

FUN FOR EVERYONE

by Peter Best

Picture, if you will, the following scene: a swim race in which the contestants must paddle the length of the pool holding aloft a cracker (salted or unsalted according to individual preference). Once they reach their destination they frantically dispose of their baggage by the most convenient means - they eat the cracker - and finally whistle a well-known tune to signal the next teammate to begin swimming.

That's one of the events in the novelty swim meet, an activity in the women's intramural program.

The novelty swim meet epitomizes much of the spirit behind U of A's intramural program - a program devoted to providing fun, participation and a little friendly competition for all students.

Intramurals are supervised by the University Athletic Board and controlled by the Intramural Administrative Board.

The real organizational work is done by two members of the Physical Education faculty: Hugh Hoyles and Sandy Drever. Hoyles and his assistants run the men's and co-rec programs; Drever and her crew handle the women's activities.

I spoke first with Drever about her work. She and her three assistants, Phys. Ed. students Heather King, Chris Wright and Peggy Musselman, run a program that offers 21 different activities from September through March.

Well-known sports like volleyball, basketball, tennis, golf and badminton are naturally listed. But there's also a slew of not-so-well-know activities included. Things like the novelty swimming, innertube water polo, snow soccer, bowling and billiards (but nobody wants to be Alberta Fats).

Women participate together in units that are based on things like faculties, fraternities, residences and clubs. Each of the 28 units has a manager who is responsible for setting up their members in teams when necessary and making sure everyone knows when, where and with whom they're scheduled to play.

If you don't feel like playing for any particular unit you can enter on your own just to have fun. The important thing, as Drever says, is that "We don't say no to anybody."

Many of the activities like golf, tennis and basketball, are divided into two sections - competitive and recreational. The former is for women who are interested in playing fairly

seriously and are usually more experienced athletes. The latter is for those who may not be familiar with the game and are out strictly for fun.

King, Wright and Musselman, who get an honorarium for their work, each supervise one third of the activities. They're responsible for scheduling, arranging for use of equipment, compiling statistics and tabulating points for the overall standings.

Points are awarded strictly on a participation basis. Each time someone takes part in an event she gains a point for her unit so the value of achieving success is that by making the playoffs people have opportunity for more participation.

At the end of the year all the points are totalled up and the unit with the highest amount wins the Rose Bowl award, which consists of - surprise - a bowl of Roses. This award is so prestigious that the people of Pasadena, California have named their annual parade, festival and football game after it.

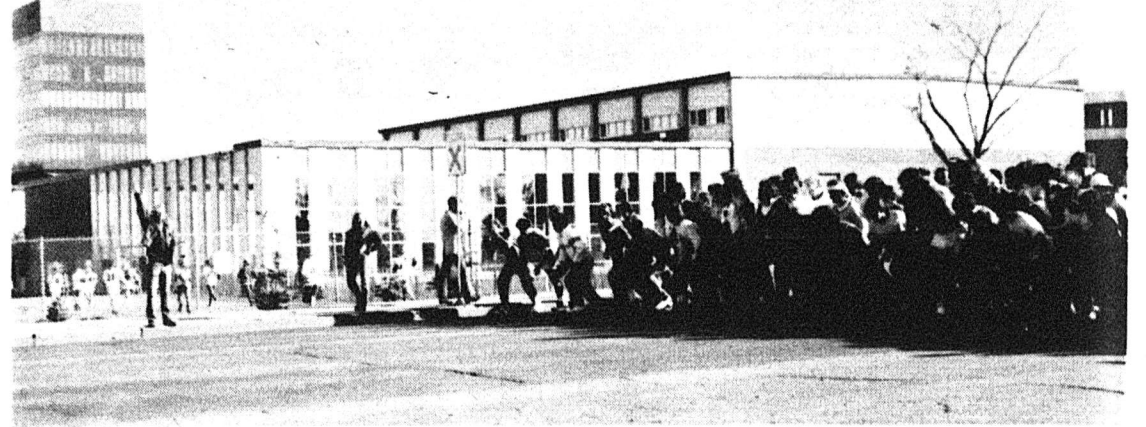
Drever and her assistants get help from the Physed 481 students who take part in intramurals supervision as part of their course requirements.



"It's okay. I missed him by that much."

