Wildcat
THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL LINFIELD ATHLETICS

Coach Jackson Vaughan ’97 retools the Wildcats

A new chapter for Linfield softball

HONORS
Brosius, Lepp, Rombach
Receive National Acclaim

WILDCAT OPEN
Make plans to join us at The Reserve July 12

TRANSITION
Larry Doty retires as men’s basketball coach

Spring 2013
Join us for friendship, food and fun at the 2013 Wildcat Open July 12 at The Reserve!

With a fresh venue, new approach and added amenities, the 2013 Wildcat Open is shaping up to be the best in history.

After years of hosting the Wildcat Open in early August at McMinnville’s Michelbook Country Club, our annual athletic department fundraising event is moving.

Circle Friday, July 12, on your calendar and join us at The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club in Aloha for a great day of friendship, food, fun and golf.

Migrating the Wildcat Open to a Portland-area course is expected to create new growth and interest. By utilizing two championship courses, as many as 288 golfers may participate.

Build your own team of four players or we can assign you to a group. Lunch, drinks and dinner are provided, as well as range balls, motorized cart, prize bag and a few surprises.

A shotgun start is set for 1 p.m. The cost is $200 per player.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, both major and supplemental:
- Title Sponsor $15,000 (includes 4 foursomes)
- Gold Sponsor $10,000 (includes 3 foursomes)
- Silver Sponsor $5,000 (includes 2 foursomes)
- Bronze Sponsor $2,500 (includes 1 foursome)
- Tin Cup Sponsor $1,000 (includes 2 golfers)
- Wildcat Sponsor $500 (includes 1 golfer)
- Lunch or Dinner Sponsor $500
- Prize Sponsor $300

For information, email wildcatopen@linfield.edu

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Many times as Athletic Director, I’m faced with perplexing situations that constitute making a decision that will not be favorable to all concerned for a variety of reasons.

Changing the format and venue of the Wildcat Open is a bit of a leap of faith. The vision and reason for the change is to make the Wildcat Open more attractive and available to Portland-area residents while enjoying the enhanced benefits that two premier golf courses provide.

Speaking specifically about this year’s Wildcat Open, someone recently told me, “I am old and I hate change.”

I am old also and I have enjoyed all the previous Wildcat Opens. One major change is that the team size is reduced to four golfers per team. I personally have played in a group of five for several years so it was difficult to agree to move to the recommendation of playing in groups of four, but providing an extra cart for each five-player group was an added expense and trying to reduce the time to play the round was also a consideration.

It is my hope that you will support this decision and make plans to be with us at The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club on Friday, July 12. We have two fantastic 18-hole courses reserved. In order for the tournament to be a success, we need your participation.

When it was originated many years ago, the Wildcat Open had two purposes in mind: To provide a robust opportunity for alumni and friends of Linfield Athletics to gather to renew friendships, and, to act as a fund-raiser for unbudgeted needs within the department. Proceeds from the Wildcat Open are called upon throughout the year as needed to supplement operation of all programs within the Athletic Department.

As our department’s needs grow, it becomes necessary to generate more revenue from the Open. It is my hope that those who have historically played in the Open will continue to participate annually. Moving to The Reserve in Aloha opens the door for greater corporate sponsorship, added excitement and a broader spectrum of friends and alumni.

Register online and look for a reminder in your mailbox later this spring. I look forward to seeing you there!
Linfield trio receive national distinction

In recognition of his managerial success in guiding Team USA’s 18U National Team to the International Baseball Federation World Championship this past fall, Linfield head coach Scott Brosius ‘88 has been honored as the USA Baseball National Coach of the Year. With this second consecutive honor, Brosius – in his sixth year with the Wildcats – becomes just the second coach to win back-to-back awards in the category since its 1996 inception.

