**GROUND BROKEN ON $1.1 MILLION FIELD PROJECT**

With the roar of a bulldozer and a plume of diesel exhaust, ground was broken March 11 on a $1.1 million renovation of Maxwell Field. The oversized shovel on the front of the bulldozer scooped about four feet of earth from the historic playing field, which has served as home to Linfield football and track teams since 1928.

Linfield president Dr. Vivian A. Bull, general contractor Jeff Kizer, and director of athletics Scott Carnahan posed for pictures and said a few words to commemorate the moment.

Though the project is underway, fundraising efforts continue. Over $965,000 in cash and pledges has been raised by means of private donations from alumni, staff and friends of the college. The balance of the project’s price tag must be raised by the time construction is concluded in late August. Donors wishing to contribute may do so by contacting Carnahan at 503-883-2229.

“This project has a huge significance for the football and track programs,” said Carnahan. “It will also provide more recreational opportunities for the college community and the people of Yamhill County. It adds tremendous flexibility to the kind of events we can host in the future.”

Excavation of the field’s top soil began in earnest March 12. The first steps of the project include revamping the existing drainage system and upgrading the electrical system. Once the top soil is removed, drain rock will be laid into place and a perimeter curb will be installed.

When complete, the grass football field will be covered with FieldTurf, a state-of-the-art playing surface. FieldTurf uses recycled rubber materials to create a cushioned artificial field that closely resembles the look and feel of natural grass. Installation of the FieldTurf is expected to begin the first week of June.

Removal of the running track won’t occur until the middle of May. Due to the construction, the Linfield track and field team has relocated its practices and remaining home competition to Wortman Stadium on the campus of McMinnville High School. An asphalt base for the track is expected to be paved the first week of June. The new rubber-like polyurethane track surface will be poured in late July. The final step will be lane striping, to be completed the first week of August.

The track is long overdue for a new surface. It is being redesigned using modern metric standards that will soften the curves at both ends of the oval.

I’m excited….We have broken ground on the first phase of our Athletics Master Plan to reconstruct the track and Maxwell Field. Nearly all the excavation has been done in less than two weeks thanks largely to the un-Oregon-like weather we have had in March. The drain tile has been laid and electrical conduit is being placed. In the very near future, the sub-base will be graded and rock will be placed on top of the rock over the entire area. The rock will be graded to a one percent crown to allow for great drainage of the field through our wettest days. An interior and exterior curb will be poured to house the track, which will have an asphalt base.

When all of the infrastructure work is completed, a new polyurethane running track will be laid by Atlas Track. The project will be set away from Memorial Hall by about 20 feet and will become a wider oval in shape. Once the track is complete, the synthetic grass surface will be installed by Field Turf Builders. “Linfield” will be inlaid in one end zone and “Wildcats” in the other and there will be a block “L” placed in the center of the field. If all goes well, the project will be done by the first week of August.

At the northwest entrance of the stadium, we have transplanted grass from Maxwell Field. There, a display will be placed that will recognize not only all the people who have helped make this project possible, but also a memorial to all the games played on the grass and sometimes muddy natural turf of Maxwell Field. We hope to have the display completed before our first home football game next fall.

We are still hoping to include lighting and an upgraded scoreboard to the project. We are approximately $100,000 away from our project goal at this time. The combined resources of hundreds of people, donating their money, time, and talents, have helped to make this dream a reality.

I want to extend my gratitude to all of you who have made contributions. It will have a tremendously positive impact on the College in so many ways for many years to come.
**SPORTS**

The Wildcats have set their sights on a top-three NWC finish. Both quality and versatility. The 22 members, but the roster features both quality and versatility. The Wildcats have set their sights on a top-three NWC finish.

**TRACK AND FIELD**

Zimbrick will compete in the high jump, mer state high jump champion Matt Gohl and Fipps will be Linfield's entries and Jesse Warrick can also contribute. A major impact. Fipps, Andrew Gohl, high school All-American, should have an impact in the jumps, middle distances and high hurdles. The only soft spot appears to be a lack of depth in the distances.

The sprint corps of Chris Boock, George Carter, Thomas Ford and Casey Allen return intact after capturing the NWC 4x100-meter relay title last spring. Boock, the defending NWC champ in the 100, also competed at the NCAA Division III national championship. Jesse Fipps, runner-up in the long jump. Promising freshman Riley Bernard should have an impact in the 400 hurdles and will also compete in the heptathlon.

