A decade has passed since Linfield last won a Northwest Conference track & field championship but that drought is about to end, if Wildcats coach Garry Killgore’s premonitions are correct.

During that span, Linfield’s men were always in contention, finishing as NWC runners-up four times and never placing lower than fourth. Similarly, the Wildcat women have earned second place five times since 1997.

“We’re poised to make a very serious run at another NWC championship,” said Killgore, referring to his loaded squads that feature both quality and quantity. “It’s no fun being the bridesmaid. This year, I think we’re going to score very well across the board.”

The men are expected to be strong in the decathlon, jumps, sprints, as well as the distance events.

Twins Josh and Jeremy Lovell give Killgore ample reasons for optimism. The two freshmen excel in the jumps, could each score over 6,000 points in the decathlon, and are capable of adding points in the javelin, when needed.

Junior college transfer Kreig Holland is a legitimate contender for the NWC crown in the triple jump and could threaten the school record by season’s end. Brandon Carpenter, a decathlete whose best event is the pole vault, adds to the Wildcats’ point-scoring capability.

Loaded in the sprints, the Wildcats return the top two finishers from last season’s NWC championships in the 100, 200 and 400. John Torsey is back to defend his 100-meter crown. Mat Strum, who edged teammate Scott Vanassche at the wire for the 200 title, is also the conference’s leading returner in the 400. Rejoining the team after a year off is Drew Ragan, who will compete in the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay.

The Wildcats look strong in the middle distances, where lettermen Mike Killgore and Tyler Legary are joined by Hawaii-Hilo transfer Jonathan Peralto, a former Hawaii state sprint champion.

Harrison Wilson, a national-caliber cross country runner, anchors the 5,000 and 10,000. Shawn Pollard and Kelly Warren provide important depth.

Gabe Haberly is set to defend his NWC javelin title. Freshman Ryan Bronson has national-meet potential.

The women’s strengths are in the hurdles, distances and jumps. Riley Bernard returns to battle for a conference crown in the hurdles and heptathlon. Linfield has good range in the distances, with Kate Franklin covering the 400, 800 and 1,500, and Joanna Murphy blanketing the longer events from the steeplechase to the 10,000. Freshman Frances Corcorran, a national cross country meet competitor gives the Wildcats needed scoring in the distances.

Juli Huddleston returns to defend her NWC pole vault title. Kaila Lemerande and Kelly McLeod will compete in the high jump, while veterans Anna Moore and Lisa Brocard should be solid in the long jump and triple jump.

In the throws, Cecelia Speer will handle the hammer and discus, Rose Hollingsworth is expected to be a workhorse in the discus and javelin, and Lydia Mascorro is a conference challenger in the javelin.

CONTINUED, PAGE 4
Hall of Fame Members George Harrington, Del Coursey Pass Away

Linfield sports great George Harrington passed away Dec. 21, 2006, in Scottsdale, Ariz., at the age of 91.

Born in Alpine, Ore., Harrington was raised in Medford. He came to Linfield on the advice of his brother, Ivan.

He lettered a total of nine times in football, baseball, basketball and golf. He was inducted into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002.

Harrington was a quarterback, kicker and punter on the football team, helping lead the Wildcats to the first Northwest Conference championship in school history in 1935.

Not only was Harrington captain of the football and basketball teams, he was the Linfield student body president.

He went on to a successful career as a golf course manager at the Rogue Valley Country Club, Arizona Country Club and the San Juan Hills Country Club. He remained active in the Arizona-Nevada Chapter of the Club Managers Association of America. He annually donated 40 dozen golf balls and over 20 rounds of golf to the Bill Hodges Memorial Golf Tournament, which raises scholarship dollars for the University of Northern Arizona and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Harrington’s love affair with golf began as a 12-year-old caddy at the Rogue Valley Country Club in 1927. He won his first tournament in 1948, and in 1955 he and son, Gary, won the Oregon Golf Association Father-Son tournament. He played on the Hudson Cup amateur team in 1951 and 1953.

In 2000, he was honored with the Linfield Alumni Service Award while continuing as the college’s primary local organizer of alumni functions in Arizona.

