

SPORTS

Recreation majors invoke new appreciation

Ever since I first came to school here at Carolina I have heard that recreation was one of those "slide" majors. Students took those courses because they were easy. Athletes who weren't concerned with anything except graduating with a degree in pro football majored in recreation to assure themselves of making at least the minimum QPA that they would need.

I have heard all about the scandals of putting athletes into recreation and physical education courses so they could be eligible to play.

kim adams

My roommate is majoring in recreation and every time she tells someone, she gets snickers and gets kidded about playing her way through college. Other people stand around with their snooty economics and business courses, feeling for all the world like they are really studying the worthwhile problems of mankind.

My roommate never defended herself and I always wondered why she didn't say something back, but it has never seemed to get to her as much as I thought it should. I guess I could have defended her myself, but I really hadn't stopped to think about what someone majoring in recreation would possibly study that could be so important.

Then, on April 30, Steve Streater was in a car accident and the realness of paralysis and possible life-long disability was all of a sudden starkly clear.

And now, just two months later, Joe Reto, the leading hitter of the UNC baseball team who spent this past spring hustling around first base for ground balls, is lying in a hospital bed paralyzed in his arms and his legs.

At every tick of the clock, somewhere in the world, a child is born with a crippling disability. At every tick of the clock, somewhere in the world, an accident occurs that leaves it victim without a leg or an arm, and possibly without both.

The people who handle the recreation programs for the physically handicapped in hospitals, camps, rehabilitation centers, and schools give more than just eight hours a day at a desk working with numbers. They give their time to help other people. These truly dedicated workers are hard to find.

The physically disabled need a recreational outlet just as much as the able-bodied. In fact, most wheelchair pushers must have an exercise program to keep healthy—both physically and mentally.

Physical activity increases blood circulation which in turn helps prevent pressure sores. Fluid intake is increased, helping to prevent kidney and bladder infections. Respiratory function and eye-hand coordination improve and overall conditioning enables the body to cope with minor diseases and infections better. Recreational activity increases the strength of the upper extremities and is a good way of learning how to use a wheelchair.

My roommate used to tell us about the little kids who were mentally or physically handicapped that she worked with. She'd go to her classes all morning then drive back and forth to Durham in the afternoon several days a week to volunteer. I never heard her complain about all the time she gave away for free.

I can remember seeing guys in Woollen gym at the peak of the gym classes bring in mentally retarded children and teach them to shoot basketballs or get in the pool and teach them to swim, all the while taking

time to unashamedly hug the frightened little kids.

Almost all of the recreation majors spend time volunteering. Some, of course, volunteer more than others. The pay in recreation isn't very good even with a college degree, so there is no being in the field for the money. There has to be a special quality in the heart to make someone want to put so much effort into something that gives so few material rewards. It's a quality that not many of us have.

To make matters even worse, the federal government is cutting back on the amount of funding given to recreation programs in institutions. It seems that no one appreciates things like these programs until they experience a personal tragedy. Then, their ignorance and insensitivity becomes ugly realization.

I pay a lot more attention now to all the stories and I appreciate brave optimism like that of a former UCLA basketball player who now sits in a wheelchair and helps other people in similar situations instead of withdrawing from life and being bitter.

It really doesn't matter if the recreation department has people in it who are trying to find the easy way through college. And it really doesn't matter who makes fun of the ones who are sincerely dedicated to making life worthwhile for people who otherwise would have very few fulfilling elements in their life. Those dedicated people make all the others seem pretty callous.

A crippling accident can happen to anyone. To ride in a car is to take a million risks. It isn't good to spend every moment thinking about possible danger and no one wants to live in constant fear. But, it also seems stupid to make fun of people who would make that kind of ordeal a little more bearable.

As an optimist, I want to believe that Steve Streater and Joe Reto will both walk again. Both are strong-willed and were very active before their accidents. But when Streater and Reto are in rehabilitation, I hope that one of the people who has taken this "easy" major and is seldom appreciated outside the field and is quietly patient and kind-hearted takes good care of them.

