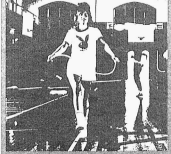




Physical education grad student Chung Lee demonstrates a flying kick. Self-defense courses are popular with students; however, one does not achieve Lee's mastery of the martial arts in one semester. Beginners are taught to avoid and escape attack. Combat should be a last resort.



10,000 OTHER ATHLETES

By Dave Holman

FOR MANY SPORTS FANS, Mizzou athletics begins and ends with our gridiron gladiators. A lot of people turn out for the basketball team. Two hundred or so show up for baseball games and up to a thousand for indoor track. These varsity sports are just the tip of the athletic iceberg, though. Mizzou's athletic facilities are open 18 hours a day to accommodate the thousands of men and women on this campus who play sports of some kind, whether on an intramural team, with one of several clubs or in private competition with their own physical limitations. It's impossible to pinpoint the total number, but almost 10,000 students are involved in intramurals alone.

Mizzou athletes compete with other schools through at least 10 different sports clubs. Advisor Margy Harris says the Missouri Students Association (MSA) recognizes the Aero-Tigers Flying Club; Block and Bridle Club; gymnastics, parachute, rodeo, rugby, soccer, table tennis and trap and skeet clubs as official student organizations. One of the most active clubs, hockey, operates in cooperation with the Ice Chalet skating rink and does not utilize University equipment or facilities.

Only two years old, Mizzou's hockey club is vastly improved this year. At this writing, the club has a 10-4 record, including split matches with Chicago State, a strong NCAA team. The club will play 35 matches this season, 24 of them at home. All but two of their competitors had winning seasons last year. Attendance at last year's matches averaged 617 persons per game.

Mizzou's soccer club won the Big Eight championship at Colorado last spring, after MSA coughed up \$400 to help pay their travel expenses. A club need not be recognized by MSA for its members to play their sport, but recognition does entitle a club to use of University facilities and gives them the right to petition for funds from MSA, which paid off for the soccer club.

THE RUGGERS, generally an independent lot, get no aid from MSA, but they do use a playing field next to the Dalton Research Center. They also help maintain the field. They have a small but loyal following. They play for the pure sweet hell of it — and the losers buy the beer. There are no stands at the rugby field, so teams and the few spectators bring their kegs and blankets and sit on the ground. One wonders how ruggers manage to play full of beer. Then some guy walks off the field with blood all over his chest and

his front teeth in his hand, and one realizes that sane people do not go out there stone sober.

No matter how big a following, how many participate, whether they win or not, the clubs exist largely at the members' expense and solely because their members love the sport. There are no scholarships or coaches' jobs at stake, and an athlete need not be great to participate. But it does help to be extremely competent.

For the athlete who is not extremely competent, who can't find a club for his or her sport, or who hasn't the time to devote to a club but still wants to compete, there are intramural sports. The department of health and physical education administers the intramural program in cooperation with Student Affairs. One dollar of every student's activities fee goes to support intramural sports. This money pays the salaries of student officials and supervisors in the play areas. Some H & PE faculty have dual appointments with the Office of Student Affairs. H & PE Chairman Ralph Stewart says 10 percent of his salary is paid through Dean of Student Affairs James Banning's office, because he (Stewart) is coordinator of the intramural sports program.

THERE ARE 21 intramural events open to men and 24 for women, as well as eight sports for co-ed teams. The sports range in physical demands from basketball, swimming, track and field, and racquet-ball to archery and pocket billiards. Competitors are divided into four leagues, each with different eligibility requirements based upon the student's sex and living unit on Campus. There are no leagues in co-ed recreation, and co-ed teams may consist of men and women from any living unit. Intramural coordinator Stewart estimates that 55 percent of all students participate in some intramural sport.

Mandatory physical education classes were abolished after 1971. Judging from all the complaints about PE when classes were required, one would expect the department to be out of business now that classes are optional. Not so, says Paul Ritchie, coordinator of basic instruction in physical education.

"If I had to find a place for a student who walked in now wanting to get in a course, I'd have a difficult time of it," Ritchie says. "We have more kids who want to get into the classes than we can handle. There are approximately 2,800 students in classes now. Every space is full."