Brosius, who previously coached the Red, White and Blue to a gold medal at the 2011 Pan Am Championships, helped Team USA hoist its first world championship trophy at the 18U level since 1999. Playing in Seoul, South Korea, the United States claimed the IBAF title with a 6-2 victory over Canada, avenging a 1-0 extra-inning loss to the Canadians two days prior to the gold-medal game.

Longtime head certified athletic trainer Tara Lepp has been chosen to receive the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer award from the National Athletic Trainers Association. The award will be presented in June at NATA’s annual convention in Las Vegas.

One of NATA’s highest honors, the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer award recognizes exceptional commitment to leadership, volunteer service, advocacy and distinguished professional activities.

Lepp is completing her 31st year of service to Linfield as a athletic trainer this spring.

The March issue of American Football Monthly, a coaching trade publication, honored Linfield assistant coach Phil Rombach ’06 as its Samson Equipment Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year for NCAA Division III.

Samson Equipment sponsors the awards across nine different categories, from the NFL, Football Bowl Subdivision and Football Championship Subdivision, to NCAA Division II, Division III, NAIA, Junior College and two high school coaches of the year.

Rombach, in his fifth year as linebackers coach for the Wildcats football team, oversees the strength and conditioning for many of the college’s 19 varsity athletic programs. He also supervises operation of the Hal Smith Weight Room and Steve & Ann Pickering Fitness Center.

Prison minister Louie King passes away

Helping others was the passion of Louie King ’51. The three-sport Linfield athlete and prison minister passed away Jan. 5, in Markesan, Wis.

Born in Nebraska, King grew up in North Dakota. A starting center and linebacker for the Linfield football team for four years (1947-50), he also competed in basketball and baseball.

During the 1970s, King was an executive director of Big Brothers of America in the Seattle area. Shortly after moving to Wisconsin in 1979, King was involved in a car accident that changed his life. He became a born-again Christian while recovering in the hospital, then set about using his master’s degree in counseling to aid those in need of rehabilitation and spiritual direction.

Though not a trained theologian nor seminary graduate, he became involved in prison ministry. He eventually founded and directed Man-to-Man Ministry, volunteering four times a month to spread the gospel through one-on-one interactions with inmates of federal and state institutions in Wisconsin.

By his own accounting, 85 percent of the prisoners he counseled did not return to prison following their release.

King is survived by his wife, Ruth, two sons and five stepchildren.

IN COMPLIANCE

Amy Dames Smith

One of the latest hot-button topics today within NCAA Division III is the recruiting environment. Under current Division III rules, coaches are permitted to recruit 365 days a year. There are few limitations on how and when coaches may contact prospective student-athletes.

The issue of the current Division III recruiting environment was first raised at the 2012 NCAA national convention when conversation during an educational session quickly turned to work-life balance. Coaches are increasingly getting burned out and leaving the profession because of the pressure to continuously recruit. The recruiting environment was described as a “rat race” that doesn’t coincide with the Division III philosophy.

Since then, the NCAA has sought feedback from Division III coaches and administrators on the benefits and pitfalls of adopting recruiting calendars. In addition, a 14-member representative working group was established in October 2012. Since meeting and discussing the issue, working group members discovered the recruiting issue sparks varied reactions.

Among the complexities cited by the working group is how “blended” recruiting has become across many Division III campuses. On average, student-athletes comprise 20 percent of the student body (at Linfield, it is more than 30 percent). Therefore, coaches are often seen as an extension of the Admission office and any changes to the current recruiting model could have ripple effects beyond Athletics.

Some coaches definitely favor the current year-round model because it allows them to outwork the competition. Others are not in favor, saying the non-stop pace has a negative impact on retaining coaches, especially women.

The group has stated its review of Division III recruiting processes seeks “to add value to the recruiting environment, not take something away. There’s no predetermined outcome.”

Stay tuned. It will be interesting to see what conclusions the group reaches as all institutions, including Linfield, strive to remain In Compliance!
Victories infrequent for basketball teams

MEN’S BASKETBALL
A pair of sophomores highlighted a campaign that witnessed the Wildcats’ second consecutive single-digit win season and a last-place finish in the Northwest Conference team standings.