Notes: In the basketball tournament of the National Sports Festival being held this week in Syracuse, N.Y., UNC-bound Michael Jordan led the South team with 18 points in downing the East 94-93. Jim Master's 20-foot shot from the left corner with two seconds remaining gave the South the game.

UNC's Sue Walsh won a bronze medal in the 100 backstroke at the World University Games Sunday in Bucharest, Romania.

The Atlantic Coast Conference football officials meeting at Clemson University last weekend, amended the crowd noise rule for college football. The old rule established in 1978 has been amended to allow only two warnings per game. The old rule was two warnings per snap.

Other rule changes include a 10-year penalty for both offensive and defensive holding, outlawing "chop blocks" on tailing runners still in the neutral zone and allowing coaches to call for a conference with officials without having to call a time out.

The 1981 varsity football schedule has six home games slated: Sept. 12 against East Carolina, Sept. 19 against Miami of Ohio, Sept. 26 against Boston College, Oct. 3 against Wake Forest, Oct. 24 against South Carolina and Nov. 7 against Clemson.

Volleyball revived by real and artificial beach courts

By Kevin Kirk

Volleyball is an indoor sport. Everybody knows that. We've all seen those five minute spots on Wide World of Sports where Japanese women risk a huge floor burn as they dive across the arena floor to intercept a spike. But, volleyball also takes place in a different setting that is becoming just as popular.

As the gymnasiums begin to resemble giant saunas, players now head for the beaches. Hard-core players get their weekly (or daily) fix of "hitting" and "digging" at the beaches in California, Cape Cod, Virginia Beach, Raleigh, and Asheville.

Raleigh and Asheville? Certainly our geography lessons have taught us there are no oceans along those cities. But as the popularity of beach volleyball has grown, artificial beaches have been constructed to quench inland enthusiasts' demands for the sport.

The sandy version of the sport has some significant differences from its indoor cousin. The most important of those is that instead of the normal six players on a side, beach volleyball uses two. Covering the entire court would be difficult enough with two players, but the added fact that a

person must plow through loose sand while chasing down a well-angled shot makes for a very strenuous game. Most players will say that it's not the teams with the best spikers and superior ability that win the matches, but those with the strongest legs and most smarts.

Beach volleyball started in California, and like the indoor game, the best players are on the West Coast. It's not uncommon to find crowds of several thousand watching a professional match. While the skill level may not be quite as high, the competition is just as intense and the games equally enjoyable on the East Coast. Virginia Beach is recognized as the beach-ball capital of the East, and players from all over this part of the country swarm to participate in the extravaganzas which that city holds during the summer holidays.

Getting a taste of a new style gave many players from inland areas the urge to romp in the sand more than once or twice a summer. Consequently, giant sandboxes have sprung up to accommodate these players' desires. One can now attend tournaments in unlikely sites such as Knoxville, Tennessee and Atlanta.

The closest beach Chapel Hillians can play sand volleyball is in Raleigh, at the Jaycee Center on Wade Avenue. Last year four unused tennis courts were transformed into the "Raleigh Beach." The process wasn't easy or cheap. It took over 60 tons of sand to fill the structure that has now become four lighted sand courts. These courts are open seven days a week to the public for free play.

The Inland Beach Volleyball Association also holds tournaments on the courts about one weekend a month. These tournaments are set up for different calibres of play: B, A, and AA.

Double A players are the most talented and with a few exceptions are also the most obnoxious. An excellent player will talk to a beginner about as often as a vampire works on his tan. However, with four courts available for play, there is plenty of room for everyone at every level.

So the next time the mood for some volleyball hits and the gym is doing its oven imitation, head for the beach that is just thirty miles away. Your legs may ache and you'll be picking sand out of your shorts for a week, but it will also be a lot of fun.

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