

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

Rutgers sports clubs and intramurals give athletes access to everything under the sun: water and racquet sports; skiing and snowboarding; dance and martial arts; and rough-and-tumble sports such as hockey, rugby, and lacrosse. Four women who take no prisoners in their athletic pursuits reveal what it's like to take part in one of the dozens of club sports on the New Brunswick Campus. *By Bill Glavin*



ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Aggression Factor: 4 (out of 5)

Amanda Davis RC'08

Major: Anthropology

Object: Seven team players pass the disk to one another as they advance down a football-sized field. Possession changes with a dropped pass. A point is scored when a player catches the disk past the goal line. The first team to reach 13 or 15 points wins.

Highlight: "My first year, we were one of 16 teams that qualified for the national tournament in Oregon, competing against unbelievable players."

Fear to Overcome: "My shyness, which the sport has helped me conquer."

Secret to Success: "Practicing every day as a freshman and sophomore in all kinds of weather to learn how to put the right spin on the disk."

Her Best Skill: Throwing—both forehand and backhand.

What She Likes Best: "It keeps me in shape."



RUGBY

Aggression Factor: 5

Kate Kelly RC'08

Major: Economics

Object: To score points by touching the ball to the ground after crossing a goal line or by drop-kicking it through goal posts. Fifteen players on a side, with no substitutions during the 80-minute match. Tackling encouraged; protective padding discouraged.

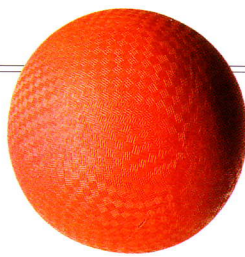
Highlight: "We rebuilt the team, which is now a nationally ranked Division II squad. I competed on the under age 19 U.S. national team, which competed in Fiji."

Fear to Overcome: "There's no time for fear. Rugby is like going to battle."

Secret to Success: "I am not big or fast, but I am fearless and tolerate pain well. I don't worry about blood or a dislocated finger. My two concussions are no big deal."

Her Best Skill: "Tackling."

What She Likes Best: "Tackling."



EXTREME DODGEBALL

Aggression Factor: 4

Kelly Rafferty sophomore

Major: Math and music

Object: Played on a racquetball court divided in half. Four players per team, with substitutions allowed. Get hit by one of four balls in play at the match's start, you're out. Catch an opponent's throw, and he or she is out. Last player standing wins.

Highlight: Her team, the Blue Barracudas, winning the Extreme Dodgeball tournament on Busch Campus in December.

Fear to Overcome: "Getting clocked in the face."

Secret to Success: "Aim low, know your teammates' strengths and weaknesses, and change directions on a dime."

Her Best Skill: "My throwing arm, developed playing softball."

What She Likes Best: "Teamwork and the speed—and being the only female."



KENDO

Aggression Factor: 5

Mi Hyun Yoon junior

Major: Journalism

Object: To score points during three-minute matches by striking an opponent's head, wrist, or torso with a shinai, a Japanese sword made of a leather handle and four bamboo sticks tightly bound by leather straps.

Highlight: "Making new friends at tournaments."

Fear to Overcome: "Taller and heavier male and female opponents. I need to concentrate more so I don't get pushed around."

Secret to Success: "Using my voice to generate strength, like a weight lifter does."

Her Best Skill: "Not being strong, I rely on speed and footwork."

What She Likes Best: "The inner strength, confidence, and posture I have from reaching the shodan level, which is the equivalent of a black belt."