

Bigfoot finds solace in soccer, wows local team and coach

Kelli Luke
The Clackamas Print

For thousands of years, the Pacific Northwest has been the home of stories about giant-like creatures roaming our lush forests. Although these myths have been around since humans first settled in the region, the first known written recording of these creatures was by Leif Erikson in 986 A.D. He described the creature he saw as "horribly ugly, hairy, swarthy and with big black eyes."

The term "Bigfoot" came into play in 1958 and has passed the test of time. To this day, Bigfoot sightings are a day-to-day thing for the people of the Pacific Northwest, but surprisingly for the student and staff of Clackamas Community College, these sightings are about to get tremendously more frequent.

Standing over 8-feet-tall and weighing over 300 pounds, Sasquatcha, or Sas as she prefers to be called, has decided to come out of hiding once and for all. After living in Mary S. Young State Park in West Linn for 19 years with her family, who requested to stay anonymous, Sas made her first public appearance at West Linn High School last Monday to announce her existence.

Her unnatural size, man-nish, hairy exterior and size 21 feet were startling to students, to say the least.

"We kept waiting for someone to jump out and tell us it was a joke," said student Timothy Jones. "It was completely unbelievable."

So why now? After thousands of years of her species hiding from humanity, why did Sas choose to give up on all their hard work by revealing herself to the public? When asked this, Sas took no time at all to reply.

"It was for the love of my life: soccer," said Sas.

After being referred to CCC by a WLHS faculty member, Sas contacted CCC's Athletic Department and set up an appointment to meet with the head coach of the women's soccer team.

"I told her about how I had spent my life watching kids play soccer from a distance, but never got the chance to be on a team because of what I am," said Sas. "Stealing balls that had been kicked into the bushes and practicing with my siblings just became too little. I needed to play for real."

Of course, Clackamas accepted Sasquatcha with open arms. Her touching story was one thing, but what really won over the coaches was her talent. The coaches and play-



The biggest toes to touch a soccer ball on Oregon City soil, Sas shows fancy footwork at OC High School Jackson Campus field where she has consistently wowed fans since she joined the team.

Photo illustration by Anna Axelsson The Clackamas Print

ers were speechless when she practiced with them for the first time.

"You wouldn't expect someone of her size to be as talented as she is," said CCC soccer fan, Austin Davies. "But without a doubt, that girl knows how to play."

Sas says that she learned everything from watching others, and perfected it simply by

having a lot of free time to do so.

"When your life is nothing but a myth to others, you have to find something to keep you going. For me, soccer was that thing, and continues to be." Sasquatcha hopes that her coming out will help mythical creatures take the leap out of the shadows once and for all.

Her dream is to someday

create a mythical creature Olympics for all of her kind and others to compete in the sports they love without being judged for their differences. In the meantime, Sas plans to continue to play for CCC and not only improve her soccer skills, but study anything that might help her achieve her ultimate life goal.

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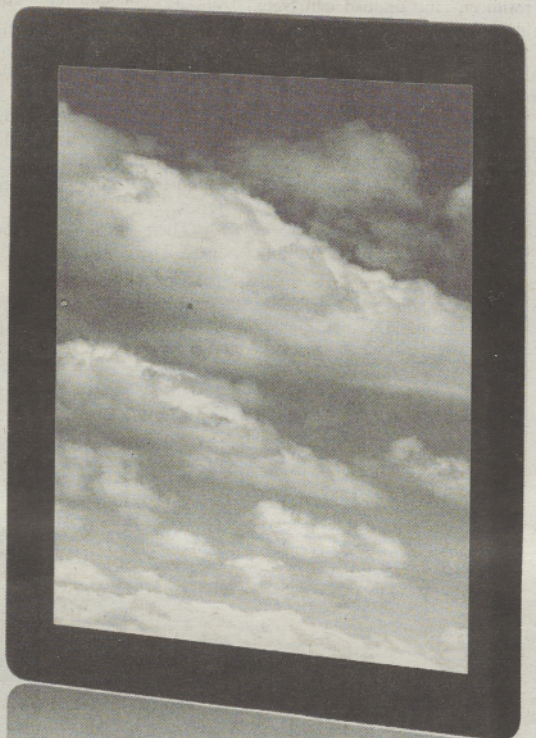
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