As sport clubs here at Texas A&M University, one of our goals is to have a future-oriented mindset. Where will your club be in 5 years? 10 years? One way to promote the future development of your club sport is to start an endowment. Judo, Wrestling, Gymnastics, Men’s Rugby, Men’s Soccer, Men’s Volleyball, Taekwondo and Cycling all have endowments, and several other clubs are in the final stages of getting their endowments started. Not all of the clubs with endowments are actually endowed yet, which occurs upon the endowment account having a principle amount of $25,000 that is permanently restricted once the endowment is created. Amounts above this number in the account are temporarily restricted.

Starting an endowment is easier than you might think. The primary action that your club should take is to talk to James Welford (jwelford@rec.tamu.edu), Associate Director of Development, and discuss what the endowment will be used for. From that point, the major steps are to set up an alumni database and solicit donations. James will help you develop a fundraising plan, which is basically a roadmap to getting an endowment. A good amount to try to start an endowment with is at least $5,000. After your club has completed the review process, James Welford will send a form to the Division of Student Affairs, and upon approval, the endowment will be created.

Once an endowment is created, your club will have 5 years to raise $25,000. Once this mark is hit, the endowment is considered endowed. A key to being successful is having proper leadership transition within your club. Make sure that the incoming officers are aware of your endowment, and aware of the measures necessary to establish and maintain it, as well as how to properly use the interest generated from the account.

Endowment Funding is separate from the funding received for typical operational expenses of the club. An important thing to remember when creating an endowment is to not strangle your own club operations, so typically fundraising money would not go towards an endowment. Anything can go towards a club’s endowment. There is no limit on what can be donated.

Spending an endowment is entirely up to the club. A committee will be created consisting of current and former members, and overseen by a Rec Sports representative. This committee will determine what the funding is used for, be it scholarships or club development.

As many clubs can attest, having an endowment is extremely beneficial to the success of your club. Talk to James and get one started today!

On a side note, clubs should begin to contact alumni and refer them to the alumni databases that are being set up. This can be reached by going to the Rec Sports website http://recsports.tamu.edu/development/reconnect.asp. Under the Rec Sports Involvement section, select SPORT CLUB for areas of involvement, and your individual club in the Sport Club list. Helping build this database will help keep your alums in better contact with your club.
On November 14th, the Men’s Volleyball Club hosted their annual College Classic, one of the biggest adult volleyball tournaments in the state of Texas. In the open division, teams consisting of former Olympians and former varsity players competed against each other from nine in the morning until almost nine at night. The only collegiate teams playing in the open division were the A&M Men’s Volleyball Club and Texas Men’s Club. The Ags lost a couple important sets that held them back from making the playoffs of the tournament. It was an unfortunate loss that offset the strong victory that the team had against the Longhorns the night before at the A&M vs. UT feature match. The Aggies beat the hell out of U.T. and had a 3-1 victory. The second team played in the collegiate division of the tournament and had a strong 3rd place finish.

**Spotlight: Bowling Club**

The Bowling Club has a number of exciting tournaments coming up as they strive for a National playoff birth. This year is very much a transition phase for the bowling team, yet even though they have had a different starting lineup each tournament, they fully expect to compete with the best. Las Vegas is the first destination as the Aggie Bowlers compete against the best Collegiate programs in the nation in two tournaments. Led by player coach Chase Helm, the Aggies will compete at both the Sam’s Town and South Pointe Casinos during the Las Vegas Invitational. “There will be around 50 to 60 teams competing in both tournaments, and we are excited as this is the first year we will be entering both a Men’s and Women’s team.” Additionally, the week before school starts, the team will take twenty-one bowlers to Louisville, Texas to compete against other teams in their conference at the Southwest Intercollegiate Bowling Conference III. There will be 13 Men’s teams and 7 Women’s teams including the main rivals for the conference title: North Texas, University of Houston, and West Texas A&M. Best of luck goes out to the Aggie Bowlers as they make the most out of the coming opportunities!!

**Spotlight: Wrestling Club**

After three years of being inactive the wrestling team is making a come back with Thomas Abia, the coach and president, leading the way. With thirty-five members on the team and fifteen of them competing, the wrestling team is off to a strong start this year. They have had three competitions against the University of Texas, Sul Ross State University and the University of Texas at Arlington. They had a win against Sul Ross and had 4 competitors place against UTA; 1 champion, 2 runners up, and 1 third place. They recently hosted the Maroon vs. White Grapplers Classic at the Student Recreation Center, an inter-squad match in which many of the team members competed for the first time. A few star competitors this year are Sam Reynolds in the 149 lb weight class, Thomas Forester in the 174 lb weight class, and Jacob Rice in the 197 lb weight class. Their conference consists of teams from Texas, Louisiana, Kansas and Colorado. The wrestling team is working toward their goal of making it to the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA) national competition this year in Hampton, Virginia. Check them out in their next home match on January 30 against University of Texas–Dallas and Sam Houston. Visit http://www.aggiewrestling.com to follow the team.

**Dozen, the Texas A&M Men's Ultimate A team, hosted the Fall Texas Brawl on November 7-8.** Fifteen College teams attended including UNT, Texas State, Texas, LSU, and Missouri State. Saturday started as pool play split into three different pools and ended with the Texas A&M Alumni, Texas State, and SHSU going 4-0. Dozen finished with a 3-1 record, losing to the alumni. Sunday was bracket play and closed with Texas State winning the championship bracket, beating the alumni team, and Texas B team beating U of H in the Chumps bracket. Dozen beat UNT, lost to Texas State on their way to victory, then beat SHSU by forfeit for the 3rd place spot. They raised over $1,600 total and have high hopes for when the championship series starts after spring break. The team is a very young team, with only five seniors and over half the team are freshman and sophomores, but already look like a well refined veteran team. Their goals for the upcoming season will be sending the A team to nationals and advancing the B team to regionals. A lot of southern teams graduated the majority of their playmaking seniors, so they believe they have got a real shot at nationals this year. The B team is showing impressive skills too, challenging A team in a few practices. The Ultimate team is looking forward to a very promising and competitive season.