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Internship Mixes Sports, Business

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Internship mixes sports, business

John Dailey '06 may not have been born with a ball in his hand, but it didn't take long for him to pick one up.

Dailey, a finance major and member of both the Linfield football and baseball teams, has participated in a variety of sports – seven at last count – since pulling on his first pair of cleats at age 5, sometimes competing in three simultaneously.

So it made perfect sense for him to combine his business training and love of athletics in a summer internship at FieldTurf Builders, a Wilsonville-based general contracting company that installs athletic complexes and fields. With 150 employees, the company puts in 80 to 95 fields each year, including the Linfield football field in 2004.

"I was looking for something sports-related but with a business perspective as well," said Dailey, who transferred to Linfield from Oregon State University last year.

"It gave me an opportunity to apply the many concepts I have learned in the classroom along with broader life concepts I have learned through my participation in sports."

Dailey job-shadowed Rob Gloeckner '00, general manager for FieldTurf Builders, before being offered the internship.

"There was no other interview needed," said Gloeckner, a former Wildcat baseball player. "I know what it takes to play sports at Linfield, and that is what it takes to succeed in the business world. Linfield athletes are definitely the type of people I look for."

During the 10-week stint, Dailey worked with Gloeckner and Billy Walker '00, learning about sales and construction man-

agement, dealing with vendors and getting his hands dirty on the field.

Gloeckner said Dailey worked hard, learned quickly and found ways to improve his assigned tasks. Those are traits Gloeckner said were ingrained in him at Linfield, both on and off the field.

"Coaches at Linfield stress that if you want to be great at something, you have to work for it and find a way to push yourself, and that applies to everything in life," he said. "When you step out of the classroom and into the working world, you have to constantly push yourself. You're competing against a lot larger pool of talent. You're always competing against the unknown."

The first-hand business training proved beneficial for Dailey, who bolstered the experience by taking part in the Seminar in Securities Markets, a January Term class held in New York.

There he visited the New York Stock Exchange and met a number of financial executives, including Jim McCary '03, Scott Hamilton '77, Mike Sass '76 and Tom Phillips '79.

"So much of business is interpersonal relations and communications," Dailey said. "Not only did I get to see New York, but I saw how business is done at the highest level. That's something I can bring back and apply to the sports industry, no matter where I'm working."

Dailey plans to pursue a career melding business and sports, perhaps working in financial management within a professional sports team.

"These two experiences combined will help to create an excellent career path for the future," he said.

– Laura Davis



John Dailey '06 combined interests in sports and business during a summer internship at FieldTurf Builders. The general contracting company installed the Linfield football field in 2004.