



Meet the Oregon ODP Staff

Erik Lyslo **Oregon ODP Director**

Erik now works full time for the Portland Timbers (elyslo@portlandtimbers.com). He directs the Olympic Development Program, which includes program organization, tournament organization, team organization, finances and all communication aspects with coaches and parents.

Under his direction, the Oregon ODP program received a complete face lift in 2003. Seven years ago the struggling program produced just 8 Regional Pool Players total. That number jumped to 10, then 12, then 21, then 33 (then a state record) then 36 (then a state record) and then in 2009, Oregon set another state record with 53 players selected to the Region IV Regional Pool including 8 National Players, good for a third place finish in the 14-state region behind Cal-South and Cal-North.

“Credibility was the biggest obstacle we had to overcome,” says Lyslo. “The product was bad and that turned off the top players, the top coaches and clubs from wanting to participate in Oregon ODP. We had to change that. Input from clubs and outside coaches along with a sincere want to help players has really helped us turn Oregon ODP into a player now. Most of the top players in Oregon are playing for us, the top coaches have come back to work for us and we feel like we’re a well-oiled machine now with nowhere to continue to go but up. You will always have your naysayers and some bitterness toward the program from a chosen few, but we’ve changed the landscape of ODP in Oregon and it’s been really fun to see the changes and see our state enjoy the success. Numbers don’t lie!”

Erik comes from a communication background, working four years with the Portland Trail Blazers in their Public Relations Department. He produced all sports information for the Blazers, including media guides, pre and post season guides, Game Notes and acted as a liaison between the players and the media in his four-year stint. He also managed the media room and worked on the scorers table during game nights until 2008. Erik was also a writer for the blazers.com website as well as Rip City Magazine.

Erik also worked briefly with the Oregon Sports Authority where he helped organize the States’ largest school fundraiser to save spring sports for the PIL school district. The event raised close to \$175,000. He also worked closely with the Major League Baseball 2 Portland campaign and he continues to serve on the Executive Board for the original Portland Baseball Group.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Communications as well as a minor in Journalism from Portland State University in 2001. He was named Oregon Collegiate Journalist of the Year as a sports writer for the PSU Daily Vanguard in 2001 where he covered the football, basketball and golf teams at Portland State.

In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his lovely wife Katie, son Brandon and dog Porter. They are eagerly awaiting the birth of their second child in March as well. He also enjoys water skiing at his cabin in Lake Cushman, Washington, playing basketball on his highly competitive city league team, softball, golf, running, fishing and coaching. He played youth soccer with Eastside United when he was younger.