Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of the Xavier University Club Sports Newsletter! I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying warm weather and a relaxing summer vacation. As we conclude the end of a successful academic year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the exciting changes and accomplishments that have occurred within our Club Sports program over the last 9 months.

As you may know, the Club Sports program is designed to provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff to continue participating or learn a new sport/recreational activity. The member’s involvement in the Clubs is structured to be a learning experience through their involvement in the organization and administration of club activities as well as the development of sports skills.

As we started this year, the university experienced its second largest first year class in the history of the school. As a result, Club Sports also experienced a great influx of new members and clubs. The Club Sports program witnessed the start of 4 new clubs, Bass Fishing, Paintball, Swimming and Triathlon, and the overall participation increased 9% to 715 members in 29 clubs!

This year has also been one of the most successful in the history of Club Sports at Xavier! Our students are actively seeking and participating in a wide variety of sport, service, and leadership opportunities in ever increasing levels. During the year, club sport members contributed over 2,300 hours of service to the community and fundraised over $150,000! During the annual Honors Awards day in April, 22 different Club Sport student leaders were recognized for their leadership and accomplishments in the classroom and the university as well as the local community. I want to specifically call attention to two student award recipients, Mark Mangione and Kristen Gunn. Mark is the outgoing Club Sport Council President as well as Men’s Rugby Treasurer. He received the prestigious President’s Award for Excellence in Leadership. The award is given annually to only four students who have demonstrated outstanding overall service, scholarship, and leadership for the benefit of the Xavier community during their collegiate careers. Kristen Gunn, who served as the Secretary for the Club Sports Council as well as President and Vice President of the Rowing Club, was the recipient of the Rob Sieber award. This award is given annually to the Recreational Sports employee who demonstrates outstanding loyalty, service and leadership to the Recreational Sports program. Both have been outstanding leaders and contributors to the Recreational Sports department and programs during their student careers. Congratulations Mark and Kristen!

As we look to next year, we are excited to continue to make a positive impact on the growth and development of our students mind, body and spirit. Thank you for your continued support and interest!

Have a great summer!

James Alexander
Assistant Director
Recreational Sports
**Boxing**

During the 2010-2011 school year, the Xavier Boxing Club had its best year in recent memory. To start the season, the club introduced new ring, after the previous one collapse at the start of last year. With the ring in place, the boxers began training better, and plans began to fall into place for the club’s first home event in two years. In early November, Xavier Boxing captured their first intercollegiate wins of the season, as 2 fighters went to the University of Kentucky and both defeated UK fighters. Shortly after, the club hosted its intrasquad Fight Night, a huge success, which drew over 200 fans and raised money for the Kick-It foundation. As the second semester began, Xavier notched 2 more victories at the University of Michigan, defeating two fighters from Miami. After this, Xavier Boxing would face their toughest challenges yet at Miami’s home show. Here, they would only get 1 win out of 3 fights, beating Ohio State, then losing to two fighters from West Point. While the losses hurt, the club was still able to send one boxer, Iso Tidjani, to regionals, hosted at Miami University. The regional tournament has been in trouble spot for the club in past year, struggling to defeat top opponents. However, Tidjani would change this fortunate, defeating a boxer from Ohio State, and advancing to the semifinals, where he would be defeated by a former national champion from the Naval Academy. Despite the loss, the club still finished 5-3 on the year, and earned its first victory at regionals in recent memory, making this year a great success for the club.

**Gymnastics**

This semester Xavier Club Gymnastics has been very busy! Our first meet of the semester was at Ohio State University on January 29, 2011 where we brought ten gymnasts. Everyone did great. Our next meet was two weeks later at Miami University of Ohio on February 5, 2011. We brought nine gymnasts who all did excellent. Our last regular meet of the season was at Eastern Michigan University on March 26, 2011. We took nine gymnastics. Sophomore Liz Sprout placed sixth on vault out of 123 women. Xavier as a team placed twelfth. Our final completion was Nationals. This year Nationals were held in Richmond, Virginia on April 6, 2011. We only brought eight gymnastics to this meet. Everyone had a great time and did great. This semester, Club Gymnastics has also been fundraising. We sold shirts for both the Xavier—Dayton Men’s Basketball game and for the Women’s Basketball tournament. We have also participated in community service events such as Relay for Life and the Flying Pig Marathon. Although our season has ended, we are working hard to make sure next year is even better!

