Fantasy baseball class on tap

GRANTS PASS — Rogue Community College is offering baseball fans a chance to learn about fantasy baseball and improve their skills for fantasy league competitions.

“Fantasy Baseball 101” is a new RCC Community Education class, which begins Feb. 1. The class will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. for five Wednesdays in I Building on the RCC Redwood Campus, 3345 Redwood Hwy. The cost is $96.

To register visit www.roguecc.edu/ContinuingEducation/detail.asp?CourseID=1231698.

Students will learn basic and advanced analysis techniques to help choose real major league players for fantasy teams, according to instructor Greg Fishwick, who founded his first fantasy baseball league in 1994. He now has teams in four separate fantasy leagues, each with a different format. He holds a Ph.D. in education and is a retired community college dean.

Whether just starting at fantasy baseball or trying to win more, students will learn many new strategies and have fun as well, according to Fishwick.

“It’s the advanced statistics behind the every-day statistics that tell the story,” he said. Students will learn how to access and apply readily available information to decide which players to avoid and which players to pursue in constructing their teams. For example, San Francisco Giants obtained Melky Cabrera during the recent off season after what seemed like a breakout year for him with the Kansas City Royals in 2011. But there’s a reason fantasy team managers might not want him on their teams, according to Fishwick.

“Thirty-four percent of the balls he hit fair went for base hits last year, leading to his first plus-.300 batting average,” Fishwick explained. “But he hasn’t had more than 30 percent of the balls he hit fair go for base hits in the previous five years, so he isn’t likely to do as well this year as he did last year.”

The course will review many different formats and drafting rules in fantasy baseball. Students will be able to choose which games would be the most fun for them.

“We’ll top it off with tips on how to make trades during the season in fantasy leagues,” Fishwick concluded, “and we’ll use case studies and examples along the way.”

Most leagues draft players in March, and the class is timed for the beginning of the new season.

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