

UNIVERSITY

Brand says lottery offers last hope

By Jake Berg
Emerald Reporter

The Sports Action lottery game is the last "ray of hope" for the University Athletic Department's future financial needs, University President Myles Brand said Friday.

Brand appeared with University Athletic Director Bill Byrne Friday at a Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon, hoping to call attention to the financial plight of the University and the Athletic Department.

Specifically, Brand named the Sports Action lottery game as the lone possible savior of intercollegiate athletics in Oregon. Money raised from the game is supposed to go toward athletics at all of the state's colleges and universities, but because of a rule directing the flow of this money, only a small amount has reached the athletic funds at Oregon's schools.

"How are we going to fund these sports in the future?" Brand asked the crowd of about 70. "I only see one ray of hope, and that ray of hope is sports lottery."

"Without it, I don't know what we'd do, but I hope I never face that in the future."

The lottery has come under heavy fire recently from the NFL, including an appearance in Salem by NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who asked

the Legislature to do away with the lottery.

"I feel we're being beat up by other interests," Brand said of Sports Action's opponents.

Oregon and Oregon State are the only Pacific-10 Conference schools that do not receive financial support from state government.

Byrne predicted major cuts in the Athletic Department if aid was not received soon, and those cuts would "probably" affect the school's 12 non-revenue sports.

Only football and men's basketball are considered revenue sports, and the other 12 sports, which cost \$4 million to run each year, only generate \$140,000.

"We're at the point where if we don't get some help soon, we're going to have to make some cuts that are pretty drastic," Byrne said. "We're at the end of our rope."

He added as an example the case where Washington State University was forced to make cuts in non-revenue sports programs and was consequently sued by the women's athletic department for not providing equal opportunity to women athletes.

The legal actions were based on grounds that Washington State must provide an equal amount of sports for men as they do women, and the case was ruled in favor of the women's athletic department.

ASUO

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increase the number of registered student voters.

Campus safety is another issue that Bills/Watson intend to focus on if elected.

"It has to be more than just lights," Watson said.

The candidates said they will push for night classes to be moved to a centralized location, possibly along 13th Avenue, with increased patrols by the Office of Public Safety.

They said campus safety is not only about sexual assault, and that hate crimes also need to be dealt with.

"We need to move toward an area of respect," Bills said. "We will not always agree with each other, but that doesn't mean we have to turn to violence."

While people's attitudes may remain unchanged, their behavior can be affected, she said.

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