Honors program sets high standard

By Rod Phoenix

The Women's Athletic Honorary at OSU is very select. It's so select that in five years nobody has met its admission requirements.

"We have had 27 participants," said Mary Daniels, assistant director of intramurals, "but not one has made it."

The women's honorary, initiated in 1973, is one of few such programs in the nation. Admission standards were set by physical education students, faculty and staff.

The honorary tests each participant's skills in 14 sports, and demands a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

The number of participants has been decreasing, according to Daniels.

"Most women tend to specialize," Daniels said. "Therefore, the concept of the honorary is not inviting. We are looking for women proficient in a wide range of activities."

The program is open to female students, faculty and staff throughout the year. Testing is conducted by appointment, and events are judged by assistant directors of intramurals and graduate assistants.

Women interested in the program should contact the intramural office. Larkins Hall 106.

Three substitutions in these events are permitted. Varsity sports and intramural championship awards may be substituted with the permission of the intramural office.

50-yard dash — 7.6 seconds.

1/2 mile run — 3 minutes, 30 seconds.

100-yard swim — 1 minute, 50 seconds.

Softball throw — 150 feet.

Soccer punt — 110 feet.

Bowling — 130 average for two games.

Running broad jump — 13 feet.

Tennis or Badminton — Sufficient volleys or accurate serves.

Back hip circle — Executed in good form.

Golf — 5 of 7 shots must be hit into an area 20 feet in diameter from a distance of 25 yards.

Balance beam — Mount and three passes. One stunt executed in good form.

Archery — 100 point round. Shoot 12 arrows at 20 yards and 12 arrows at 30 yards.

Basketball — 17 of 25 shots. Shoot five shots from each of five areas located 15 feet from the basket.

Volleyball — Candidate will set the ball to herself for 30 seconds while remaining within a circle eight feet in diameter. Ball must be set at least eight feet into the air each time.
Men rate better than women in athletic honoraries

By Denise Bigler
Lantern staff writer

The score of the athletic honorary membership game is men 72, women 1.

Athletic honoraries are designed to recognize men and women who demonstrate proficiency in tests of athletic skill. Requirements for membership in the honorary include tests in track and field events, gymnastics, swimming and scholarship.

Although membership in the men's honorary has developed consistently with one or two men passing the test each year, the women's honorary has acquired only one member in its 13 years of existence at Ohio State.

The men's honorary is an active chapter of Sigma Delta Psi, the national men's athletic honorary. Established in 1917, the chapter currently has 72 names on its membership plaque.

According to Bruce Maurer, assistant director of recreation and intramural sports and advisor of Sigma Delta Psi, there are approximately 30 people actively pursuing membership in the group.

The Women's Honorary Athletic Association, which does not have the benefit of being a member of a national organization, was started in 1973. In response to requests from female students for an athletic honorary designed especially for women.

However, the women's honorary has not had much success in getting people to finish the requirements once they show initial interest.

Mary Daniels, assistant director of recreation and intramural sports and advisor of the women's honorary, said many women have shown an interest in the program, but few take the time to complete all the requirements.

Both honoraries have no time limit concerning how long applicants may take to complete all the tests.

"The intent of the program is that it is very self-directed," said Daniels. "But a lot of people don't have the initiative to go out and do something like this on their own."

Maurer agreed that to make it through all of the tests, a person has to have a lot of perseverance and motivation. He said a lot of men who attempt the program breeze through six or seven of the events in the program, but never finish. Many don't have the time to train for parts of the test they aren't as proficient in.

"Out of 22,000 men at OSU, there are probably 2,000 that could get into the honorary if they really tried," said Maurer.

A tough set of requirements isn't the only reason many participants don't complete or even begin the program.

Both Maurer and Daniels admitted that the honoraries are not promoted as much as some of the other programs in the athletic department.

"Additional staff responsibilities make us set priorities," said Maurer.

Even if there was enough time to put more effort into the program, Daniels said there is not much room for intervention by the department.

"The nature of the program is based on individual initiative, so setting a time limit would create incentive, but go against the original purpose of the program," she said.

Sigma Delta Psi has a 70-year reputation to keep alive, even without a lot of publicity. However, the women's honorary does not have a legacy to interest potential members.

Applications for both honoraries are available in Larkins 106. For more information contact Bruce Maurer or Mary Daniels at 422-7671.