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Project Proposal (HW 2)
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SportsMatch!

[Other titles: SportMore, SportsMore, SporMore, MoreSport, Sport!, Play!, Playday, Playmates, SportCourt, mSport (more Sport), SportMates, SportMate, Sport it!, GOAP (Get Out And Play!), GOPLAY! (Get Out and PLAY!), SportMeet, SportsMeet]

The Problem:

Ever want to get out and start a pickup game of basketball, or play a tennis game while the sun's shining, but can't find someone to play with? Sometimes it's hard to know who's available when—it's hard enough remembering your own schedule, let alone everyone else's. It can also be awkward and time-consuming to call random people in your contacts and see if they're available at that time. It can also be a stressful task to coordinate group sports—getting a hold of 10-20 people and getting a commitment to show up can be taxing, and often just doesn't work out. A lot of people would play a lot more sports, and get a lot more exercise if they could just find the people who're available to play at that time and in that area.

Further analysis:

Other troubles include knowing where the nearest, cheapest, or highest quality venue is for a particular sport or activity, or what the condition of the venue is (may be closed or damaged). Another problem is finding people of the right skill level to play against. Sometimes it's just too hard to find someone at the right level for your game to be competitive, fun, and useful. Many people wouldn't mind meeting up with strangers if they knew they would have a good match. Others might prefer to stick to playing with their friends and people they know.

The application and its benefits:

If only there was an application that could do the matching for you. That's exactly what SportsMatch would do. Users can:

- Find people nearby who want to play a particular sport or other outdoor/'active' activity
- Enter in schedule and location and have compatible matches automatically set up
 - Receive notification of match schedulings and reminders of upcoming matches
- Find and be visible to:
 - Only friends

- Only users fitting certain criteria (gender, ability, etc.)
- Anyone who wants to play
- Find public and commercial venues to do a specific activity
 - Get directions to a venue
 - Sort by proximity, cost, user rating, size
 - View or submit pictures or reviews of the venue
 - View or submit notes on current conditions of a venue (damage, closings, court availability)
- View a map with players, venues and other sport related locations (e.g. equipment shops)
- Track records against other players
- Rank other players according to friendliness, skill level, etc.
- Challenge specific people to a match
- Can tentatively vote 'yes' on an event, given that enough others will join up, and everyone will be notified when the event is deemed viable
- Create and participate in tournaments
- Get the weather forecast, for planning purposes

The great thing about the application is that you don't have to actively try and find a match. It makes available to you all willing opponents/participants in the area, makes the connection, and even guides the meetup process. Especially if you're in a densely populated area, you're likely to find a match relatively quickly. If you have enough contacts, you can try and find someone you know first, and, failing that, meet someone new. What makes matches even more likely is the fact that people can leave open-ended offers, saying they're available all day Saturday for a match, for example, so you may get an instant result.

Scenario Walkthrough:

You and your friend are at the local high school, playing a friendly singles game, but decide you want to get some practice on your doubles game (that tournament's coming up!). Your usual tennis buddies are busy, and if you played those kids on the other court, you'd smoke em. So you get on SportsMatch, put in your location, what you're looking to play (doubles tennis), how many people needed (two more), how long you're available, and that you need intermediate to advanced opponents. After a quick search, it returns a match. Jim and Jane, the couple you know down the street have proposed the same match not too long ago, and are still available. They're notified, but before they have the time to send you a message, you've already sent one, "Want to play? We're looking to play a set or two." "Be there in five!" they say. So easy. So awesome.