

## Student-Athlete Briefing

### BACKGROUND

Certified by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Oregon State University participates in the NCAA Division I Bowl Championship Subdivision as a member of the Pac-12 Conference (Pac-12). OSU sponsors 16 varsity sports (plus men's rowing): baseball (men), basketball (men and women), cross country (women), football (men), golf (men and women), gymnastics (women), rowing (men and women), soccer (men and women), softball (women), indoor and outdoor track and field (women), volleyball (women), and wrestling (men).

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Athletics) focuses on the holistic growth of its 500+ student-athletes through academic and athletic excellence in a progressive and inclusive environment of mutual respect. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics spent the 2022-23 academic year updating and revising the current Build the Dam Strategic Plan (2018-2023) and will publicly launch the plan in August 2023. This plan remains consistent with the mission and core themes and values outlined in the university's strategic plan, SP4.0.

### CONNECTION TO SP4.0

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is working to finalize the updated Build the Dam Strategic Plan, which will guide the department through the next five years of planning. The updated plan aligns with the university's strategic plan, goals, mission and values while taking the changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics into consideration. The revised Build the Dam Strategic Plan sees the addition of a seventh goal and a revamp of the other six. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics will publicly release the updated strategic plan in August 2023.

### METRICS

Athletics is guided by the measurable objectives and strategies identified within the strategic plan, including specific actions and metrics identified to ensure objectives are met.

### KEY INITIATIVES, PROJECTS, AND/OR PRIORITIES

#### Student-Athlete Success

OSU's student-athletes have performed well academically thus far during the 2022-23 academic year. During the 2023 winter term, 15 of 16 teams earned a term GPA higher than 3.0. The cumulative student-athlete GPA surpassed that of the general full-time undergraduate student population; 3.31 vs. 3.26. All programs have a 3.0+ cumulative OSU GPA. The top academic teams this winter were women's gymnastics with a 3.73 GPA and men's golf with a 3.56 GPA.

Additionally, 94.4% of the student-athlete population is in good academic standing as the group passed 95.5% (6,956 of 7,286) of the term credits taken and 191 student-athletes were named to the OSU Honor Roll. Lastly, student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the OSU undergraduate population.

Community service is something that OSU's staff, coaches and student-athletes take very seriously. Thus far this year, 2,108 hours of community service have been logged by the student-athlete population with the top three being gymnastics (511), men's rowing (224) and women's volleyball (217).

Another important component in OSU Athletics is the mental health and well-being of the student-athlete population. Mental health remains a top priority for the department, which has now appointed its sport psychologist full-time. In addition, the Student Fee Committee approved the hire of a full-time mental health counselor. A new program called CHAMPS—Counseling, Holistic Advancement, and Mental Performance Services—offers a comprehensive approach to mental health through virtual and digital resources as well as enhanced in-person services. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics continues its relationship with CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services), which provides additional mental health resources to student-athletes.

Lastly, the BEST program (Bridge Encouraging Successful Transition) will take place for incoming student-athletes this summer. Entering its 18<sup>th</sup> year, BEST offers new student-athletes an orientation to campus, an introduction to the culture of OSU, and credits toward their degrees.

### **Competitive Success**

OSU's student-athletes and coaches have enjoyed tremendous competitive success as well this academic year. Coach Jonathan Smith was named Pac-12 Coach of the Year and football won the 2022 SRS Las Vegas Bowl against the Florida Gators. Damien Martinez (football) was named Pac-12 Offensive Freshman of the Year and Joran Gerbet was named Pac-12 Player of the Year for men's soccer. Cross Country made its third NCAA Championship appearance in school history and Kaylee Mitchell was Regional Champion. Raegan Beers was named women's basketball Pac-12 Freshman of the Year and Sixth Player of the Year. Wrestling won the Pac-12 Championship and gymnastics were Pac-12 Regular Season Co-Champions, with Jade Carey capturing Pac-12 Gymnast of the Year for the second year in a row. Spring sports are underway with great results to this point. Women's Golf finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at NCAA Regionals and advanced to the National Tournament in Scottsdale, AZ. Men's Golf also advanced to the NCAA Regional and the Baseball program will be in post-season play once again this year after a stellar finish within PAC 12 play. Notably, Grace Fetherstonhaugh from Women's Track and Field had an incredible PAC 12 Meet and became the first winner of an individual event in Oregon State History, winning both the 3,000-meter Steeplechase and the 5,000-meter races. The Outdoor Track team will move on to the National Championships in June.

### **Student-Athlete Development, Support and Programming**

The holistic development of student-athletes has been and continues to be the cornerstone of OSU's athletics program, and the university takes pride in the opportunities provided to Beaver student-athletes through robust programming. Many programs are student-athlete led and continue to amplify their needs in the type of programming offered.

Areas that directly impact student-athletes are as follows:

- The Student-Athlete Development team has hosted 90 programs for all student-athletes so far this year focused on leadership, professional and personal development, and community engagement. These events have engaged 92% of the student-athlete population through various types of on campus, community, and virtual events.
- The OSU Athletics internship program has continued to grow by offering current student-athletes the opportunity to gain experience in the collegiate athletic field.