Linfield is deepest in the jumps and throws. Moore will compete in the long jump and Larson is a proven commodity in the high jump and triple jump. Mandy Weeber is back in the pole vault, joined by first-year vaulter Juli Huddleston.

Joni Claypool and Danielle Bielenberg, two of the conference's top athletes in the shot put and discus, return in the best shape of their careers. Tracy Skelton has championship potential in the javelin.

**SOFTBALL**

With 10 letterwinners returning, including six starting position players and two starting pitchers, Linfield is again expected to challenge for the Northwest Conference championship. With several players able to contribute at more than one position, the 'Cats are more versatile than a year ago. And with the addition of several new players, Linfield has improved its team speed.

"If we can stay injury free, I like our chances," said third-year coach Jackson Vaughan. "I feel that we are capable of beating any team on our schedule. Our league has gotten to the point where there are no easy weekends. Every team is capable of beating you if you don't show up and perform at a high level on game day."

Combining to form one of the NWC's most experienced pitching staffs are righthanders Liz Coburn and Michelle Morris. The talented tandem are expected to pitch the bulk of the innings this spring, giving the Wildcats consistent, if not dominating, results.

Offensively, four of the top six batters from last season return. Shelly Steinke, a first team all-star outfilder in 2003, is back after hitting .395 and stealing 16 bases. Versatile infielder Molleigh Keenan, a two-time conference all-star who hit .406 last spring with 19 RBIs, is also a proven commodity.

Keenan is expected to be the mainstay behind the plate but could also see action at third base when the situation dictates.

The infield looks solid with the return of three starters and the influx of some new talent. Stephanie Morgan, who drove in 20 runs as a freshman last spring, will be the starter at first base. Amy Hammons, who started all 38 games at shortstop last season, returns to anchor the middle infield. Lindsey Manitssas, a great leader with
Spring Sports, continued from Page 2

fine defensive skills, will swing between second and third base. Top prospect Jamie Bonser should see plenty of action at third base.

In center field, the 'Cats are anchored by one of the conference's best in Steinke. Kelly Stewart returns to right field where she started 30 games last season.

Tommy Paterson '05

BASEBALL

Although several key players graduated from last year's third-place Northwest Conference team, Linfield appears ready to reload and contend once more for the league championship. Seven position players and four pitchers are among 21 letterwinners returning for coach Scott Carnahan, who begins his 21st season with a career record of 618-395-2 (453-325-2 at Linfield).

The 2004 squad should be solid at the catching position with juniors J.J. Stolsig and Grant Boustead leading the way. Stolsig, a two-year letterman, will anchor the catching duties. Boustead will see time behind the plate as well as in the infield. The two veterans could be backed up by sophomores Andy Ackerman, John Frederick and Robert Johnson.

First base duties will be shared by lettermen Jake Roberts and Alex Justus. Both are capable at the plate and reliable in the field. Justus, who was named first team all-conference as a relief pitcher, will also see plenty of action on the mound. Roberts should be one of the more feared hitters in the conference with tremendous power to all fields. Brian Baker is waiting in the wings and has shown dramatic improvement since his freshman season with the junior team.

At second base, Drew Norris is expected to lead a talented group that includes Brice Ott and Brett Glover. Ott can play anywhere in the infield and Glover also has great versatility.

With great athletic ability, Josh Armstrong and Ott have both looked very good at shortstop. Armstrong was a part-time starter last spring and was also a starting wide receiver on Linfield's NWC championship football team. Two-time NWC all-star David Moore will start at third base.

In the outfield, Linfield returns one full-time starter. Rightfielder Greg Rainka brings speed and experience to the position. Also contending for starting roles are Josh Thomas and Joe Fisher. Thomas is one of the fastest players on the team. Fisher showed last season that he can be productive at the plate when healthy. Juniors Tommy Paterson and Aaron McFarland are both capable of breakout seasons.

