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Rollin' for a cause

A group of Oregon athletes has banded together to raise money in a wheelchair basketball game tonight at McArthur Court

By Hank Hager
Sports Editor

A group of Oregon student-athletes met at the Casanova Center on a crisp May afternoon, their spirits high and health intact.

Just days before, Davie Untz sat in Doernbecher's Children's Hospital in Portland, receiving chemotherapy to treat a rare form of leukemia.

It's Philadelphia Chromosome Positive, and it rarely strikes children. But Untz, 3 1/2 years old, is stricken with the cancer and needs a bone marrow transplant.

Knowing this, Lauren Westendorf, an Oregon volleyball player, has banded together with a group of student-athletes in hopes of helping him. She's got a tag team roster of Oregon basketball players, stretching from Aaron Brooks to Chelsea Wagner, Jordan Kent to Carolyn Ganes, who are willing to help raise money by playing in a wheelchair basketball game today at 7 p.m. at McArthur Court.

It's called Rollin' for a Remedy. This is the second year, and the second chance for event founder Westendorf and other athletes to raise money for those needing medical care.

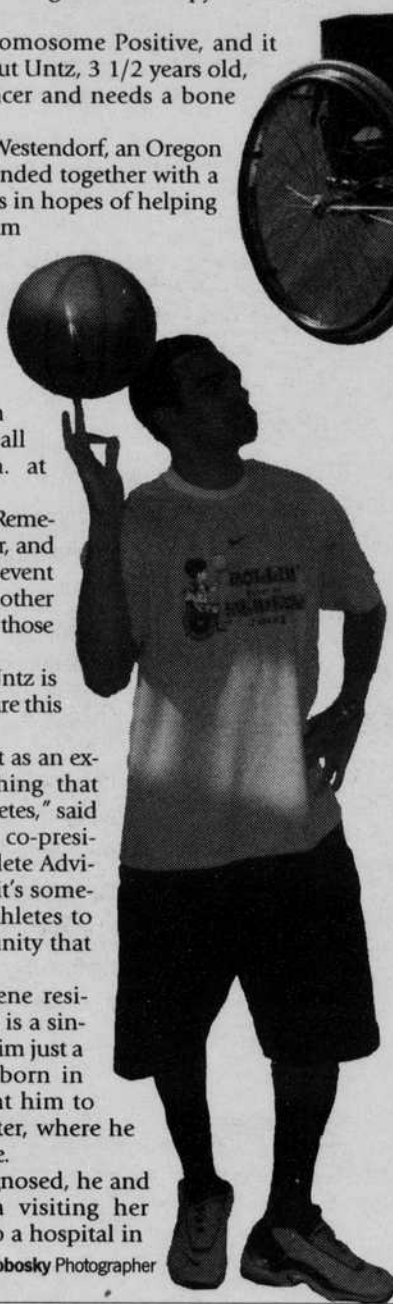
It just turns out that Untz is in extra special need of care this year.

"Initially, it started out as an extra project and something that would be fun for the athletes," said Westendorf, who is also co-president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. "Now it's something that allows the athletes to give back to the community that gives so much to them."

Davie Untz is a Eugene resident. His mother, Lynn, is a single mom who adopted him just a few days after he was born in Guatemala. She brought him to Eugene four months later, where he has been living ever since.

When Davie was diagnosed, he and Lynn were in Virginia visiting her mother. He was taken to a hospital in

Photo Illustration by Tim Bobosky Photographer



Norfolk, and eventually Davie was found to have the rare form of leukemia.

A little while later, the two got more involved with Oregon athletics. They've been to football practices and other Oregon Athletic Department functions.

"It was nice to really have the contacts with the athletes," Lynn said. "It's been great for him. He's kind of attached to a few of them by look or name, especially if they've had some contact with him."

And now, Davie is the guest of honor at the charity game. To help support Davie's cause, the event's charge is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students with identification, while children 10 and younger are free.

Davie may not be able to attend, but Lynn said there may be a "window" when he can visit.

"Just for them to be able to take us on and help us out was very comforting," she said.

A dangerous experience

Leukemia is a cancer of the blood that affects the bone marrow. It occurs when white cells are produced but do not mature fully. The cells then begin to reproduce, even if there is no space for them.

Leukemia is the most common form of cancer, with 2,700 children affected each year, according to Doernbecher's Web site, <http://www.ohsuhealth.com>. However, Davie's form of the cancer is less common.

Philadelphia Chromosome Positive was discovered in 1960, but it wasn't until 1973 that scientists could decipher the exact cause of the cancer. It is caused by the translocation, or exchange, of chromosomes 9 and 22.

The chromosome, according to "The American Heritage College Dictionary," is "a circular strand of DNA in bacteria that contains the hereditary information necessary for cell life." The translocation of chromosomes 9 and 22 creates an abnormal gene. This gene prohibits normal cell growth, giving way to leukemia.

After chemotherapy, the only way to ensure full health for Davie is a bone marrow transplant, which "involves taking cells that are normally found in the bone marrow (stem cells), filtering those cells, and giving them back either to the patient they were taken from or to another person," according to the Doernbecher site.

Lynn said their biggest hope right now is to keep Davie in "temporary remission" so that a transplant can be performed next month.

