

# FUNDING: Student athletes pitch in to help finances

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The department currently derives funds from student fees that are divided up. Each student is charged a student fee of \$5 per credit hour.

The \$5 is divided among several different organizations. The student technology fee is \$3. This helps buy all computer equipment used for or by students. The remaining \$2 is a general student fee split amongst athletics, Associated Student Government and a computer technology fund that goes toward the purchase of Streeter Lab.

Of the \$2, athletics receives 53 percent, which is approximately \$161,000 a year.

Since 1992, the number of students has stayed fairly level, which means that more student fees are coming in," Jackson said. "The only problem with athletics is that the cost of things like lodging, food and equipment has gone up, and we have no way to make up the difference except for fundraising."

## Fundraising for survival

The purpose of the money from student fees is to pay for athletic expenses.

The fee funds operate the teams," Jackson said. "It pays for mileage when we have to travel. It pays for food when the athletes have to eat on the road. It pays for travel fees in tournaments. It pays for lodging when we have to stay somewhere overnight, and it pays for equipment that we have to have or replace every year."

Fortunately, with inflation, the consistent income has been coming in to the athletic department has been sufficient.

The athletic director has to pay for things like athletic insurance, student insurance and the cost of officials, all of which has gone up exponentially," Jackson said. "A baseball bat in 1995 cost around \$50, and now they cost \$1300. They are better bats - no question about it if we aren't receiving more money, then we just get short."

The original purpose of fundraising was to raise money for "special items."

Finances are "usually used for additional things chasing items not in the budget," Jackson said. "Special items - like, if the softball team wanted new uniforms, that would be a special item that fundraising would pay for."

Fundraising now plays a vital role in the upkeep and very survival of the athletic department.

"There is nothing beneath us," Jackson said. "We have done everything. We've sold Gold C coupon books. The wrestling team chopped wood and sold it. Most people see the teams standing in front of the bookstore the first few days of the term helping them out. We do almost anything anyone on campus asks us to do, such as physical labor."

"Twice, we have recharged the jogging trails - the wrestling team did that. The college has them do things like that because it costs much less than hiring someone from outside to do it and it supports the teams. We have even done letter campaigns when athletes will write to Aunt Betty and Uncle Bob and ask for a donation to the team."

Many may view the circumstances as a mismanagement of resources, but Jackson is quick to point out otherwise.

"If there is one thing I could stress ... is that we aren't extravagant; just, the cost has gone up," he said. "Athletics give up a lot because we can't be extravagant. We don't sleep in the best hotels, and we don't eat at the best restaurants."

## Possible solutions

The resolution for this problem isn't an easy one, but there are several ideas as to an answer.

"It's a proposal that the students have to accept," Jackson said, "and it is what helped solve the problem in the first place. Student fees (are) currently \$5 per credit hour. If we added \$1 to that and dedicated it to athletics, we would receive approximately \$150,000 and solve the budget problem in athletics."

"Will it last forever? No. In 12 years, we will be back to the same problem because inflation will continue to rise. I don't want to tack on anything. I realize that tuition is going up, and I certainly don't want to gouge students, but I don't see another solution."

So will the student fee be raised \$1, as Jackson suggests, to make up for the deficit?

"Not in the immediate future," Wilton said. "That would be something to talk about next year in the budget plan. We will want to talk to the board and the students, and ask them, 'Are you OK paying another dollar in order for the athletic department to get more firm footing?'"

"We haven't been aggressive with the student fee, and

**"Are you OK paying another dollar in order for the athletic department to get more firm footing?"**

Courtney Wilton  
Vice President of  
College Services

## Why not eliminate athletics altogether?

- Student athletes make up 10 percent of the student body.
- In the 2007-2008 school year, the college received approximately \$305,953 in tuition from student athletes. That doesn't include the \$300,000 that the college receives from the state for student athletes.
- In a survey of student athletes, an overwhelming majority said they would not attend a college that did not have athletics. They also estimated that at least one other person attended Clackamas because the student athlete did so.

that is partially because it deals with students and it is a sensitive issue."

In an e-mail dated Dec. 27 of last year, Wilton mentioned the possibility of "shifting some of the \$2 general student fee from computer tech. to athletics." Right now, athletics receives \$161,000 in a fiscal year.

"Athletics continues to get squeezed, as their fee share hasn't kept up with inflation, the end result being more and more of their basic activities have to be fundraised," Wilton stated in the e-mail. The computer technology department no longer needs as much money as allotted; the fees are now considered to be one source of funds for athletics.

While the situation continues to worsen, the athletic department continues to look other places for financial assistance. The question is: Is this becoming a fiscal emergency in the department?

"This has been a crisis for a very long time, in our eyes," Jackson said.

# Baseball team off to a great start, hopes set high

## Successful baseball team still has room for improvement

By La E. Bashaw

Clackamas Print

The baseball team is looking good for the season.

After winning eight of their first 10 games, the team looks to continue its success.

The team is looking to continue its success by winning more games. The team is looking to continue its success by winning more games.

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5 were losses.

Green River has a record of 2-5, while Clackamas is 8-2 going into the next set of games.

"We're working real hard on hitting and pitching," Robinson said.

The four starting sophomore pitchers were 2-0, which was the reason for the eight wins. The freshmen starters didn't do as well, which accounts for the two losses of last week.

Sophomores Jeff Bjorklund, Russell Lundy, Nate Reif and Bryan Roby had outstanding pitching records.

This early, it is hard to tell where the season will go; however, it is a good start for the fairly balanced team of 15 sophomores and 14 freshmen. At this point, the team must keep up the improvements and dedication in order to keep up with the winning.

"I feel like we are playing really well," Robinson said, "but we still haven't had a total game: hit well, pitch well, run the bases, play good defense."

**"We're working real hard on hitting and pitching."**

Robin Robinson  
Clackamas Head  
Baseball Coach



TOP: Jeramey Probert, 11, from Centralia College, swings his bat toward the ball as Clackamas catcher Ben Janal, 12, reaches for it from behind.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Nate Reif, 17, from Clackamas in the middle of pitching the ball.

Photos by Robert Crawford Clackamas Print