Leading the pitching staff are Brant Shilliam and Jordon Rasmussen. Both saw considerable action last season and developed very nicely. Vince Downs returns to the program after undergoing surgery which sidelined him for the entire 2003 season. Coming off a great fall and pre-season, veteran Todd Rubin should also have a noticeable impact. Seniors Dan Thigpen, Casey Grove, David Cunningham, Doug Wirkkala and juniors Matt Smith, Jordan Hollem and Darin Dalke should be in the mix throughout the year.

MEN'S TENNIS

Coming off the best season in program history, expectations remain high for the Linfield men's tennis team. With the core of last year's record-setting team intact, a third straight Northwest Conference title is in the crosshairs, and a return to the NCAA tournament appears within reach.

The Wildcats are confident they can continue the momentum of 2003, when Linfield won all 15 of its conference matches. The desire to return to the national playoffs burns bright for eight members of last year's squad that was passed over for an invitation to the national playoffs.

Linfield begins the season ranked No. 21 in the ITA Top 25 rankings. Three NWC teams, including Linfield, are Top 25-caliber programs. The strength of teams within the conference only serves to make winning the league title and qualifying for the NCAA tournament all the more difficult, according to Wildcats coach Carl Swanson.

"The Northwest Conference is more competitive than ever this year," said Swanson. "Our goal is to continue to improve week-by-week into April and beyond."

Swanson has an outstanding foundation from which to build upon. Senior co-captains Nick Baker and Chris Rivera bring experience, toughness and stability. Tim Layman, ranked 17th nationally in singles, is coming off an impressive run at the fall ITA tournament. Veterans Erik Janssen and Brian Mullin are expected to each play major roles this spring.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Linfield has enjoyed regional success the past three seasons, but the Wildcats still hunger to compete on a bigger stage. This year, the 'Cats appear to have the talent and depth to become a nationally prominent program, according to co-coaches Carl Swanson and Amy Dames.

The two-time NWC champions are poised for another run at the league crown. Swanson and Dames are hopeful that success during the regular sea-

CONTINUED, PAGE 4
HARTLIEB. Hartlieb led the Wildcats in replacing all-time leading scorer Rhea. "The trend is to divide the two programs and have separate head coaches." said Carnahan. "The mood of this team is enormous," said Dames, who begins her first season at Linfield. "The sky is the limit. Any success we have will likely be equal to the amount of hard work the girls put in."

A half dozen letterwinners return from the 2003 team that went undefeated in conference play while posting a glossy 16-3 overall record. Only one senior was lost to graduation and the lineup may be even stronger this year with the addition of a stellar group of freshmen.

Team captain Nicole Ralston, who enjoyed individual success during the fall ITA college tournament, is the team’s headline performer. Ralston is ranked 18th in the region in singles and 17th in doubles with freshman Kasey Kuenzli.

Adding savvy and experience are returners Traci Sorensen, Lindsay Carlson, Caroline Kunz, Kasey Stroud and Danielle Hoover. The six veterans form a solid foundation, bringing with them a winning attitude, a strong sense of teamwork, and a hunger to take the program to the next level of competition.

Megan Rodgers and Kasey Kuenzli, both four-time state qualifiers and district singles champions, are two-highly touted newcomers from Oregon. Corrine Oates is another addition to the team from Oregon with state tournament experience.

From Washington, the Wildcats welcome Becca Johnson, a four-time state champion, and Asya Kamal, a state qualifier and the highest-ranked state champion, and Asya Kamal, a welcome Becca Johnson, a four-time tournament player among the newcomers.

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Nine letterwinners return from last season’s team that finished 12-7 overall and 3-3 against NCAA Division III opponents. Wildcats coach Bill Hander has his hands full integrating 16 newcomers with the cast of returning players. With so much youth, Hander remains cautiously optimistic about the 2004 squad.

WOMEN’S GOLF

Graduation and attrition have trimmed the Linfield roster to five players. Just two letterwinners return for Coach Marty Bergan’s Wildcats, who are seeking their fifth consecutive Northwest Conference championship.

In order to win an unprecedented fifth crown, Linfield must shoot consistently low scores throughout the spring.

Senior Brandi McElfresh and sophomore BreAnne Ellis return with experience. Promising freshman Leslie Wheeler will pay immediate dividends.

HANDE R ADD S WOMEN’S SOCCER TO LACROSSE DUTIES

Women’s lacrosse coach Bill Hander is taking over as women’s soccer coach July 1. The move is being made in response to the changing soccer landscape in the NWC.