Andrew Batiuk emerged as one of the most dominating players in the NWC, putting up 18.6 points per night and snagging an average of 8.3 rebounds. Both stats topped the conference leaderboards, at least until Batiuk went out with an injury with seven games remaining.

Perhaps not as flashy, but nonetheless consistent, was Brandon Harris. The only Wildcat to start all 25 games, the sophomore point guard put up an average of 11.6 points per night.

Linfield compiled a 4-21 record, including a 3-13 mark against NWC foes. The team’s ninth-place NWC finish came as a result of losses, but I think they can take some solace in the fact that they continued to work and gave their best effort,” said Wildcats coach Larry Doty. “They should be proud of themselves. I know I am.”

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Coach Robin Potera-Haskins’ third season got off to a rocky start. Injuries cost the team several promising players who were expected to contribute. During a trip to southern California, a majority of the team’s members were stricken with food poisoning, forcing the cancelation of two games and the rescheduling of another contest.

After a nearly two-week interruption to recover, Linfield resumed its schedule. The long layoff robbed the team of gaining any early season momentum and the program sputtered to a 3-19 overall record, including 2-14 in the NWC. The ’Cats shared last place in the league standings with Willamette.

Kaely Maltman (11.8 points, 7.0 rebounds per game) and Katelyn Henson (11.9 points, 8.3 rebounds) were Linfield’s most consistently productive players. Henson was rewarded for her steady play with a second-team all-NWC citation. Maltman merited honorable mention on the conference’s all-star team.

“Overall, the girls’ effort was tremendous,” said Potera-Haskins. “We were extremely competitive in nearly every game. We constantly battled, losing six games by six points or fewer.”

Doty retiring as men’s basketball coach

Larry Doty ‘78

Larry Doty is retiring after 26 seasons and a school-record 330 victories. The longest-tenured and winningest coach in program history will remain at Linfield as a part of the Health, Human Performance and Athletics faculty. He will continue to teach health courses and is taking on expanded responsibilities that include supervision of HHPA student internships within the community.

“I believe this will be a positive move for Larry and for our department,” said Linfield director of athletics Scott Carnahan. “With the many opportunities that can be expanded for our students through internships, Larry will provide them with outreach and experience that will be most valuable.”

“Coaching at Linfield has been a joy,” said Doty. “But the decision to step aside as coach is the right decision for me, our family and for the program.”

Doty guided the Wildcats to Northwest Conference championships in 1999 and 2001, but the program has struggled to maintain its winning tradition in recent years.

Doty’s best stretch of basketball at Linfield came from 1998-99 until 2000-01. During that span, the Wildcats won 57 games against just 21 defeats and advanced to the NCAA Division III playoffs in 2001.

“We have appreciation for the length of service Larry has given to the men’s basketball program,” Carnahan said. “Although our teams have struggled recently, they have always worked extremely hard to improve throughout the season.”

Doty said he will remember the relationships he’s developed with players, opposing coaches and fans rather than any single victory or particular season.

“While I have been able to positively impact many young lives, in turn, those vast experiences have enriched my life and that of my family many times over,” he said.

Doty retires from coaching with a collegiate coaching record of 330-347 (.487).
To fully appreciate the progress that was made during the 2012-13 swimming season, it’s necessary to look beneath the surface.

For the record, the respective placements of Linfield’s men’s and women’s squads at the conference championship meet were identical from the previous season. The men maintained their sixth-place finish of a year ago while the women were seventh among eight teams for the third straight season.

Yet for those looking deeper, four new school records were achieved and more than 90 percent of Linfield’s athletes accomplished lifetime-best times at the season-ending NWC Championships at King County Aquatics Center in Federal Way, Wash. The women’s final team score was more than 100 points higher than in 2012 and the men slotted a greater percentage of athletes in the championship and consolation finals.