He is survived by his son, Gary of Williams, Ariz.; daughter, Marcia Roth of Scottsdale; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Former Linfield athlete and assistant coach Del Coursey ’55 died Feb. 17 in Portland at age 76.

He graduated from Elmira High School, enrolled at the University of Oregon on a baseball scholarship, and later transferred to Linfield, where he played baseball while earning a teaching degree.

After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army and Air Force for three years. Following his discharge, he played professional baseball in the minor leagues for five years. He returned to Linfield, where he earned his master’s degree.

Coursey took his first teaching job at Memorial Elementary School in McMinnville. He was a teacher, high school principal and superintendent at Willamina. He also built Shakey’s Pizza Parlor in McMinnville.

He served as an assistant baseball coach under Roy Helser at Linfield in 1966, when the Wildcats won the college’s first national championship. He was inducted into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

In 1973, Coursey became a teacher and assistant baseball coach at Oregon State University under future Linfield Hall of Famer Jack Riley. In the early 1980s, he taught education at Western Oregon University, where he also helped with the baseball program.

Coursey became school superintendent in Monroe from 1985 until 1995. After his retirement, he held interim superintendent jobs in Alsea and Long Creek.

Survivors include his wife in McMinnville; a son, Rick of Baker City; a daughter, Gerri Connolly of Salem; three brothers, Wayne of Pittsburgh, Pa., Jerry of Tacoma, Wash., and Larry of Edwards, Wash.; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a brother, Tom, and sister, Virginia.

Carney’s Corner, continued from Page 1

under four minutes. There are many other feats and records in sport that we often think are unbreakable. All through my childhood, Babe Ruth’s home run record was a record that seemed impossible to break, that is until Roger Maris broke it. Many people said it wasn’t the same due to the difference in games played. Wilt Chamberlain’s record of scoring 100 points in an NBA game is another record that most experts believe will never be broken.

Teams have the same mental barriers and they are usually set upon what they believe the team can collectively achieve. Many teams set a goal of winning a championship, but they truly don’t believe they can accomplish their goal. Changing these beliefs and mental barriers come from giving athletes success and showing them that by developing continuous improvement in small increments they can and will reach their goals.

An important second part of breaking these barriers is the ability for the individual or team to reframe their predispositions about their ability to be successful. The reprogramming that occurs is the ability to visualize him or her or the team being successful and reaching their goals. This comes about by meeting those small incremental goals along the way and not giving into adversity when it arises.

When our individuals or teams have accomplished extraordinary achievements, they were able to overcome obstacles that stood in their way. They kept working on their plan until whatever they visualized and believed actually happened. It’s vital that the athletes believe in themselves, their teammates and the program. Whatever they believe, with feeling, becomes reality. Individuals or teams will always act in a manner consistent with their innermost beliefs and convictions. It is impossible to do otherwise. If we believe we are winners, we will walk and talk like winners, our opponents will get the message, and we will win. Our behaviors make our beliefs a reality because our beliefs are commands to the brain. As someone once was quoted saying, “One man’s belief is worth the force of 99 who only have an interest.”

As an assistant coach of the USA Baseball Team in 1995 and 1996, head coach Skip Bertman often reminded the team of these concepts by saying the following every day before a game: “Anything at all that you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe and enthusiastically act upon making the wisest decisions you can, everyday, must absolutely come to pass.”

“Today let’s play like champions.”

Sincerely,

Scott Carnahan
Director of Athletics
The 2007 football season kicks off Sept. 8 at Western Oregon University, where the Wildcats will battle the NCAA Division II Wolves.

Hardin-Simmons, a Top 25 team during all of 2006, comes to McMinnville for the home opener on Sept. 15.

Northwest Conference play begins two weeks later in Salem against the Willamette Bearcats. The Wildcats play Puget Sound Oct. 6 as part of Family Weekend festivities.

Linfield then ventures to Ashland for a nonconference matchup against the Southern Oregon Raiders. The Wildcats play Pacific Lutheran in the annual Homecoming game on Oct. 20.

The Wildcats play in the Bay Area against Menlo on Oct. 27, then to Spokane, Wash. for a big contest against defending NWC champion Whitworth.

Lewis & Clark visits Maxwell Field on Nov. 10 to complete the regular-season schedule.