**Swimming**

Xavier University Swim Club started out a great first season with 23 people on its roster and ended up with 20 on it. Some swimmers quit their first semester, but the club had a few new members join to make up for the loss. Throughout second semester XUSC had five swim meets. On January 16th the team traveled to Bowling Green to swim against Bowling Green and Akron and placed second overall. On February 5th the team drove to Indiana University to compete. The swim team traveled to Ohio State University on February 26th for the All-Ohio Meet, which included Ohio schools such as Ohio University, Akron, Bowling Green, Miami of Ohio, and others. A home meet against Dayton was scheduled for March 19th but it ended up being canceled but the team hopes to have a home meet sometime next season. On March 26th the team traveled to a swim meet at Akron University. The team’s last meet of the year was on April 9th at Miami of Ohio. The team had 8 girls and 4 boys attend this meet. Overall, the team placed 5th out of the 8 teams. On April 2nd the swim team helped organize Kick It, which was a big kickball tournament fundraiser for cancer. It took place at the Intramural fields from 10am-2pm. XUSC made it to the championship game against the club hockey team and ended up losing. The fundraiser was organized by Kara Silagy who was on XUSC in the fall semester. Kick It raised $2,075 and it all went to CureSearch and XUSC was happy to help. For the first year as a team XUSC is very happy with all of their achievements and hope to have a great season next year!
Bass Fishing

With the year coming to a close, the Xavier University Bass Fishing team is excited about the growth and development they have seen in their club. Just starting one semester ago, the team has grown to 12 members, and has already competed at the highest level of college bass fishing. Although the club itself has not had many opportunities to fish as a whole, team members Ryan Graber and Mike Nelson have shown tremendous improvement and we are excited about their support to the team next season. Individually, president and vice president Tyler Styons and Ian Goddard traveled to Smith Mountain Lake Virginia to participate in the FLW Northern Division of their college series. Styons and Goddard have also participated in TBF tournaments locally, Goddard holding in 5th place in the Butler County Bass Masters while Styons holds 2nd overall. The team has developed connections with many local companies such as Bass Pro Shops and Dixie Marine which have provided the club with fundraising opportunities. Looking ahead, the Bass team is anxiously awaiting their second FLW college tournament at the end of June at Lake Champlain and their third in August at Lake Erie. We are also participating in charity events such as the Hamilton Optimist Club’s MMRD Fishing Derby as well as working with the Speedway’s of America in hosting their Boy Scout Fishing Derby. With many events scheduled the Bass team is poised to make their first full season as a club a very successful one.

Men’s Rugby

Opponent: Cincinnati Celts
Xavier rugby’s spring season opened up with a match against one of the top men’s teams in the area. The size and experience of the Celts were outmatched by the speed and unexpected physicality of the squad made up of mostly juniors and sophomores. Senior difference makers, Shane Coleman and Matt Ackels, started off their last season as a member of the Xavier Rugby Club with strong performances.

Opponent: John Carroll University
Xavier walked into John Carroll expecting to blow their opponents out the water with pure athleticism and experience. The team play was sloppy and some valuable in-game experience.

Opponent: University of Cincinnati
Xavier’s match versus their most hyped rival almost didn’t happen because of torrential downpours and lightning in the area. The team’s concentration was missing from the start and a quick score by UC got everyone’s attention. After some inspiring play by Shane Coleman in the second half, Xavier was able to battle back to take the lead after sophomore Ryan Caufield’s try late in the game. The second time Xavier beat UC this year was an ugly but satisfying win for all members of the team.

