

Grizzly Bites - Issue No. 8

Dec. 10, 2009

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

We are officially into basketball season and our men picked up a big road win this past Saturday at IPFW. Thanks to all of our fans that participated in the Road Trip. Despite having finals this week, we had at least 200 students, faculty, staff and friends travel with us to Fort Wayne.

As I mentioned in a past Grizzly Bites issue, we have developed a mission statement and core values for the athletic department and I would like to share that with all of you. Our strategic plan is taking place and I am very excited about what this means to our department as we strive for excellence.

Mission Statement

- In alignment with the educational mission of Oakland University - we dedicate our energy and resources to the betterment of our Student-Athletes.
- Our mission is to guide, encourage and support our Student-Athletes as they strive for excellence - academically, athletically and socially.
- Above all else, we produce graduates, champions and friends of the University.

Core Values

Six Core Values guide and govern our actions at all times and in all our affairs. They define "what we stand for" and "what we won't stand for." They include:

1. Excellence

We have an excellent attitude and outlook. We strive for excellence in all we do.

2. Service

We approach all of our relationships with a spirit of service.

3. Respect

We treat ourselves and others with dignity, kindness and respect.

4. Accountability

We are thoughtful with the use of our resources. We are personally accountable for our actions. We are an important part of a great team.

5. Discovery

We place a strong emphasis on discovery. We are always searching for more efficient and effective ways to get things done.

6. Integrity

At all times, and in all our affairs, we strive for integrity. We know that the right thing to do is the only thing to do.

New Video Board

The athletic department is launching a new video board that will be installed during the month of December. We will not have a video board for the women's basketball game on December 17th vs. Saint Louis. The new board, which will help add to the value of fan experience inside the O'Rena, will be live for the Alma College men's basketball game on December 28th.

Mitten Toss

Once again our swimming and diving program is helping the Lighthouse of Oakland Country by asking Golden Grizzly fans to bring mittens to the men's basketball game on December 13th vs. Green Bay. At halftime we will ask fans to throw them onto the court. For more information, please click [here](#).

Along with the mitten toss, the athletic department is participating in the Adopt-a-Family program set up by the Pontiac Lighthouse. We have encouraged our staff and student-athletes to make donations so that we can help Pontiac Lighthouse with assisting the unfortunate during this holiday season.

Brian Stuard Earns PGA Tour Card

As I mentioned in the last Grizzly Bites, Brian Stuard had a tremendous season on the Nationwide Tour and finished in 26th place on the money list, just missing earning his PGA Tour card. He followed that up with a tremendous Q-School performance, finishing in a tie for 19th place (-10) and earned his PGA Tour card for the 2010 season. We wish him the best on his PGA Tour season.

Year End Giving

As we approach the end of December, I would be remiss if I didn't thank our generous donors. We truly appreciate your ongoing support of our student-athletes. For those that haven't yet made a gift or would like to make an additional year-end gift to support Oakland Athletics, I encourage you to do so. Gifts can be unrestricted or designated to the sport or program of your choice. All gifts received prior to December 31st will qualify as a 2009 charitable contribution for tax purposes. Checks should be made payable to

Oakland University and mailed to Athletics Development, 2200 N. Squirrel, Rochester, MI 48309. For online gifts please visit www.oakland.edu/donate/

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.