

# Team's success could leave coach hairless

By Hope Nealson  
Emerald Contributor

The coach of the Astros, a seventh-grade baseball team, has a deal with his team: Win the Little World Series championship and they get to shave his head.

The team hadn't won two games in row all season, so coach Jason Spohn didn't have a real reason to worry.

Now he's worried.

"Considering we were 4-8, I told these guys I'd shave my head if we won, expecting to win the first round but lose the next one," said Spohn, a junior at the University.

The Astros are one of 350 teams that have been competing in Kidsports 37th annual Little World Series baseball and softball tournament.

The tournament started July 10, with about 20 teams competing each week until the July 26.

The non-profit sports organization, Kidsports, will be handing out more than 700 medals to the first- and second-placed winners, said program director Brenda Beaton.

All teams play at the start of the tournament, based on their season record and their grade, they play through single elimination until a game is lost.

So far, the underdog Astros have won all three of their tournament games, and need only one more game this Thursday to win their division in the Little World Series tournament.

The Astros are more surprised than anyone about their success.

Astro shortstop, 13-year-old Jesse Haley, said he didn't expect the team to win.

"I thought we'd lose our very first (tournament) game, but apparently we didn't," Haley said. "We got it together more, got our heads in the game, and



Astros Joe Lowry, Jesse Lichtenstein, Mikael Lund and Daniel Applegate (left to right) take part in the Kidsports Little World Series baseball and softball tournament going on in Eugene until July 26.

played smart."

Thirteen-year-old Mikael Lund attributes the team's unexpected success to motivation.

"We were a losing team, but we can win when we have to," Lund said. "Plus we get to shave Jason's head."

Spohn said he surely didn't expect to win when he made the bet with the kids.

"We hadn't won two games in a row all season, and now we've won three," he said, "and I'm on the verge of a bald head."

Beaton said the tournament is one of Kidsports few fundraisers for the organization, which organizes different sports teams yearly for first-through eighth-grade boys and girls.

Beaton said the \$35 registration fee for the baseball and softball season only covers about a quarter to half of the season expenses such as the field upkeep, the equipment, and the uniforms.

Beaton said the projected costs for this year's tournament

were about \$15,000, with expected income from the tournament reaching \$14,400.

So what about the Astro's chances for an upset this Thursday?

The team's pitcher, 12-year-old Luke Mong, is optimistic.

"Now we're practicing everyday, so I think we can do it."

Coach Spohn agreed, saying "I'm pretty confident we'll win...At least my head is."

# Upward Bound still fighting for federal funding

By Meg Dedolph  
Emerald Contributor

The University's Upward Bound program was cut this year due to a lack of federal funding and insufficient private support.

The 27-year-old program sought to help academically talented students attend college who met federal low-income standards, who were the first in their families to graduate from high school, or who may have had drug use or gang-related problems.

These students were aided through a combination of summer programs and classes, tutoring and financial aid.

The program tried to raise enough money through private contributions to fund this summer's activities, but fundraising efforts fell short, and the program was officially canceled for the summer just a few days before the 45 summer program participants arrived on campus.

Efforts to reinstate the grant began shortly after the funding cut was announced on May 31 of this year. State Representatives Les AuCoin, Ron Wyden, Peter DeFazio and Mike Kopetski expressed support for the program, as did University President Myles Brand.

Ann Larsen, one of DeFazio's press assistants who deals primarily with education issues, said the grant reviewers were not government employees this year, but were volunteers drawn from various federal programs that aided disadvantaged and minority students.

Larsen said she thought these reviewers may not have been as objective because they all led similarly oriented programs.

The University and the Upward Bound program asked that the grant be reviewed again, and Pearl Hill, the director of the program, wrote a rebuttal countering every

***'It's a shame they had to close down the summer program. It's depressing. You see something that works, and then it's out.'***

— Ann Larsen,  
aide to Rep. Peter DeFazio

criticism that the reviewers used in their rejection of the grant.

The reviewers objected to the format in which the grant was written and presented, saying that the "applicant did not appear to follow the application guide which made it difficult for the reader to follow." Hill replied that the information the reviewers sought was included in the proposal, if not in the exact place the reviewers expected it to be.

The variety and wide scope of programs that Upward Bound presented for students was also criticized. The reviewers claimed the variety of programs did not enable staff to meet the specific needs of program participants.

Hill responded by saying Upward Bound was designed to provide a variety of services to the students who participated, including academic development, career guidance, and both personal and academic counseling, which allowed the program to meet the needs of a larger number of students.

The reviewers also criticized the number of target schools from which the University's program drew, saying the students came from too many different schools.

Hill said that while in an urban area, working with a small number of target

schools was appropriate, in an area like Oregon, which has a lower population density, working with a larger number of target schools is a method that proved effective during the 25-year history of the program.

Larsen said the results of the second review will be available sometime in the next several weeks.

She also said at first she was less optimistic about the possibilities of the grant being reinstated until she read Hill's letter and saw the packets Hill had assemble.

"She specifically responded to every point (the reviewers made)," Larsen said of Hill's letter.

Larsen also said reinstatement of the grant depends on how much money is available over the next year, and that she is not certain "how often they turn these (funding decisions) around."

"It's a shame they had to close down the summer program," Larsen said. "It's depressing. You see something that works, and then it's out."

Should funding efforts fail, Larsen said the University might be able to get another grant for the Upward Bound program if it decides to shift the focus of the program to one that emphasized math and science, because programs such as these are currently in demand.

Larsen also added that because programs are funded on a three-year cycle, Upward Bound could also seek government funding for fiscal year 1994.

At least four other universities have experienced funding problems similar to the University with Upward Bound programs that have all been in place since the late 1960s. These universities included the University of Iowa, the University of Massachusetts and UCLA.

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