

# Perspectives

## “If you let me play sports...”

### Intriguing sports highlight club program

By Katie Venit  
Perspective Editor

They're the kids who played sports in high school and wanted to play in college, but aren't playing varsity.

They're the kids who always wanted to play a certain sport but never got around to it until now.

They're club sports players, those dedicated souls who put up with limited field space, homework demands and sometimes little acknowledgment to go out there and play a game they love.

To talk in detail about all 24 teams would require a much longer newspaper, but for those keeping score they are baseball, cycling, field hockey, ice hockey, karate, men's and women's lacrosse, the outdoor recreation club, rugby, men's and women's soccer, swimming, men's and women's tennis and men's and women's volleyball.

The provisional sports are crew, Kung Fu, golf, softball, water polo, running, ultimate Frisbee and equestrian.

#### Lacrosse

The club sport of the year last year was the undefeated women's lacrosse team.

Although they've already lost once this year, they have acquired a coach who was responsible for starting women's lacrosse in Florida high schools.

The captain, junior Brandy



Photo courtesy of Jessica Luckas

Members of the field hockey team attentively watch the action during a game against Duke University.

Peaker, has been playing for seven years. She describes it as “a combination of several different sports. It gives you the open space to run like a field sport with the strategy of a court sport like basketball.”

Women's lacrosse is not as violent as men's lacrosse, although men insist their version is not that violent, either.

“You don't have to play (violently),” said men's lacrosse captain freshman Clay Callison. He says that many of the violent things people talk about are actually illegal, and the men play with heavy padding.

Last season, men's lacrosse didn't play any games because their captain was abroad, but look for both

teams to play in the spring.

Women's lacrosse has one more home game at 2 p.m. Nov. 21.

#### Field Hockey

Junior John Leonard plays field hockey. He saw it played in the Olympics and didn't know it was predominately a woman's sport until he had already joined it with another male friend, “and then it was too late.” Since then, sophomore

Peter Wolfe has also joined the women's team, while Leonard's friend dropped out.

“It's the only sport I've ever been good at,” Leonard said. Apparently, the official rules of field hockey allow for men to join. According to captain Jessica Lukas, a senior, the national rule is that three men are allowed on the field at a time, as long as one is the goalie.

Both Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill have men on their teams. The field hockey team, started in 1992, just joined the national field hockey league this year.

This promotion brought with it an increased budget and an added season. The team now plays in the spring as well as the traditional fall season.

#### Rugby

There are few sports that enjoy more cult popularity than rugby. It's also often overlooked by those seeking more mainstream entertain-

ment. However, rugby is the oldest club on campus, according to senior Jim Divito, the captain of this group.

Founded in 1972 by three students and former faculty member Hugo Lane, it went on to win the championship in 1988. “We've always been very competitive,” Divito said.

“The camaraderie as a team is one of the best things about it,” Divito said. “Fifteen guys go out and fight together. After the game, both teams go out and party together.”

Many players have no prior experience in this sport because high schools often neglect it, although Divito did play football in high school. Women can also play on the rugby team, but few choose to.

#### ORAC

The club sport that's not really a sport, the outdoor recreation and adventure club, is gaining a new partner, the outdoor pursuit program.

ORAC organizes trips to do “anything and everything outdoors,” senior Judd Hill said.

The club meets 7 p.m. every Wednesday in the Green Room in Reynolda to discuss their activities for the weekend, which may include canoeing with their new canoes, backpacking, rock climbing and white water rafting.

There is a \$10 charge for joining the club, a fee which helps to cover

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the cost of renting equipment.

Hill said almost every university has an outdoor club and this one is increasing membership and organized activities. For example, Hill designed the Intercollegiate Eco-challenge, a weekend event that takes place in the spring. It is not for the weak of heart or of muscle.

In its first year last year, it involved biking, white water rafting and then 22 miles of hiking, all within one weekend.

“Everyone said they literally have never been so tired in their entire life,” Hill said.

Hoping to further the goals of ORAC,

Max Floyd, the director of intramural and club sports, designed the outdoor pursuit program.

Floyd's brainchild is designed to provide students with adventurous alternatives for fall and spring breaks and over the weekends.

Activities such as white water rafting and hiking are included with more sports-related activities such as going to NASCAR races and local baseball games.

To participate, students must sign up by a certain time in the Intramurals office in Reynolds Gym.

## Club sports director pulls for new rec center

By Katie Venit  
Perspectives Editor

Max Floyd has a dream.

He dreams of a day when students can gather and play a game of bowling or Ping-Pong without having to go off campus.

He dreams of a place where students never have to wait in line for a court to play pick-up basketball or for a treadmill to go for a relaxing jog between classes. This wonderful new building would have space for all students to socialize, and none would be turned away due to a lack of space.

This magical place is a recreation center. Floyd, the director of intramural and club sports, believes this university could have a facility like this, one that would rival peer universities such as Vanderbilt University and Rhodes College that already have rec centers gracing their campuses.

