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The mayhem boys are loose again. That snarling and slashing you hear on these quiet evenings is nothing else but the Box Lacrosse addicts getting in shape for the grand opening next Wednesday at Swarthmore.

Due to the love of the local lads for body contact sports throughout the year this area has become the stronghold of the miniature version of the old Indian game and its popularity has spread not only through the ranks of the athletes but has captured the fancy of the fans as well.

The regulation game is a tough enough sport in itself, but reducing the playing surface to the proportions of a box that is about the size of a basketball floor makes the sport a wild and wooly affair.

Box Lacrosse was introduced here five years ago by that sports loving Swarthmorean, Porter Waite. His own enthusiasm for the game was contagious and Porter soon had a large number of candidates learning how to manipulate the netted sticks and how to avoid a sock on the kisser with finesse and courage.

Large crowds greeted the games at Swarthmore as the sport developed. Anxious to spread the fever, Porter and his boys moved into Chester two years ago and conducted their league competition on the lower Polo Field of the P. M. C. campus. Lights were erected and tremendous mobs turned out to watch the action. The only catch to the project was that most of the crowd managed to get into the field almost anyway except through the gate, and despite the fact that 1500 fans were looking on at times there was hardly enough money in the till to cover the expenses. So the boys moved back to Swarthmore.

Young vandals ripped apart the Swarthmore Box during this past winter, but even this catastrophe failed to halt the Lacrosse boys and they pitched in to erect a new box, which is now labeled as an improvement.

Porter Waite himself hasn't been able to help get the movement underway this season. Porter has been having a battle of his own. A sinus germ spread through his body and he has been quite ill for several weeks. Possessing a tremendous physique the popular Porter hopes to shake off the ravages of his illness before long and get back in action in his beloved sport, but meanwhile his boys are carrying along on their own.

With Waite on the sidelines leadership in the project has fallen on the shoulders of Avery Blake, Swarthmore College's well known lacrosse coach. Avery has been one of Porter's chief supporters throughout the growth of box lacrosse in this community and has been one of the best players in the yearly action.

Most of last year's players are around while several newcomers are out for berths in the circuit. The final practice will be staged Sunday afternoon, with three teams definitely formed. These are the old standbys of the last several years, the Swarthmore Indians, the Chester Comets and the Philadelphia Lacrosse Club.

Baltimore, a stronghold of lacrosse in the United States, may enter a team in the league. If not a complete team they will at least send up several players for the weekly competition.

Bobby Poole, former all-American star while at St. John's in Annapolis, has been the leader of the invasion by the Maryland stars. Jake Edel, former Penn State captain, heads the Philly Lacrosse Club.

The preparation for next Wednesday is practically complete now as Magistrate Cliff Rumsey has once again been signed to referee the battles.

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