

Awards honor best of best



A.M. SPORTS
Andrew Millbrooke
Sports Editor

On Sunday night the 61st Oregon Sports Awards were held at the Tiger Woods Center on Nike's campus in Beaverton, honoring many of Oregon's top athletes from the prep level up to professionals. While the glitz and glam affair always brings out the big names — ESPN Sportscenter anchor Neil Everett hosted this year — it is more about honoring those that have dedicated their life to sports.

While most of the award recipients were youngsters, either just starting college or finishing high school, they all had one thing in common when they got to the podium. Almost every recipient thanked their parents, coaches and teammates and talked about how none of this would be possible without them. It's this network of behind the scenes commitment that leads to greatness in any endeavor, not only sports.

I would be remiss not to mention Oregon's Liz Brenner, who won an award for the fourth straight year. A four-sport athlete at Oregon, Brenner won the Bill Hayward female Amateur Athlete of the Year award after winning three straight Johnny Carpenter Prep Athlete of the Year awards at Jesuit High School.

The University of Oregon was well represented during the ceremony as a host of Ducks past and present were on hand, including host Everett, a 1984 Oregon grad, former quarterback Joey Harrington and current Duck football players Marcus Mariota and Kenjon Barner.

Oregon-bound high school record setting seniors Haley Crouser of Gresham and Thomas Tyner of Aloha both took down multiple Johnny Carpenter trophies on the night including 6A/5A prep Athlete of the Year. Oshay Dunmore, an Oregon freshman from Newport, also won two trophies including prep Athlete of the Year for classes 4A-1A.

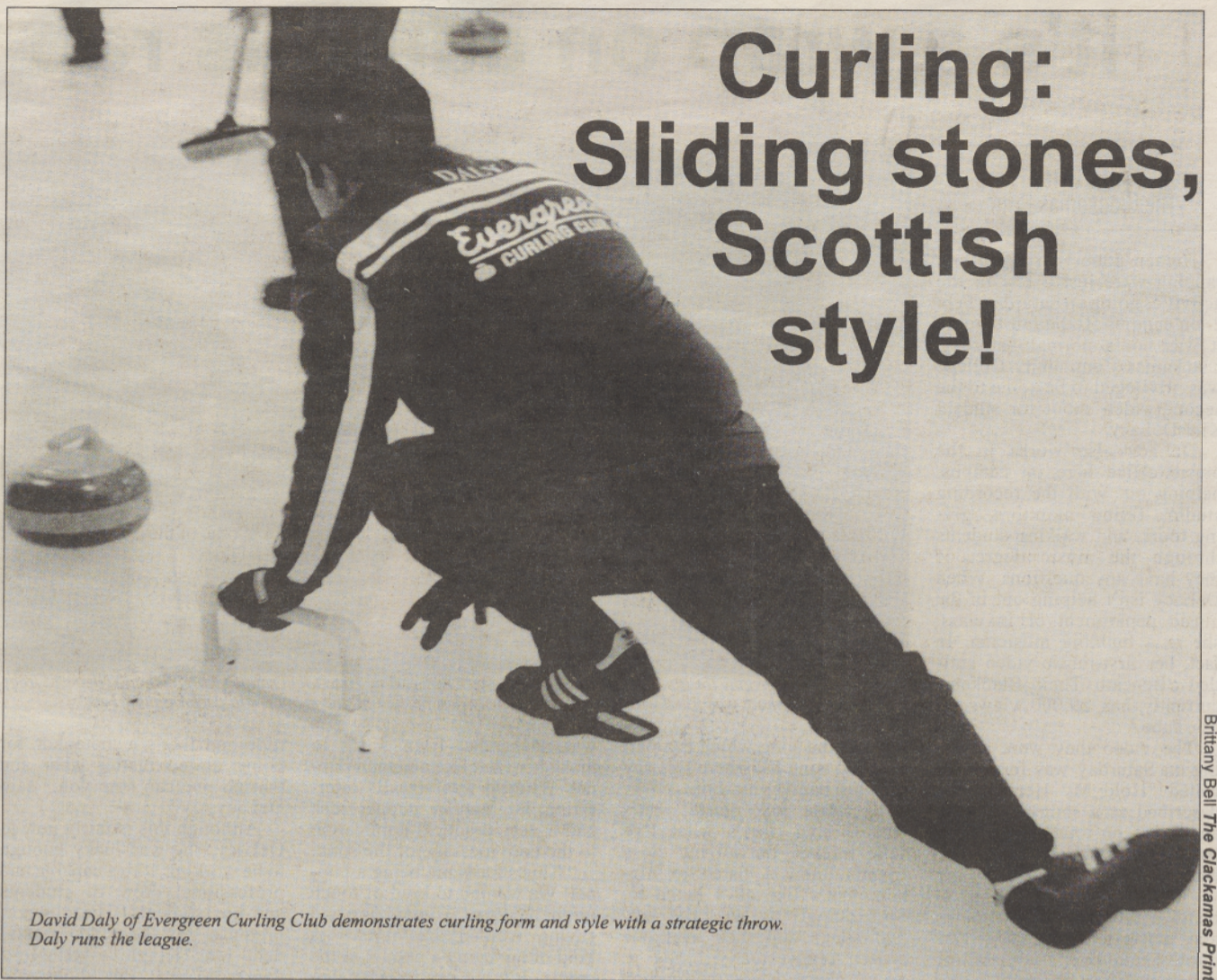
But the stars of the show weren't the kids. It was the parents, coaches and teammates who helped push these stars to new heights. The time commitment put in by parents and coaches cannot be underestimated in molding their children's success. The Game Changer Award was presented to an individual who had dedicated their lives to high school sports and positively affected their schools and communities.

