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High Flyers doing what it takes to be a good community partner

By Jim Walker

It's the off-season for the Yamhill High Flyers, who finished their "branding" season in June, but General Manager Eric Bailey is already keeping his kick-off press conference pledge to give back to the community.

In fact, the franchise donated \$250 to Mac Youth Sports, money which came from after-expenses concession sales at the team's two home games. As Bailey said in a recent press release, "The High Flyers care deeply about the development of youth sports in the community. We believe that youth sports programs are essential to children's happiness and health, while also teaching them the invaluable lessons of teamwork and self-confidence."

In addition to the \$250 donation, the High Flyers contributed school supplies to the local "Operation Backpack" program and have pledged two pairs of season tickets for their 2010 season opener as prizes for the 11th annual Mid-Valley Golf Tournament, slated for Friday in Newberg.

This community partnership philosophy is based on a genuine belief by Bailey and the High Flyers' franchise that giving back to the community is important. Hopefully, when the 2010 season arrives, the community will "give back" by supporting the team and filling the stands at all home games.

By the way, if you want to demonstrate your creativity and at the same time help Bailey and the franchise submit a name for the High Flyers "Name Our Mascot" contest.

The mascot, Bailey announced, will either be an airplane or a rocket ship. The winner of the contest will receive a pair of season tickets for the team's first full campaign in the IBL.

To enter, e-mail Community Relations Director Jaime Dunn at community.relations@ymail.com with the subject line, "Name the Mascot" and include all of your contact information.

Additional information regarding season tickets can be accessed at the team's official Web site, www.highflyersbasketball.com.

If you have an idea for a column or feature story or a comment, please contact me by e-mail at jwalker@newsregister.com or by phone at (503) 687-1274.



Photo left: HighFlyers GM Eric Bailey and Kristina Pallotto of the McMinnville Parks and Rec Department pose for the \$250 check donation to McMinnville Youth Sports