Current women’s soccer coach Eric Watson will devote more of his attention to coaching the men’s team after leading both programs the past two seasons.

"With the direction the conference is taking, and the addition of a women’s soccer program at Lewis & Clark, it is becoming increasingly more difficult for one individual to coach two programs simultaneously," said Linfield director of athletics Scott Carnahan. "The trend is to divide the two programs and have separate head coaches."

Watson guided the women’s team to a cumulative record of 22-16-1, including a 13-6-1 mark in 2002. He will have expanded teaching and administrative responsibilities within the Health, Human Performance and Athletics department.

Hander is in his fourth season as women’s lacrosse coach at Linfield. He has also served Linfield as assistant women’s soccer coach for five years and has more than 20 years of soccer coaching experience, most recently as an assistant women’s coach at NCAA Division II Mesa State College in Colorado.

He has an advanced national coaching diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and participated in International Women’s Lacrosse Association seminar in Florida. Hander graduated from Western Oregon University with a degree in business and a minor in sports leadership.

Soccer standout Laura Grant will patrol the midfield. Up front, Becky Eichers returns for a fourth season. Also back with experience are Carly Ongman, Lynn Schneider and Candice Leslie. High school lacrosse star Kelsey Nauman should also make her presence felt.

MEN’S GOLF

Four lettermen return for third-year coach Greg Copeland as the Wildcats look to improve upon their fourth place showing at the Northwest Conference championships last spring.

Senior Ryan Whitcomb, junior Ryan Anderson, and sophomores Jon Stone, and Trever Phillips all return. Freshman prospect Matthew Taylor could make some noise during his debut season.

Handsomely dressed for the spring sports season: Nicole Ralston, left, and Kasey Kuenzli.

Elise Booth ’05

Bill Hander

Soccer’s headline performer Ralston was the skill player among the new-
2004 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
FULL OF CHALLENGES

Five home games highlight a challenging 2004 Linfield football schedule announced by Wildcats head coach Jay Locey.

The quest for an unprecedented 49th straight winning season begins at home Sept. 11 with the first of four nonconference matchups. The NCAA Division III Wildcats rekindle their rivalry with Division II member Western Oregon in McMinnville. The game marks the first meeting between the two Willamette Valley schools since 1998.

Also new to the schedule this year is Wisconsin-Stevens Point, which finished tied for second place last season in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Linfield enjoys a "bye" week prior to taking on Northwest Conference rival Pacific Lutheran Oct. 2 in Puyallup, Wash. The ‘Cats return home for an Oct. 9 matchup against Whitworth, then host NAIA powerhouse Southern Oregon the following weekend in the annual Homecoming game.

Conference play resumes Oct. 23 in Tacoma, Wash., where the Wildcats take on Puget Sound. Division III independent Menlo visits McMinnville on Oct. 30 for the final nonconference meeting of 2004. The regular season wraps up with a road game Nov. 6 at Lewis & Clark and a home game the next weekend against Willamette, last season's NWC runner-up. Game times are subject to change.

2004 LINFIELD FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Western Oregon</td>
<td>McMinnville, Ore.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Wis.-Stevens Point</td>
<td>Stevens Point, Wis.</td>
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<td>Sept. 25</td>
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<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran</td>
<td>Puyallup, Wash.</td>
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<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>Whitworth</td>
<td>McMinnville, Ore.</td>
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<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>McMinnville, Ore.</td>
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<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Puget Sound</td>
<td>Tacoma, Wash.</td>
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<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Menlo</td>
<td>McMinnville, Ore.</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark</td>
<td>Portland, Ore.</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Willamette</td>
<td>McMinnville, Ore.</td>
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- Northwest Conference game

TOPCAT CLUB MEMBERS SUPPORT LINFIELD’S CONTINUING QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE

WHAT IS THE TOPCAT CLUB?

The TopCat Club exists as a support organization to Linfield's 19 NCAA Division III varsity sports teams and the over 450 students who participate in athletics each year. Support from the TopCat Club has been essential in maintaining and expanding each of these programs.

The mission of the TopCat Club is to provide students with an outstanding athletic and academic experience and to strengthen the overall competitiveness of the Linfield athletics program.