Helping out Davie

Ian Jaquiss knows something about wheelchair basketball. He plays for the Portland Wheelblazers, a group that competed against the Ducks in last year's charity game.

He won't be at McArthur Court this year — the Wheelblazers will be in British Columbia — but said he will miss the

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Oregon honors team's seniors at home finale

No. 12 Oregon closes its home season this weekend with three games in two days, including Saturday's "Senior Day"

By Mindi Rice
Senior Sports Reporter

With the NCAA Regional Tournament right around the corner, the time comes for softball teams to wind down their regular seasons.

The 12th-ranked Ducks (37-17 overall, 9-9 Pacific-10 Conference) are on that trek now, with a single game against No. 7 Stanford at 2 p.m. Friday and a doubleheader against No. 2 California at 11 a.m. Saturday, both at Howe Field. Sunday's regional selection show the only things standing between Oregon and the regional tournament.

Saturday's doubleheader marks "Senior Day" for the Ducks, who will honor five players — California's lone senior, Roni Rodrigues, Oregon seniors Julie Jaime, Anissa Meashintubby, Jenn Poore and Oregon junior Heather Munson — prior to Saturday's first pitch.

"You always hate to say goodbye," Oregon head coach Kathy Arendsen said. "Four outstanding, wonderful young women. Without a doubt, this team will not be the same next year, just like we are not the same as we were last year. These young women have so much to be proud of — they are part of the legacy of who we are becoming."

Poore, a career .260 batter coming into her senior campaign, leads the Ducks with a .323 batting average this season. She has started every game, batting primarily in the leadoff spot and catching Oregon's pitchers.

"I'm going to be crying," Poore said with a smile. "I'll probably cry during the first inning or so, then I'll get over it. Oh, but I have to play."

"Jenn's our crier," Munson said. "It's going to be pretty emotional for the seniors, Jenn and Anissa especially."

Munson is in her second season with the Ducks, spending her days in the bullpen preparing Oregon's pitchers. While a junior in eligibility, Munson will graduate this year and will not return for her final year of eligibility.

Meashintubby, a four-year pitcher for the Ducks, has put her name in multiple Oregon top-10 lists. She sits at No. 5 on Oregon's career strikeouts list with 306.

Jaime, who transferred to Oregon after two years at Long Beach City College, is a solid utility player who has seen most of her action playing in the outfield this season. She was voted Most Inspirational by her teammates after the 2003 season.

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DUCK SOFTBALL

Full Oregon contingent heads out to Pac-10s with big expectations

The Ducks have an early lead entering the last round of the Pac-10 Championships

By Jon Roetman
Sports Reporter

In a team meeting earlier this week, Brandon Holliday shared his thoughts about the upcoming Pacific-10 Conference Championship meet.

But before the senior could utter a word, he did a little reminiscing.

"I remembered back to my freshman year coming to this meeting and all the seniors saying what they had on their minds, trying to get us pumped up

and focused for the (Pac-10s)," Holliday said. "I knew (I was going to be a senior) someday, but you look back and say, 'man, it seems like a few weeks ago I was a freshman and now I'm giving that same speech to the underclassmen.'"

What did the Beaverton native have to say? Just a little reminder to his Oregon teammates about the hustle needed to beat UCLA.

"Stay positive," Holliday said "Finish every race all the way through the line and don't ever give up. And if you see a blue shirt — if you see any shirt go get 'em — but if you see a blue shirt, definitely go get 'em."

The Bruins entered the weekend meet in Tucson, Ariz., as favorites to unseat the Duck men as conference champions.

With Holliday and a 25-point performance from four Ducks at the past

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NCAA hopes to beat curve on student-athlete gambling

Thirty-five percent of surveyed male student-athletes said they had engaged in sports betting recently

By Teddy Greenstein
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

CHICAGO — When stories broke in February about the lurid side of college football recruiting — tales of campus visits that included strip clubs, alcohol, private planes and lobster dinners — the NCAA's response was to form a task force to initiate reform.

"In the past, the NCAA has often waited until a problem boiled over and then reacted," NCAA president Myles Brand said.

That apparently will not be the case with another potential campus epidemic: Student-athletes betting on sports.

Brand joined several colleagues in Chicago on Wednesday to discuss the findings of an NCAA-commissioned study that found significant levels of gambling among college athletes.

Brand also announced the formation of a 26-member task force that outgoing Notre Dame president Rev.

Edward A. Malloy will head to examine the problem and offer solutions.

"We're trying to get ahead of the curve and make a difference," Malloy said. "This isn't responding to (scandals) at Kentucky, CCNY, Boston College, Northwestern."

Brand repeatedly said sports gambling threatens both the welfare of student-athletes and the integrity of the game.

While nearly 35 percent of male student-athletes surveyed said they had engaged in some type of sports betting over the past year, the more alarming numbers were these: 1.1 percent of football players said they had "taken money for playing poorly in a game" and 2.3 percent admitted they had been asked to affect the outcome of a game because of gambling debts.

In all, more than 49,000 student-athletes (out of 360,000) said they bet on college sports last year. The forms included NCAA basketball pools, parlay cards and wagers through a bookie or with a friend.

"With percentages like these, there is no college or university in the NCAA that can safely claim it does not have a gambling problem on campus," Brand said.

And though the survey was anonymous, officials

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DUCK TRACK