This year, 32 student-athletes have participated in the program with placements in 10 different units across the department.

- The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee has implemented new initiatives to connect directly with the AD's office, including Beaver Assembly which is held once a term as an open forum for individuals to ask questions and bring up topics directly to the executive team. One success from the Beaver Assembly is the creation of a [Student-Athlete Resource Page](#).
- Efforts are underway to increase the connectivity and professional mentoring between current student-athletes and alums through virtual sessions called 'Career Conversations.' Each program brings in young alumni who are former student-athletes to provide advice, mentorship, and support for student-athletes in their desired industry field. This year's programs have focused on Business, Sports, Health Care, STEM, and Coaching/Teaching industries areas.
- Beavers Without Borders will travel to Panama this year in partnership with Courts for Kids and includes 16 student-athletes from various sports. This is the first time that the program has gone since 2020. The opportunity was featured as one of the Dam Proud Day fundraising initiatives this year.

Student-athletes are provided opportunities to connect with the university community, the Corvallis community, and professional networks to help support them in their pursuit of future careers and develop for life after sport.

### **Facilities Master Plan Progress**

- Completing Reser Stadium (CRS): Scheduled completion July 2023
  - a. \$161M project
- In support of the Build the Dam Strategic Plan, the following facility improvements have been completed where private support was a key driver. In addition to CRS, nearly \$28M in new construction and/or renovations have been made in OSU athletics facilities, including:
  - a. Kelly Field (OSU Softball) - new lights, hitting facility, branding, surface upgrades
  - b. Kelly Field (OSU Softball) - new Video Board (Completed February 2023); new Sound System (Completed May 2023)
  - c. Goss Baseball Hitting Building, Winter of 2024
  - d. OSU Gymnastics Training Facility
  - e. Soccer Bleachers
  - f. Women's Basketball Locker Room
  - g. P. Wayne Valley Sports Performance Center renovation
  - h. Gill Plaza renovation
  - i. Whyte Track and Field bleachers and enhancements, scheduled completion July 2023
- Projects in design
  - a. Field Sports Building
  - b. Facilities Masterplan revisit
  - c. Valley Football Locker Room, Performance Table refresh

**Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Fundraising Accomplishments**

- OSU Athletics is on pace for another strong fundraising year and, with two months remaining in the fiscal year, the department should surpass its goal of \$23M and 2,300 donors for FY23, highlighted by nearly \$8.5M in support of a variety of programs including endowments, facility upgrades and scholarship support.
- A focus on supporting the priorities in the facility master plan again resulted in upgrades to our facilities including:
  - a. \$4.0M secured toward a \$6.5M fundraising goal for a new hitting facility (baseball). Fundraising should be completed by June 30.
  - b. Completed fundraising for the new grandstands at Whyte Track and Field Complex by securing \$4.6M in private support.
- FEARLESS: Women of Oregon State Athletics fundraising initiative was launched on May 6. This effort will create opportunities for donors to make current use gifts for areas of strategic investment in support of women's athletics exclusively. Nearly \$1M has already been raised before the public launch.
- Continue to build a 'culture of philanthropy' in athletics by raising over \$560,000 from over 3,700 donations on OSU's day of giving, Dam Proud Day.

**Campaign Launch and Execution**

- Informed by updates to the department strategic plan, continue the review and prioritization of remainder of facility projects on facilities master plan to determine philanthropic potential and establish timelines for execution.
- Successfully created department volunteer leadership structure to provide campaign support and feedback on department-wide initiatives.

**OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS & NATIONAL TRENDS**

The landscape of intercollegiate athletics is continuously evolving and changing. The formation of the NCAA Transformation Committee has been a major factor in several of these changes. The objective of the Transformation Committee is to improve the experience of the student-athlete by putting forth recommendations, for example, specific mental health resources for student-athletes. Another change has been the ability for student-athletes to profit from their Name, Image and Likeness (NIL). Student-athletes now can participate in avenues including but not limited to endorsement deals, sponsoring sport camps, giving autographs, etc. The ability to profit from a student-athletes NIL has also led to the potential student-athlete reclassification which would make student-athletes' employees of the institution where they compete. This would potentially move towards a pay-for-play model and amateur status would then no longer exist. The transfer portal is another change that presents challenges for athletic departments as it impacts retention and recruiting efforts. All these changes have created a dramatically different landscape within intercollegiate athletics and one in which we must be nimble and adaptable. As we continue to navigate these challenges, there are still many incredible opportunities for our student-athletes to prosper and be successful on and off the fields of play. We are very proud of what they are accomplishing and excited for what is to come.

**NEXT STEPS**

The Academic Strategies Committee will engage in a discussion about this report at the June 1, 2023 meeting. A discussion about the changing landscape of athletics is planned for a future meeting of the Executive, Audit and Governance Committee.