

## Stadiums

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In the ultimate oversight, there is only one Power Five football stadium that carries the name of a Black player — Iowa State's Jack Trice Stadium.

On the basketball side, Wake Forest's Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum is the lone Power Five conference arena named for an African American, honoring a heroic medic who earned the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

Trice's tragic story — the school's first Black athlete, he died of injuries sustained in a 1923 game against Minnesota — was largely forgotten until students began pushing for him to be recognized in the 1970s and early '80s, according to Steve Jones, a longtime Iowa State employee who wrote the children's book, "Football's Fallen Hero: The Jack Trice Story."

Finally, in 1997, the school agreed to rename what was then known as Cyclone Stadium after Trice.

It was a worthy tribute. "He was trying to open doors for other African Americans," said Jones, who is now retired from the university. "The Jack Trice story resonates more today than it ever has."

Joel, who died in 1984, was honored by his hometown of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, five years later when it opened a new arena for Wake Forest. The name stuck even after the school took control of the arena a few years ago.

"There was no question that Lawrence Joel's name would stay as part of the arena," Wake Forest athletic director John Currie said. "He's a big part of how Wake Forest and Winston-Salem are tied together."

Currie hopes more recognition will come to Black Americans.

"Most college campuses were built a long time ago, so the names on them were from a long time ago," he said. "We have opportunities to make how we've honored people more inclusive of the heritage of our universities."

Texas took a step in that direction last summer, hoping to address the concerns of Black athletes by renaming the field at Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium for Heisman Trophy winners Earl Campbell and Ricky Williams.

But that was merely a tepid start.

Recognizing that certain financial and logistical issues might need to be resolved,



Adrian Kraus/AP file

Syracuse and Louisville play in the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, New York, in 2018. The 49,000-seat stadium, which serves as home of Syracuse's football and basketball programs, opened in 1980 with a name tied to a large donation made by the heating and air conditioning conglomerate.

here are some other changes that would do justice to the history of Black athletes.

### Sanford Stadium

Known for its famed hedges that encircle the playing field, the 92,000-seat home of the Georgia Bulldogs carries the name of Steadman Vincent Sanford, a university president in the 1930s and driving force behind the development of the school's athletic program in the Jim Crow era. (In addition, the field was named in honor of longtime former coach Vince Dooley in 2019).

Herschel Walker Stadium would be a much more worthy title in today's times. He was unquestionably the greatest football player in school history, leading the school to its only consensus national championship in 1980 and winning the Heisman Trophy in 1982. While a bit of a polarizing figure these days because of his political views, there is no doubt that Walker's athletic accomplishments are worthy of this ultimate honor.

And hey, while they're at it, Georgia officials should also change the name of their basketball arena, Stegeman Coliseum, which recognizes a white basketball coach from a century ago. Basketball Hall of Famers Dominique Wilkins and Teresa Edwards, who both starred in the 10,000-seat facility during their college careers, are deserving of Wilkins-Edwards Coliseum.

### Pauley Pavilion

One of college basketball's most storied venues, the home of the UCLA Bruins opened in 1965 after a major donation from University of Califor-

nia regent Edwin W. Pauley. While he could continue to be honored in some way, the 13,800-seat arena should be named after the greatest in a long line of stellar players who have led the school to a record 11 national titles — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Pavilion.

During his three years on the varsity team, Abdul-Jabbar earned All-America honors each year while leading the Bruins to an 88-2 record and three national championships. His continuing work to advance social justice only adds to his legacy, not to mention his brilliant comedic turn as co-pilot Roger Murdock in the film "Airplane!"

### Jordan-Hare Stadium

Auburn's 87,000-seat stadium is named for storied coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan and Cliff Hare, a member of Auburn's first football team as well as an early president of the Southern Conference, the SEC's predecessor. In today's times, it should carry the name of the greatest player in school history.

Bo knows it should be Bo Jackson Stadium. Or, at the very least, Jackson-Jordan Stadium.