The need for this building is perhaps most apparent to any students who have tried to play basketball in Reynolds Gym in the winter. This rec center would include extra basketball and volleyball courts for pick-up games and for clubs and intramurals.

With 190 intramural basketball teams, not including varsity basketball and three volleyball teams, all vying for limited court space, parties looking for a spare court to play a quick game are bound to be disappointed. “Our space needs inside are taxed,” Floyd said.

Currently, there is no free court space in the gym from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. because of the health science labs and other organizations, according to Floyd.

He said the new rec center court space would be almost completely set aside for open recreation. “It would be (the student's) facility,” Floyd said.

Floyd feels the students coming into college now are more health-conscious than those before and desire more facilities.

“Some type of physical activity everyday is critical to a good academic experience,” he said.

Sophomore Nick Musisca agrees. “The stress level is very intense and we need something to relieve these pressures. (A rec center) would be a very good outlet.”

Floyd wants to provide the facilities for them and allow them the opportunities to exercise how they want. “I want to say yes to students” who ask for space in the gym.

His goal is to be able to set aside at least one-fourth of every playing space on campus, including the pool and fields, for open recreation, allowing students to play pick-up games without waiting in lines. A new rec center would make this possible, he said.

Floyd also cited the strained fitness centers in Reynolds Gym and the Benson University Center as places that would be improved by a rec center. There are often lines to use the machines and the free weights, limiting the time students have to spend on other activities and discouraging them from venturing into the depths of Benson.

Other university facilities are also in need of help. But although the fitness centers as a whole do not need to be improved, the racquetball court and swimming pool are in a state of disrepair. Floyd hopes a new rec center would provide a new racquetball court and another pool, possibly an outdoor one to “take advantage of this North Carolina weather.”

The current racquetball court is much smaller than the official size, so students accustomed to playing on other courts are confined to the small space. The pool, however, used to be a source of pride for the university.

According to Floyd, when it was built it was the best pool in the conference. It has deteriorated since then, taking on a mysterious green hue.

Sophomore Aditya Swaminathan thinks another pool would be “cool.” “People don't really know that there is a swimming pool on campus right now.”

**His goal is to be able to set aside at least one-fourth of every playing space on campus, including the pool and fields, for open recreation, allowing students to play pick-up games without waiting in lines.**

Unlike Reynolda Hall or Benson, Reynolds Gym is not a bragging point of the university. Floyd sees this as a problem.

He said that in the three or four years that he has worked here, he's seen one student led tour come through the gym.

“It's not something they want to highlight. I guarantee that a new rec center would be the first stop on a student tour,” Floyd said, giving East Carolina University as an example.

Floyd traveled last semester looking at other schools' rec centers and feels students here are being deprived of something that other schools value highly.

The participation in Rhodes's rec center doubled in its first year. Surveys at other colleges with new rec centers showed that 98 percent of the students felt the centers had a major impact on campus life. “People who have them speak highly of the experience,” Floyd said. He encourages students to go to schools such as ECU and Rhodes to look at their rec centers and find out what they're like.

The rec center would not be a place for sports only. Floyd wants also to add entertainment facilities such as a bowling alley, a climbing wall and Ping-Pong tables, as well as more billiard tables and racquetball courts.

“We want to offer things to students so they don't have to go driving all over town,” Floyd said. Unlike Reynolds, which closes at 6 and 7 p.m., Floyd envisions this center would stay open until at least midnight or 1 a.m., to offer students a “wholesome opportunity.”

Currently, Floyd feels students have few entertainment choices that don't involve alcohol on weekend nights. He hopes the rec center would provide students with a choice. “I think it could become another social opportunity on campus,” Floyd said.

The main goal of the rec center would be to give students a place to relax and regroup before hitting the books. Floyd wants to provide a “pleasing, refreshing environment rather (one) that is outdated, dilapidated, deteriorating” in which students can exercise.

Ultimately, the students need to raise the interest for this project. If students show no interest in the center, then it won't be built. However, interest might encourage its development.

“We're lacking (compared to peer universities). It's an offering that students can enjoy,” Floyd said.

If the powers that be decide to build the rec center, funding has to be found for it. According to Floyd, Duke's new rec center cost approximately \$20 million.

Musisca feels the center is worth the price. “I think it's money well spent,” he said.

However, freshman Juliaette Lamont said, “If the money comes out of our pocket, we shouldn't do it.”

Freshman Elizabeth Schneider believes a way could be found to fund the construction outside the university walls.

“It'd be nice to get an (outside) sponsor,” she said.



Photo courtesy of Max Floyd

The new recreation center at University of Miami in Ohio presents an example of the type of facility Max Floyd, the director of intramural and club sports wants to construct. Although the University of Miami is a much larger university, Floyd believes this university deserves facilities similar to centers like this one and those at other universities.