“This was a program-changing season,” said coach Gary Gutierrez. “We discovered new limits and an improved approach to training.”

Freshman Nikki Overton accounted for two school records and sophomore Kelsie Kimura added another to highlight an exciting three-day run at the championship meet. Senior Megan Sandall, posted three lifetime bests and came within 0.4 seconds of breaking a long-standing record in the 100 breaststroke.

The Linfield women’s 200 freestyle relay collected 30 team points with a fourth-place showing while the women’s 400 medley relay picked up important points with a sixth-place conference finish.

On the men’s side, junior Lee Rivers reached the finals of the 200 freestyle, 200 backstroke and 200 individual medley, all with career-best efforts. Senior Miles Phillips was 10th in the 200 butterfly, moving up to No. 8 on Linfield’s all-time list.

Chris Purdy trimmed two seconds off his best time in the 100 breaststroke, coming within 1.4 seconds of a school record.

Rivers, Purdy, Sean Iwamasa and Ian White combined for a fourth-place NWC championship ribbon in the 400 medley relay.

“The end of the season was magical,” said Gutierrez. “The team was committed to hard work and found out just how fast they could go when they worked hard.”
There’s never a dull moment during busy spring sports season

TRACK & FIELD

Speaking to the age-old question of “quantity versus quality,” coach Travis Olson feels good about the mix of talent and experience on his team. “We brought in some good freshmen,” he said. “And the people who are returning are getting better. Our women could have a lot of success.”

Among the veterans, triple threat Anna LaBeaume has the most impressive resume. The defending NWC champion in the shot put and hammer already holds three top-five marks in the Linfield record books.

Complementing LaBeaume are Courtney Alley and Kate Shear. Alley placed fourth in the discus at the 2012 NWC Championships. Shear, Linfield’s record holder in the javelin, is ready to make a run at nationals.

Siena Noe is the frontrunner in the 5,000 meters and the 10K along with Hannah Greider. Brooke Niemann, Linfield’s top cross country performer, is set to compete in the 5K and steeplechase.

Sprinter Melany Crocker was a top-four finalist in four events last year. Not far off Crocker’s blistering pace is Halsie Peek, who has also posted some of the fastest 100 and 200 times in program history.

Several men could shine at the NWC Championships, but how the team can perform as a whole remains to be seen.

Lester Maxwell has sights set on a conference title in the 800 and has a legitimate shot at making the national cut. Charlie Poppen, a standout football wide receiver, specializes in the 400 while also contributing in the javelin and high jump. Talented freshman Tom Steelhammer could make it straight to the top of the medal stand in the 400.

Veterans Michael Swain and Jason Cheyne are key components of the Wildcats’ relay quartets. Throwers Drew Wert, Nick Fairhart and Kyle Pfeifer could fetch multiple points in the shot put, discus and hammer.

MEN’S GOLF

Linfield faces an uphill battle to repeat as NWC champion. The Wildcats were fourth at the NWC Fall Classic, which counts 25 percent toward deciding the league’s team trophy winner as well as determining the recipient of the automatic berth to the NCAA Division III championships.

During the fall, Linfield was led by sophomores Taylor Klopp, Ryan Nolan and junior A.J. Taylor. Newcomer Adam Ruben, a mid-year transfer, should have an immediate impact for coach Greg Copeland’s team.

SOFTBALL

There’s no denying Linfield must forge a new identity following the graduation of the two greatest home run hitters in Division III history, Staci Doucette and Emilee Lepp. Linfield is seeking its 10th straight NWC championship and a fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAA title contest.

“We’re definitely not as power oriented as we have been in the past,” said coach Jackson Vaughan, whose 2011 and 2012 teams clubbed a combined 178 home runs. “It could be that we rely less on the home run and more on pitching, defense and timely hitting.”

