



Brian Fitzgerald/State Press

A group of ASU students and alumni claim that faculty and staff are "squeezing" them out by reserving all three physical education West basketball courts from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Students: Faculty 'squeezing us' off courts

Disagreements brewing over rights to PE West basketball gym

By MAXWELL HIGGINS
STATE PRESS

A storm of discontent has been brewing among a group of students and alumni who claim that faculty members are trying to shut them out of Physical Education West's basketball courts.

"Absolutely, the faculty are squeezing us out," said Michael Allen, a Ph.D. candidate and graduate assistant in chemistry who has been playing in PE West for more than two years.

The hubbub is over efforts by members of the faculty noon hour basketball program to reserve the three basketball courts in PE West for themselves.

In an Academic Senate meeting last year, the faculty formalized a long-standing agreement with Gerry Maas, director of Recreational Sports and Activities, giving them the right to reserve the courts between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The group of upset alumni and students also play at those times.

The court reservation agreement was put

in writing — in the form of a faculty recreation program — in hopes of avoiding any future confrontations with students and alumni when they were asked to leave the gym.

The Academic Senate's formalizing of the agreement came after Bill Arnold, Academic Senate president and 20-year veteran of the faculty basketball games in PE West, appointed a special committee to look into the matter.

"The faculty and staff, they can't have that. They're trying to eliminate the students, and the students are why they're here," said Prentice Williams, an ASU alumnus and former Frank Kush-era football player. Williams, who traditionally has been a vocal proponent for students and alumni, said he has played basketball in PE West for 27 years.

The faculty members who play at PE West, on the other hand, say they deserve a place to play on their lunch hour.

"It's reasonable for the University to make facilities available for the community, but it's also reasonable that faculty have

three or four hours a week," said Charles Corbin, a professor in the department of exercise science and physical education.

The main complaint given by the alumni and students is that faculty want to keep them out of PE West during the noon hour, even when the faculty don't have enough people to use all three courts at once.

To that objection, Corbin responded, "It doesn't make a damn (difference). It's our time and it's our program."

Both Corbin and Arnold said they would prefer to keep all non-faculty members out of PE West during their games.

"We have considered not letting anyone else in, just so we won't have the big argument," Corbin said. "Every time we want to use (the third court), we get flak."

Corbin also noted that the gym is still open for Tuesday and Thursday lunch hours and at times when other programs aren't scheduled.

"We purposely did not schedule it on Tuesday and Thursday so that others could use it," he said. "I think we should be com-

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