By Wayne Paxton  
Sports Editor

The school year is now in full swing, and the time has come for the first sequence of rec sports seasons.

With competition as intense as their varsity brethren, intramurals are taken quite seriously by some seasoned veterans, yet still have an air about them that is less intense. In rec sports, even the beginner can have fun.

Co-ed floor hockey is no exception. This recreational alternative to varsity field hockey, also active during the fall, is played on the campus basketball courts near Elmwood, a playing surface that invites skinned knees and bloodied legs.

Sophomore David Rife, captain and goalie for the WellyNellers, the favorites to win the ODAC title, cited the faculty/staff team, led by full-time math professor and winter sports director Tim Shradley, and his teammates as some seasoned veterans, yet still have an air about them that is less intense. In rec sports, even the beginner can have fun.

The WellyNellers are a story in themselves. Sporting their own fan base, who have invested a cheer especially for them, they are a close-knit bunch.

"The team does stuff together outside of hockey. We hang out together, which keeps us close and that reflects in our play," Rife said. "I joined floor hockey mainly because my friends were doing it." There is no competition for Rife and the Nellers? Absolutely; we'll be fast but also physically intense. In rec sports, even the beginner can have fun.

"A station's team is very rough; with competition as intense as their varsity brethren, intramurals are taken quite seriously by some seasoned veterans, yet still have an air about them that is less intense. In rec sports, even the beginner can have fun.

Sophomore Andrew Intagliata and sophomore Joel Shradley are also looking forward to the upcoming season. While new to the floor hockey scene, they are both set to go. They're excited about the upcoming season," Intagliata said before rushing out the door to go to his first game. "I'm just going out there and give it my best shot."

Shradley, who will throw the javelin for the track team in the spring, is also eager to hit the courts. "I've never done this before, but I am ready to get out there and knock some heads around."

To be successful in the league a team must have a combination of finesse, strength, speed and of course teamwork.

"It looks to be a fun time," Shradley said.

Oh Nelly! Floor Hockey Faces Off  
By Sean Boer  
Staff Writer

Dominating the Field

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Staff Writer

Domination: a word that has long been associated with floor hockey but has lost some of its effect as of late.

"Teams used to just come here and feel a certain aura from us," said new head coach Lou Moore. "We need to gain that aura back, but I still feel that we are the team that has the bullseye on our backs."

After a season in which the Lady Royals went 8-2 in the conference, 13-9 overall and failed to advance to the ODAC finals for the first time since 1991, the goals for this team are plain and simple: win the ODAC championship, make the NCAA tournament and regain the honor of "team to beat" in the ODAC conference.

This year's squad is made up of six returning players and seven newcomers. The team also brings in new skipper Moore, who formerly served as coach at Mary Baldwin College for eight years. Moore brings a great competitive desire to campus and is looking forward to the challenge of coaching such a high-caliber team.

"The biggest challenge for me as a coach is to work the kids hard enough and to recruit more players so the team has more depth for the years to come," Moore said. The coaching staff also consists of Karla Alderfer, a former goalie for the Lady Royals.

Seven freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors and two seniors make up the team. And Coach Moore has already seen good things from her team in the upcoming season. While new to the floor hockey scene, they are both set to go. They're excited about the upcoming season," Intagliata said before rushing out the door to go to his first game. "I'm just going out there and give it my best shot."

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