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Extramural club funding runs low

By KATHLEEN McELROY
Sports Staff

Extramural sports at Texas A&M University are receiving much more funds this year than last year. But for some clubs involved in the sports, there still isn't enough money.

Extramural (or club) sports are University-recognized organizations

participating against other university or amateur clubs. Forty-two teams are on campus; 26 of those are for women.

The key aspect of extramural sports is that none of the 2,600 participants is on athletic scholarship — the competition is solely for athletic recognition and fun.

James Welford, who heads the extramural department at Texas A&M through the University's intramural office, said Monday what money the clubs receive has three sources — student service fees, a parents' and former students' fund and a national qualifying fund.

But he said his department re-

ceives no money from the University athletic program, a fact that has at least one person upset.

"I feel if they had to take any money from football, they'd be upset," said Curtis Temple, a top Texas A&M wrestler. He said in his home state of Louisiana, sports like wrestling along with football are supported. "Here it's feed the football program," he said.

The money from student services fees amounts to \$24,600 — or roughly 80 cents per Texas A&M student. The parents and former students funds total about \$4,000.

The newest and largest source of money is the qualifying fund — a

\$26,000 fund established last year by Texas A&M President Jarvis Miller to help any team or individual who qualifies for a national tournament. But the most any student can get is \$150, which usually isn't enough to cover travelling expenses to any out-of-state tournament.

But most students are happy just to have that money.

"It's a lot better than nothing," said Tinker Murray, who is using the money to run in this year's Boston Marathon.

The other money is used for entry fees and gas expenses for local, state and regional tournaments — but the state only allows 8 cents per mile for any trip.

"If they gave us about three times the amount, we'd could spend it all," said John Young, president of the Texas A&M cycling team. He also said the \$150 dollars isn't enough, but it's a starting point.

The money also doesn't cover equipment and uniform costs — teams usually have to raise the

money through charity fundrais-

T-shirt sales.

"We fork most of it out on our own equipment," said Buff Hilfreath, president of the women's rugby team.

She said a first-year rugby player could spend about \$60, and as a whole is now out of the money for the year.

Welford, who makes up the team's budget, said many teams have used up their money already, even though some major tournaments are still to be held.

Hilfreath said the Texas women's rugby team does have a \$1,000 budget — less than last year.

"Proportionately we get more support at A&M than most other teams," she said. "The equipment and uniforms are usually more than nothing."



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