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**2007 LINFIELD FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Western Oregon</td>
<td>Monmouth, Ore.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Hardin-Simmons</td>
<td>McMinnville</td>
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<td>Willamette</td>
<td>Salem, Ore.</td>
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<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Puget Sound</td>
<td>McMinnville</td>
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<td>(Family Weekend)</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>Ashland, Ore.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Pacific Lutheran</td>
<td>McMinnville</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Homecoming)</td>
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<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Menlo</td>
<td>Atherton, Calif.</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Whitworth</td>
<td>Spokane, Wash.</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark</td>
<td>McMinnville</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<td>(Hall of Fame Game)</td>
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**FOUR HOME GAMES DOT 2007 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

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Linfield then ventures to Ashland for a nonconference matchup against the Southern Oregon Raiders. The Wildcats play Pacific Lutheran in the annual Homecoming game on Oct. 20.

The Wildcats play in the Bay Area against Menlo on Oct. 27, then to Spokane for a big contest against defending NWC champion Whitworth.

Lewis & Clark visits Maxwell Field on Nov. 10 to complete the regular-season schedule.
SOFTBALL

Spring Sports, continued from Page 1

Linfield enters the 2007 season seeking to build on a record-setting year that saw the Wildcats capture the NWC and West Region championships, soaring to a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Division III championships.

Two of the greatest players in program history have since graduated, casting a small shadow of doubt whether the Wildcats can claim their fourth straight NWC crown and postseason playoff appearance.

“Our goals are to win the conference, have another strong showing at regionals, and qualify again for the NCAA championships," said coach Jackson Vaughan. "We understand there are a lot of variables that go into achieving those goals. We have to play well, stay healthy, and have a few breaks go our way.”

Nine players with significant experience return off of last season’s 37-11 team. Combined with a promising freshman class, the Wildcats appear capable of matching, or exceeding, the remarkable results of 2006.

With five of the top seven hitters back from last season’s team that hit .341, Linfield won’t have a shortage of offense. Defensively, the ’Cats will be solid with experience returning in the outfield, middle infield, and at catcher. Three experienced pitchers return.

The fast, athletic outfield features returning all-stars Stephanie Rice, who moves from right to center field, and Lisa Smith, a four-year starter in left field. Two freshmen, Rochelle Friend and Jessica Popiel, are waging a battle for the starting job in right field.

There are no apparent weaknesses in the infield. NWC all-star Erica Hancock returns to start at third base with freshmen Jessica Bock and Cori Simmons lending support. Talented veteran Meredith Brunette is the projected starter at shortstop. Three-year starter Jenny Marshall has a lock on second base, and all-NWC utility player Amanda Attleberger will see the lion’s share of playing time at first base. Senior Jena Loop, who came on strong in the playoffs last season, is the expected starter at catcher.

Sophomore Brittany Miller, who has already distinguished herself as one of the top pitchers in the region, has the ability to take the Wildcats to new heights. Hancock will also see plenty of action in the circle. Kendra Strahm, a 17-game winner as a freshman last year, suffered a serious injury during the offseason and continues to heal through preseason workouts. Samantha Van Noy, a freshman with good control, completes the talented pitching staff.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

Anything less than a sixth straight NWC championship will be considered a major disappointment for the Linfield Wildcats, who begin the 2007 season on a quest to reach the NCAA Division III championship tournament.

Earning an invitation to the national tournament is a goal that has eluded the Wildcats during their string of consecutive league titles. Under the NCAA’s revamped postseason format, the 2007 NWC champion automatically receives a berth to the West Regional.

Linfield can become the first team to win six NWC crowns since Pacific Lutheran’s championship reign that spanned from 1981 to 1986. But to achieve the remarkable feat, the Wildcats must win without two important players who were expected to return to the lineup this spring.

Kasey Kuenzli, last season’s NWC Player of the Year, is sidelined with a serious injury suffered during the fall ITA regional championships and will miss all of the 2007 season. Another regular contributor, Hollin Buck, left the team due to a nagging injury that refused to heal.

What remains are five letterwinners from last season’s record-setting 19-3 team, including All-Americans Becca Johnson, the 2005 NWC Player of the Year, and Megan Rodgers, a three-time conference all-star. Also back with experience are juniors Kelli Sides and Molly Nelson, as well as Melissa Maebori, who saw spot action as a freshman a year ago.

