

THE ORANGE PERSPECTIVE

WITH BOB DE CAROLIS

2012 - 2013 ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT

Part 1, Basketball Facility

Our men's and women's basketball programs stepped into their futures with some ceremonial scoops of dirt during an [inspiring groundbreaking event](#) last month. The event—which included men's legends Gary Payton, A.C. Green, Steve Johnson, Mark Radford and Ray Blume—kicked off construction of the new basketball practice facility.

This 35,500-square-foot, four-story building sends a strong message to our student-athletes that we're committed and ready to help them compete at the highest levels—both in the Pac-12 Conference and nationally. It also will raise the bar for our programs and show future recruits that we're serious about basketball and want to move the sport toward elite status for both our men's and women's programs.

The timing couldn't be better. Both our men's and women's teams had more than 20 wins last season and competed in postseason tournaments. The 20-win mark for both teams hadn't happened in more than a quarter century—1984. The new \$15 million facility—which will be funded primarily with private donations—will be completed next spring and allow our teams much more flexibility in team and individual practices.

In addition to past players, former coaches Jimmy Anderson and Paul Valenti were on hand, and about 200 donors joined me, President Ray, Coach Robinson and Coach Rueck in the celebration. The sun even managed to shine for the event, signaling a new day as our hoops programs continue their rebuilding efforts.



Located due north of the Sports Performance Center and west of Gill Coliseum, the practice building ([construction cam](#)) will have two regulation basketball courts. It will also house our coaches' offices, locker rooms, training rooms and extra work space.

At the groundbreaking, Roberto Nelson talked about the difficulty his teammates (as well as the women's basketball and volleyball teams) have working practice times at Gill Coliseum around class schedules, and how the new facility will open blocks of time to alleviate current conflicts. From our student-athletes perspective, balancing academics and team commitments should become easier with the added space and flexibility for practice times.

"It can take a toll when we are trying to register for classes," Roberto said. "This definitely helps me out as a student-athlete in being able to register for classes that are the important ones at the right times of the day. So thank you very much."

Roberto's appreciation for our donors cannot be underscored enough. Without you, this game-changing facility would not be possible. Even though we've broken ground, our fund-raising efforts will continue as we work toward our overall goal to raise \$10 million. The balance of the funds to pay for the new facility will come from new Pac-12 TV revenues. We're very close to achieving our fund-raising goal but several naming opportunities are still available within the building. If you have an interest in supporting this project, please contact Senior Associate AD of Development Shawn Heilbron at 541-737-9309 or shawn.heilbron@oregonstate.edu.

It's an exciting time for Beaver Nation. My recent [end-of-the year recap](#) outlined the many successes last year. With the new basketball facility on the horizon good things are in store in the future. In my next column, I'll share more details about our new game-day experience for home football games. Go Beavs!