Opponent: Wittenberg University
Wittenberg was outnumbered and fatigued after their own match versus the Celts and Xavier took advantage from the start. Xavier immediately put up a few tries and never looked back in their stomping of Wittenberg University. This game gave Coach Gaffney the ability to work in some new club members and give some of the freshman and sophomores many players looked to bolster their own highlight reels while forgetting about passing. After jumping out to a quick lead, Xavier had trouble maintaining focus and had a few people penalized for illegal hits. Matt Ackels and Jamie Tilton both had long runs that helped the team pull away and Shane Coleman added a score of his own after he caught a kick in the tryzone. John Carroll’s efforts to come back were refused by the ability of conversion kicker, Christian Foisy.
The Women’s Club Volleyball team competed in two tournaments this semester. We attended the University of Cincinnati tournament on January 29. At this tournament, we competed against nationally ranked teams such as Ohio State and University of Dayton (who placed in the top 10 at Nationals). We placed 4th out of 12 teams at this tournament.

Our second tournament was the National Warm-Up tournament at Ohio State February 12th and 13th. At this tournament we played teams such as Michigan, Toledo, Eastern Kentucky, and Cincinnati. We also played a very difficult match against the #3 Kansas. Overcoming many injuries, we placed 29th out of 45.

The Women’s Club Volleyball team is anxious to start our next season in the fall. We say goodbye to seniors Tess Hackett, manager Steve Sabol, and coach Andrew Lonnen. The rest of the team will return next year to compete at the National level!

Xavier B.L.O.B. Ultimate Frisbee had one of their most successful spring seasons in program history this past semester. They went to the Music City Tune Up in Nashville, Tennessee and finish 4th at a major tournament. One of Xavier Ultimate’s highest finishes ever at a major USA Ultimate Tournament. Later in the semester we went on to finished 2nd at Conference Championships and qualify for Ohio Valley Regionals for the second time ever. Going into Regionals we are seeded 4th and are hoping to make a run at Division 3 Nationals.

The Xavier University Running Club has just finished another successful semester. This semester, we participated in a number of races including Children’s Charity Club 5k, where Vice President Caleb Childers came in 2nd overall. We also participated in the 3rd Annual Ohio Track Meet against University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, Ohio State University, and Miami University. We also participated in Relay For Life of Xavier University where we raised over $1000 to help the fight against cancer as well as Tom’s Day Without Shoes, where we raised money to help send shoes to Darfur as well as participate in a barefoot walk across campus to raise awareness for the cause. We are looking forward to next semester where we plan to participate in races through the National Intercollegiate Running Club Association and are hoping to qualify for the national meet as well as looking into hosting our own 5K race in the fall.

This spring, the Women’s Club Soccer Team accomplished an incredible feat. They scored more goals in a one-day tournament at OSU than they did in all of their league games in the fall. The lack of goals scored in the fall certainly contributed to their not-so-great record, seeing as you need to score to win. However, the team’s future looks so bright, you may need to buy a pair of shades. The addition of a few fabulous new players and the fact that they are not losing many to graduation may just make them the team to beat next year.

The team is not only excelling on the field as of late. Their recent trip to GameWorks was a huge success. The team effort in dominating the Wheel of Fortune game, the sharing of game cards, and the collective decision of what to buy with their winnings really contributed to the cohesion of the team. In case you were wondering, they decided on a blow-up Dora the Explorer mascot, lots of massive Pixie Stix, and giant sunglasses (which will be used to shade them from their bright future). With the recent additions of some talented players and a team mascot, things are looking superb for Women’s Club Soccer next season.
Xavier Club Softball’s spring season was a quick one. Their biggest set of games was the University of Virginia’s tournament. This is a tournament that the club attends each year in the spring. It lasts the whole weekend and 4-5 games are played in total. The girls had a lot of fun and ended up coming home earlier than expected due to Sunday’s games being sold out. They also were scheduled to play EKU and OU another weekend for their home games. EKU’s games got rained out but they were able to play the next day against OU. They won the last game of the season. With the ending their season they are sad to say goodbye to their seniors, Kate Baldwin, Maggie Schweer, Meghan Brossia, and Mandy Krutzler. They will be missed! They hope to come back next year, in the fall, a strong and well put together team ready to dominate in the NCSA.

**Men’s Volleyball**

Our good friend Borat would claim the 2010-2011 season for XUVBC as a “Great Success!” The club underwent a full 180 degree turn from just one year ago. Starting with a change at the President and officer positions, and the addition of a wave of dedicated freshmen, XUVBC embarked on its path toward greatness.

