Open Recreation Basketball a Steady Success
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When you walk into the Lee Hall at any hour of the day, there is a good chance you will immediately be greeted with the sound of a bouncing ball, and the squeaking of sneakers.

Inside the Lee Hall gym, open recreational basketball is likely happening. While the Lee Hall gym certainly has other functions, primarily to play other intramural sports such as volleyball, more often than not it is being used so that SUNY Oswego students can enjoy a pick-up game of basketball at their own leisure.

All it takes for students during open rec hours is a college ID, and they are given the opportunity to play with and against their peers in a game of basketball on two courts in Lee Hall, as well as two in Swetman.

Rarely will you see an empty gym, as there always seem to be students who take advantage of the opportunity to play basketball indoors right here on campus.

Although it may seem chaotic, especially at its peak hours, open rec basketball is actually a well-organized and planned activity put on by Campus Recreation. The hours are made well in advance, and there is always supervision by the Desk Attendants as well as other Campus Recreation employees who are in the building.

While Campus Rec employees certainly oversee what is happening inside the gym, where it goes from there is up to the participants. Open rec basketball allows students to play with “playground” rules, while in the comforts of a facility like Lee Hall.

Unlike intramural basketball, where the score is kept on a scoreboard, teams wear pinnies or uniforms, and there is multiple referees there to control the action, in pick-up, it is up to the players to control their own game.

A game of pickup basketball can be played in several different ways. Students can choose to play full court, or half. They can also choose whether they want to play 1-on-1, 5-on-5, or anything in between. The score the game goes too also varies. Standard practice in Lee Hall during peak hours is 15, but often time’s games will be played to 11, or even 21.

There is a set of unwritten rules that come with playing open rec basketball, that come from a playground background. If they are interested (and there are teams waiting to play) the team that wins a game is allowed to stay on the court of the game in which
they won while the losing team will have to go back and wait for the next court to open up. Teams are formed either by having players already picked out before the game, or by each player shooting and picking “first five” or “every other”.

Since there are no referees, players call their own fouls and violations.

It may be a lot to take in for students who are unfamiliar with the practices of how pick-up basketball works. However, there are usually enough courts open between Lee and Swetman for players to make their own rules.

Sometimes players may want to use the facilities to play a different basketball game such as Knockout or 21, and other times students may want to just come in and shoot around with their friends.

Whatever they are interested in, Campus Recreation works to provide opportunities for students interested in basketball, to come in and play in a fun and safe environment.