

PIL Hall of Fame

Supporting Certified Athletic Trainers at Portland Public High Schools



Erosion of school budgets over the years is putting at risk the safety and health of about 6,000 student/athletes at the nine Portland Public High Schools. Honored athletic alumni from these schools, through the non-profit Portland Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Association, are seeking more sustainable care at schools and games through certified athletic trainers. Present coverage is fragmented and insufficient. Some schools benefit from booster clubs and volunteers who are certified. The Portland Interscholastic League (PIL) Hall of Fame presently allocates \$12,000 to maintain a “drop-in clinic” for all member schools and provide certified trainers for a limited number of athletic events. This is minimal coverage at best for Benson, Cleveland, Franklin, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Roosevelt, and Wilson, a district of nearly 12,000 high school students.

Perspective

With nine high schools, Portland is the largest district in Oregon. About 0.5% of Portland’s annual budget is allocated to athletics. The next three largest districts all have higher allocations: Salem with five high schools at .92%; Beaverton with five high schools at 1.15%; and Hillsboro with four high schools at 1.48%. Athletes in the other three districts have access to trainers on a regular basis. This is not the case in Portland. Four schools benefit from booster club efforts to provide part-time trainers for 8-15 hours per week, primarily in the fall and winter seasons. The other five schools have access to the drop-in clinic mentioned above, and resources are spread to accommodate a few intra-school contests.

The economics impacting school budgets have taken a toll on charitable giving and sponsorships as well. Two years ago the PIL Hall of Fame had \$25,000 to distribute among member schools for trainers. Last year it was \$16,000. To offset erosion in sponsorships and believing that school loyalty is likely stronger than league loyalty when it comes to charity, the PIL HOF Board sees collaboration as a solution. As noted above, not all of the PIL schools are equal in terms of booster clubs, Halls of Fame, skilled volunteers, etc. The PIL Hall of Fame wishes to direct voluntary efforts and apply available resources toward covering the gap in care in the short-run and sparking each school to become “trainer sufficient” in the long-run.

Wise direction of a \$30,000 budget (\$12,000 in budgeted funds, \$18,000 in grant money) would even the playing field among schools in access to certified trainers. Efforts will be directed toward appeals to the school board and working with or helping to establish Halls of Fame, booster groups, and skilled volunteers at each school to cover the need and raise necessary funding. The safety and care of the league’s 6,000 participants per year is the primary motivation of these endeavors.

PIL Hall of Fame Sponsorship Opportunities

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www.PILHallOfFame.org