

THE ORANGE PERSPECTIVE

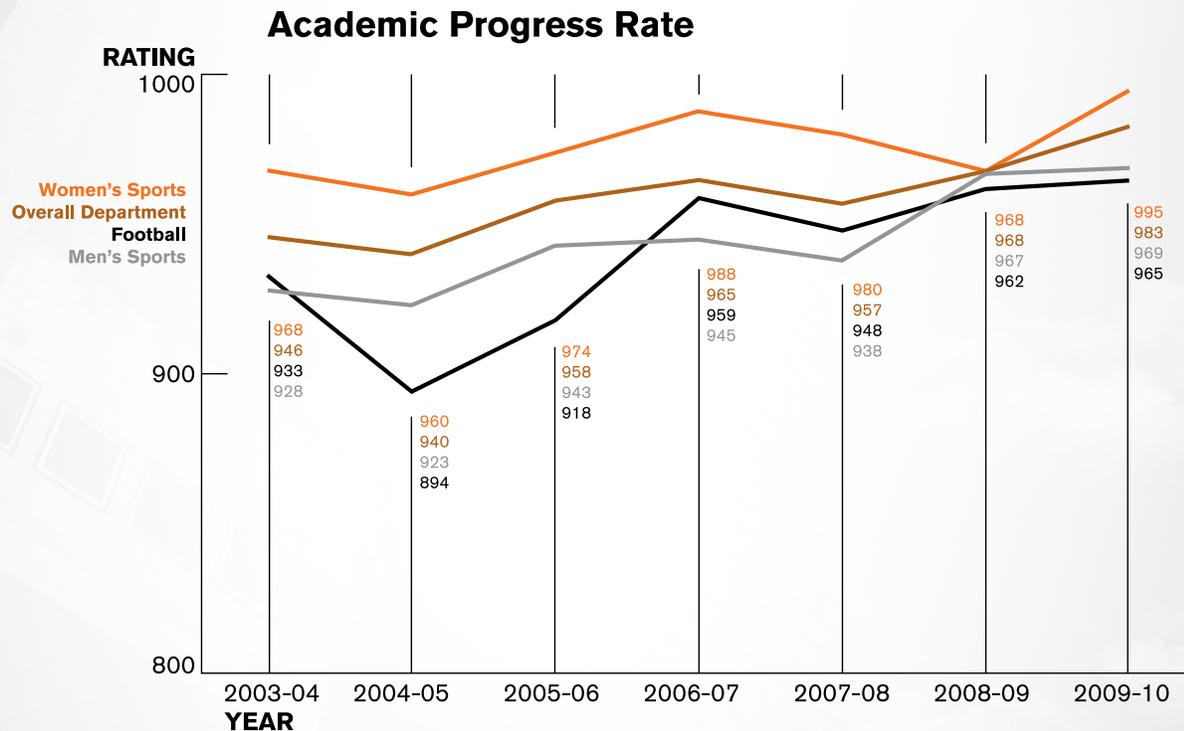
WITH BOB DE CAROLIS

Orange Perspective – Part 1 – Academics

It's the end of another year of OSU athletics, the end of the academic year, and the end of an era—the Pac-10 Conference as we know it today. With all of these milestones upon us, I thought it was a good time to take stock of where we're at on topics ranging from athletics and academics to facilities, finances and our future.

Starting today, we're launching a series—Orange Perspective—where I'll give you updates on the various pillars of our program. You'll get the facts, the details and my perspective. I'm hopeful that you'll learn a lot and gain new insights into the current state of Beaver Athletics. I'm also hopeful that you'll hear and heed the call to action that will help us emerge as a true contender in the newly formed Pac-12 Conference. You've read it and heard it before—12,000 Strong by 2012. That's what we're looking for from Beaver Nation—to nearly double our donor base in the next 18 months so we can stay competitive and be a force in the Pac-12.

To kick off the series, I'm focusing on our academic and community service accomplishments this year. Although athletics are at the forefront of all we do, we've always maintained that the development of the "Everyday Champion" through academic achievement, personal development, and community service are the keys to maximizing the potential of our student-athletes and developing them into leaders who will serve their communities beyond OSU.





Jill Sawatzky - 2010 Pac-10 Volleyball Scholar Athlete of the Year

The NCAA implemented the Academic Progress Rate, or APR, as its benchmark in 2004 to measure the academic success of all Division I teams and overall programs. The APR takes into account both eligibility and retention, and is designed to measure an institution's success at moving its student-athletes toward graduation. Not meeting minimal APR requirements can result in sanctions ranging from a public warning of poor performance to loss of postseason competition and scholarships, to the extreme of losing eligibility for inclusion in Division I participation.