Apparently students had no complaint against

physical education. They just resented forced physical education. Ritchie thinks it's not what you do but how you do it that makes a difference. "We used to have a course called Movement Fundamentals and all women students were required to take it. The girls hated it. Now we have a very similar course called Figure Improvement, and they're crawling all over themselves to get in it."

RITCHIE SAYS the program has improved greatly since the old days of required PE, offering not only the traditional sports, but also outdoor education classes and "hobby" sports ranging from skeet shooting to back packing to jazz dance. Self-defense classes are popular now, too.

"The class offerings are pretty well dictated by student interest," Ritchie says. "If you can't sell a course, there is no point in offering it. We would offer more of the lifetime sports, the individual activity things, if we had the facilities. Student attitude has turned around completely. They are very interested and they're excited to have in class. In fact, they won't tolerate poor teaching. The old system was often a license for poor teaching, with huge classes and some of these graduate assistants who couldn't decide if they were a coach or a teacher."

Today, Ritchie says, classes are small and usually taught by a full-time staff member.

The department also offers physical education classes for the handicapped under a federally funded program supervised by Leon Johnson. Johnson says the main purpose of the program is to train teachers to work with the physically handicapped, but the training of the teachers also provides one-to-one coaching for handicapped students who want to become involved in some physical activity. Johnson says the program offers two courses: swimming and modified sports.

"**WE HAVE A BOY** who has been paralyzed all his life," Johnson says, "but get him in the water and he's just like a fish."

The modified sports include just about anything the student wants to attempt: billiards, bowling, weight training, archery. Several women are interested in forming a wheelchair basketball team.

Brewer Field House, remodeled in 1975 to provide recreation facilities for students, has ramps from the floor area to the dressing rooms so wheelchair students can use the facilities. But accessibility is still

a problem. The weight training area is located on top of the handball courts, up a long spiral staircase. Johnson says one man used to park his wheelchair at the bottom and drag himself up the stairs to use the weights. His determination was inspirational, but hazardous. This year a mini-gym on the floor of Brewer is planned for use by the handicapped.

The Brewer remodeling cost \$330,000, which is being paid with student activities fees.

"I think as far as usage, it's the best-spent capital improvement money in many years," says H & PE Chairman Stewart. "On any given day from 3:30 to 4 you can look out there and see 150 or 200 students playing on their own."

The Brewer-Rothwell complex is used for PE classes, for intramural events, for various sports club practices and some special events, as well as for student free play. The facilities include seven courts for basketball, volleyball, or badminton and one extra volleyball court; six handball/racquetball courts; a weight training area; a judo/wrestling mat; and a jogging track. Students and faculty agree it's a great place. The only complaint is that there still isn't enough to go around, especially handball/racquetball courts. These sports have become so popular that students must sign up at least a day in advance to reserve a court. Courts are in use until midnight.

MIZZOU'S OUTDOOR SPORTS facilities also get heavy use from students. There are 15 outdoor playing fields at six different locations, numerous tennis courts that are mobbed during warm weather, and several outdoor handball courts in need of some repair work. The capital improvements committee has recently let bids for four new four-wall outdoor handball courts and tennis bank walls to be built on College Avenue across from the Bingham residence hall group. The Epple property, donated to the University in 1974 in memory of the late Drs. Lawrence King Epple and Kathryn Christman Epple, will be available for student use in the spring. The plot of land, located just south of Reactor Park, will provide 16 new playing fields and picnic and restroom facilities.

So, if you like sports and you can't find a varsity game in town, just look around and you'll find a group of Mizzou's unknown athletes doing their thing somewhere on Campus almost any time of day. Pick any sport you want, and somebody here probably plays it, if not expertly, at least enthusiastically. □

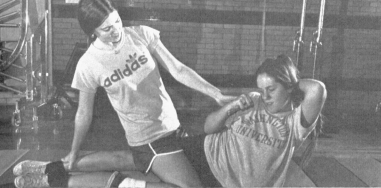


Figure improvement, left, is one of the most popular physical education courses today. When it was required, the women hated it. Miz-zou's rugby club, below, one of a dozen sports clubs on Campus, plays matches with numerous other clubs throughout the Midwest.



The hockey club, headquartered at the Ice Chalet, is on the way to a winning season this year against tough competition, left. In a Campus League intramural football game, above, the Follies meet the Aardvarks. Thousands of students are involved in intramural sports.