

## A Year End Report

Make it a year to remember: a year to remember the Multnomah Athletic Foundation (MAF). That was our charge in 2009. Our focus of the past year was on more broadly revealing and clarifying the important work of MAF as a positive influence in the development of our community's youth

It is readily apparent that MAF's mission to promote scholarship and support youth athletics and fitness only has the rightful impact it deserves if we are well understood by MAC members and the public at large. There has been some confusion about our organization on two levels: first, that we are a subsidiary organization of MAC; and second, that MAC members are the beneficiaries of our financial support.

We definitely share MAC's cultural values in terms of our recognition of the strong association between youth athletic participation and youth achievement. We also, specifically, provide the financial support for the annual MAC Scholar Athlete Awards given to 27 deserving metro-area high school sophomores. However, we are a separate legal organization (501 c-3 public foundation) with a board that effectively operates independently of MAC.

While there is no direct support of MAC members, we are proud to acknowledge that through our Fay Sasser Fund, children of MAC staff are eligible for college scholarship funds. Nevertheless, you could very well consider our foundation to be an extension of MAC, at least philosophically, as we embody its heritage and cultural values in our community outreach; touching the lives of many whose ability to participate in sports activities, fitness programs and higher education would be diminished if not for our support.

### Following are some highlights of 2009:

Joe Loprinzi's 95th birthday celebration. Early in the year we embarked on an effort to honor Joe Loprinzi on his 95th birthday with a grand birthday celebration. With Loprinzi's blessing, and according to his wishes, we discretely solicited gifts that would support the Joe Loprinzi Scholarships given annually by MAF to one or more high school seniors by virtue of merit and need; primarily chosen from the ranks of past MAC Scholar Athletes.

Given the immense fondness and gratitude felt by many for Joe, our endowment solicitation manifested a terrific outpouring of gifts in his honor, amounting to \$240,336 to be funded during the next five years, bringing us a little more than halfway to our Loprinzi Scholarship Endowment goal of \$1 million. Joe was astounded and humbled by this response. Sadly, Joe passed away as we ended this campaign. Members continue to donate to MAF in Joe's memory.

Loprinzi Scholarships. Last spring, we were proud to award a first-year scholarship at Notre Dame to Nathan Carr who had been a 4.0-plus scholar as well as athlete and student leader at Central Catholic High School. We also followed up on the successful progress of a 2008 award winner, Jesus Barragan, with a second-year grant in support of his sophomore year at University of Portland. It is the goal of the foundation to make further second-year grants such as this in the future through the growth of our endowment. We continue to consider the granting of these awards as one of our hallmark activities that promote leadership and scholarship through the example of Joe Loprinzi's inspiration.

MAC Scholar Athletes. We continued our annual tradition of funding prospective college scholarships for the MAC Scholar Athlete award winners. These sophomores can use this \$1,500 scholarship when they potentially enter into an accredited school of higher education after high school graduation. Our annual support for these awards is more than \$40,000.

The Northwest Shootout. Celebrating its 17th year, this is one of the premier sporting events in the state. This event pits elite boys and girls basketball players from the state of Oregon against their counterparts from the state of Washington. Read more on page 23 of the March issue of *The Winged M*.

MAF grants. In 2009, MAF provided financial support for numerous metropolitan-area sports and physical fitness programs. Every grant request is qualified by a MAF board member for various organizational, legal and programmatic requirements before a full board discussion ensues. Some of those organizations deemed worthy of funding by our board this past year were Cleveland High School Basketball, Gladstone Education, Peninsula Wrestling, Oregon Disability Sports and De LaSalle High School.

MAF Communication. As stated earlier it is imperative for us to effectively communicate our mission and positive influence on the community if we are to perpetuate it. Accordingly, we strive to do this on a number of fronts. First, this past year we initiated our first-ever ads in The Winged M to make the work of our organization more visible.

Second, a MAF informational kiosk was manned periodically in the MAC Main Lobby as means of spreading our message. Finally, we embarked on an effort to develop a high-quality but economical video that would effectively tell our story. This was accomplished coincidentally with the Joe Loprinzi birthday celebration and was shown for the first time to that audience. Check our website at themaf.org or contact Sandi Hart at 503-217-2350 if you wish to view our video or show it to an interested audience.

I would like to thank all of those who support our worthwhile mission as well as those who contemplate a future gift, bequest or named fund. We fill a lot of holes in the funding requirements of numerous, worthwhile community organizations and have contributed as well to the dreams of many youth aspiring to higher education at an institution perhaps beyond their financial reach.

Let me also acknowledge our Executive Director Sandi Hart, who works with a genuine passion on behalf of our board and numerous constituents.

I have now completed four years on the MAF Board, the last two as president. This has been an association made eminently workable and fulfilling by virtue of our active and committed board comprised of: Scott Cress, vice president; Greg Specht, treasurer; Martha Dennison, secretary; Directors Sydney Baer, Ken Eagon, Ron Emmerson, Dan Fenker, Agnes Hoffman, Mary Jubitz, Mark New, Vicki Tagliafico, Dwight Terry, Julie Vigeland and Tom Usher; George Spencer, ex-officio; and Ross Meinhart, ex-officio.

For more information on MAF, visit our website or contact Sandi Hart, or see our first-floor display case at the east end of the main entrance lobby.

**Greg Houser**  
**President**  
**Multnomah Athletic Foundation**