This year was about so much more than volleyball for us. Obviously, the commitment in the gym was present, but our commitment to the community really propelled XUVBC above and beyond. Throughout the course of the year, we compiled over 450 hours of community service, the most among any club team this season. Some of these sites included volunteering for the AVP Professional Beach Tour, and, arguably the most exciting part of our season, getting the opportunity to play at the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex against a team of inmates (It sounds a lot scarier than it actually was; it was organized beautifully). But of course, we played some damn good volleyball this year as well. We did a bunch of travelling this year to play in various tournaments, all leading up to the big stage in Houston: Nationals. We definitely progressed over the course of the season, which started off with a Silver Division championship at Dayton. Then, heading to Michigan State, we placed 5th out of 28 teams in the renowned “Back to the Hardwood Classic.” We finished the season on a promising note, capturing the Division II Bronze Division Championship at Nationals. With the entire starting lineup returning next year, as well as some incoming freshmen, XUVBC is ready to take it to the next level.

**Water Polo**

Xavier University Water Polo had a successful spring season. Water polo competed in the Third Annual Nutty Invitational at the University of Cincinnati. Xavier competed on a joint team with the University of Cincinnati and had a great tournament. Xavier also partook in the Queen City Scrimmage which brought together players from Cincinnati and Milford high schools, Dayton, and master’s teams such as the Beached Whales and The Squirrels. This scrimmage was not only fun but it was a chance to mix up teams and play with people of varying levels of experience.

This spring Xavier also started to participate in joint practices with The Squirrels (a master’s polo team in the area). This was an excellent learning experience since many of The Squirrels boast decades of experience in the sport. These practices will be continued in the following year. Xavier Water Polo had hoped to compete in the annual Akron tournament, which was unfortunately canceled.
The Xavier Club Ice Hockey team completed their 2010-11 season finishing 15-6-1. First year head coach Tim Driscoll took over the Muskies and led them to them producing their best season in the program's young history. The team had a strong core of dedicated, hard-working upperclassmen infused with a strong freshman class, including Pat Riedy who led all of the American Collegiate Hockey Association in scoring this past season.

While the team's current season is now over, work has already started for next year's campaign. Incoming recruits are piling in and the Muskies look like they are poised for another great season.

It should also be noted that the team is very involved with the Surrounding Greater Cincinnati community during this spring-time, by instructing youngsters ages 8-14 on the skills of hockey.

Club paintball has taken another step in advancing its goals. We are happy to say that Wired Ants is now sponsoring the Xavier Paintball team. In the fall Club Paintball will have new jerseys, pants, and paintball markers and other equipment with help from Wired Ants. In the upcoming season the club will be participating in local speedball tournaments and should begin competing on the intercollegiate level within the next year. We are excited about these advancements are looking forward to the progress that will be made in the coming months.

The Club Tennis team made two trips to Miami University this spring to compete with the Redhawks and Dayton Flyers on both occasions. Unfortunately the team did not manage to secure a victory, but lost narrowly to Dayton on both occasions, one match being 29 games to 26 games. Members look forward to changing this next year. The club enjoyed outdoor practices as the weather warmed up. A number of members participated in alternative breaks and other service events to contribute service hours to club. We are also pleased to announce the new officers for the 2011-2012 school year: Lisa Daum as president, Mike Rizio as vice president, Greg Carlucci as secretary, and Kate Evans as treasurer. All officers are juniors and have played tennis on the club team since their freshman year. They are excited to carry on the club and make it even more competitive and involved in the future.

Yet another semester of Club Golf is in the books. The spring semester was highlighted by a trip to South Bend, IN where seven members of the team competed in the National Collegiate Club Golf Qualifier. The team finished with an overall sixth place finish and was led by Senior Michael Davis on Saturday and Senior Tim Heitmann on Sunday. Many thanks to the members, coaches and faculty that made this another successful season. If you are someone you know is interested in Club Golf, please contact Justin Coop at Coopj@xavier.edu.

Picture: Team members in front of “Touchdown Jesus” on Notre Dame’s campus.

