

OXFORD

Student-athletes give back to Miami

Student-athletes at Miami University are not waiting until they graduate to give back to their alma mater – they're doing it now.

For the first time in school history, 100 percent of current student-athletes have made a financial gift to the MU Athletic Department through the Red & White Club. The idea for the fund originated with Miami's RedHawk Council, a student-athlete advisory group. The council came up with the idea to encourage student-athletes to show support of

Miami athletics, the university and their peers. Overall, 547 student-athletes participated.

"Our student-athletes wanted to do something special this year – to leave their mark while "standing as one," said Jennie Gilbert, associate athletic director and senior women's administrator at MU. "This initiative gave them an opportunity to show their commitment to each other, to the athletic department and to their university. The RedHawk Council leaders did an amazing job in communicating the purpose and making this happen."

Any gifts made to the university through the Red & White Club support scholarships for current Miami student-athletes. The funds raised by Miami's student-athletes in this specific effort will provide books for two student-athletes for a semester.

Will Sullivan, a junior guard on the Miami men's basketball team and a member of the RedHawk Council, views the annual giving as a small way to make a major impact.

"This gave us the opportunity to show that our commitment as athletes can go beyond our respective courts, fields and arenas of play and extend to financially sup-

port Miami athletics," said Sullivan. "The Red & White Club is an important organization that allows us to compete for Miami University and get a great education. This is just a small way to show our commitment to Miami University athletics and the Red & White Club, as well as our gratitude for all those who support us through their donations."

Coleman Barnes, Miami's associate athletic director and senior director of development, said the participation made a statement.

"To get 100 percent participation from more than 500 student-athletes is a testament to the caliber of young men and women we have at Miami," he said. "This is an exciting story to tell, and we hope the powerful example set by our student-athletes will encourage alumni and friends to join in the effort." STAFF REPORT