

Football not the only sport played at A&M

With only four more football games left this season, it's time to make other sport-spectating plans. Better yet, instead of merely watching the games, you can get involved with the following 29 extramural sport clubs. Further information is available at the intramural office.

ARCHERY — The Texas A&M Archery Club is doing its part to promote archery throughout the state, says Kevin Duggan, president of the club. Right now, only the University of Texas has an archery club against whom the 20 some-odd Aggie archers can compete.

"Frankly it's a bigger sport on the East Coast and on the West Coast, so we're kind of struggling with it," he says.

The club, formed in 1977, practices either behind Zachary or in Deware. They also will host the Collegiate Indoor Nationals here in the spring.

"It's exciting because it's Olympic-style archery like you don't get anywhere else but at the University level," he says.

THE ASSOCIATION OF HANDICAPPED ATHLETES — This club has been at Texas A&M for about six years, says club spokesman Hal Spiegel. Their numbers hold steady at about 10 members, who join the club to play basketball or participate in long-distance running with the team. It's basketball season now and the team practices Thursday from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday from 1-5 p.m.

"We're trying to set up a match toward the end of the semester against the University of Houston," Spiegel says.

BADMINTON — Badminton probably isn't the best known sports club team at Texas A&M but its members aren't lacking in dedication. Every Friday from 7-11 p.m., the 30-odd members of the club meet to play the sport, says Arvind Singhal, club president.

"It's sort of our purpose to promote badminton as a sport at Texas A&M," Singhal says.

Like many of the sports club teams, badminton is more popular somewhere else. Singhal says he began playing the sport in his native India, but he says his interest was really piqued when he moved to Indonesia, which has dominated the sport in world competition for years. Singhal says the Aggie team is made up mostly of Southeast Asians and Europeans who have had more exposure to the sport. Singhal says badminton is not a hard sport to learn.

"But if you are to get to the professional level, it takes a lot of practice and a lot of time playing," Singhal says.

BOWLING — If you want to travel, the bowling club is the one for you. In addition to four meets in Dallas this season, the club will travel to St. Louis over Thanksgiving and Las Vegas over the Christmas holidays to play in tournaments and gain exposure for the team.

"If they see you at these tournaments, you get invited to sectionals then to nationals," says Mike Shoemaker, club president.

Shoemaker says the prizes in tournaments like these rarely cover the cost of the trips but in some of the bigger tournaments, bowlers can win a part of \$600-700 in scholarship money if they place.

Shoemaker says six bowlers make up a team and that the club has two men's and one women's team competing right now. They play other college teams such as North Texas State University and Southwest Texas but their major competition comes from West Texas State University.

"They actively recruit bowlers and offer scholarships to the bowlers themselves," he says.



BOXING — Boxing is also a sport that is much bigger on the East Coast than in the Bryan-College Station area, says Jimmy Arca, president of the boxing club. And although the club doesn't compete against other university clubs, they get plenty of opportunities to compete during their spring season in tournaments such as the Houston Golden Gloves Tournament, the Midwestern Regionals and the local Sigma Phi Epsilon Fight Night. Arca says that not only do team members participate in the actual boxing at Fight Night, but they also volunteer to work as coaches for some of the organizations which enter. Last year, the boxing team captured 11 out of 13 trophies given, he says.

On the collegiate level, Arca says the club hopes to send several fighters to the collegiate national championships this year for the first time. He says the club hopes to eventually host its own tournament.

Arca says boxing isn't as dangerous or painful a sport as it might appear. Conditioning, making weight and staying healthy are a fighter's major worries.

"The beginning of each year, you spout a little blood out of your nose," he says. "But after that you start to get in condition."

CYCLING — A&M's cycling team, usually found scouring the roads of Bryan-College Station and the surrounding area, will be at home Nov. 9-10 to sponsor the AggieLand Stage Race. Bruce Johnson, president of the team, says experts, novices and intramural teams are invited to participate in the race, which will include both open-road and campus racing.

Johnson says cyclists work hard to get ready for an event like this, often riding 200-300 miles per week. There are about 60 members in the club he says, about 20 of which are serious cyclists who participate in the club's daily rides. Many of them started out as runners who became interested in the health benefits of cycling after participating in triathlons, he says.

"There's not as much pounding on your joints and muscles," he says. "Cycling doesn't place near as much wear and tear on your body."

FENCING — Most people get interested in fencing from the fencing classes taught here at A&M, says Lia Valkovich, secretary of the club.

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