At Linfield, we continually strive to improve facilities and annual funding so that our teams may compete at the highest level. Less than half of the athletic department’s annual operating budget comes from the college’s general fund. The balance is generated through a wide variety of external sources, including annual contributions to the Linfield TopCat Club.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

By contributing to the TopCat Club, you can truly make a tangible difference in our continuing quest for excellence in every arena of competition.

Without the help of TopCat Club contributions, the Linfield athletic program could not continue to excel regionally and prosper at the national level. Though we are a small private college, Linfield has long strived to compete at the highest level of sports.

WHERE WILL MY CONTRIBUTIONS GO?

Donations benefit all 19 varsity sports programs. Resources provided by the TopCat Club have been a major factor in Linfield receiving the prestigious McIlroy-Lewis trophy twice in the last three years as the Northwest Conference's top sports program.

Special needs vary from year to year, but the primary areas supported by TopCat Club include enhancement of facilities, equipment and uniforms, salaries for part-time assistant coaches, travel expenses for teams, as well as contingency funds for any unexpected needs.

If you'd like to spread out the financial impact by contributing monthly, you may do so by utilizing the special “Lettermen’s Club” option.

WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE GOALS?

The TopCat Club is seeking to increase its membership by 25 percent in 2004-05 while generating $100,000 for our student-athletes. Though ambitious, these goals are vital to the growth of our programs.

New TopCat Club members are always welcome. Be a part of continuing the proud tradition of one of the nation’s most vibrant and successful sports programs.

For membership materials, write Scott Carnahan, c/o TopCat Club, Linfield College, 900 S.E. Baker Street, McMinnville, OR 97128-6894 or call (503) 883-2421.
**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

Some called it the best coaching performance in Larry Doty's 17 seasons as coach. Others recalled a tale of three distinctly different teams - exciting, tumultuous and heart-warming - all in the same season.

Whatever words are used to describe it, the 2003-04 season will be remembered as a paradox. A story of a mostly inexperienced basketball team that many expected not to win, but that won the majority of its games anyway.

The 'Cats ended the year at 14-11 overall and 9-7 in the Northwest Conference, good for fourth place. Linfield began its up-and-down season without all-star center Nick Fusare, who missed the first nine games while recovering from surgery. Another returning all-star, guard O.J. Gulley participated in nine games before deciding to leave the team and concentrate on playing football. The lineup was often in flux, with only one player on the squad - John Broussard - starting all 25 games.

"We had a good season," said Doty. "But do I think we accomplished all of our goals? No, we didn't. The thing I liked was that we were still in the hunt for the conference championship heading into the final two weeks of the season. We just came up a little short."

Nearing the top three teams of the NWC down the home stretch to claim the title, the Wildcats lost four straight contests to close the season. If there was a silver lining, it was the Wildcats' 114-112 overtime loss to NWC champion Puget Sound, a game in which Linfield took the playoff-bound Loggers to the brink of defeat.

"That game was like a playoff game," recalled Doty. "We led for a good portion of it and had a great crowd behind us. There were plenty of chances to win it in the end. Regardless of the outcome, our guys came away feeling good about the effort they gave."

Guards Blake Shelton and Joe Neill, members of the Linfield junior varsity program last season, were among the pleasant surprises. Shelton emerged as a bona fide scoring threat, averaging 14.1 points and 4.3 rebounds a game. He was named a first team NWC all-star following a vote of the conference's coaches. Neill was one of the most consistent players in the Wildcats' lineup, shooting a conference-best .871 from the free throw line and averaging nearly four assists per game. Broussard was a major force on defense, always drawing the assignment of guarding the opponent's top offensive player. Rugged center Sam Kreiger shot 60 percent to rank second in the NWC in field goal accuracy and led the league in blocked shots.

**WINTER SPORTS**

Linfield senior varsity program last season, were among the pleasant surprises. Shelton emerged as a bona fide scoring threat, averaging 14.1 points and 4.3 rebounds a game. He was named a first team NWC all-star following a vote of the conference's coaches. Neill was one of the most consistent players in the Wildcats' lineup, shooting a conference-best .871 from the free throw line and averaging nearly four assists per game. Broussard was a major force on defense, always drawing the assignment of guarding the opponent's top offensive player. Rugged center Sam Kreiger shot 60 percent to rank second in the NWC in field goal accuracy and led the league in blocked shots.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Entering the season with their eyes fixed upon a top-three Northwest Conference finish, Linfield fell victim to a competitive league that featured too many quality teams.

