

Intercollegiate Athletic Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room - Casanova Center

June 4, 1996

Committee Members and Guests Present: Ralph Barnhard, Gary Gray, Jim Isenberg, Steve Kevan, Joe Leahy, Steve McBride, Bill Moos, Twinkle Morton, Marilyn Nippold, Jim O'Fallon, Kanealii Osorio, Lou Osternig, Jody Runge, Nani Sarosa, Susan Trafton, and Debbie Nankivell.

Women's Basketball Program

Jody Runge, Head Women's Basketball Coach, updated the committee on the UO women's basketball program. She has been pleased with the success of the program the past three years which should lead to a tradition of winning at the UO. One of Jody's goals is to consistently be in the top 20 nationally.

The team will be losing one player to graduation with strong recruits joining the program in the fall. Team members' high GPA's help showcase the players as positive role models. Jody feels the UO's quarter system works well for the team's practice and game schedules. The department has made commitments to building and maintaining a successful program.

Attendance continues to increase and the UO hosted the largest crowd ever for a women's Pac-10 basketball game this year. At some time, the program may grow out of Mac Court, but it is great to play to a full house.

Jody would like to see a new tournament created which would be sponsored by Nike and played on TV. Oregon is a strong women's basketball state, yet we need to recruit nationally and have increased TV exposure. We have not recruited our foreign student-athletes, but they have had a big impact on the program.

Sara Wilson, a former UO basketball player, was recently hired as an assistant coach in the program. Jody feels her staff is very strong with Stephanie Osburn, Fred Litzenberger, and Sara on board.

Concerns were raised about human rights issues and the department's contract with Nike. Jody believes the new contract with Nike will help our teams, particularly the women's sports programs by making Oregon more visible nationwide.

Athletic Department Facilities Update

Steve McBride updated the group on the following department facility projects.

- C **Hayward Field** - The track was resurfaced last summer.
- C **Academics & Counseling** - The offices at Mac Court have been remodeled.
- C **Mac Court** - The corridors, trophy cases, and concession areas have been remodeled. Mac Court seating will be revised in the next couple of years. It is

anticipated that Mac Court will continue to be needed even if a new arena is built in the future for practices and sports with low attendance.

- C **Mac Court Roof** - The department and university co-funded the removal of the old roof and installation of the new roof. The project should be completed by the beginning of August.
- C **Howe Field** - The field has been improved with new dugouts and a backstop added.
- C **Autzen Stadium** - The old wood bleachers have been removed with new green vinyl coated bleachers to be installed soon. The old bleachers will be remilled and sold by a contractor. The windows in the sky building are being remodeled to allow them to open. It is expected that more seats will be sold as patrons in the building will feel more a part of the game. The increased sales will pay for the window remodel project.
- C **Indoor Practice Facility** - The department anticipates building an indoor practice facility and soccer fields adjacent to the Casanova Center, with groundbreaking expected to begin after the last home football game this year. A fundraising plan for the \$13 million price tag is in the works with the building expected to be paid for entirely by donations. The facility will house a football field, track lanes, jumping pits, and may also be used for our softball, golf, track, and soccer programs. The new facility should help in recruiting. The building does require state board approval which is expected to take place this summer.
- C **Arena** - There are no firm arena plans at this time. This project will require planning and strategizing with a number of agencies.

Academic Liaison

Discussed whether to have a committee member serve as a liaison between the department and faculty regarding concerns about student-athletes' academic progress. It was agreed that a sub-committee of Jim O'Fallon, Twinkle Morton, John Leahy, and Steve Kevan will address these concerns and bring a recommendation back to the committee for discussion.

New Committee Chair

Ralph Barnhard was selected as next year's committee chair. Congratulations, Ralph. Thanks to Jim Isenberg for doing a great job this year as committee chair!

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- C Discussion of non-renewal of financial aid. There is a need for a policy on the UO's commitment to student-athletes.
- C Begin planning for the NCAA's certification self study.

NCAA News

For your information - Committee members will be receiving weekly issues of the NCAA News.

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