Third baseman Karleigh Prestianni is back to anchor the Wildcats’ infield. Shortstop Katy Brosig and second baseman Ashley Garcia are among the Wildcats’ returning infield starters. Veterans Haylie Watson and Lisa Yamamoto are battling for the starting job at first base.

Karina Paavola is the top pitcher. Shelby VandeBergh and Montana McNealy also return with a measure of experience. Freshman Maddy Dunn offers tantalizing potential.

Leadoff hitter Grace Middlestadt is the most experienced outfielder. Seniors Megan Wallo and Rachelle Ridout have the inside track to claim a starting job in the outfield.

Star sprinter returns to the oval

Six months after a freak accident left her hospitalized and unable to navigate stairs, much less run, pain-free, Linfield senior Melany Crocker is back on the Maxwell Field track and ready to challenge for conference titles in at least one sprinting event.

Last year’s runner-up in the 100-meter dash and a member of Linfield’s championship and record-breaking 4x100 relay quartet had just wrapped up an offseason workout at southwest Portland’s Duniway Park when a large tree limb snapped and fell on top of her, resulting in a broken pelvis and left forearm, the latter requiring surgery to repair.

Crocker, who holds top-five marks in Linfield track lore in the 100 and 200 dashes, has worked hard to return to her form prior to that unlucky run-in with Mother Nature.

“She’s really not that far off from where she was, which is amazing,” said coach Travis Olson. “By the end of the season she’ll be ready to run some good times again.”
Whereas the 2012 team had the potential to be great yet lacked experience to follow through with a cast of predominantly first-year starters, coach Scott Brosius’ 2013 squad features both. The entire infield returns, including first team all-NWC picks Tim Wilson (second base) and Jordan Harlow (third base) and second-teamer Kyle Chamberlain (catcher). Shortstop Kenny Johnson has a full year under his belt, while senior Michael Hopp can cover any of the three bases.

Wilson is expected to be one of the top offensive weapons in Division III. Chamberlain, Harlow and Kramer Lindell fill out the middle of the order. Johnson heated up toward the end of last season and looks to continue that momentum. In his third season, outfielder Nate McClellan returns stronger and faster. Clayton Truex hopes to reprise the production of his rookie campaign, in which he hit .325 with 14 doubles and nine home runs.

Juniors Nick Fisher and Jake Wylie, part-time starters last season, and sophomores Jackson Ruckert and Cory VanDomelen should assume greater roles in 2013.

Linfield’s pitching arsenal gets called into question after losing the bulk of its staff – including two starters – to graduation. Zach Manley, returning starter Zach Brandon and sophomores Aaron Thomassen and Chris Haddeland are the most experienced. The four combined for 18 starts, 11 wins, 110 strikeouts and a 3.41 ERA last season.

**WOMEN’S TENNIS**

If the incoming freshmen play anything like last year’s rookies, who combined for a 24-10 record in singles play, the prognosis for the Wildcats is a good one.

Depth remains a key strength for Linfield. Three talented Wildcats compose an interchangeable top half of the singles lineup, spots 4-6 are up for grabs, and head coach Amy Dames Smith’s confidence extends to all 12 players in the program.

Senior Lexi Thomas has emerged as the No. 1 singles player while rock-solid, even-keel Caroline Brigham holds down another one of the top singles flights. Kaila Nip, who went undefeated in both singles and doubles action against NWC opponents as a freshman, is an integral part of the team.

In the mix for Nos. 4-6 singles are returners Kelly Watanabe and Gretchen Jernstedt and frosh Kwynn Ecton and Emily Erbin.

**WOMEN’S LACROSSE**

Expectations are modest as the Wildcats embark on what is a rebuilding season under first-year coach Sammy Smith. Three veterans – Brittany Drost, Chas Tittle and Shelby Duarte – lead the front line. The midfield is anchored by veterans Halex Helgerson and Lynnette Cole. Returner Rebecca Kropp and freshman goalkeeper Erika Phillipo should be mainstays on defense.