Promising freshmen Sallie Katter and Jeanna Parks should play prominent roles this spring.

MEN’S TENNIS

Linfield is expected to be tested early and often during the 2007 season. And Wildcats coach Carl Swanson likes it that way.

“We’re playing our best schedule ever against a wide range of talented top-ranked teams from across the nation,” said Swanson, on the eve of his seventh season as coach.

The Wildcats face off in an early season round robin tournament featuring five-time national champion UC-Santa Cruz, Top 20 teams Pacific Lutheran and Whitman, as well as conference rival Puget Sound. In March, the ’Cats play defending NCAA Division III national champion Emory and Top 20 team Kalamazoo. That should toughen up the team sufficiently for what is expected to be another difficult fight for the NWC title.

Linfield begins the season ranked 13th in the West Region and among the Top 50 teams in the nation. Armed with a daunting schedule, plenty of challenges lie ahead for the Wildcats against higher-ranked teams as they seek to improve their ranking with positive results.

Seven letterwinners return from last season’s 15-8 team that finished third in the NWC. Headlining the roster are seniors Ian McGrath, Jon Roberts, Jed Rembold, and Cole Shelton. Junior Wes Gabrielson is expected to play a big role this spring. Sophomore letterwinners Nick Ruess and Luke Rembold will be expected to contribute on a regular basis. Three other sophomores, Rich Minice, Tal Edman and Matt Kaufman, join the team this spring with freshman eligibility. A pair of talented first-year players, Kyle Anderson and Matt Levering, will be called upon to contribute sooner, rather than later.
BASEBALL

With plenty of firepower at the plate and a polished defense, the Wildcats have two of the components necessary to capture the program’s 33rd NWC championship in the last 60 years. The other key element – pitching – remains a nagging question heading into retiring coach Scott Carnahan’s farewell season.

Linfield welcomes back seven veterans who hit over .300 last season. And, many key members return from last season’s club that was one of the finest defensive units in program history.

“We should have quality hitting and defense,” said Carnahan, the dean of NWC coaches with a 540-361-2 record in 23 seasons. “But the depth of our pitching staff is a huge concern. We have two or three guys who bring us real quality, but there are a whole lot of others after that who are untested. Whether they can throw strikes is likely going to determine the kind of success we have.”

The Wildcats, who fashioned a runner-up finish in the NWC a year ago and were 22-15 overall, return five starting position players and a pair of regular-rotation starting pitchers.

At catcher, the Wildcats are led by first team NWC all-star Drew Van Cleave. David Bachofner is back at third base after earning second team all-NWC honors as a sophomore. Shortstop Ty Stanley returns after starting all but one game last season. Stanley hit .336 and stole a team-high 12 bases in 2006. Second base appears to be wide open with several candidates in contention. Shannon Chung and Jordan Boustead, who both saw occasional varsity action as freshmen, are battling Oregon State transfer Cory Ellis for the starting job. Letterman Austin Hightberger has the inside track at first base.

Pro prospect Kevin Mills will start in center field for the second straight season. Stew Davis, whose single-season batting average of .443 last season was the second-highest in program history, is the likely starter in right field. Candidates in left field include senior Caleb Kears, Lewis-Clark state transfer Jeff Olson, or sophomore Ryan Smith.

The pitching staff is led by second team all-NWC righthander Brian Clark, who went 7-1 as a sophomore. Joining Clark are righty Mike Nelson (4.06 ERA), and southpaw Joshua Guterman, who started three games and relived in eight others last season. Also in the mix on the mound are Cameron Larson, Kyle Mosbrucker, Reese McCulley, Matt McCollum, Garrett Knowles, or Tommy George.

“We’re capable of winning the league again,” he said. “The conference is going to be pretty even. Anybody is capable of winning on any afternoon. I don’t see any team running away with the title.”

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Twelve letterwinners return from last season’s Linfield team that finished 9-6 overall and 1-5 against NCAA Division III opponents. Wildcats skipper Bill Hander welcomes back the most experienced roster he’s enjoyed in his seven seasons as coach. Eight newcomers, many with high school lacrosse pedigree, fill out the lineup.

