

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room, Casanova Center

March 29, 2000

Committee Members and Guests Present: Carl Ferreira, Gary Gray, Spencer Hamlin, Lynn Kahle, John Leahy, Bill Moos, Jim O'Fallon, Margie Paris, Brad Shelton, Heidi Smith, and Debbie Nankivell.

Mac Court Update

After reading Ron Bellamy's recent article about the need to replace Mac Court, several faculty members asked for clarity on this issue. Bill explained that Mac Court is the oldest on-campus facility in use in the United States. The building has about reached its capacity on the number of improvements that can be made to keep it usable while still meeting safety requirements, ADA concerns, and having enough seats available for the increasing number of Duck fans. It is likely that a new facility will be needed within the next five to ten years. Preliminary discussions have focused on the need for a new multi-use facility that would serve the university and the community, attracting concerts, trade shows, ice shows, etc. Bill envisions that the new multi-use building would be owned by the university and/or community with the athletic department being one of the tenants for its athletic events. Mac Court currently seats 9,000+, and a new facility would ideally accommodate between 12,000-14,000 people. It is important to all parties not to lose the positive features of Mac Court and these qualities would be incorporated into the design of a new facility. Funding for the project would include a number of sources since so many groups could benefit from the new multi-use facility.

Recent media coverage of ADA issues at Mac Court involved a shortage of available seating for fans in wheelchairs and their companions. This issue continues to be addressed, however, there are limits to the improvements that can be made due to the structure of Mac Court. Design plans for the Autzen expansion project are expected to meet or exceed minimum ADA requirements for a facility of its size.

NCAA Basketball Tournaments

The committee asked whether the department made or lost money with the men's and women's basketball teams both participating in the NCAA tournaments. The NCAA and Pac-10 pay for the costs involved for teams in the tournament so the department should break even. The NCAA uses a complicated formula to distribute profits from the NCAA tournament to institutions, which are received at a later date.

There are a number of challenges involved in managing tournament participation, whether the teams travel or host events. All 128 men's and women's teams are required to work with the same company to make travel arrangements. In addition, the size of the travel party makes securing flights difficult, especially around spring break with only a couple of days notice.

The announcement that an institution will host tournament games in a few days brings new

challenges, including gearing up for ticket sales and managing event operations. Committee members raised the issues of ticket office staff giving inaccurate information and the Casanova Center ticket office not being open for gameday ticket sales as reported by the local media. Once ticket office staff became aware that incorrect information was given out, every effort was made to remedy the situation. Hopefully, in the future women's first and second round sites will be pre-determined as the men's currently are and sites will have ample time to prepare for events. Committee members did note that the security personnel working the women's tournament were well informed, polite and helpful in assisting fans - more so than for regular women's home games. These issues will be forwarded to the appropriate department staff.

Volleyball Program Update

Bill Moos introduced Carl Ferreira, head volleyball coach, who discussed the university's volleyball program. Carl became the new head coach at the end of January, leaving his former position as head coach at the University of Idaho. Carl knew a lot about the Pac-10 Conference before accepting the position, but not as much about the University of Oregon. After learning more during the interview process and having an opportunity to see the campus and its facilities, he was very impressed with what Oregon has to offer. Carl has coached with his wife of ten years, a former Division I All-American and professional volleyball player, who serves as a great role model for his players. She will be a volunteer coach with the UO program. Since women athletes have few professional opportunities to continue their athletic careers, stressing academics along with athletics helps student-athletes find a balance for succeeding while in school and in the future.

Coach Ferreira has spent the past couple of months evaluating the team and comparing our program with the top five Pac-10 programs. The current team members are meshing quickly with Carl and his staff. Jared Sliger, assistant volleyball coach, came from the University of Idaho with Carl and a former player is expected to be hired as the second assistant coach. Carl feels the team chemistry is good despite their past lack of success on the court.

Recruiting, which is nearly a year-round process for volleyball, is underway and a few student-athletes have already committed to our program. Volleyball is a head count sport with twelve scholarships.

The team will be playing some games in Provo in early April and plan to scrimmage with Stanford soon. The first home game in the fall will be during the third week of September against Portland. Carl plans to continue his practice of holding Chalk Talks for interested fans prior to each home game to promote a better understanding of volleyball and in particular, to advise fans on what to watch for during that night's game.

The team plays on the road half of the season, but compared to Idaho, fewer classes are missed due to Pac-10 scheduling and the close proximity of the Eugene Airport. While on the road, players are required to attend mandatory study halls. Carl has been impressed with the academic support services provided on campus.

Next Meeting
To be announced.

dln