RCC kicks off new club soccer teams

“Go, Rogue!” cheers may soon be heard for new Rogue Community College club soccer teams, set to start competitive play in the fall.

The RCC Board of Education recently approved the formation of a “club sports” soccer team after community members interested in starting intercollegiate soccer approached the college. The board approved the club team for a one-year period, providing an opportunity to measure students’ interest in athletics.

Work is under way to launch both men’s and women’s club teams, which will participate in non-league play against eight other community colleges in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges, according to Kori Bieber, Vice President of Student Services. Games will be played at home and away, with the RCC Ospreys playing community colleges that include Lane, Chemeketa, and Southwestern Oregon.

“We hope this activity will be a boost to recruitment and a positive addition to campus culture, RCC visibility, and our connection to our communities,” Bieber said. “It also will offer another opportunity for student development.”

The soccer club will be sponsored by the Associated Student Government (ASG) and will have officers and a club advisor. The teams will be based at the Redwood Campus in Grants Pass and will play on the existing soccer field. Participants must be enrolled full-time at RCC and maintain good academic standing.

Longtime area soccer coach John Timlin will lead the teams and coordinate fundraising. Timlin has coached 16 years at levels from kindergarten through age 19, including nine-plus years at North Valley High School. Timlin hopes to recruit local high school students to attend RCC and join the teams. The number of high school soccer players in the United States more than doubled from 1990 to 2010.

No general fund dollars will be spent to support the teams.

“The teams’ future will depend on community support raising funds,” Timlin said, adding he will be working with the RCC Foundation on seeking money for expenses such as field maintenance, travel and lodging, and equipment.

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“My goal is to build community awareness, support and excitement while creating another opportunity for local student athletes to fulfill their educational goals,” Timlin added. “The Rogue Valley is home to some exceptional student athletes who will strengthen the success of our club now and in the future.”

For details, contact Kori Bieber at kbieber@roguecc.edu, or visit www.roguecc.edu/ClubSoccer.

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Twitter cue: RCC launching men’s and women’s club soccer teams this fall.