

Grizzly Bites - Issue No. 9

Jan. 27, 2010

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

Well it's a New Year and our men's basketball team is off to its best start in league play. Congratulations to Coach Greg Kampe for his team setting a Summit League record with 16 consecutive league wins, dating back to last season. What a tremendous accomplishment.

I am very excited about our second annual Homecoming event on Feb. 4-7. We have also made the decision to host our annual Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony during these festivities on Friday night at the Oakland Center Banquet rooms. This is a great way to kickoff the festivities leading into the basketball games on Saturday.

For more information on all the homecoming events, please click [here](#).

Tickets for Oral Roberts game on Feb. 6

With Homecoming nearing, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to join us for the basketball doubleheader against Oral Roberts on Feb. 6. With the high demand of attending these two games, I encourage fans to purchase their tickets ahead of time. We anticipate a sellout for this outstanding event here at Oakland University. To order your tickets, please click [here](#). The men's team will also face Centenary on Thursday night, Feb. 4, and the women's squad will battle Centenary on Monday, Feb. 8.

Brian Stuard Shines in PGA Tour Debut

Brian Stuard became the first Oakland golfer to make the PGA Tour and showed his talents in his first-ever tournament with a tie for 25th-place finish at the Sony Open in Honolulu, Hawai'i. He is playing in his second PGA Tour event this weekend at Torrey Pines and we wish him the best of luck.

Summit League Food Fight

Community outreach continues to be a high priority for this department. As part of the 2010 Summit League Food Fight, the Oakland University Department of Athletics raised over \$2,100 in its coin race fundraiser, in which Oakland's 18 varsity teams competed against each other to see who could donate the most money over the course of two weeks. In addition, the Golden Grizzlies also collected 175 pounds of food for families in need. Congratulations to the women's swimming and diving team who won the coin race, earning \$593, while the men's swimming and diving team was the runner-up with \$472 earned. We are very proud of the efforts of all our student-athletes, along with the entire athletic department for their efforts in this great cause. We will post the league-wide results once it is made available.

President's Scholarship Reception

I'm very proud to announce that five of our student-athletes have been selected to receive named endowed athletic scholarships, and will be recognized at the President's Scholarship Reception on February 18th. These men and women excel both in competition and in the classroom and will be recognized alongside other student-scholarship winners. I would like to congratulate Keith Benson (men's basketball), Agnes Solan (women's swimming), Joe Rodgers (men's swimming), Laura Kwiatkowski (women's golf) and Riikka Terava (women's basketball) for their hard work and dedication.

Meet and Greet

Members of our Basketball VIP program can look forward to a Meet and Greet opportunity with both of our basketball teams. On February 20th, our men's and women's teams will be available in the Elliott Hospitality Suite to meet members and answer questions. More information will be emailed out shortly. If you are interested in becoming a Basketball VIP for next season, you may contact Chad Thompson (thomps5@oakland.edu) in our Athletic Development office.

The Summit League Championships

As March quickly approaches, I would encourage fans to regularly visit OUgrizzlies.com for important updates regarding The Summit League basketball Championships and hotel/ticket information. Make plans now to follow the Golden Grizzly teams as they work towards earning NCAA Tournament bids.

Web Streaming

The athletic department is very aware of some of the difficulties many of us have experienced with picking up Oakland away basketball games via web streaming on OUgrizzlies.com. This is something we are currently dealing with in discussions with The Summit League. Unfortunately, Oakland only has control over its home games and cannot control what happens when we play on the road. There is an understanding with the league and other institutions to share the stream with OUgrizzlies.com, but that obviously has not been happening. We are working very hard with the league to try and get this problem worked out. I apologize to all the fans that were unable to watch some of our away games and I anticipate a solution in the near future.

Academic Report

The fall semester grades are in and once again the student-athletes have surpassed expectations. We had close to 60 percent of our 350-plus student-athletes achieve a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. This surpasses last year's accomplishments and I am sure that we will once again be the top university in The Summit League. Stay tuned to OUgrizzlies.com for the official announcement from the league.

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.