful and unsuccessful applicants should have their notices soon. Later in August, a computer print-out of the

successful hunters will be available at the ODFW's Portland headquarters, 506 S.W. Mill St.

Meeting to discuss fishing and hunting seasons — Extending commercial and sport ocean salmon seasons within Oregon waters will be among the items considered at an 8 a.m. meeting of the ODFW Commission Friday.

The meeting will be held in the commission room of the department's Portland headquarters.

Sport and commercial ocean salmon fishing seasons within three miles of Oregon's coast is just a small part of the morning agenda topics.

Staff reports and public testimony also will be heard before the commission considers the adoption of a draft plan for warmwater game fish management in Oregon and the development of a restricted entry system for a sea urchin commercial fishery in the morning session.

A staff report and public testimony will begin the afternoon session when the commission will set season dates and bag limits for the 1987-88 upland game bird and waterfowl seasons.

The opening dates for the 1988 upland bird seasons will also be set at the meeting.

at Sandy last year.

The announcement of Smith's resignation was made at a school board meeting Monday, Aug. 10.

Smith was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

Corrections

In the Shrine Bowl article of the Aug. 6 issue of The Sandy Post, Scott Skipper was overlooked in being the last Sandy Union High School player to compete in the Shrine game in

1983.

Also incorrect in the article was the high school Mike Jorgensen attended. He went to Ontario High School.

Same crime,
different punishment

SEVEN DEATHS,
SEVEN DEALS

What started as a homicide in Detroit triggered an investigation into the inequities and injustices being committed in the courts throughout the state of Michigan.

Records showed similar crimes did not receive similar punishment. And proved punishment rested more on a judge's philosophy than on the crime committed.

Within days after the publication of a story that documented this information, the Michigan Supreme Court made some changes. Changes that wouldn't have occurred if a few reporters at a Detroit newspaper hadn't been looking for a story.

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If the press didn't tell us, who would?

Coach

Continued from Page 1.

Johnson's coaching philosophy is reasonably simple.

"The most important thing is that (the persons who play on his team) come away feeling good, or better, about themselves," he said. "Self-confidence is real important and carries over into lots of areas. And if they don't feel particularly great about who they are as a person and what they have to offer, at least trying new things.

"I think what they're going to ex-

perience by that courage to try new things is they're going to experience some success," he said.

"The second thing, which I think takes a back seat, but is still part of the same car," he said metaphorically, "would be to feel good about and have a desire to participate in an activity. I think long-term health and fitness is real important and something they'll be doing for the rest of their lives, hopefully, and will contribute to their overall health."

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PAOLA'S PIZZA BARN

Robyn Hayball, 15, is prep of the week.

Robyn, a member of the Blue Marlin Aquatic Club, finished sixth in the 100-meter breast stroke at the 12-state Western Zone Championships. Hayball competed in the division for 15 and 16 year olds Sunday at Mt. Hood Community College.

Congratulations, Robyn.

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Girls basketball coach resigns

John Smith, Sandy High School's varsity girls basketball head coach for the past seven years who guided the Pioneers to a third-place finish in the state last season, has resigned.

Replacing Smith at the position is Molly Knudsen, who was an assistant

at Sandy last year.

The announcement of Smith's resignation was made at a school board meeting Monday, Aug. 10.

Smith was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

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