### Frank Erwin Center

While Texas should go a step further by adding the names of Campbell and Williams to its entire football stadium, a more pressing case can be made for changing the name of the school's current basketball arena, the Erwin Center. Its namesake was the powerful chairman of the school's board of regents in the 1960s, when he used his influence to stifle anti-Viet-

nam War protesters and remove professors he viewed as unpatriotic.

Former Texas basketball stars T.J. Ford and Kevin Durant are far more deserving of recognition. The Erwin Center should be changed to the Ford Center, while Durant's name can be added to the new 10,000-seat arena the school plans to open before the 2022-23 season. It's going to be called the Moody Center, recognizing a foundation that made a huge donation. Surely the folks at Moody would be good calling it the Moody-Durant Center.

### Carrier Dome

The 49,000-seat stadium, which serves as home of Syracuse's football and basketball programs, opened in 1980 with a name tied to a large donation made by the heating and air conditioning conglomerate. While the field now carries the name of Ernie Davis, college football's first Black Heisman Trophy winner, the entire facility should be renamed the Jim Brown Dome.

Brown was one of college and pro football's greatest stars, as well as a towering figure among athletes who fought for civil rights in the 1960s (a role that is fictionally portrayed in the movie "One Night in Miami," a leading Oscar contender).

That's just a few possibilities.

Obviously, many other African American athletes merit similar honors by the schools they represented so well.

They deserve to be remembered all year — not just a month.



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file photo

Runners make their way through the course while competing in the Oxford Classic cross-country race in Bend's Drake Park in 2019.

## Cross-country

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Strang, a volunteer assistant at Summit the past two years, took over for Jim and Carol McLatchie, who stepped down in February 2020 after overseeing a stunning run of success since taking over in 2012.

Strang said the Storm have been practicing unofficially for the past several months, taking a break in November and December when state restrictions prevented them from practicing.

In a normal cross-country season, runners would build their training in order to peak at districts and state. Without those meets this season, the focus has shifted.

"Our philosophy has been to just try to keep the kids out there together as much as possible," Strang said. "I think we would welcome the competition, but we don't want that to be the sole focus. The focus is more around being together. At this point, it's such a short season, it's hard enough to schedule and manage all of these meets. We're scrambling to find venues and put in all the protocols to keep things safe. We want the focus to be on the athlete experience and making sure it's as positive as it can be."

As of now, cross-country runners must wear masks 100 percent of the time at meets and practices. Strang and Nye said their teams have been adhering to those rules, even during their higher-intensity workouts, but that rule could possibly change.

In Washington, the

cross-country season started earlier this winter and the mask rule there was changed to allow runners to pull down their masks during a race.

Strang is one of several cross-country coaches in Oregon working with the Oregon Health Authority on proposed rule changes that would follow what was done in Washington.

Strang said she is a huge mask proponent, but noted that both the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control do not recommend masks for runners who are exerting at a high level.

"I think we can do it in a way where the meets are started with masks on, and once we have separation on the course, then the masks can come down, as long as they can keep some separation," Strang said. "And then they'd go back up right as they're getting to the finish line. That's what's being proposed. It's about making sure they have a positive experience and want to come back again next fall. If it's denied, then we will wear masks the entire time."

Whether the rule get modified or not, cross-country coaches are focused on keeping a fun, positive environment as runners return to the sport. "We're approaching it like how great can we make the day, how can we be positive, what do we have to be grateful for, and overall most important, are we being safe?" Nye said. "And we're just getting up the next day and doing it again."

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— Kari Strang, Summit High School cross-country coach

## Hockey

Continued from B1

Though fans can't attend, the game will be broadcast in the U.S. and Canada. The two teams will also play Saturday in New Jersey.

The games represents a continuation of the players' objective to raise the visibility of women's hockey some 13 months after U.S. and Canadian national team members participated in the NHL's All-Star weekend festivities. And they represent an opportunity to regain the momentum in the PWHPA's bid to establish a professional league in North America.