**WOMEN’S GOLF**

Guided by first-year coach Brynn Hurdus, Linfield hopes to improve on its fifth-place showing in the NWC point standings after fall tournament play. Two counting tournaments remain – the NWC Spring Classic and the NWC Championships – both in April.

Leading the way for the Wildcats are veterans Alexandria Smith and Brinn Hovde, as well as freshman Maggie Harlow.

**MEN’S TENNIS**

Seniors Zachery Lyons and Kadin Hashimoto are expected to thrive in their roles as leaders. Four battle-tested sophomores make up the core of the team and their development will likely reveal the direction the season goes, said Wildcats coach Carl Swanson.

Ben Brewer, Lukas Kleinman, Micah Roos and Joel Trousdale each competed in the lion’s share of matches in 2012 and appear ready to elevate their games this spring. Freshmen Tim Hawkins and Alex Mangan are capable of earning a spot in the starting lineup.

“Our goal is always to play to win,” said Swanson. “Yet we want to be a team of high character, one that does things the right way and represents Linfield the right way.”

**RECRUITING TRAIL**

**Brandon Hazenberg**

Finding student-athletes who fit Linfield’s special culture and aspirations is a major part of my job as recruiting coordinator for the football program. We look for students who care about their education, have great character and fit the athletic and positional needs of our team. Linfield seeks student-athletes who meet the academic requirements of an Ivy League school but have the talent to walk on at the Division I level or the potential to land a Division II scholarship.

In order to locate this special breed of student-athlete, Linfield relies on excellent communication with high school coaches and alumni up and down the West Coast.

Linfield’s recruits come mostly from Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and California and are from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. Our student-athletes hail from the suburbs, the inner city and the countryside. The common traits I noted above are what tie these diverse individuals together.

Once our coaching staff makes contact with a recruit, we have two main priorities. First we ask the student to submit his application, then we invite the student for an on-campus visit.

Many families outside our main geographic region don’t realize how special Linfield and its athletics program truly are. Our first step is to familiarize them with us as an academic institution. If they like what Linfield offers academically, then it’s time to start the application process.

I believe our recruiting really takes off once a family arrives on campus. It’s the best means to gain a glimpse of what’s like to be part of Linfield.

The recruiting process can be taxing on everyone involved, families of players and coaches included. The payoff sometimes cannot be appreciated until much later when you observe your recruits enjoying life and investing in their future in the midst of their college experience. Days such as those are what make all the phone calls, e-mails and face-to-face contacts worth the effort.
Linfield’s Staci Doucette is top small-college student-athlete

Recent graduate receives Ad Rutschman Award at Oregon Sports Awards

During four awe-inspiring seasons of softball at Linfield, Staci Doucette set a pair of coveted Division III records with 73 home runs and 259 runs batted in.

With Doucette in the lineup, Linfield won one NCAA crown (2011) and played in the national title game two other times (2010, 2012).

On Feb. 10, Doucette was among the stars honored for outstanding athletic achievement at the 61st Oregon Sports Awards at the Tiger Woods Center at the Nike World Headquarters.

Doucette was the female recipient of the Ad Rutschman Award, given annually to the top small-college athletes from Oregon and named in honor of Rutschman, the former Linfield football and baseball coach and athletic director.

Former Linfield and current Oregon State assistant football coach Jay Locey presented the 20-inch tall trophy to Doucette, who was chosen over fellow finalists Keisha Gordon, an All-America basketball player from George Fox University, and Junia Limage, a two-time NAIA track and field national champion at Concordia University of Portland.

Doucette set a program record with 201 career starts from 2009 until 2012, during which time the Wildcats amassed 178 victories against just 23 defeats, won four Northwest Conference championships and three regional titles.

Current Linfield football All-American Brynnan Hyland, who led the nation in quarterback sacks while helping carry the Wildcats to an 11-1 record, was a finalist for the male Rutschman Award. That honor went instead to Southern Oregon University national champion wrestler Mitch Lofstedt.