



Bringing Back Our Track & Field Heritage



"We need to get Oregon State's track and field program back right away ... It was the hallmark of OSU athletics and one of the most important programs in the country."



Payton Jordan
Head Track and Field Coach
1968 US Olympic team

Berny Wagner-led Teams Continued the "Golden Age" of OSU Track and Field

By Doug Crooks

1970-71 cross country and mile

They were called the "Golden Years" of track and field at Oregon State. Sam Bell brought the Beavers into the national spotlight in the early '60s, and then from 1966 to 1975, the Berny Wagner-led Beavers were nationally ranked eight times.

"We were a program that rivaled any in the country," Wagner said from his home in Corvallis. "We had the most balanced squad of any in the nation and we had our share of star athletes and national champions."

Those stars included some 20 nationally-ranked athletes and many who gained international-ranking including Tim Volmer (discuss), Pat Collins (800), Tracy Smith (5K), Willie Turner



Terry Thompson and Pat Collins at UCLA.



Don Parrish leads OU and WSU hurdlers at Bell Field.

(100 and 200), and Dick Fosbury and Tom Woods (high jump).

"It's important to remember that our program produced more than outstanding athletes—we produced outstanding individuals," Wagner added. "We were a credit to the university and to the community."

"We lost an awfully good track program," Wagner said of Lynn Snyder's decision to drop the heralded program in 1988. "It never should have happened, but now it is up to us to bring it back."

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"We need a renewed effort by every track and field alum to help with this fund raising campaign." —Beryn Wagner



Wagner continued...

Beryn has worked hard to revive the program. Through letters, phone calls, and old-fashioned cajoling, Wagner and a few of his former athletes—Brian Glanville and Roger Stalick in particular—raised nearly \$300,000 and helped the Athletic Department launch a multi-phase campaign to bring the program back to its previous glory.

"No one should doubt Bob De Carolis' commitment and involvement to bringing track and field back to Oregon State," Wagner said. "We need a renewed effort by every track and field alum to help with this fund raising campaign."

The next steps are to raise \$6.5 million to build a new track and field complex, and an additional \$5 million that will be placed in an endowment to cover scholarship expenses of the men's program on an annual basis. The athletic department has already provided the land for the track facility and committed to cover the salary expenses for four coaches as well as operating costs for the men's team.

"This new facility will be fantastic," Wagner said while reviewing plans for the new track and field facility. "It will be state-of-the-art technically and the competitive surfaces will be the best available."

Wagner reflects with great pride when exchanging stories of his ten years at OSU. "We showed that there was more than one track and field program in Oregon," Wagner said. "We were competitive year in and year out ... and in 1969 we were undefeated, including dual meet wins against UCLA, Washington, Washington State, and Oregon."

"But, of course, it wasn't just about winning, we took on anybody and kept everybody ... We had four times the number of walk-ons as we had scholarships," Wagner said.

"I wanted our athletes to learn that there was something about depending on your teammates and them depending on you ... that you'd do better than you would other-

wise," Wagner added. "I wanted them to know that by being part of this program they were part of a community and that these lessons and this support would continue through life."

Wagner said that it is our obligation to bring this tradition back to Oregon State.

"We need to bring this program back for the great student athletes that want to attend Oregon State but don't, because we don't have a track and field program," Wagner said. "We need to bring it back for our alums, for the community and for the State of Oregon."



Top: Dick Fosbury at Hayward Field.



Left: Tim Vollmer at Bell Field.

OSU Track & Field FACTOID:

Wagner track and field All-Americans
During Wagner's tenure, 15 OSU athletes won 23 All-American honors and nine athletes captured individual NCAA titles.



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Lynn Eves — 'I Really Want the Program Back'

He calls former OSU athletic director Lynn Snyder "that rotten guy" when the subject of dropping track and field comes up. But '60s OSU sprint star Lynn Eves is also the first to say, "We've got to get over it and we've got to work together to revive our program."

"I really want the program back," Lynn said when discussing his gift to Oregon State track and field. "We had an outstanding program that was good for the state, for the school and for the students."

Eves called on other OSU track alums to join him in raising the funds needed to build a track and field complex.

"We need a state-of-the-art facility if we're going to bring the men's program back," said the member of the 1960 Canadian Olympic team. He called on everyone who's been in the program to "help us build a program that rivals our success in the '60s and '70s."

Asked why he feels bringing the program back is so important, Lynn is quick to say, "It gave me so many tools to be successful in life ... and it also gave me real friends—life friends ... there is a real intensity here, a real bond that never dies."



Top and right: Lynn Eves in 1963.

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If you would like to make a financial contribution to the OSU Track and Field facility or the Track Endowment, please fill out the pledge form provided below. You can mail your completed form to the **BASF 123 Gill Coliseum attn: Doug Oxsen, Corvallis, OR 97330**. Your support is greatly appreciated and crucial to bringing back our track and field heritage!! There are many ways to donate to this project. Obviously cash is great but you may find it more beneficial from a tax stand point to donate appreciated stocks or property. To help us get to our goal of \$11M please consider making a larger gift but spreading it out over several annual payments. Making a planned or estate gift can also benefit the project. If you have questions on these issues or need clarification, please contact

Doug Oxsen, Regional Director of Development with BASF. Doug can be reached by email at doug.oxsen@oregonstate.edu or phone: 541-737-7486 (office); 541-231-7244 (cell). Thanks and GO BEAVS!



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