



OTTERBEIN "O" CLUB

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"Serving Otterbein College Athletics Since 1955"



March 17, 2008

Dear Members and Friends of the "O" Club:

Thank you for your financial support of the Otterbein "O" Club. I am pleased to report to you on the success of our dues program, the Rike Center weight room project and forthcoming events.

The number of persons paying dues in 2007 more than doubled from the prior year and we are off to an impressive start for 2008. Even more importantly, the number of young graduates and parents of current students paying dues has increased dramatically over prior years. This fundamental support is vital to the long-term success of the "O" Club and its ability to adequately respond to the needs of the Otterbein College Athletic Department.

As a token of our appreciation for your financial support, I have enclosed Otterbein's spring sports schedule. Please keep in mind that spring weather causes many changes to the athletic schedule and the most current source of information is Otterbein's web site: www.otterbein.edu. Otterbein's spring break is March 20-30. If you have the opportunity to support a Cardinal team on the road as it begins the season, please do so. These young student-athletes and their coaches deserve all the support we can give them.

As I reported in my December 2007 letter, the "O" Club Board of Directors tentatively committed \$35,000 to the Rike Center weight room project. Following that tentative commitment, the Directors asked the College to upgrade the project and, in particular, to include walls to address security and liability issues. College personnel presented the revised proposal to the Directors at the February 18 meeting. The \$85,000 plan for the 5,300 square foot area in the northeast corner of the Rike Center was presented in three phases: 1) \$43,000 for equipment; 2) \$20,000 for flooring; and 3) \$22,000 for walls (similar to those surrounding ice hockey rinks). Because the project was unfunded, the College would only implement the project in phases for which funding had been secured. The Rike Center weight room project was recommended to the Board by Athletics Director Dick Reynolds and is enthusiastically supported by Otterbein's coaching staff.

A new weight room is sorely needed. The existing equipment does not adequately meet the needs of the current students and is a detriment to recruiting for all athletic programs. Weight lifting is now a standard part of the conditioning regimen for most, if not all, Otterbein student-athletes, both men and women. In addition, the weights are also used by non-athletes who are taking fitness classes for academic credit, or who simply prefer to work out with weights. The existing equipment is old and outdated, and some of it is unsafe. The flooring is damaged. And there are no walls around the weights' perimeter. (The weights were moved out of the weight room and onto the open area in the back of the Rike Center in 2004, in preparation for the demolition of the old Memorial Stadium. The old weight room served as a temporary football locker room. That room is now used for aerobic, fitness and dance classes.)

In determining the financial level of support, the Directors took into consideration many factors including the overall financial health of the "O" Club; the increase in the dues-paying membership; the consistent financial support of persons making multi-year stadium pledge payments; the financial support of the Vida S. Clements Foundation, especially as it relates to the stadium project; and the generous, undesignated gifts from Bob Corbin and Tom and Tammy Weisenstein. In reviewing the financial records, it was clear to the Directors that the "O" Club had the resources to underwrite the entire cost of the project without having to use "O" Club Foundation assets. The Directors were opposed to having this project implemented in phases. Subsequently, the "O" Club Board of Directors voted unanimously to fully fund this project. On February 22, the "O" Club

presented a deposit check of \$42,500 to the College so that work could begin immediately. It is my understanding that the renovation will begin over spring break and is expected to be completed in April.

The new weight room provides the "O" Club with the opportunity to fund a major project that benefits men's and women's athletic programs alike and also promotes the "O" Club among the general student body. Please don't underestimate the importance of your financial support of the "O" Club. Together we are making something happen that would not have happened otherwise for some time. This project will significantly enhance the athletic experience of hundreds, and then thousands of Otterbein students. The Directors are excited about this opportunity and I hope that you have a sense of ownership in it—because you do.

The Board of Directors is in the process of planning the details of our traditional fall events and information will be forthcoming. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for the following events:

Monday, October 13: 34th Annual Fall Golf Classic & Social, The Lakes Golf & Country Club

The Sunday night social has been moved to Monday afternoon. All non-golfers are welcomed to spend the afternoon in the Club House playing cards, socializing, and bidding on silent auction items. Then they can join the golfers for the following dinner and program. The cost is \$20/person. The annual golf outing is a scramble with a shotgun start at 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$150/person and \$100/hole sponsor.

Saturday, October 18: Homecoming & Annual "O" Club Dinner Program, Little Bear Lodge

Come and join other Otterbein College athletic boosters for an after-game social and dinner, followed by a brief "O" Club business meeting. The highlight of the evening will be the recognition of the 2008 "O" Club honorees. This is always a special event and I encourage you to be a part of it.

The "O" Club is also working with the Otterbein College Athletic Department to host a reunion for the 1959, 1960 and 1961 Otterbein football teams, scheduled for September 19-20.

Finally, I would like to thank Roush Honda, a long-time corporate sponsor, and congratulate the company on its recent move into the newly constructed dealership. Edwin "Dubbs" Roush, 1947 graduate of Otterbein College and the captain and quarterback of OC's 1946 championship football team, co-founded the "O" Club in 1955 and served as its first president. In 1965 he became one of Ohio's first Honda dealers when he established Roush Honda. Although Dubbs retired, Roush Honda's commitment to the "O" Club has continued and I thank Jeff Brindley, OC Class of 1981, president and general manager, and his staff, for their continued financial support.

In closing, and on behalf of the "O" Club Board of Directors, thank you again for your financial support of the "O" Club.

Sincerely,

Dave Lehman '70

"O" Club President

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