The proof was in the NWC standings, where Puget Sound and Whitman finished with three losses each and shared the conference title. The next two teams - Whitworth and Pacific Lutheran - had fewer than 10 conference losses between them. The Wildcats, 7-9 in the NWC and 10-15 overall, ended in a tie for fifth place with George Fox and Pacific.

Stewart noted that the difference between the top programs and the rest of the teams could be boiled down to ball possession - the combination of shot opportunities, free throw attempts and turnovers.

The Wildcats set a new team record for accuracy at the free throw line (.743), but their assist-turnover ratio (-1.20) and field goal percentage (.373) were too low to give the team a chance to contend, said Stewart. Linfield was much improved on the backboards, averaging 38.8 rebounds a game compared with 36.4 the year before.

Inconsistency from game to game hurt Linfield's chances, too. The Wildcats never strung together more than two victories in a row. But to their credit, the players refused to go away quietly, winning four of their final six contests, including a home-floor upset of co-champion Whitman.

Monica Schwing became the first player in program history to earn all-conference recognition four straight seasons. A second-team NWC all-star, Schwing completed her career with 1,098 points - third-best on the career scoring ladder. She averaged a team best 11.9 points and 5.9 rebounds per game.

Lindsay Sticka was the team's inspirational leader, as well as its second-leading rebounder. A 5-foot-8 junior, Sticka led the team in steals while starting all 25 games.

Guard Brandi Loring stepped to the forefront as the season wore on, starting the final six games and scoring in double figures in four of them. Always considered a three-point threat, Loring made strides with her defense, decision-making and drives to the hoop. Forwards Kendra Victor and Jessica Denison blossomed, showing some exciting potential for the future. Seniors Lacey Conroy and Jessica Flammini filled important roles for the Wildcats. Point guard Shannon Schiele demonstrated tremendous improvement as she worked to adjust to a new system.

CONTINUED, PAGE 7
Winter Sports, continued from Page 6

SWIMMING

Almost without exception, members of the Linfield swimming team achieved season-best performances at February's Northwest Conference championship meet at the King County Aquatics Center.

In the team standings, the Linfield men placed second behind repeat champion Whitworth. That was a marked improvement over last season's finish, when the Wildcats dipped to fourth place. Linfield's women, unable to compensate for the graduation of four outstanding seniors from the 2003 team, slipped to sixth place after earning runner-up honors last year.

Individually for the men, Nathan Muti recorded two of Linfield's top placements. Muti claimed second in the 100 backstroke in 54.07 and was third in the 200 backstroke in 1:58.60. Team captain Craig Gonzales took third in the 400 IM (4:16.50) and was fourth in both the 500 freestyle (4:52.44) and the 200 backstroke (1:58.86). Another senior, John Lyon, swam lifetime best in all three of his individual events. Lyon nabbed fourth in the 200 freestyle in 1:47.16 and claimed two fifth-place showings in the 500 freestyle (4:54.17) and the 100 freestyle (49.08).

Grant Hayball swam to a fourth-place finish in the 200 IM (1:59.97) and was fourth in the 200 breaststroke (2:13.93) and fifth in 200 freestyle (1:47.71). Nathan Piers-Vanderploeg placed fifth (53.68) and eighth in the 100 breaststroke (1:02.17). Andy Peters was third in the 1,650 freestyle in 16:58.60 and Paul Oler fourth in the 200 butterfly in 2:00.54. Greg Jackson, last season's high-point scorer for the men, battled through a debilitating illness to pick up fifth place in the 200 breaststroke (2:02.45) and sixth place in the 100 backstroke (54.79).

"We had a number of great swims from our freshmen," said Wildcats coach Gary Gutierrez. "Even though they were new to the experience of competing at a conference meet, they all came through for us."

Gutierrez lauded the progress in the pool of freshmen Greg Baron, Derek Laurie, Patrick Motz, Matt Henderson, and Jacob Carroll.

