

UNL sports clubs go beyond intramurals

Footbag, climbing among newest campus groups

By **KASEY KERBER**
Senior Reporter

Whether you like to kick back and kick around the hacky sack or scale mountains, there's a sports club for you.

Yet the footbag and climbing clubs are just two examples of the diversity and opportunity the UNL sports club program provides.

Currently there are 29 active sports clubs, ranging from competitive to recreational. They are open to all enrolled UNL students and offer a variety of opportunities and benefits for members.

Some of UNL's sports clubs compete on the intercollegiate level and have achieved national recognition.

The UNL Bowling Club has won two national championships in the past two years. The men's club won the national championship in 1996, while the women's club did it in 1995.

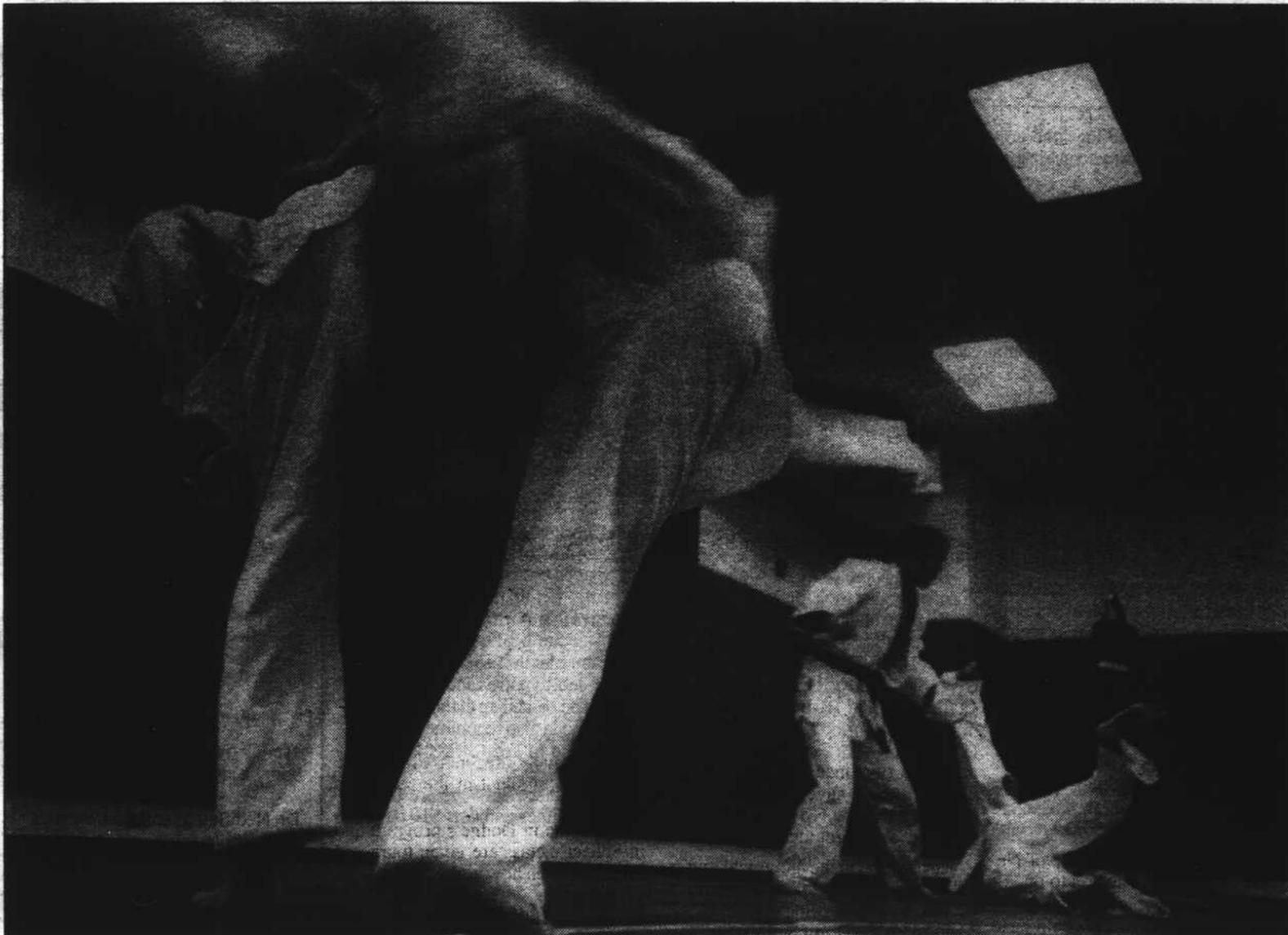
"The bowling clubs always do well," said Leah Marie-Hall Dorothy, assistant director for sports clubs and special programs. "I know they have placed in the top 10 for at least the last five years I've been here."

