Overview of Fall 2014 Sport Clubs

WIU INFORMER
Note from the Sport Clubs Director

It’s been a great fall semester this year. First of all, I want to congratulate the Women’s Rugby Club for qualifying for the playoffs. This is the first time that the club has qualified for the playoffs since I started at WIU in 2007. This group of young ladies has worked extremely hard, and is coached by Pete Tarantola (WIU alum). The Men’s Basketball Club also had great success at the University of Wisconsin’s Open Invitational, they placed 2nd. (Continued . . .)

Men’s Bowling Club

After 7 weeks of the collegiate bowling season, WIU Men’s Bowling is ranked 93rd in the nation. At the end of the regular season the top 80 teams qualify for sectionals, so we have some work to do. We started off the season slow but things are finally starting to look up. Our 18th place finish out of 40 teams in the Leatherneck Classic will help us move up quite a bit in the rankings. Senior Scott Pausche lead the team with a 197.167 average in that event. Our team consists of a lot of seniors and we want to end our collegiate careers on a good note. There are 6 events remaining on our schedule so there is still plenty of time to crack the top 80 and make it to sectionals.

Zach Schuldlt
President
Men’s Bowling Club
This club is coached by current WIU student Jason Moore. The Lacrosse Club held their annual alumni game in September at Hanson Field. This was the largest turnout of alumni we have ever had for this game. A big thank you to the alumni for donating balls and raising money for this year’s Lacrosse Club.

The Fishing Club continues success at WIU, this past summer WIU seniors Jackson Grabeel and Joseph Reilly qualified for a National Championship. The duo competed in Georgia at the fourth annual Carhartt Bassmasters College Series National Championship. The event was held on Chatuge Reservoir in northeast Georgia from July 31-August 2. A total of 168 collegiate students competed in the tournament. ~Nick Knowles
The Equestrian Club has had a great start this semester. Both of the show teams have been traveling and bringing home many placings. They have big competition against other schools when they travel but that does not stop them. At each show they compete against 7-10 different schools. The Western team has shown at the hosting schools of Truman State University, Missouri State University and will have their last show at Blackhawk College later in November. The Hunt Seat team finished their season with the Illinois State University show, and also showed at Truman State, and Southern Illinois University- Carbondale. So far the hunt seat team has one rider that has qualified to compete at Regionals in the spring and they look forward to the upcoming semester, hoping to have more riders point up to qualify.

Away from the horse shows the club has been helping with a couple of different volunteer and fundraiser activities so far this semester. One of the volunteer activities they participate in each year is Stuff the Bus food drive. The club had lots of fun participating in Big Pink Volleyball as well this semester to raise money for the fight against cancer. They also put on a new fundraiser that they have never done before which was Pie an Equestrian, and it took place at the football tailgating. They had a lot of fun with this fundraiser and look forward to doing it again next year. As the semester comes to an end the team is excited for next semester and all the fun it has to bring.

Tori Waller
President
Equestrian Club
This past fall, the WIU Women’s Club Rugby team had an outstanding season. The improvement in our work ethic and attitude was huge, as we accomplished goals that we never thought we would have. We have struggled for the last few years recruiting girls, which made it difficult to stay consistent as a team. This year, with most of our players returning, we welcomed a few new girls as well as our new head coach, Pete Tarantola. During this season, we were able to have a record of 2-3 in our conference, beating SIU and U of I-Champaign. With the hard work and dedication during long practices, we also had made the DII playoffs, where we played ISU. This team had not made the playoffs for at least nine years, so making it to the playoffs was a HUGE success! We played a long, hard-fought match and lost, but kept our heads up, playing with heart. No matter what the score was during any game, we consistently encouraged each other and played like a true team. Even though the fall season is over, we are looking forward to the spring season. We are growing as a club and excited to keep on improving and become a better team. Hopefully more girls will become interested this upcoming season in playing a great team sport! No experience is necessary, just cleats and a mouth guard! Again, as president, I truly am proud of all the girls who played this season and congratulate the seniors who have played throughout their years at Western as they graduate and move on to bigger and better endeavors.
For the Ultimate Frisbee Club there were high hopes at the beginning of the semester with our heavy recruitment tactics to which we brought the 8 returning numbers up to a squad of 22 people with skills ranging from never throwing a disc in their life to those who played competitively throughout High School. As the weeks progressed we taught each member the way to become a Western Illinois Ultimate Frisbee Player and by the time of ISU’s home tournament we brought 15 people to the event. With such a high amount of rookies we were able to pull in a 2-4 record, but there was a lot of experience gained through all the teammates who attended.