"We had a tremendous amount of success with the NHL in the year prior. I don't think those opportunities are going to go away," Knight said. "Obviously, I wanted everything to happen yesterday, right? We all wanted a league years ago. But things are coming along, which is great."

The NHL continues to be on board, with the Chicago Blackhawks hosting a tour stop the following weekend, and the Toronto Maple Leafs pledging support even though they can't host an event because of health regulations.

Just as important, the PWHPA's list of corporate partners has grown despite the pandemic, with Secret Deodorant committing \$1 million to become the tour's prime sponsor, and the Mark Messier Foundation recently pledging to match donations up to \$100,000.

The association already had



Michael Dwyer/AP file

Canada's Meaghan Mikkelson (12) and Marie-Philip Poulin (29) defend against United States' Hilary Knight (21) during a rivalry series game in Hartford, Connecticut in 2019. Knight hits the ice for the first time at Madison Square Garden on Sunday for the opening stop of the Professional Women's Hockey Players' Association Dream Gap Tour's second season.

the backing from other corporate sponsors to establish five hubs — two in the U.S. and three in Canada — where players have free access to practice and training facilities.

Led by the world's top female players, the PWHPA was founded in May 2019 following the economic demise of the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

Rather than join forces with the privately funded U.S.-based National Women's Hockey League, the players emphasized a need to start over in forming one league — ideally backed by the NHL — in which players can earn a sustainable wage and enjoy health benefits.

The game at MSG comes on the heels of the NWHL's failed bid to complete a two-

week season and playoffs at Lake Placid, New York. Play was canceled after two of the six teams were unable to continue, and players tested positive for COVID-19. Though the NWHL hasn't ruled out resuming competition next month, it was a lost opportunity to increase the league's visibility because NBC Sports Network was scheduled to broadcast the semifinals and championship game.

Negative publicity also overshadowed the start of the tournament, when a debate arose over whether the media site Barstool.com should be considered a potential league partner.

The NWHL said it would not sell a franchise "to anybody who is not fully supportive of this league's values."

The woes re-emphasized the PWHPA's objective for the sport to start fresh.

"It hopefully reminds people why we're doing what we're doing," PWHPA executive Jayna Hefford said.

"It's not us against them. It's about the infrastructure and resources," she added. "It takes a huge investment. And that's what we're standing for. We've got to be able to put women's professional hockey on a platform to succeed."

Hefford said there is added urgency to take advantage of the boost women's hockey will get from competing at the 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

"I don't know when a league starts, but if you're looking at the fall of 2022, something needs to exist," she said. "We're in a place where we're trying to figure out what that is and what it looks like."

The New York Rangers were among the first to partner with the PWHPA this season.

"I think every step forward is an advancement that's important," said Rangers president John Davidson, who was a part of the broadcast team covering the U.S. winning the Olympics' first women's hockey gold medal at the 1998 Nagano Games. "I've always had a belief in women's hockey, and the Garden is stepping up."

Hefford, a Hockey Hall of Fame member, can't wait for the puck to drop Sunday.

"Yeah, I almost came out of retirement," she said. "I want to play there."

## Prep sports

Continued from B1

On the soccer field Thursday, Mountain View boys host Philomath and Summit hosts Ridgeview, while Madras travels to face Molalla. The Mountain View girls welcome Crook County, Summit travels to Redmond to face Ridgeview, while Sisters heads to Philomath. On the volleyball court, Crook County hosts Mountain View, Redmond travels to Summit, Sisters faces Cascade and La Pine welcomes Trinity Lutheran.

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urday with the Central Oregon Cross-Country Rust Buster Relays at Summit and a pair of Bend High volleyball matches against Redmond and Pendleton.

Also, Central Christian will host Gilchrist and Trinity Lutheran, while La Pine will travel to face Santiam Christian. The La Pine girls soccer team will also face Santiam Christian while the La Pine boys host East Linn Christian.

Bend High and Summit boys will face off on the soccer field, as will the Mountain View and Summit girls to cap off the first week of action.

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