

Estrella Mountain CC offers golf, cross-country programs

by [Megan Gordon](#) - Aug. 9, 2010 09:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

College sports are coming to the Southwest Valley.

Estrella Mountain Community College is offering athletic programs for the first time since the Avondale campus opened in 1992.

Athletic Director Herschel Jackson said the college is starting small with cross country and golf teams for men and women. He said expansion of the sports program depends on funding and student participation. Estrella may consider offering soccer, baseball and softball, he said.

"For years, our students have been clamoring for athletics of some sort," he said. "We listened to the students and got the ball rolling to get athletics established."

The Estrella Mountain Community College Mountain Lions have five cross-country team members, but coach Carl Tichenor said he hopes to recruit at least three more men and two more women so the students can be competitive.

The college is spending more than \$70,000 to support golf and cross country.

Jackson said two programs are an "ideal" size for the 5,000-student college.

"It definitely helps attract new students to campus," he said. "It gives our student body something to be a part of."

The Mountain Lions were accepted into the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference, which has 14 colleges throughout the state.

Conference President Jerry Smith said the ACCAC's goal is to support athletic and higher-education opportunities for as many Arizona students as possible.

National rules require athletes to be full-time students to participate in college sports.

Brad Rowley, 21, joined Estrella's cross-country team, which started practices this week. Rowley has been attending Estrella part time for more than a year but increased his class load this semester to join the team.

Rowley, originally from El Paso, said he hopes the cross-country team will help him get a scholarship to a four-year university.

The team's first meet is Sept. 4 in [Flagstaff](#)

. It is hosted by Northern Arizona University.

Copyright © 2010, azcentral.com. All rights reserved. Users of this site agree to the [Terms](#)

Advertisement



GET SUNDAY
HOME DELIVERY FOR ONLY
\$1 PER WEEK

PLUS NOW GET WEDNESDAY INCLUDED FOR **NO ADDITIONAL COST!**

Visit [AZAD.AZCENTRAL.COM](#) or call us at **602-444-4444** and mention promo. code **AZAD**. Offer expires 12/31/10. Offer valid for new subscribers only.

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

of Service and Privacy Policy/Your California
Privacy Rights

Advertisement



GET SUNDAY
HOME DELIVERY FOR ONLY
\$1 PER WEEK

PLUS NOW GET WEDNESDAY INCLUDED
FOR **NO ADDITIONAL COST!**
Visit AZAD.AZCENTRAL.COM or
call us at **602-444-4444** and mention promo.
code **AZAD**. Offer expires 12/31/10.
Offer valid for new subscribers only.

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™