A beefed-up schedule, featuring 11 NCAA contests, should provide ample opportunity for development. In recent years, the Wildcats did not schedule a sufficient number of NCAA contests to be considered for postseason play, but this season, the Wildcats are legitimate contenders for an at-large NCAA Division III playoff berth.

Leading scorer Sam Smith, who tallied 32 goals and five assists as a freshman in 2006, returns along with senior attackers Katie Walker and Julia Mortlock. Walker (29 goals, 7 assists) and Audrey Kirmis (13 goals, 7 assists) give the Wildcats plenty of firepower.

Aiding the attack are Rebecca Levy, who moves from goalkeeper to the front line this spring, and fellow letterwinner Sheri Englert. Three freshman attackers who could rise to prominence this spring are Jamie Mertz, Sonia Huggins and Amber Brown. The center of the field will be patrolled by seniors Stephanie Gilchrest and Lisa Graves, and sophomore Jessica Petrovich.

Sophomores Callie Martin and Martha Inouye anchor the defense, along with veterans Meghan Sherman, Tiffany Jones and Michelle Dorris. New to the backfield this season are Samantha Godfrey and Tracy Maruyama. Guarding the net this spring is freshman Ashley Johnson, an experienced goalkeeper from Hillsboro’s Liberty High School.

MEN’S GOLF

Linfield is the favorite to capture the NWC title. The Wildcats were the dominant team during the fall portion of the schedule, winning all four tournaments they entered.

Freshman Tyler Nelson established himself as one of the NWC’s top individuals, winning the Fall Classic by two strokes.

WOMEN’S GOLF

The Wildcats won one fall tournament, were second in three others, and finished third at the NWC Fall Classic.

Senior Leslie Wheeler is a serious contender for the NWC title crown and has set a goal for herself of competing at the NCAA tournament.
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM THRIVES IN THE FACE OF EXTREME ADVERSITY

After coming to terms with the emotional grief of losing one of their own, the Linfield Wildcats enjoyed one of the most fulfilling campaigns in program history. The ‘Cats ended the regular season as one of the Northwest Conference’s hottest teams, winning eight of their last 10 games to claim a playoff berth for the first time since 2000.

Five days before the season was to begin, the Wildcats awoke to discover that freshman Chelsea Peterson had died tragically in a single-car accident. Linfield’s season-opening contest against Cascade was cancelled as players, coaches and classmates mourned the loss of Peterson, an energetic and perennially positive player who would have made important contributions during her first year.

Two early season games painted a picture of how delicate the Wildcats’ psyche had become in the wake of Peterson’s death. Linfield came together for one of its biggest wins of the season, a 55-51 overtime victory over eventual NWC co-champion George Fox. Later that same week, Linfield was drubbed by 22 points at Pacific Lutheran, eventual NWC co-champion. The ‘Cats ended the season on a high note with a 71-66 home floor over Lewis & Clark, a team the Wildcats edged for the third and final playoff spot. Also included in the run was an intense 51-50 win over arch-rival George Fox.

Still battling the lingering effects of the loss of their teammate, the Wildcats dropped three straight games in early January to fall to 1-4 in conference play. At that point, earning one of three available berths in the NWC playoffs seemed like a long shot.

Led by the inspired play of second team NWC-all-star Sara Burgoyne, Linfield got on a late-season roll that included a difficult road sweep of Whitworth and Whitman.

Perhaps the most significant win of the season was a 71-66 home floor over Lewis & Clark, a team the Wildcats edged for the third and final playoff spot. Also included in the run was an intense 51-50 win over arch-rival George Fox.

In the NWC playoffs, the Wildcats dropped a 65-50 decision on the road to co-champion Puget Sound.

“Finishing the season the way we did was very satisfying and it says a lot about the young ladies we have in the program,” said Stewart. “This team achieved as much as it reasonably could have, given the circumstances. They battled through some difficult times and were playing their best basketball at the end of the year.”

Burgoyne led the team in scoring, averaging 9.0 points. Porcia Jackson added 8.6 points and 4.4 rebounds, while point guard Brihtani Lassiter netted 7.7 points and 1.9 assists per game. Courtney McFadden blossomed into a reliable sixth man, averaging 3.1 points and 2.3 rebounds. Marissa Lindquist was a defensive catalyst off the bench.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Progress came in small increments for the men’s basketball team, which won two more games than the previous season but still finished a disappointing 8-17 overall. The Wildcats’ 3-13 NWC record left them in last place in the nine-team league.