The winner this year was former Lakeview teacher, track and field and cross country coach Bobbie Steninger. Steninger spent 50 years at Lakeview winning multiple Coaches of the Year honors and the 2006 Educator of the Year Award. In 2011, Lakeview named its new track after Steninger.

Another similar award was the coolest one they gave away on Sunday. The DNA award was given to "individuals or organizations for their extraordinary passion and dedication to sport in Oregon." Oregon Institute of Technology head men's basketball coach Danny Miles is certainly part of Oregon's sports DNA.

Miles is currently in his 42nd season at the helm of the Hustlin' Owls, a NAIA Division II school in Klamath Falls. Miles led OIT to the 2012 NAIA II National Championship. It was his third championship in the last nine seasons, after also winning in 2004 and 2008.

It's the dedication put forth by people like Steninger and Miles that make sports in Oregon that much better. There are countless other coaches out there just like these two, working behind the scenes, coaching and teaching without any hoopla. They are the real stars on a night like this.



David Daly of Evergreen Curling Club demonstrates curling form and style with a strategic throw. Daly runs the league.

Brittany Bell The Clackamas Print

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Curling consists of sliding stones across the ice to get close to the center of the target called the "button," each team has eight stones. The team with the stone closest to the button wins the "end" or round. The winners tally up one point per rock between the button and opposing team's rock. "Strategy plays a big part," said Petsche. The game winner is the team with the most points after 10 ends.

The Evergreen Curling Club opened in 2002 at Mountain View Ice Arena where it ran for four years. The club then moved to the Lloyd Center ice skating rink and after six years, finally has an ideal playing surface at their new

location in Beaverton at 10950 SW 5th Street.

"It's the only dedicated curling rink on the West Coast besides Seattle," said club member Eugene Caroll. Evergreen women's and men's competitive teams both won at this year's Mountain Pacific Curling Association Regional championships.

The club welcomes newcomers and novices with multiple league types, the friendly atmosphere is comfortable and casual. It seems a splendid idea for a weekend adventure out and about with friends.

"There's no heckling," said Caroll. "We don't have curling hooligans." The game is ancient in origin, as it was devised in the late middle ages in Scotland and

was recently added to the winter Olympic Games as an official sport.

"It's the other stupid Scottish game, along with golf," said Caroll. As with a few other Scottish games, a congratulatory drink is often in order for the winners and losers. This after game socialization is referred to as "stacking the brooms."

"It's a pub game," said curling enthusiast and Highland Stillhouse pub owner Mick Secor. "It's a gentlemanly sport, but it gets pretty heated and exciting if you watch curling."

The best way to learn more about curling is to play with veterans of the game. At about two hours a course, instructors have led many a session for beginning

curlers. Terminology and basics were covered, including how to throw a stone and sweeping technique.

Bundled up for the cooler conditions, groups have discovered the delightful social game of curling. The next winter session will be held this Saturday at 1 p.m. and costs \$20 with all equipment.



Athletes get spring in step



Grace Vuuhklaa, who competes in steeplechase, 1500 and 5k, sometimes practices hurdles.

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Who? The baseball team, the track and field team and the softball team. What? Starting spring sports at Clackamas Community College! When? Well, they've

already started practicing, but there is still hope! Where? Baseball's first home game is Sunday, March 3 against Clark College. The track and field team hosts the Clackamas Open on March 9 at Oregon City High School's stadium. Softball's first home game is Friday, March 1 against Concordia University. Why? Because it's spring and that's when these things happen, obviously.

"This year we have a whole bunch of new guys, pretty much an entire new team," said baseball head coach Robin Robinson. "The new guys are like clay. We get a lot of opportunities to mold them. Some of them go from a kind of decent player to a really good player and from a good player to a great player. That's what's rewarding about it. It's not about winning and losing, it's about going from good to great and being able to go on to bigger and better things."

This season there are 28 players on the team but only 24 get to go on the traveling roster. The baseball team is able to work out every morning from 7-10 a.m.

and if weather permits, every afternoon for conditioning.

The track and field team is also ready for action.

"I'm looking forward to us reaching our true potential," said head coach Keoni McHone. "My goal for this year is 85 percent personal best rate from last season to this season, I'm looking for 85 percent of them to improve in the events that they compete in. That's how I measure our success. I usually don't try to say, 'We're going to try to win,' but this year I think we have the potential to, as long as people do their part, we're set."

There are 72 men and women on the track and field team this year. "I don't want to run in the rain, but I don't know how well that's going to work out for me," said Tiffany Forbito, a sophomore on the track team.

As far as practice time goes, the track team is going above and beyond the recommended practice time and they are practicing their butts off to put their best foot forward.

The final spring sport is softball, the returning 2012

NWAACC Champions.

"There's nothing that I'm not looking forward to this year," said head coach Jessica Buel. "I'm really excited about this group. There's nothing holding us back and we've got lots of potential this year."

There are 19 players on the team, with eight returning players and 11 freshmen. Practicing is sometimes difficult because of the typical dreary Oregon weather. Outside practice isn't fun and the softball team has to share the gym with the other teams at CCC.

Between going to classes, practice and working out, the players on the baseball, track and field and softball teams have their work cut out for them. The least the students at Clackamas Community College could do is go out and support the teams. So get on out to the fields to show the teams how much support they have here at home! Let's see that school spirit!

For coach information, schedules, scores and anything else Cougar sports related, please visit depts.clackamas.edu/athletics.