

Water Polo finally surfaces

BY ANNE RILEY

Yes, Millersville does have a water polo team. Water polo is still only a club sport here, but they play schools with varsity teams. There is a men's as well as a women's team.

Water polo is played like basketball in the idea that the ball is advanced to other players by passing and dribbling to a point close enough to shoot at the opponent's goal. The goal resembles that of a soccer or hockey goal, with a goalie in the cage. Six players are in the pool at one time plus the goalie.

This past weekend the men played in the Bucknell Tournament at Bucknell. Keith Barnes, co-captain, said, "We were very successful this past weekend at the Bucknell Tournament pulling the team together, and we had a very good showing against Fordham and Bucknell although losing to both." According to Barnes, coaches from other teams have complimented them on bringing MSC's team back up to the level it should be.

Scores of the matches were: Navy 14-24, Fordham 6-13, Bucknell 6-20, Slippery Rock 7-15. The men have also played matches against Mercersburg Academy 14-21, and both Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Penn State University in the Naval Academy Tournament, losing all three of them.

Upcoming dual games are scheduled with Princeton, Shippensburg, John Hopkins and Villanova. The men's team has been accepted to play in the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championships, but the team does not plan to attend.

Members of the men's team include: Co-captain, Brian Barnes, Co-captain, Keith Barnes, Jim Graig, Kirk Kownurko, Scott Long (goalie), Doug Michael, and Steve Mowry. Also on the team are: Bert Scott, Steve Shere, Dean Smith, and Pete Ziegler.

The men's and women's teams played a co-ed match with Franklin and Marshall College and won 10-1. Both teams have been practicing since the second week of school. According to Laura Snyder, both teams play in the fall and spring, while the men's season is basically the fall and the women's is in the spring. Both teams practice together.

The women's team played Mercersburg Academy and lost 14-21. Snyder said, "Although MSC had better plays and offense, the Mercersburg girls were faster and controlled the game with their speed." The women plan a big spring season with games with Shippensburg, Swarthmore, West Chester and Princeton.

Women on the team include: Tina Eisenhart, Angel Furlow, Cindy Keenan, Kathy Kirby (goalie), Kathy Munchel and Ann O'Callaghan. Rounding out the list are; Co-captain, Beth Raver, Tina Simpson, Co-captain, Laura Snyder, and Kira Waznik.

The women's team is new so it's growing every year. Both teams are looking forward to the spring season and urge anyone considering the sport to contact Brian or Keith Barnes. Both Barnes's act as coaches since there isn't a coach.

Snyder says water polo is a learning experience for her. "It's great to learn an entirely new sport at the collegiate level," she added. Raver said, "Water polo is a very complicated sport and the learning never ends but neither does the fun." O'Callaghan stated that she is glad she became involved with polo "because it is challenging."