“Everyone always points to wins and losses when determining a team’s success,” said Wildcats coach Larry Doty. “Is anyone happy we won only eight games? No, certainly not. We sure would have liked to have won a lot more.”

Despite a lackluster record, the ‘Cats were a competitive team, playing some of their best basketball against Puget Sound and Lewis & Clark, two of the NWC’s top-shelf teams. Ten of Linfield’s losses came by six points or fewer, and two were decided in the final seconds.

“Our guys played with a lot of determination,” said Doty. “They had the right approach to practices and games, and they never gave up.”

Finding the right combination of players on the floor was a challenge. Inexperience at the college level and unfamiliarity with the program resulted in some growing pains.

“Our season was one of transition,” said Doty, noting that the Wildcats played the season without a true “go-to” player.

Three freshmen played prominent roles during the season and six other first-year players made important contributions. Five seniors were the glue that held the team together.

Evan Timperly, a senior who was an honorable mention NWC all-star, led the team in scoring at 14.8 points per game. Andy Baldwin returned from a devastating injury to start 14 games, averaging 6.6 points and 4.5 rebounds. Fellow senior Khaatim Smith led the team with 59 assists.

Sharpshooting guard Steve Taylor came off the bench to average 7.9 points.

Freshman guard Payton Brooks started 24 games, averaging 24 minutes, 6.9 points and 2.1 assists. Emil Kim, a slashing scorer who began as a point guard before moving to the forward position, averaged 10 points a game while shooting 56 percent from the field. Ryan Chisolm showed flashes of his potential off the bench, shooting 47 percent from the field and 74 percent at the free throw line.

Point guard Jon Weber, promoted from the J.V. team at midseason, averaged 5.2 points and 2.5 assists per game.

“The future looks bright,” said Doty. “I like our guard situation. But we need significant help on the front line. We need to improve our depth, scoring, rebounding and defense.”

CONTINUED, PAGE 7
Winter Sports, continued from Page 6

SWIMMING

Peaking just in time for the Northwest Conference championship meet, the Linfield Wildcats enjoyed a bevy of accomplishments during the 2006-07 season.

Five school records were eclipsed and the Linfield men came within a handful of points of capturing the NWC team title. After the second day of competition at the NWC meet, the Wildcats were in position to win the championship, but were nipped on the final day by defending champion Whitworth.

“Our men swam extremely fast at the conference meet,” said Wildcats coach Gary Gutierrez, who was honored as men’s NWC Coach of the Year. “Coming so close really crystallized and focused our goal of winning next year’s championship.”

Freshman phenom Dominic Rieniets, whom Gutierrez calls “quietly competitive,” set school records in the 100 butterfly and 100 freestyle while winning both events at the conference championships. Rieniets added to his medal collection with a first-place showing in the 50 freestyle.

Another freshman, Yusuke Kobayashi, won the NWC title in the 200 butterfly.

Junior Kevin Caple claimed a third NWC title in his third individual event, taking the gold in the 200 individual medley. He also won the 400 IM.

Sophomore Josh Parfitt enjoyed a banner season, swimming lifetime bests in three events and earning NWC runner-up finishes in the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

Rieniets, along with Parfitt, Kobayashi and Caple, also captured the 400 and 800 freestyle relay titles.

Swimming with just 10 competitors, the Linfield women were in third place after the second day but slipped to fifth in what was a very positive season.

Andrea Thomas ’07

“It’s hard to break into the top four,” said Gutierrez. “I’m really encouraged by how competitive our women were. We swam very well at the end of the year.”

Senior Andrea Thomas, whose daunting work ethic inspired the entire team, broke her own school record in the 1,000 freestyle. Sophomore Rose Hollingsworth set new school standards in the 50 and 100 backstroke events. Hollingsworth was victorious in the 100 backstroke at the NWC championships. Other competitors who contributed to the women’s success were freshman Robyn Mills and sophomores Nicole Parada and Abbie Lewis.

The Linfield women were 5-6 in dual meets while the men won six of nine dual meets.

