

KICKING BACK

Students feel at ease playing their favorite club and intramural sports

After a long day of classes and obligations, it was easy to be overwhelmed, even within the first few weeks of the semester. Many students chose to revert back to one of their favorite pastimes before college: playing sports.

With 45 intramural and club sports to choose from, there was something for everyone. Sports such as soccer and basketball had teams at both the club and intramural level.

Club sports usually had tryouts and regular practices each week. Some sports even had more than one team for advanced players. The teams competed both in tournaments and single games against other colleges. "Club sports are great for people like me who played sports in high school and are looking for a fun way to stay in shape while maintaining the competitive factor," sophomore Kathleen Doyle said.

Intramural sports were often joined by halls or groups of friends. These sports had games once a week, and

many teams held informal practices to get ready for their opponents. These teams contained a mixture of athletes who had played before college, those who had just dabbled in the sport, and newcomers who barely knew the rules to the game. "You meet people of all skill levels," sophomore Harry Gao, member of the badminton team, said. "Whether it's people who just want to have fun, or people who are playing a serious game."

Both club and intramural-level sports created a laid-back environment that was conducive to letting off stress and meeting new people. "I like how there's a more relaxed atmosphere during practice," Gao said. "It's a good place to just make friends."

Such an atmosphere allowed students to make sports a part of their college experience without having to commit to the intensity of the varsity level sports.

>Jessica Miller

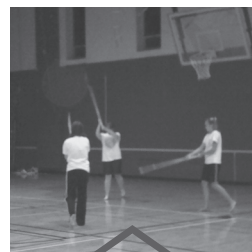


Surpassing their University of Richmond opponents, the Women's Rugby team gets in a line-up to catch an out-of-bounds ball. The team rehearsed many rugby formations like these and scrums during their practices twice a week.

»practicing



Members of the Women's Ultimate Frisbee team pair up to practice passing to each other. The team played in Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina in the fall.



The Kendo members practice their form of Japanese martial arts with bamboo swords in Adair Gym. The club held a tournament each spring for its members to show off their skills.



Members of the Shotokan Karate club begin their Thursday night practice in Adair Gym. The club participated each year in the East Coast Shotokan Karate Association Regional Tournament.



Katherine Nenninger and Yichun Fan team up on a Monday night for badminton practice in Adair Gym. The team had a tournament in October for singles and doubles.

Colette McCrone swims backstroke at the Elon Invitational. The two-day competition at Elon University in North Carolina was the biggest meet for the Swim Club.