

Malaysian sport kicks off first intramural season

By Emily Marcus

The list of available clubs on campus continues to get longer, and it will soon also include a sport called Sepak Takraw, a cross between soccer and volleyball.

The sport, which originated in Malaysia, is also known as Kato in the Hmong language. Sepak is a Malaysian word meaning "kick," while Takraw comes from the Thai word for "ball." The sport has Associations in Canada, Switzerland, Berlin and Brazil among other areas, with the World Championships held annually in Thailand. With such a rooted background, Vang hopes the Takraw club will continue to grow and be a successful contribution to Concordia's campus. To date, approximately 15 students have signed-up to play. Greg Holz is an avid supporter: "Takraw is not just a sport. It helps promote diversity and gets minority students more involved in club life and campus community."

Currently, it is played on a badminton doubles court, but the sport will be played in the

Gangelhoff Center with a five-foot net and a hard plastic rattan ball. Takraw is a fast-paced and motivating sport in which students can expect to build endurance and knowledge as they carry out acts of balance and flexibility. Two teams compete for higher scores by spiking a ball into the opponent's court. Each team gets three chances to kick, knee, shoulder or head the ball back to the opposing team. As in volleyball, there are passes, sets and spikes, but the strokes must be made soccer style: no hands or arms allowed.

Tzianeng Vang, the Program Associate of the Center for Hmong Studies, Hmong cultural and Language, and the Seat Program is the originator of bringing the idea to Concordia. Vang says, "I am hopeful that [the Takraw club] will be beneficial and participated in by the whole community of CSP."

Sepak Takraw is open to all students at Concordia. For more information contact Tzianeng Vang in the Center for Hmong Studies.

New men's soccer club hits the field

By Sam Voeller

A new men's club soccer team has been added to the Concordia University athletic list. It all began with a freshman, Derek Hill, who really wanted to play soccer.

"I was hoping to find a way to get out and kick the ball around and also stay in shape," Hill said. After talking to a professor about it, he was directed to the Athletic Director Tom Rubbelke. Hill then set up a meeting with Rubbelke and was very pleased with the results.

Rubbelke seemed to be very optimistic about the idea. Hill said Rubbelke told him, "If you want to play soccer, then [Concordia] wants a team, so start one." Then Hill officially

was able to start the process of forming a team. With many guys showing interest, the team was on its way to be developed. CSP had always had a men's soccer team, until the year 2000, when the school became classified as Division II.

Hill said the ultimate plan for

the new team is "to stay club for a couple years, and eventually move into the Division II status and play in an open division and be affiliated with the school."

So far the team consists of about eighteen guys who work hard and are dedicated. The team is led by coaches Dan Ritter, Joel Erkinen and Josh Whitcomb, all of whom are alumni of Concordia. In addition both Erkinen and Whitcomb were members of the men's soccer team when it was first established. Hill holds the title of President of the club, while receiving help from another

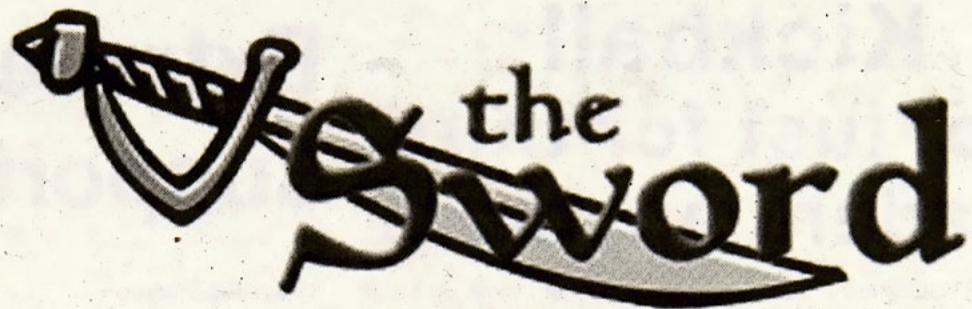
freshman, Tim Rosenau, who is Vice President.

Regarding the process he went through, Hill said, "I love the sport, and our team is willing to do what it takes to get recognized because we just want to play."

The team practices every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and already have begun playing games. Their schedule includes such teams as St. Cloud State, Minnesota State University-Mankato, the University of Minnesota club team and St. Paul College.

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-Freshman Derek Hill



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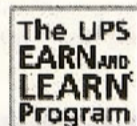
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