

Golf match to fund new Trice scholarship

■ Match takes place Saturday at Buffalo Peak Golf Course

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

UNION — An event coming on Saturday will help ensure Doug Trice's impact lives on.

Buffalo Peak Golf Course, Union, is the site this weekend for the first "Battle at the Peak," a fundraising golf match to support the newly formed Doug Leon Trice Memorial Scholarship, which was established in honor of the local sports legend and Special Olympics coordinator who died in early May.

The match will feature Dana Londin, Buffalo Peak golf pro, and Eastern Oregon University men's basketball coach Carlito Labarda Jr. against Kyle Dodds, producer of the Johnny Ballgame Show, and LHS graduate Joel McCraw.

"Doug touched a lot of people in the community," Dodds said. "I've known his family since I moved here. I know his daughter, son, (and knew) him."

The match, which Dodds said will be a scramble match play format for the first nine holes and an alternate shot match play format on the back nine, came together from a series of discussions between Dodds and Londin.

In fact, Londin said it started partly due to him being a "key-board warrior" commenting during a segment on the Ballgame Show, which is aired on Facebook and YouTube. Londin was watching a segment where Labarda was being interviewed and commented about taking Labarda on his team in a 2-on-2 golf match against Dodds and Mallory, the show's host.

"The next day I read Doug's obit," he said. "I didn't know Doug. I met him a couple times briefly, but that is the man every man should strive to be."

The Ballgame Show had recently changed the name of a segment focusing on area sports standouts to the "Doug Trice Memorial Local Legends" for Trice, who died May 6.

Londin contacted Dodds with the idea of honoring Trice with a match-play tournament, and Dodds was fully on board.

"It was on my heart and it needed to happen," he said of honoring Trice. "Basically (Londin) turned the light on and I kind of ran with it. I contacted Doug's daughter Kiley and made sure it was OK. We had the family's blessing, so from there I just ran with it."

All proceeds, Dodds said, will go to the scholarship fund, which will be \$1,000 scholarships given to one male and one female student from La Grande High School who "demonstrates academic and athletic achievement, excellence of character with an emphasis on volunteerism." The first scholarships will be given

out in 2021.

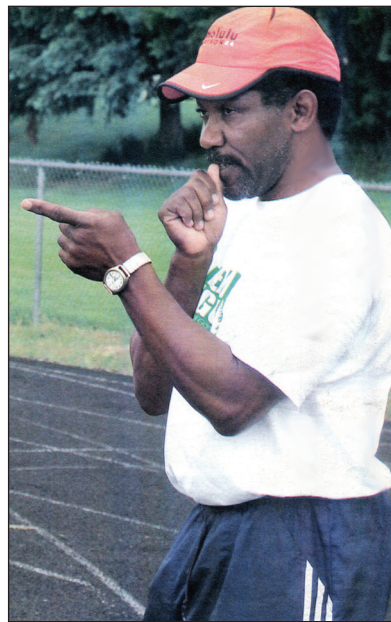
Dodds said in the short time since the golf match was announced, the effort has received the amount needed to fund the first year of the scholarship.

"We're just right around two grand right now. We have this year's scholarships covered," he said. "We're hoping to get donations out there."

Londin said he hope the first couple of year's worth of scholarships can be taken care of.

"Now it's kind of grown to where we're going to have hopefully a ton of people out at Buffalo Peak (watching)," he said.

The match itself will start at 10 a.m., but Londin said there likely will be a gathering earlier, around 9 a.m., for individuals to share stories about Trice. In addition to what is raised through donations and sponsorship, there a putting contest and other golf games to help bring in more funds.



Observer file photo

A golf match Saturday at Buffalo Peak in Union will help fund the 2021 Doug Leon Trice Memorial Scholarship, which was established in honor of the local sports legend and Special Olympics coordinator who died in early May.

AP Source: MLB makes fourth proposal to players' union

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball has made a fourth proposal to the players' union aimed at starting the pandemic-delayed season, a person with knowledge of the proposal said Wednesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on

condition of anonymity because no announcement was made.

Another person familiar with the session said baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred met with players' union head Tony Clark in Arizona in an attempt to restart talks on the delayed season. The person who disclosed

the meeting also spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made.

Clark has homes in the Phoenix area and in New Jersey, and he has been in Arizona since spring training was cut short on March 12. The meeting Monday was called at Manfred's request, the

person with knowledge of the meeting said.

The union has made two proposals to start the season, and the sides remain about \$1 billion apart in guaranteed salary. Players originally were set to earn \$4 billion in salaries before the coronavirus outbreak began.

The union cut off talks

Saturday, a day after MLB's last proposal, and said additional negotiations were futile.

