

Grizzly Bites - Issue No. 2

Sept. 30, 2009

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TO: Fans, Friends, Alumni, and supporters of Oakland University Athletics

I'd like to start this issue with my congratulations to the volleyball program. Coach Rob Beam has the team off to an 11-2 start and they are 5-1 in league play, dropping a tough five set match to reigning champion North Dakota State. Our volleyball team has won over 10 matches for the first time since we moved to Division I in 1999-2000.

We were given the good news by the NCAA two weeks ago about hosting the 2013 NCAA Men's Basketball 1st and 2nd rounds at the Palace of Auburn Hills. This is a big deal as the NCAA will be celebrating its 75th year of the basketball tournament. With October already here, I encourage fans to purchase their season tickets for the 2009-10 basketball seasons. Our women will open up the regular season against Detroit on November 13th and the men host Eastern Michigan on the 14th. We also still have VIP specials available, contact Chad Thompson (thompso5@oakland.edu) for further information.

We are just one month away from hosting The Summit League Men's Soccer Championship at the OU Soccer Field, November 13th and 15th. This will be the second consecutive season we have hosted this event and third time in last four years. The men opened league play with a thrilling 1-0 victory over Oral Roberts last Friday afternoon.

Midnight Madnezz

As I mentioned earlier, the basketball season is right around the corner and we are hoping for another tremendous Midnight Madnezz this October 16th. The event will kick off at 7 p.m. with comedians Rob Stapleton and Hassan Minhaj in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

Fans can then make their way towards the O'Rena as we will start the block party in the P-16 parking lot, across from the O'Rena. Free food, DJ and dancing, meet the Grizz and performances by the OU dance and cheer teams will take place. Doors open at 9:45 p.m. and the first 1,000 fans will receive a free limited edition OU giveaway. Join us for a fun-filled, action-packed athletics showcase featuring OU student-athletes and coaches. Hooper and the Flight Crew will be performing again and special appearances by OU administrators and student leaders. Hundreds of fun fan giveaways are planned.

Annual Report

The athletic department has just completed its first-ever annual report and I am very excited about this process and the information it will provide to our fans, friends, alumni, and supporters of Oakland University Athletics. This will be posted on our web site by the end of October, so keep your eye out for it under inside athletics. Please continue to send me your feedback whenever possible. While I cannot guarantee a personal response to every e-mail that we receive, please know that they will all be read, so I do encourage your participation in this process. Some of your questions/comments could become subjects for future issues of Grizzly Bites.

I also encourage you to share this letter with any OU fan that may not have access to the internet. Our mission is to inform and engage as many Golden Grizzlies supporters as we possibly can.

I want to thank you for your continued support of Oakland University athletics as we move forward with our vision for excellence.