A big problem is finding people to act as referees. Most of the officials are phys ed students, many from the 481 classes. They go through an instructional clinic for each activity and are paid \$1.50 per game.

Intramurals, both men's and women's, are funded by the



The start of the annual Turkey Trot (the turkeys are given a 10-second head start).

UAB. The money is collected from the \$8 athletic fee paid annually by students.

This year Drever's budget was \$4679. That's used for paying assistants and officials, buying equipment and renting facilities like the Kinsmen Fieldhouse and SUB facilities.

Right now Drever feels they're offering enough kinds of activities. Her ambition is to provide more time for participation.

more space will be available for intramurals. Highest priority is being placed on requests for a second ice rink to take the pressure off Varsity Arena.

The pressure comes from the increasing number of women taking part in intramurals. Last year 761 women participated 6370 times in the program and Drever reports that this year's figures show a marked upswing.

The improved participation can probably be attributed to the new "fun" activities that have recently been introduced.

Snow soccer and innertube water polo are two particularly nutty but neat events that are winning the hearts of U of A women.

Keep fit classes were added to the program this year and Drever says they've been enthusiastically received.

If you want to find out more about the program or you have any suggestions for new activities just drop into the women's intramural office on the ground floor of the Phys Ed building. The office is open from 12 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 4 to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Hugh Hoyles' men's intramural program operates on a bigger scale than the women's. In fact Drever calls it one of the best intramural organizations in Canada.

It has some significant differences from the women's set-up. Some of these are due simply to the greater number of men on campus. There are 36 units participating in 28 activities ranging from flag football to archery to table tennis.

Aside from numbers the unit system operates the same as the women's.

There are the usual restrictions on unit representation. A student can compete for only one unit each year for all activities.

The only exception is when his unit does not have a team for a particular event. In that case he can play with a different unit.

The program allows for students who don't want to align themselves with any unit but prefer to participate on their own.

A group of friends can enter as an independent unit in some activities and play with other independents on a strictly fun basis. They don't gain any points for themselves but they can play for regular units in other activities.

The point system in Hoyles' organization is not entirely participation oriented. Points are awarded for achievement as well. There's about a 50-50 split between the two factors.

Activities are classified in three categories: minor, intermediate and major events. The divisions are based on the numbers of participants and time involved in the various functions.

The major events have three divisions to provide for the wide range of abilities among participants. For example in hockey, which had 2186 participants last year, each unit's best team is entered in Division I, the next two teams are in Division II and the rest are in Division III. Hockey also has an ankle division for non-skaters.

The units are divided into A and B conferences on the basis of the previous year's final standings. Each year the top three units of B conference move up and A's bottom three move down. Top units from each conference are awarded.

Men's intramurals has a budget of about \$18,500 this year. It's used to pay Hoyles' four administrative assistants - Jim MacLauchlan, John Van Doesburg, Bob Pantel and Harry Millar - rent facilities and pay referees as with the women.

Finding officials is also a problem with the men, despite the fact that they're paid \$2.50/hour.

Hoyles is very grateful for the help of the phys ed 481 students and Mrs. Nonie St. Peter for her secretarial assistance.

For the men as well as the women the big problem is getting more time and space. Intramurals are going at a fast rate - despite a drop in attendance at U of Alast year there was a 6% increase in participation - that expansion is important. Over 400 men took part in the program last year and this year's figures will almost surely exceed that total.

Hoyles stressed the need for more strictly recreational activities and facilities like them. He wants to see more of the unstructured events like racquetball and handball in which the only organization involved is booking a court.

Hoyles points to the recent development and great popularity of the co-recreational program as an indicator of the importance of intramurals.

Seven hundred three men and women participated in the co-rec program last year on a purely fun and social basis. No points are involved in co-rec activities; they're staged solely for the students' benefit.

Two paid (very slightly) students, Paul Eagan and Cecile Bedard, co-ordinate the co-rec events. Among the activities are badminton, darts, innertube water polo and a car rally.

Each spring the men's and women's intramural departments sponsor a social open to everyone on campus. It serves as a combination wind-up for their season and awards ceremony.

Information on men's intramurals can be obtained at the office across the hall from the women's centre. It's open from 12-1 p.m. and 4-5:30 Monday through Friday.

Oh yeah, The novelty swim meet goes tonight at 7 p.m. in the west pool. Don't miss it.



"I got it! I got it! I got it!....I don't got it."