Left to Right: Mike Lario, Michael Davis, Chris D’Alessandro, Steve Latos, Nick Munson, and Chris Mickunas
Equestrian

Xavier Equestrian is building a solid foundation for the upcoming years. Bringing in the team’s first ever reserve championship at the Midway College horse show in the fall, the team has a bright future. We competed at eight different horse shows this winter, including shows at Morehead state College, Midway College, and the University of Kentuckey. Ellen Davis, Jenny Warner, Jenny Deighton, and Della Willz also participated in the Tournament of Champions invitational in Virginia. We had three postseason qualifiers, Della Willz who placed third at regional’s, and Alex Calvert who placed second allowing her to continue on to compete at Zones. Calvert was then champion in her division at Zones, held at Otterbein University. She will compete at Nationals on May 5th. This will be the Xavier Equestrian Team’s first entry at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National’s!

Our team lessons once a week in Hamilton, Ohio. There are four show weekends, two shows in a weekend to compete in. If a rider qualifies they will ride in their division at regional’s at the end of the semester with hopes of continuing on to Zones, and Nationals. We have gained committed and enthusiastic riders, and we are looking forward to our incoming freshmen that will add numbers and power to our team. We had an awesome season this year, and many great memories. We are looking for more awesome girls and guys to join the team next year to make us a powerful competitive force in IHSA.

This was a monumental year for Xavier Equestrian, with placing second at Midway College, and having our first national’s entry ever, and participating in the Tournament of Champions. We are looking forward to many more great exciting seasons! If you have any questions, or would like to join our team contact Ellen Davis, the club president at davise2@xavier.edu, or Alex Calvert at calverta@xavier.edu!

Football

After a somewhat disappointing and shortened 2-2 campaign in the 2010 season Xavier Football has focused on rebuilding and returning to the championship form it held in the past. Coach James Carty left the team at the end of the season and we have hired Neal Kasner to take over as our head coach. Coach Kasner is the former Harrison High head coach where he compiled a 31-23 record with 2 playoff appearances the past 5 years. We are very excited to have him on board and are looking forward to next season. As far as work for next season we have been doing team workouts and had a mini-spring practice season working on our 7 on 7 skills. We played in Miami’s 7 on 7 tournament and finished 3rd out of the teams in our conference. We just released our 2011 schedule, which you can find on our website or facebook page. We open the season at Michigan-Flint September 17 and return the following week for our home opener September 24 against Southern Illinois – Edwardsville. Currently our other home games are October 29 against Marquette and November 5 against Ohio State. We look forward to seeing you there.

Make sure to check out the new Club Sports Website! www.xavier.edu/clubsports
Men’s Lacrosse earned a #1 national ranking to start the spring season. Men’s Baseball started their season ranked #24 in Division II, won their conference, and qualified for the post-season for the first time in the club’s history!

Equestrian earned their first High Point Reserve team award at their Midway competition in November. Congratulations go out to sophomores Alex Calvert, who placed second in Advanced Walk/Trot/Canter and Ellen Davis, who placed third in Intermediate Flat at Regionals at Midway College on March 5th. Alex will be going to Zone Finals at Otterbein College on April 9th!

Ice Hockey players Joe Bauer and Connor Barnes, both juniors, were named ACHA Academic All Americans, while freshman Patrick Reidy skated away with the ACHA scoring title for all divisions, netting 51 goals in 22 games.

Crew competed in the prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. The regatta is the largest two day regatta in the country. The team also moved to a new home at the Shelter Cove Marina and will be practicing on the Little Miami River.

Men’s Volleyball captured a 1st place in the Bronze Division at Nationals in April and earned a 1st place finish in the Silver Division at the UD Flyer Classic last fall.

Martial Arts added a second discipline, Koryu Bujutsu, to their club.

Boxing purchased a new ring and subsequently held a Fight Night in the Schmidt Field House with proceeds donated to assist with Pediatric Cancer research funding.

Clubs have performed 2,346 hours of service to the local community during the year.

The Club Sports teams have fundraised over $150,000 to assist with their operating expenses.

A new website, www.xavier.edu/recreationalsports was created to provide an updated, fresh look as well as greater information regarding all of the areas of our Recreational Sports program.

New coaches were hired for the following sports: Football, Men’s Soccer, Hockey, Baseball, Fencing, Golf, Women’s Lacrosse, Running, Women’s Volleyball, and Martial Arts.