There was no stopping there though as we had our next major tournament the following weekend up in Lovers Park, Illinois, and that tournament was Glory Days. Glory Days is a sponsored Frisbee tournament, which brought in a total of 40 teams. In this tournament we place in 27th, but for a different reason. Since this tournament was placed on our homecoming weekend only 7 players from our school were able to play which is the bare minimum for an Ultimate Frisbee game. So each of these 7 members clocked in a workout of sprinting, jumping, and throwing for just under 15 hours over the course of the weekend.

The following weekend after Glory Days, we went down to Southern Illinois for the SOILL tournament. This was one of the smaller tournaments hosting 10 teams where we placed in 5th place. Again as it was the weekend of fall break we had low numbers again bringing only 8 this time around and with sore legs from the previous tournament we got a 3-2 record for the weekend. This tournament was a lot of fun and always has been for the past few years and hopefully next year we can bring down more people to enjoy the tournament.

After a well-deserved weekend off I hosted our home tournament the Western Classic. This year we were able to split our team in half to provide an X and Y team making there a total of 11 teams. Though we did not put up the best record for either of our teams this tournament we strived for the final amount of experience that we could give our younger players. This years winners were the College of DuPage and they put up a good show against our fabled Alumni team with a score of 11-9.

With the tournaments and practices the team is ready to move on into the competitive season next semester and we will be looking to become an even better team as we compete in bigger tournaments including tournaments in Chicago and St. Louis, and then facing more formidable college teams.

Andrew Almeter
President
Ultimate Frisbee Club
Women’s Soccer Club is a fairly new sport here on Western Illinois University’s campus as of Fall 2014. The club is looking to expand into a competitive traveling team. As of right now, we are recruiting, fundraising, holding weekly practices so our skills are where they need to be when it comes time to travel. Recruiting is one of our main focuses for this semester as well as in the coming semester. We are looking for as many people as we can to make it a more enjoyable time for everyone. Since this club is relatively new, we are working with the Men’s Club Soccer team since they have been established longer. They are welcome to come to our practices as well as we are theirs. So far, we have really found a great group of girls that are willing to help our new members with not a lot of experience. Most girls are freshman, which is a good thing, because they can continue on the club.

Danielle FitzSimmons
Women’s Soccer Club
As the basketball season begins, the WIU Men's club basketball team is looking forward to building on the success that we had from our first year back on campus. This year we have a bunch of new faces but we still are maintaining the same winning attitude and drive to be great. Tryouts this year were a little bit different than last year. Instead of having just one day and the team making a final decision, this year we implemented a three step process that included: one day of initial tryout, first practice with the team, and one final practice where team and coaches made a decision as to whether or not you will make the team. This year we chose to keep 16 guys, which is a little bit more than last year but we were keeping in mind injuries and other factors that could limit numbers.

Our very first tournament to kick off the year started off pretty shaky, but ended up being a success. On the first day, we finished with a record of 1-2. We won our first game pretty convincingly, but dropped the next two. The fact that we hadn’t been playing together very long started to show and after the two straight losses we knew we had to reevaluate and come together. On day two of the tournament we enjoyed far more success. Winning our next three games in a row and making it to the championship game, we were focused and ready to win the championship. Unfortunately we fell short of our goal in winning, but we were content with a second place finish. It was our first tournament together and as a team we were very pleased with how we were able to finish the second day compared to the first and make strides in the right direction.

Our expectations for this season are even higher than they were last year. In year two we want to continue our winning ways. We hope to have great success in the new league that we have joined this year and hope to be playing for a national championship in March.

Brandon Hayes
President
Men's Basketball Club
Current Sport Clubs

Archery Club  Men's Lacrosse
Badminton Club  Men's Soccer
Baseball Club  Men's Ultimate Frisbee
Brazil & Friends Soccer  Mixed Martial Arts Club
Dare Devils Cricket Club  Paddlers CanoeKayak Club
Disc Golf Club  Paintball Club
Elite Beauty  Roller Hockey
Equestrian Club  Running Club
Euphoria Dance  S.I.S. (Sista's In Shape)
Fencing Club  Sports Council
Fishing Club  Sportsman's Club
Fusion Dance Team  Water Polo Club
Handball Club  Women's Club Basketball
Hula Hoop Club  Women's Club Soccer
Ice Hockey Club  Women's Fastpitch Softball Club
Men's Bowling Club  Women's Rugby Football Club
Men's Basketball  Women's Ultimate
Men's Club Volleyball  Women's Volleyball Club
Wrestling Club
Sport Club Hall of Fame

2014
James McGovern

2013
Remi Mundschenk

2012
Shawn Wochner

Please contact Nick Knowles, Assistant Director of Sport Clubs & Facility Management, for information about existing clubs or starting a new club at NS-Knowles@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1228, ext. 237.