Players told MLB to unilaterally set the schedule but Manfred said MLB would not while there was a threat of a grievance.

The sides reached a deal on March 26 in which

players agreed to prorated salaries, part of an agreement that included a guarantee of service time even if no games are played this year.

Teams say they need more pay cuts to afford to play in empty ballparks. Players say they will not accept additional salary reductions.

As Florida virus test numbers rise, NBA prepares for Disney

By Tim Reynolds
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The rate of positive coronavirus tests in the Orlando, Florida, area has been soaring in recent days. The NBA hopes that doesn't matter.

After spending weeks putting together an incredibly elaborate series of health and safety protocols — the word "testing" appears 282 times in the document — the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association believe they have done what's necessary for the health and safety of the 22 teams and others that will be part of the season restart at the Disney campus near Orlando next month.

Ready or not, basketball is almost back.

"No one is suggesting that this is going to be an infection-free, guaranteed environment," NBPA executive director Michele Roberts told The Associated Press. "I guess, unless we go to ... well, where would we go? What state has the lowest rate? There's just no way of finding a sterile environment probably on this planet, but certainly, not in this country."

Among the details that were included in the protocols released to teams Tuesday night: players will be invited to wear what the league calls a "proximity alarm" that will set off an audio alert when the person is within 6 feet of another person for more than five seconds and therefore not following social distancing guidelines, plus they can choose to wear a ring that will generate "a wellness assessment derived from metrics such as body temperature and respiratory and heart rate."

Players and staff also will be given thermometers and a pulse oximeter so they can track their data and record it on the league's daily health platform.

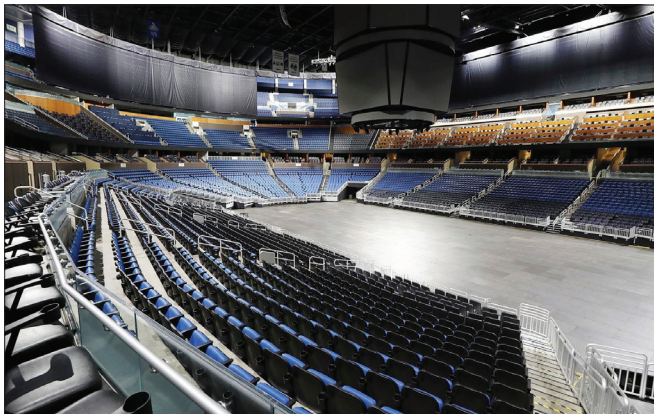


Photo by Stephen M. Dowell/The Associated Press

This March 12, 2020, file photo shows empty seats at the Amway Center in Orlando, home of the NBA's Orlando Magic. The NBA makes about \$1.2 million in gate revenue for each regular-season game played with fans, and there were 259 games remaining when the season was suspended.

"I am optimistic about the NBA's return-to-play policies and procedures," said Denver coach Michael Malone, who found out last month that he had already beaten COVID-19 after an antibody test showed he had the virus. "They are going to do whatever it takes to make this the safest environment as possible. There are no guarantees and there will be a risk, but I feel confident in the measures to be taken pre-Orlando and once in Orlando."

True, there will be a risk. And the league acknowledges that no plan can be perfect.

"These Protocols are designed to promote prevention and mitigation strategies to reduce exposure to, and transmission of, the coronavirus," the league said. "However, it is possible that staff, players, or other participants in the resumption of the 2019-20 season nonetheless may test positive or contract the coronavirus."

But by following strict rules — including regular testing, no leaving the Disney campus without returning to quarantine, no unauthorized guests, no family members being permitted to arrive until late August and, though this likely didn't need to be said,

no spitting on the court — the NBA and the NBPA hope the risk is minimal as teams prepare for a Disney stay that could exceed three months for the teams that make the NBA Finals.

"It'll still probably bother everybody that we're not home," Miami center Bam Adebayo said. "But at the end of the day, we'll be happy to play basketball."

The NBA's arrival at Disney is looming as the rate of positive tests around the state is rising, and officials such as Gov. Ron DeSantis are facing criticism for re-opening many parts of the state's economy. But if NBA players aren't venturing out among the public, the hope is that no matter what's going on beyond Disney's fences, the quasi-bubble for basketball won't be affected.

The rate of positive tests in Orange County, which includes Orlando, in the seven-day period ending Tuesday was 6.5%. For the seven days preceding that, it was 2.5% — meaning the rate has more than doubled in a one-week span.

For tests conducted Tuesday, state officials said that Orange County's positive rate was 11.9% — almost 10 times the rate of 1.4% recorded as recently as June 3.

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