The good news is that on all fronts—team-by-team analysis as well as our overall program—our APR has improved and is trending steadily upward. This is clearly a reflection of the commitment to the classroom from our student-athletes, coaches and staff. We currently have our best APR in the seven-year history of the program at 983. A score of 1,000 represents perfection, and I'm proud to note a record eight teams achieved this. When we started tracking, our overall APR was 946. Our football team is currently carrying the best four-year average among all OSU male sports and in the 2009-2010 academic year—the most recent available—was second in the Pac-10, only behind Stanford.

Our student-athletes also have represented Beaver Nation well as All-Academic selections in the Pac-10 this year. We tallied 116 selections to this high-achieving group with women's rowing having the most representatives—18 and tied with Stanford. In their respective sports, volleyball had the most in the Pac-10 with seven; cross country had the most with 14; and football was second to Stanford with 14. Volleyball player Jill Sawatzky, with a 3.96 cumulative GPA, was named the conference's Volleyball Scholar Athlete of the Year. Gymnast Stephanie McGregor earned Academic All-District honors and received the prestigious Waldo-Cummings Award—honoring academics and extracurricular activities on campus—at OSU's All-University Student Recognition and Awards Event.

At our annual Benny's event earlier this month—the time each year we recognize many of our student-athlete's accomplishments—we honored 10 Scholar Athletes with a cumulative GPA of 3.5-plus. These student-athletes are: Kaitlan Locke (volleyball), Hayley Oveson (cross country/track), Kiersten Sambrailo (volleyball), Jill Sawatzky (volleyball), Sam Schwartz (men's rowing), Hannah Soza-Hodgkinson (cross country/track), Krista Stangel (cross country/track), Katy Tai (women's rowing), Celia Magistrale (women's rowing), and Mitch Canham (baseball). It should be noted that although he left OSU prior to graduating to pursue professional baseball, Mitch Canham continued to work on his degree and graduated this spring along with former teammates Ryan Gipson, Shea McFeely, and Jason Ogata

Clearly, our academic achievements demonstrate our commitment to the classroom. One of the goals of the "Everyday Champions" program is to develop our student-athletes into future leaders who understand the positive impact they can have on their communities and empower them to embrace that role through service to others. Each year all of our teams participate in community service projects. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) sponsors various projects throughout the year such as the Fall Carnival for Kids, the "Other Side" talent show, and, this year, the Special Olympics Regional Championships held in Corvallis. This year we totaled approximately 6,000 hours of community service, with 20+ different organizations and served more than 18,000 young people.

After the success of Yvenson Bernard and SAAC's response to the Haiti Earthquake more than a year ago, a group of former student-athletes, led by Taylor Kavanaugh and the Varsity O Leadership Council, decided to develop a student-athlete service organization that takes on international service projects and responds to natural disasters at home and abroad. The result was "Beavers without Borders," which sponsored its first service trip, sending 15 current and former student-athletes to Guatemala to build a house for a deserving family over spring break. A Beavers without Borders team also just returned from Macedonia after working on a Habitat for Humanity Project. A documentary film is being produced on the Guatemala trip and will be released during various showings throughout Oregon in August. The group is currently planning a December trip to Cambodia to build a medical clinic and are in the process of identifying opportunities to go to Joplin, Missouri, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama this summer.

A number of our student-athletes received individual recognition for their community service activities at The Bennys. Devery Karz (women's rowing) and Lance Mitchell (football) were honored with the Glenn Klein Community Service Award. El Sara Greer (women's basketball) received the Robert Byers Spirit Award along with former football player Taylor Kavanaugh for his work with Beavers Without Borders.

Beavers without Borders is just one initiative being developed by our former student- athletes through The Varsity O Leadership Council, which is developing programming to make the Varsity O Letterwinners Club a valuable resource that will serve our former student-athletes in the areas of professional development, business development, and community service throughout their lives while unleashing the power of this incredible network. The Varsity O has partnered with the Beavers Athletic Student Fund (BASF) and has sent a solicitation to 5,000 former student-athletes to help lead the charge in the 12,000 by 2012 campaign to expand the donor base.

As you can see, our student-athletes, coaches, and alumni continue to make a difference through their efforts and achievements in their pursuit of scholarship, their development as leaders, and their service to others—all accomplishments that don't always show up in the sports section of your favorite newspaper. We all have a lot to be proud of, and I'm personally gratified to know that we are helping develop our country's future leaders who are ready to compete in today's global marketplace.

I hope you've learned some things and have a deeper sense of our commitment to the development of our young people. I'll be recapping the year's athletic achievements in the next installment of the Orange Perspective.

Go Beavs!



The football team's APR is second to only Stanford in the conference

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