Carroll took 12th in the 100 breaststroke (1:04.32). Baron was 10th in the 100 butterfly in 56.27 and also logged a time of 18:01.56 in the grueling 1,650 freestyle, good for 13th place. In the same event, Henderson was 14th (18:02.50), Motz 15th (18:31.01) and Laurie 16th (18:41.77).

The men's 200 medley relay was fourth in 1:40.87. The 800 freestyle relay was third in 7:16.62 as was the 400 medley relay in 3:37.73.

Gutierrez was pleased with the Wildcats' second-place team finish. "Coming into the season, we had so many new people, that I really didn't know where we would end up," he said. "Our seniors really did a fine job carrying the team."

For the women's squad, Mandy Weeber scored points with a pair of fifth-place finishes in 400 IM (4:51.17) and the 200 backstroke (2:17.70). Weeber was also seventh in the 200 butterfly (2:22.54). Andrea Thomas notched sixth in the 100 butterfly (1:03.54) and was sixth in the 200 butterfly (2:21.40). Alexis Knepp garnered fourth in the 100 freestyle in 56.11 and was seventh in both the 200 freestyle (2:03.70) and the 50 freestyle (26.01).

Megan Mandeville took sixth in the 1,650 freestyle in 18:59.75 and Alyssa Norman claimed seventh in the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.79. Devon Parks was 12th in the 1,650 freestyle in 20:15.37. Annie Fox was eighth in the 100 freestyle (57.64) and ninth in the 50 freestyle (25.87). The women's 200 freestyle relay was fourth in 1:44.18.

Though the women's sixth-place team finish was disappointing, Gutierrez was nevertheless pleased with the Wildcats' individual performances. "This has been a difficult year for finding consistency in our training," he said. "Yet I really think we swam well at the conference meet."

In dual meet competition this season, the women notched a 5-3 win-loss record. The men's squad posted a 3-3 record in dual meets.
ALUMNI NOTES AND TIDBITS

Former Linfield and Whitworth College assistant football coach Chris Casey ’82 has been named head football coach at Aloha High School.

Recent graduate Ricky Gaspar ’03 has signed to play with the Tri-City Diesel, a National Indoor Football League team based in Kearney, Neb. Gaspar joins Sonte’ Wong ’01 on the Tri-City roster. Defensive end Jeremy Scott and linebacker Harrison Bertsch, both ’04, are first-year members of the NIFL’s Wyoming Cavalry, based in Casper.

Jennifer (Bell) O’Toole ‘03, a 2002 Northwest Conference javelin champion, is in her first year as head track and field coach at her alma mater Douglas High School in Winston.

Former Wildcat baseball player Brian Simpson ’96 and his wife, Tricia are the proud parents of a baby girl. Megan Reilly Simpson was born February 15.

Steve Lopes ’84, a member of Linfield’s 1982 and ’84 national championship football teams, is completing a doctoral program in education at the University of Pennsylvania. He continues to serve as associate athletic director at the University of Southern California.

Four-year basketball letterwinner Rob Jensen ’03 is engaged to marry former softball player Stephanie Klaumann ’04. Jensen is coaching boys basketball at Banks High School.

Aaron Brown and Alicia Cordell, both ’96, are engaged to be married April 26 in Maui, Hawaii. A four-year football letterwinner, Brown is a manufacturing manager for Cascade Microtech of Beaverton.

Donald Thompson ’41 died March 8 at the age of 91 following a lengthy illness. A member of the men’s tennis team at Linfield, Thompson owned and operated Peninsula Golf Course in Washington.

All-America running back David Russell ’03 married Sarah Levy in Pendleton July 19. The couple are both school teachers in Hooper Bay, Alaska.

Mark Bell ’93, a four-year football letterwinner as a tight end, has resigned as head football coach at Oregon City High School after seven seasons.

Three-year baseball letterman Frank Baumholtz ’95 is varsity baseball coach and physical education instructor at Newberg High School.

Former baseball/football standout Luke Buchheit married volleyball letterwinner Kara Heim, both ’02, March 20.

RUTSCHMAN REUNION PLANNED FOR JUNE 12

Former football players who competed under Hall of Fame coach Ad Rutschman are invited to a mini-reunion June 12 at a location to be announced. The annual luncheon starts at 11 a.m. and will feature story swapping and other activities to remember the many enjoyable moments from the Rutschman era. For more information, contact Jay Locey at 503-883-2415.