

Rolling toward the finish line



All pictures taken by Ben Caldwell Clackamas Print

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Last weekend Clackamas hosted the Easter Seals' Well Rounded Sports event.

Wheelchair athletes from across the states came to the college to help kids who face physical challenges get involved in sports.

Athletes included professional tennis player Dave Wagner, basketball star Scott Law and PGA golfer Derek Gammet. Each taught his area of expertise.

"We want kids to have the opportunity to come and see that they can do things, like play basketball or play tennis," said Easter Seals volunteer Peggy Watters.

As stated on their Web site, the Easter Seals aid individuals with disabilities and special needs, and their families via an assortment of services.

Watters and others from the Easter Seals program in Oregon assisted in running Well Rounded Sports.

"Having it at the college worked out great," said Easter Seals Special Project Coordinator Mike Watters, husband of Peggy. "It was easy for everyone to get to."

Throughout the day, the kids took part in demonstrations regarding how to become a better athlete in golf, softball, basketball and tennis.

"I love playing sports," said 16-year-old Vancouver student Caleb Kallappa. "Since eighth grade, I have been involved with sports. There's no season where I'm not doing a sport."

Kallappa, who has been in a wheelchair his whole life, was among the many participants.

"It's great to have a program like this," said Scott Law of Well Rounded Sports.

Law lives in Ohio, where he plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers Wheelchair Basketball Team.

He is also sponsored by a company called Invacare, which contributed to the day's activities as well. Invacare is a company that makes and distributes healthcare products, such as wheelchairs, oxygen systems and beds.

"To have things like the Easter Seals and Invacare to be here



ABOVE: Wheelchair basketball star Scott Law gives athletes instructions at the beginning of the event.

LEFT: Two participants help each other balance a tennis ball on a racquet in the Easter Seals' Well Rounded Sports event.

BELOW: Law joins participant Steven on the court.

to help sponsor this event helps a lot," Law said.

The program was not just based on developing skills on the court, but also in life.

"I used to be shy and [didn't] go or do anything," Kallappa said, "but I went to an event like this one, and that all changed ... Here I can connect with kids who are going through the same things I am going through. I can share my life with them, and they understand."

Peggy Watters said, "To have an event where they can come and play and learn and be around people just like them makes it so much better."

Mike Watters said, "People always ask, 'Well, what happens when they fall down?' They get back up."



Fantasy leagues bring interactive hobby to sport fans

Dale Balbi

The Clackamas Print

A fantasy sport isn't necessarily what people think.

It's not getting on the playing field with popular athletes or playing full-contact sports with the person you've had a crush on since third grade.

Fantasy sports are about forming a team by either drafting players or signing them using the salary cap. The object is to collectively have the best number of wins each week-to-week or for the entire season, depending upon the league.

It all started in 1980, when sports writer Daniel Okrent invented rotisserie baseball. As a result, the first-ever fantasy draft took place.

This particular league only used players from the National League rather than those from both the national and American leagues. Okrent and his fellow sports writers kept track of certain stats for batting and pitching categories.

Rotisserie leagues aren't just picking stats out of a magazine anymore. For example, in a 10-team league when a team is first in a specific category, 10 points are awarded. Second place in that category receives nine points, and the person who is last gets only one point.

Some of the categories a person would see in fantasy basketball would be points scored, rebounds, assists, three-pointers made, steals, blocks and the percentage categories. Whoever has the most points at the end of the season wins.

Head-to-head leagues are another

option on the Internet. Teams play a different team each week and try to win more categories than their opponent.

In the playoffs, the teams with the best records play each other, much like a regular post season. A consolation bracket gives most that don't qualify something to play for instead of having their season cut short.

Fantasy sports can help someone learn more about the individual players. For example, in the NBA, people know about superstars like Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett, but are unfamiliar with players like Danny Granger and Chris Kaman.

Today, fantasy sports grow more popular than ever as thousands upon thousands log on to the Internet, browse their teams' recent performances and

participate in online drafts.

On Yahoo sports, someone would find leagues for all kinds of sports, such as baseball, basketball, football, hockey, NASCAR and golf, just to name a few.

The ESPNEWS show *Fantasy Insider* discusses fantasy football every Sunday from 8 to 9 a.m.

Each Sunday, a radio show called *Fantasy Focus* covers fantasy football and baseball from 4 to 6 a.m.

Daily fantasy basketball program *Fantasy Hoops* airs from 10 to 11 p.m. on NBA TV.

Listeners can call in on all shows mentioned, but the *Fantasy Insider* asks for advice from someone's own team.

In the end, fantasy sports are a game of numbers, so maybe a numbers game can be a fantasy.