

sports

Cleaning of stadium the pits, but worth it

By MIKE STREETER
For the Emerald

Have you ever wondered what it's like to clean up all the trash left in Autzen Stadium after an Oregon football game?

"It's a bitch," says Jay Evans, a member of the University men's swim team.

The swimming team is one of a number of Oregon athletic squads that raises money for itself by cleaning Autzen following Oregon football games. The teams can make between \$900 and \$1,200 depending on the size of the crowd at the game, and they use the revenue for new equipment, travel expenses or general upgrading of their program. The University athletic department, which pays the bill, adds the expense to its home game budget.

The job is not exactly thrilling, according to Russel Miller, a member of the wrestling team. "It's worth it to the team to clean the stadium, but it's the pits," he says. "Mostly we find liquor bottles like Bacardi 151 and that sort of stuff scattered all over the stands."

It usually takes a day and a half to clean the stadium with a group of 40 workers. The crew forms a line from the top of the stadium to the bottom and moves through

the bleachers picking up every piece of garbage in sight. Since the job takes more than one day, the wind from the previous day and night scatters garbage about, forcing the cleaning crew to do parts of the stadium over again.

"It's really hard work; it's really dirty," says wrestler Jim Hildebrand. "I did not realize how messy people really are."

Adds Miller, "The girls' bathroom was the worst; twice as bad as the men's."

Even though none of the teams' members enjoy the job, they all agree it is worth doing for the good of the team. "It's a pain but I guess it's worth it in the long run for the team," says Bill Nugent, a wrestler. "The work is terrible, though, one of the worst things that I have ever done."

Head wrestling coach Ron Finley is very pleased with the clean-up program. "I definitely think that it is a great opportunity to go out and make some money and do some extra things needed to be done to have a successful program," he says.

The wrestling team will take the money made from cleaning the stadium and use it to send members of the team to the world team trials and world championships, things for which there is normally no money.



Photo by Steve Dykes

An empty rum bottle and a beer cup are among the many things members of athletic teams have to pick up while cleaning Autzen Stadium after Oregon football games.

Poetic Parker picked best

PITTSBURGH (AP)—After Dave Parker was named the National League's 1978 Most Valuable Player Wednesday, the

Pittsburgh Pirates pledged to keep him under contract and Parker waxed poetic.

"Right now, I'm going to say that we will sign Dave Parker. I'm very optimistic," said general manager Pete Peterson, faced with the possibility Parker could become a free-agent after next season.

Parker, winner of two straight batting titles and the runaway MVP choice, responded in rhyme.

"I said last season, 'When the leaves turn brown, I'll be wearing my second batting crown,' he said.

"At this time, I'll say that when the leaves turn green, I'll be playing for the same team."

That brought grins from Peterson and Pirate Manager Chuck Tanner, who flanked the leather-garbed Parker during a press conference.

"Dave's the best ballplayer in the game today. Nobody can do it better," said Tanner, who watched the 6-foot-5, 225-pound rightfielder lead a Pirate stretch

drive last season despite a cracked cheekbone.

"And the amazing thing about it is that he hasn't even begun to hit his peak yet. Dave Parker is going to have his good years starting now," Tanner added.

That's a tall statement considering Parker, who batted .338 in 1977 and .334 last season, collected 21 of a possible 24 first-place votes and a total of 320 points in MVP balloting by a select committee of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

First baseman Steve Garvey of the Los Angeles Dodgers finished second with 194 points, but he did not receive a first-place vote.

The other three first-place votes went to shortstop Larry Bowa of the Philadelphia Phillies, third overall with 189 points.

"I don't want to downgrade Garvey or Bowa. They're two fine players," said Peterson. "But I don't understand why Parker didn't receive all of the first-place votes."

The voters, two from each of the NL's 12 cities, each voted for 10 players. A first-place vote counted 14 points. Second place was nine points, down to one point for 10th.

After Bowa, outfielders took the next four spots: Reggie Smith, Dodgers, 164 points; Jack Clark, San Francisco Giants, 107; last year's MVP, George Foster, Cincinnati Reds, 104; and Greg Luzinski, Philadelphia, 48.

Pitcher Gaylord Perry of the San Diego Padres, this year's Cy Young winner, finished eighth with 45 points. Rounding out the top 10 were outfielders Willie Stargell of the Pirates with 39 points and Dave Winfield of San Diego with 37.

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