The Men's Volleyball Club is also coming off a successful year, placing ninth in the nation after its performance at the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association championships.

In addition, the Women's Soccer Club, Crew Club and Rolling Thunder (wheelchair basketball) Club have achieved regional successes.

Yet most of UNL's sports clubs do not compete on the intercollegiate level.

This includes two new sports clubs that have been formed this year — footbag and handball.



MEMBERS OF THE UNL JUDO CLUB practice Wednesday at the Campus Recreation Center

JAY CALDERON/DN

"Both of them are doing well," Dorothy said. "They're a little low on members, but it's just a matter of getting word out about the club and attracting new people."

Dorothy said that if a student was interested in starting a new sports club,

the process was a relatively simple one.

"Contact us and we'll go through the steps needed to be recognized as a new organization," Dorothy said. "A new club must have at least five members, preferably 10."

Some sports clubs have begun to attract more students' attention. Helene Sapp Campus Recreation Center.

"They're trying to locate a place in the building where they can construct a permanent structure," Dorothy said.

Eventually, the wall would be financed by the revenue it creates from climbing shoe rentals and fees for instruction time on the wall.

The Hockey Club also hopes to gain student interest with the announcement that it would be allowed access to the future Lincoln Stars' hockey rink.

"We haven't worked out hours yet, but we know we will be allowed to use the rink," Dorothy said.

The newly-formed Women's Rugby team has also begun efforts to attract new members.

"It's been hard to get members," said Kindra Molin, a freshman journalism major. "We're trying to make people enjoy it so they'll stay."

Molin said that rugby's rules intimidate many new members, but the benefits of belonging to the club far out-

weigh the hassle of learning new rules.

"It's a great sport where you can make some great friends and there's no pressure whatsoever," Molin said.

Once students join a sports club, they may be required to attend a set number of practices each week or pay a club fee or dues.

Amy Witte, a graduate assistant working with the sports clubs program, said that the fees are minimal.

The Climbing Club is currently trying to make plans with the office of campus recreation to build a man-made climbing wall within the the Lee and

"The range of fees is somewhere between \$5 and \$50," Witte said.

Dorothy and Witte both agreed that UNL's intramural program only strengthens the sports club program.

"I think intramurals definitely adds to the sports clubs," Witte said. "If a student loves a sport and wants to play it beyond intramurals, they can find that opportunity in a sports club."

Students interested in joining a sports club are encouraged to visit the Involvement Fair on City Campus Wednesday or call the Campus Rec for more information.

UNL Sports Club Hotline

Recreational and Instructional Sport Clubs	
Aikido	SB 3369
Badminton	SB 3360
Baseball	SB 3361
Climbing	SB 3364
Fencing	SB 3363
Judo	SB 3370
Women's Lacrosse	SB 3372
Men's Lacrosse	SB 3371
Medieval Combat	SB 3373
Roller Hockey	SB 3375
Table Tennis	SB 3382
Tennis	SB 3383
Men's Ultimate	SB 3384
Women's Ultimate	SB 3385
Weightlifting	SB 3389
Competitive Sport Clubs	
Hockey	SB 3369
Rolling Storm	SB 3376
Men's Soccer	SB 3379
Women's Soccer	SB 3380
Women's Volleyball	SB 3387
Competitive II Sport Clubs	
Bowling	SB 3362
Men's Rugby	SB 3377
Men's Volleyball	SB 3386
Conditional Sport Clubs	
Footbag	SB 3367
Handball	SB 3368
Tae Kwon Do	SB 3394
Inactive Sport Clubs	
Field Hockey	SB 3390
Gojo Ryu	SB 3391
Kickboxing	SB 3392
Student Athletic Trainers	SB 3393
Women's Rugby	SB 3395
Women's Wrestling	SB 3396

Source: Campus Recreation Aaron Steckelberg/DN

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