



# WINGS

*Giving wings to youth*

DECEMBER 2023



**Run TMC – Trevethan, Mitch and Chuck  
Help Raise \$500,000 for the Kids!**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



**Perseverance and Pride.** These two words come to mind when reflecting on my last 10 years representing the Olympic Club Foundation. When I

first joined the OCF board, I was driven by my love of athletics. Playing sports helped me understand the importance of perseverance. According to Merriam-Webster, perseverance is “continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition.”

It wasn't innate athletic talent that gave me an edge in sports, but rather, perseverance. I wasn't the first picked for schoolyard games. I wasn't an all-star on my Little League team. I didn't have coaches calling me to consider their school. Nevertheless, I persevered. I didn't give up. My early athletic failures helped drive me to achieve even the smallest athletic successes. I believe these challenges shaped my personality and character. I came to appreciate what it meant to be on a team and celebrate the success of a team's collective efforts. My time with the OCF has afforded me with an even greater appreciation for perseverance and the importance of being on a well-rounded team. Our OCF board of volunteers brings so much to the table. The generous support from our OCF community, coupled

with the collective efforts of our board, has afforded countless young athletes equipment and additional tools needed to learn from failure and celebrate success. For this, I am extremely proud.

Reflecting on my time with The Olympic Club Foundation, I am proud of what our team has accomplished. With Brad Solso as president and Steve Ashley as vice president, our board set out with the goal of hosting a marquee event that would engage our community. After much deliberation and a deep breath, I suggested reviving the OC Gentleman Jim Corbett Fight Night as a fundraiser benefiting Bay Area youth. With Rebecca Figone's guidance, sound advice from the OC board, and a conservative approach to reintroducing Fight Night, we brought Fight Night (for Charity) back. The results defied our wildest expectations. Our OCF community now gathers annually to cheer on the young athletes in the ring while raising much-needed funding for our community's young athletes. Other key highlights over the last decade, from the OCF team, include the addition of six new endowments, giving away more than \$5M+ to our grantee recipients, tripling the funding for the Campaign for the Kids, and the hiring of John Ring.

As my tenure comes to an end, I can't be more excited for what the future holds in store for the OCF. With John Ring

as our executive director, alongside Vicki Larkowich and our newest addition, Karin Haskell, our OCF staff is firing on all cylinders. Our 2024 board leadership is in terrific hands with Matt Niehaus as president and Annie Crangle as our vice president. We will reload with many experienced board members, while welcoming a slate of new board members and thanking those who will graduate to our emeritus status, including Paul Bevilacqua, Jeff Perkins, Doug Thomas, Ari Warmerdam, Ellen Montgomery Wright, and Victor Torres.

As I write my last letter to our OCF community, I can't help but think of what I can do in my last few weeks on the board. That said, I have to sign off with one last ask: as you look toward your year-end charitable gifts, please consider a gift to the OCF's Campaign for the Kids! Your continued support will help countless kids experience the virtues of athletics and, of course, the value of perseverance.

As always, it's for the kids!

Warmly,

**Stephen Wynne**

*President, The Olympic Club Foundation*



**Cover:** Warriors legend Mitch Richmond was the Honorary Chair of this year's Fight Night for Charity, which proved to be the biggest event in OCF history. Committee Chairs Carolyn Devoto Salcido, Kelly Trevethan and Chuck Eggert helped raise the bar, with help from Emcees Bonta Hill and Joe Shasky and auctioneer Franco Finn. When the dust cleared, they had raised more than \$500,000 on a memorable evening, all for the kids!





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## NEW SPORTS FOR THE SUMMER OLYMPICS, BROUGHT TO YOU BY BOB DYLAN

By Gary Tobin

In 1964, when Bob Dylan wrote “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” it’s unlikely that he was thinking about the Summer Olympic Games. Flash forward to 2024 (and 2028), and his words look more prescient than anyone could reasonably have expected.

To the point, Paris 2024 has submitted a proposal to the IOC to integrate four new sports closely associated with youth and reward creativity and athletic performance. These sports are breakdancing (officially “breaking,”) sport climbing, skateboarding, and surfing. French Olympic officials offer that all are easy to take up, and participants form very active communities on social media.

Not to be outdone, the Los Angeles organizing committee for the 2028 Summer Games has obtained approval for five sports. Three — baseball/softball, cricket, and lacrosse — have been played at past Olympic games, while flag football and squash will make their Olympics debut in LA.

Because it’s the Olympics, the “new” sports additions are not without

controversy. For instance, sport climbing was actually introduced in Tokyo for the 2020 Games (postponed until 2021). However, participants were not satisfied with how the events (and medals) were divvied among genders and events. Their issues have been addressed, allowing the IOC to move on to other potential additions.

One of them, flying disc, essentially ultimate Frisbee, missed the cut for 2020 and 2024 but is being proposed again for 2028.

The Olympic Club Foundation also has a connection to the “new” sports, having active youth programs in skateboarding, surfing, sport climbing, baseball/softball, lacrosse, flag football, and squash. “We have truly earned our “Olympic” name by being in the forefront of supporting amateur sports,” says John Ring, executive director of the Foundation.

The official IOC stance on new sports is loosely worded, making it possible



that others will be added sooner rather than later. What they are is still a closely guarded discussion.

But if the past is indeed prologue, then whatever they are, Dylan’s refrain will ring true for future Olympic Games.

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