



## **Joe Loprinzi, Mr. Inspiration MAF programs aim to extend Loprinzi Fund.**

### **Proclaim 2009 the year of Mr. Inspiration. Let's celebrate!**

Yes, this year marks the 95th birthday of Joe Loprinzi. Poll MAC members and nine out of 10 recognize Joe, and many smile broadly as they fondly recount the many ways he touched their lives and inspired them to go beyond their assumed athletic talents and stamina, to test their resolve and to become better for it. Joe always delivered his "wise medicine" with not only a healthy dose of good humor but also a willingness to be right alongside of you as you pushed yourself to that uncharted physical horizon. He knew that mixing challenge and camaraderie was a potent combination to bring out the best performance in people. You could just as easily assign him the moniker "Mr. MAC," for his far-reaching impact but he would self-deprecatingly refuse such a title because, above all, he is the embodiment of humility.

So why would a tribute to our Joe Loprinzi factor into a discussion about Multnomah Athletic Foundation (MAF)? Very simply, because one of our hallmarks is the annual selection and funding of Joe Loprinzi Scholarships. These are a select number of graduating high school seniors (most chosen from the ranks of prior MAC Scholar Athletes) who are deemed worthy of scholarship support by virtue of need and merit. Many of the aspirants for these scholarships would have difficulty attending the college of their choice without our support. This financial backing is made possible through income from the foundation's Loprinzi Fund Endowment plus supplemental funds from other MAF sources.

In fact, it is a primary objective of our foundation board to significantly increase the permanent funding for the Loprinzi Fund so that we can eventually cover at least second-year funding for these individuals and therefore ensure a greater probability that our Loprinzi Scholars will graduate. Just as Joe has taught us to reach higher and keep on reaching, we want these scholars to effectively reach for their dreams and become productive members of the community.

But, let me digress, and give you a better general understanding of MAF. We strive to positively influence the personal development of youth through the support and underwriting of amateur athletics, fitness programs and need, as well as merit-based scholarship grants to deserving young adults. Most illustrative of our activities is our financial role in the funding of MAC Scholar Athletes (27 Portland-metro area sophomore recipients chosen by their schools for athletic, scholarship and leadership accomplishments) as well as our selecting and funding of Joe Loprinzi Scholarship award winners who are deserving seniors with college aspirations. MAF undertakes a worthy mission of community outreach, and we are only limited in our various activities by the level of fundraising from those who embrace and encourage our mission.

We are engaged in numerous efforts to foster values in our youth, perpetuating the highest ideals of amateur athletics, including leadership, discipline, skill development and self-esteem. This year alone we have granted \$40,500 to MAC Scholar Athletes and \$16,000 to Loprinzi Award winners, and will make additional grants of another \$20,000 to \$25,000 for a number of area-wide athletic and fitness programs that have been vetted by our board. Past recipients have included Special Olympics, Peninsula Wrestling, Easter Seals - Bike First, The Salvation Army Bidy Basketball and The Children's Course, to name a few among many.

From where do we derive the financial resources to fund these scholarships and provide programmatic support for youth activities? The foundation was funded with a nominal amount of seed money in 1991. Since then, through generous donations from many and through prudent investment management, we have been able to fund our various endowments as well as progressively give out more monies on an annual basis to fulfill our mission. The annual distribution from these endowment funds provides approximately \$50,000 in funding support.

Another source of financial support comes from our underwriting and staging of the Northwest Shootout, a 15-year tradition that brings together elite boys and girls basketball players from Oregon and Washington for two all-star games. However, as you can calculate, these sources do not fully fund our outlays.

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The annual fund campaign of the club remains a critical part of our annual funding. In your July billing statement you will receive a request for a \$15 donation. This is a charitable deduction for income tax purposes. While club members are free to reject this request, the acceptance rate throughout the years has been high. Given the success of this annual membership solicitation in the past, it can be concluded that there are many MAC members who, grateful for the lessons, experiences and privileges of MAC, wish to extend those opportunities to deserving youth. We certainly encourage you to give more and, in advance, acknowledge and appreciate your support.

How does one measure our success? A traditional analysis would certainly focus on the numbers: how many individuals and organizations received support and were given how much? By these yardsticks we are certainly growing in our outreach. But that misses the all-important human side of our work; a singular impact multiplied across many recipients. So, to fully humanize this discussion about the foundation, following is an excerpt from a letter recently sent to us by Jesus Barragan, a 2008 Loprinzi Scholar.

“I’d like to begin by thanking each and every person on MAF for blessing me with the opportunity of continuing my education. The Joe Loprinzi Scholarship has been one of the most prestigious awards I have been awarded with in many ways. It has allowed me to continue an esteemed education at University of Portland without an enormous burden on my family, but it has also given me the opportunity to meet many great people at MAC that I would otherwise have never met. Some of these people have gone above and beyond their obligation towards me and have continued to encourage me as I embark on my journey in life. I would not be where I am today were it not for their actions, and the decisions made by MAF. On behalf of myself and my family, thank you for this amazing opportunity that will not be squandered.”

~ Jesus Barragan

Just as Joe has taught us to reach beyond our perceived limits, we ask you to reach out to the foundation with a gift to honor Joe and perpetuate his lifelong efforts to motivate aspiring people to new heights. Contact Sandi Hart at 503-517-2350 or visit [www.themaf.org](http://www.themaf.org) and learn how you can contribute. Raise the banners, strike up the band and throw the confetti. It’s Joe’s 95th...let’s celebrate!

Greg Houser  
President  
Multnomah Athletic Foundation