

There are simply not enough hours in the day for people like Nikki Jauron. Despite that fact, the 26-year-old out and proud lesbian still keeps setting out on new and crazy adventures.

Jauron is a full-time student at Mount Hood Community College, where she is a radio broadcast major as well as student body president. She works. She has a strong relationship with her partner, who supports her multiple endeavors.

She is also a football player.

Jauron is one of the people working diligently to earn a spot with the Rose City Wildcats, Portland's first all-women professional football team. Yep, it is going to be real tackle football, complete with pads and helmets.

The Wildcats will play a 10-game schedule from November to January. The season could extend into February if the team makes it to the championship game, which will be played in Florida and broadcast on either ESPN2 or Fox.

Five of the games will be played at home, and five will be on the road. Home games will be played at Parkrose High School.

The players on the Wildcats roster will be paid, but their salaries have not been set yet, as the fund-raising activities for the league are still under way. "I probably won't be making big money, unless some rich people come out to sponsor us," Jauron says.

So why football?

Jauron is, and always has been, a big fan. She grew up playing the game with her brother, Tony, and many of the other neighborhood boys. She is also an avid follower of professional football and says she loves "yelling at the refs when they make bad calls."

She and her father have spent years watching

GRIDIRON GIRL

Meet Nikki Jauron, the big (wo)man on campus

by Tom Stevenson

games together. (He is a big Dallas Cowboys fan; she likes "anybody but the Cowboys.") Football is such an important part of her family's life that she says the Super Bowl is "almost a religious holiday for us," quickly adding that she does not mean to sound blasphemous but that they are big fans.

Thus, it was only natural that when the Wildcats put up fliers on the bulletin boards at Mount Hood Community College looking for players, Jauron jumped at the opportunity. Others trying out for the team include soccer and rugby players and women who played those sports in high school, she adds.

The 5-foot-5, 195-pound Jauron says everyone in her life is supportive of her latest adventure.

"My brother thinks it's great," she says. "He brags to his buddies all the time. My mom is excited, I think. I can never really tell what she thinks. My dad is proud. He was a tackle in high school, which will also probably be my position as well. My sisters probably expected something like this, and I think they're happy. My aunt and uncle just found out about it, and I think they'll be happy about it because, after all, I got the love of the game from my dad and my uncle."

Jauron's No. 1 fan, however, will be her girlfriend, who is equally proud of what she is doing.

"One of the first things I told her was how much I wanted to do this and how much it meant to me," Jauron says. "Then about two months ago I injured my back and my world was falling part,

and I was seriously contemplating not playing because...I do only have one body, and I didn't want to get hurt worse. But she has really pulled me through tough times and given me a great deal of support, as have all of my friends and family. When I come out of practice limping and in pain, she really makes me feel better. She gives me strength, and she works out with me to keep me strong."

With that kind of support, Jauron hopes to make this latest challenge a fun one while continuing to work toward her ultimate goal of a career in radio. She enjoys being a disc jockey, but what really fascinates her about the field is mixing music and producing audio.

"I'd like to either continue with radio as a production director or to learn how to mix my own music and expand my vocal abilities," she says.

And how did Jauron also end up as student body president? Last year she was vice president and served on a number of different councils.

When it came time to decide on what to do



PHOTO BY MARY DAVIS

Nikki Jauron is practicing regularly in hopes of earning a spot with Portland's first all-women professional football team

this school year, Jauron realized she was qualified for the top post, so she ran. Just like her football dream, she is one of those who sets out to do something—and gets it done. **J**

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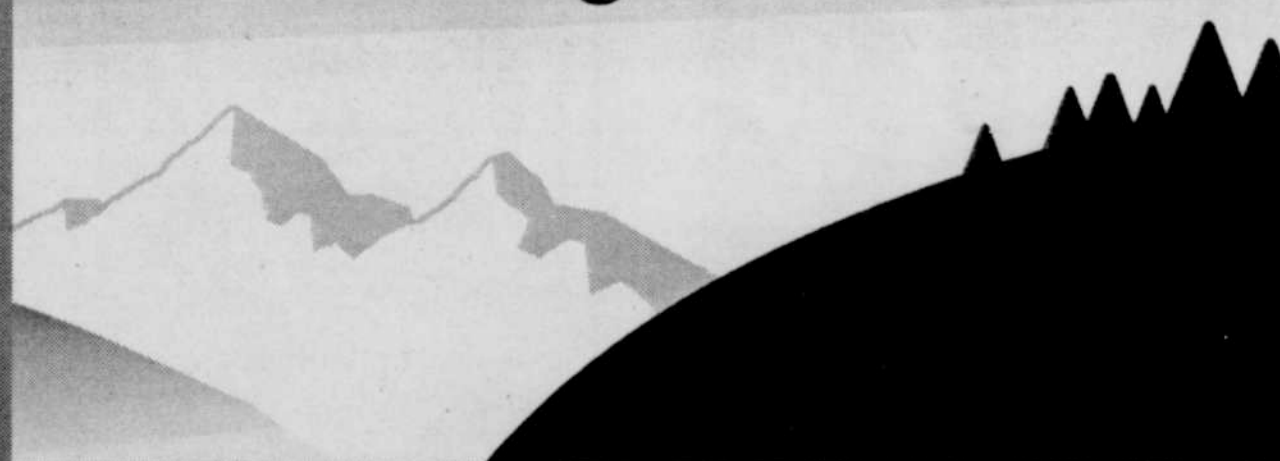
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