Hayward Field: University Housing has committed 1,600 beds



Photos by Dennis Tachibana

EMERALD

University runner Alberto Salazar (right) finished third in the 10,000 meters final behind winner Craig Virgin (left) and became the first University athlete to make the Olympic team. He is shown here with an early lead.

Alberto Salazar at the 1980 Olympic Track and Field Trials at Hayward Field. Salazar rejoined the University Track and Field team earlier this year as Galen Rupp's coach.



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University," Assistant Athletics Director for Media Services Dave Williford said. "I can't recall an event that's been staged in the area that will have a greater impact on the state than this."

Eugene's bid included promises for expanding seating capacity at Hayward. Williford estimated that Hayward can currently seat about 10,000 and said efforts to temporarily expand seating could boost that number to about 17,000. The media box will also be expanded. A new practice track is under construction, and a new entrance to Hayward Field opened in May.

Finding sleeping space for the influx of people the trials will bring could be a big task, a task in which Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of University Housing Mike Eyster said the housing department is happy to partake.

"Whenever a big event like this comes to town the only way the town can host it is if the University agrees to provide X number of rooms," Eyster said.

University Housing committed 1,600 beds for the trials, University Housing Director of Food Services Tom Driscoll said. No specification was made about which residence halls will be used, but Driscoll said it's likely the new Living Learning Center will be one of them.

"Given the location right across the street (from Hayward), it would make the most sense," Driscoll said. "It's hard to know until we get closer."

The cost of competing in the bid process and hosting the event "could be eye-popping," Williford said, but the amount of money the event will generate for the community will be at least three times that sum.

The cost was estimated at about \$5 million to \$6 million in an Oct. 15 Oregonian article.

Eugene has long been hailed as Track Town, USÅ, and Williford said the efforts to secure the 2008 trials are part of a larger effort to renew that status.

It's been a year of change for the

University track and field program, with Martin Smith resigning as head coach in March and three-time New York Marathon winner and University graduate Alberto Salazar coming in as University student and running phenom Galen Rupp's personal coach.

Vin Lananna took over head coaching duties this summer, and Williford said he's been making huge strides to improve the track and field program and to bring it back into the national spotlight. USA Track & Field cited in a press release that one reason for selecting Hayward Field was Eugene's commitment to the sport.

"I think that's a large credit to Vin Lananna," Williford said. "It was a hire that paid immediate dividends."

The Oregon Track Club, Northwest Event Management and the Athletics Department will be hosting a press conference soon to keep the community informed, Williford said.

Contact the news editor at mcuniff@dailyemerald.com

Oregon Trail teachers on verge of strike in Sandy

SANDY, Ore. —Teachers at the Oregon Trail School District have announced their intention to strike after failing to reach an agreement with district officials on issues ranging from health care to employee discipline.

The official notification, which was faxed to the district headquarters in Sandy on Friday, said the teachers intend to begin their strike Tuesday, Oct. 25, if the two sides fail to reach an agreement by Oct. 24.

Sticking points include a lack of agreement on salary, health benefits, paid leave, employee discipline, working conditions and the length of the teacher contract.

IN BRIEF

Last week, the school board voted to close all the schools in the event of a strike.

Even if an agreement is reached Oct. 24, the more than 4,200 students in the district will still lose one day of school.

"We would have no way to notify the community before Tuesday morning," said Julia Monteith, district communications coordinator. "Students could return on Wednesday."

The Wy'East Education Association and the district began negotiating in April 2004. In August, the district imposed its final proposal without the consent of the teachers, saying it was imperative they start the school year with a new contract in place.

The teachers had the choice of accepting the terms of the new contract or going ahead with a strike. If the teachers follow through, they will become only the second school district in Oregon to twice walk off the job.

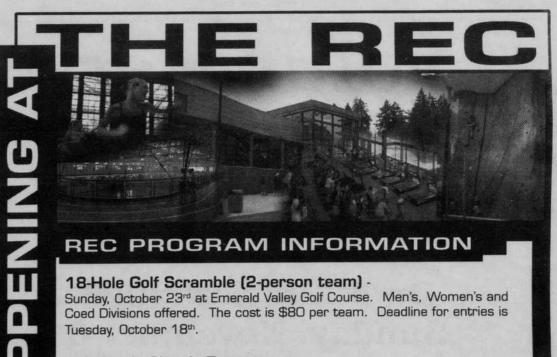
In 1997, Oregon Trail teachers went on strike for seven days.

There have been 18 teacher strikes in Oregon, since the collective bargaining law went into effect in 1973.

The Oregon Trail district spans 425 square miles, including the communities of Sandy, Boring, Government Camp and Welches.

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-The Associated Press



Fall Tennis Classic Tournament -October 21st & 22nd, Deadline for entries is Tuesday, October 18th.

Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Divisions. Cost is \$3 per participant per division.

Group Cycling Classes -

We still have room! Register for a non-credit group cycling class in 102 Esslinger Hall. Don't worry if you are signing up late; classes will be pro-rated.

Fitness Services -

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