Linfield was also disciplined in the classroom, with the men’s squad compiling a cumulative grade point average of 3.27 and the women collectively achieving a 3.35 GPA.

IN COMPLIANCE

Amy Dames Smith
NCAA Compliance Officer

MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS

At Linfield, coaches are expected to communicate to their squad members about the reason they’re called “Student-Athletes,” not “Athlete-Students.” It’s because attention to academics must come before athletics. What does it take to qualify to be a student-athlete in 2007 at Linfield?

First off, one must start with the NCAA when determining athletic eligibility. The NCAA states “to be eligible to represent an institution in intercollegiate athletics competition, a student-athlete (SA) shall be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program of studies, be in good academic standing, and maintain satisfactory progress toward a baccalaureate or equivalent degree” (Bylaw 14.01.2).

A “minimum full-time program of studies” is considered to be 12 credits or more. Thus, a student-athlete must be enrolled in at least 12 credits or more each semester to be eligible. The only time a student-athlete would be able to take less than 12 credits is if he or she is in her last semester of attendance. At that time, they must still be taking graduation requirements, but it is OK for her to be below 12 credits. There are often a handful of SAs at Linfield who do this each year, with careful planning.

Secondly, the NCAA leaves it up to each institution to determine “good academic standing.” It is fairly universal among colleges to require that SAs carry a 2.0 GPA (or higher). Each SA must be carrying at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA at Linfield to be eligible for competition.

Finally, the last piece that must be met for athletic eligibility is to maintain satisfactory progress toward graduation. Essentially, this means each SA must earn 12 credits each semester. Therefore, by their senior year, if a SA has competed in four athletic seasons, they will have to have earned at least 72 credits in order to compete.

Linfield coaches will continue to stress that “student” comes first and “athlete” second, and in doing so, helps us stay in compliance!
ALUMNI NOTES AND TIDBITS

Softball All-American Shelly Steinke ’06 is teaching third grade in the Willamina School District. Steinke was a finalist for the 2006 Ad Rutschman Small College Female Athlete of the Year citation at the Oregon Sports Awards.

Three-time all-star lineman Ricky Gaspar ’02 is on the roster of the Arizona Rattlers of the Arena Football League.

Football All-Americans Casey Allen ’05 and Brandon Hazenberg ’07, signed professional contracts with the Boise Burn of the Arena Football 2.

Consensus All-America quarterback Brett Elliott ’05 has been assigned to the Rhein (Germany) Fire of the NFL Europe, a European football association funded by the National Football League.

Football letterwinner Paul Ward ’59 received the 2006 Oregon Governor’s Physical Fitness Award for his contributions to youth and sports in Dallas, Ore., for more than 40 years. The award was presented at the League of Oregon Cities Conference.

Former Linfield sports information director George Murdock is editor and publisher of the East Oregonian newspaper in Pendleton. Most recently, he served as superintendent of the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District.

Men’s tennis letterwinner Chun Jang ’95 received his law degree from George Washington University Law School. He is an associate with Richards, Layton and Finger in Wilmington, Del.

Football and track & field letterwinner Jim Good ’94 is the new head football coach at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn.

Basketball all-star Blake Shelton ’05 is playing professionally in Sheffield, England where he is co-captain of the Sheffield Sharks.

Former Linfield professor and longtime Wildcat sports fan Elmer Fricke ’53 passed away Feb. 18 in McMinnville at the age of 86.

Wildcat booster Paul Barber passed away Feb. 18 in McMinnville at the age of 82. For many years, Barber donated the use of his condominium in Hawaii as one of the top raffle prizes at the annual Wildcat Open.

Four-year football letterwinner Russ “Tiny” Morris ’56 passed away in Salem Feb. 17 at age 73. He coached football and track in Florence, North Bend and Keizer high schools. His son, Russ Jr. ’86, also lettered in football at Linfield.

RUTSCHMAN REUNION PLANNED FOR JUNE 2

The annual Ad Rutschman football and baseball reunion luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the McMinnville Elks Lodge. All former players, coaches and friends of the Hall of Fame coach are invited and encouraged to attend.

The cost for lunch is $15, payable at the door. Those interested in attending should email football coach Joe Smith at joesmith@linfield.edu.