

The History of the Worthington Lacrosse Parent's Club

The Worthington Lacrosse tradition started with the first team in 1972. CARDINAL BOOSTERS, now known as Worthington Youth Boosters, was the sponsoring organization, which provided the initial \$2,000.00 needed to equip the team. Travel, meals and all the extras (such as having game balls, once all of the practice balls had landed in the Olentangy River) were provided by the players and their parents. Even the "banquets" were spaghetti dinners cooked by the coach!

In the fall of 1973, the Grim family moved to Worthington mainly because we had a Lacrosse Program. Their four children had grown to love lacrosse, and it was a major consideration when they moved here from Maryland. John Grim, the patriarch, had been an All-American at Washington College, and Joan, his wife, was the ultimate organizer. They were astonished to find that the coach taught the sport, coached the team, did the scheduling and ordered all the equipment and apparel. He also lined the field, obtained the referees, photographed the games, arranged for transportation to away games, collected money for the buses and motel rooms, promoted the sport to the news media and cajoled Cardinal Boosters to continue supplying uniforms and more equipment since each year brought new players to the field.

By the spring of 1974, the Grims knew that the coach needed help---a lot of help! Hence, they formed the Worthington Lacrosse Parent's Club (WLaxPC), the first organized Parent's Club among Worthington sports programs. Parents of both the boy's team and the girl's team (started in 1974) members were encouraged to participate. The role of the Parent's Club was then, and is now, to support the efforts of the lacrosse team and coaches and promote the sport of lacrosse. The original Parent's Club helped with organizing the transportation to games (since lacrosse was not a school sport, buses and vans had to be rented and driven), arranging for out of town accommodations for trips to Detroit, Buffalo and Pittsburgh, writing articles and taking pictures for the newspapers, housing and feeding visiting teams, washing uniforms (there was only one set) and preparing the fields for games. By the 1975 season, they had also become proficient at fund raising, since the teams spent spring vacation playing some of the top teams in the Baltimore area. The original members of the Parent's Club not only worked hard, but they became close friends who traveled with the teams and provided an extended family for all the players.

In the 30 years of the Worthington Lacrosse Parent's Club, there have been many changes. The boy's and girl's support group split in the early 1980's because the number of lacrosse players was so large that banquets were becoming late night affairs. Both teams became Varsity sports for the 1986 season thereby becoming eligible for some school funding. The efforts of the two Parent's groups have, however, continued. Fund raising has evolved from selling Krispy Kreme Donuts a \$.50 per box, to making pizzas in the art rooms of the Annex, to selling Krema peanuts by the bag, to the highly profitable Mulch Sale.

Parent's Club support for the team now includes total funding for team trips; making Spiritwear available to the players, parents and supporters; and providing as much logistical help to the coaches as possible—including still cleaning those muddy uniforms.

The Worthington Lacrosse Parent's Club has also continued to play a pivotal role in the promotion of lacrosse. The Ohio Tournament since its inception in 1989, has depended heavily on the organization and man-hours of the Worthington parents. The growth of youth programs in Worthington has been greatly helped by the Alumni Association (formed in 1983) and the Parent's Club. The WLaxPC has been the model for similar Parent's groups throughout the state—some even have copied our mulch sale!

The Worthington Lacrosse Parent's Club can be proud of the 18 All-Americans, 6 teams who were Midwest Champions, the 4 teams who won the State Championship and the hundreds of young men who have played the sport and have given us all much to celebrate.