VIVA LA WILDCATS! FOUR TITLES, POSTSEASON RESULTS MAKE FOR EXCITING SPRING

Carney’s Corner

Scott Carnahan

What a thrilling spring we have just completed. Our softball, baseball, women’s tennis, and men’s golf teams were all Northwest Conference champions. Each program competed in NCAA postseason competitions and represented Linfield, the NWC and West Region very well. Three track and field athletes also qualified and competed in the NCAA Division III Championships. Because of the strong finishes in the spring sports and the continued excellence in all of our programs, Linfield finished second in the conference’s McIlroy-Lewis all-sports trophy competition.

It was also a record-breaking year for our TopCat Club in relation to total expenditures. Due to several very expensive items of equipment that were needed for replacement, we are in great need of your support to ensure the health of this contingency fund. The TopCat Club is utilized strictly for athletic department needs that are not provided for under the normal operational budget. All of our athletic teams benefit greatly from this fund and its health generally parallels the health of the Athletics Department.

Without going through an exhaustive list of purchases made this year, there was support given to each and every athletic program to stay current with the demands of running their programs effectively. That being said, I am asking for you to consider making a commitment to this fund. Over the current fiscal year, there have been 309 individuals who contributed to the TopCat Club, a significant reduction from the 356 who contributed during the 2006-07 fiscal year.

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Linfield baseball players and coaches were all smiles after capturing the program’s first regional championship in 37 years in Moline, Ill. Linfield advanced to the NCAA Finals.

Four Northwest Conference championships and competitive showings at the national level highlighted an exciting spring sports season by Linfield athletic teams:

BASEBALL

Standing on the threshold of an NCAA championship, Linfield enjoyed one of the most decorated and satisfying seasons in program history.

A record-setting 35 wins, a NWC championship and the program’s first regional title since 1971 were obvious benchmarks of success. So, too, was the Wildcats’ performance in the NCAA Finals. With first-year coach Scott Brosius guiding the way, Linfield knocked off Wisconsin-Whitewater, a nationally ranked top-10 team, before narrowly losing by one run to eventual national champion Trinity (Conn.) and Adrian (Mich.). Finishing with a 35-13 record, including a 25-7 mark in the NWC, the ‘Cats won five of eight games during the postseason to claim fifth place nationally.

“We’re all real proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish,” said Brosius. “There are teams that make it to the Finals every year, but it’s a tough thing to get here. To be one of eight teams who get to this part of the dance is something we can be very proud of.”

Linfield trounced county rival George Fox 8-3 in the final regular-season game to clinch its first NWC championship since 2005, and with it, the league’s automatic berth to the NCAA Division III regional tournament.

The Wildcats went on to win the Central Regional title, beating Webster (Mo.) 4-3 in 10 innings in the title game at Moline, Ill.

The Wildcats’ combined fielding percentage of .972 ranked third in NCAA Division III and eclipsed the club record of .971 set in 1995. Linfield also broke the team standard for saves (11). Linfield’s team earned run average of 2.76 was second-lowest in NCAA statistics and fifth-best in team annals.

In only his third season, slugger Stew Davis broke the Linfield career mark for most doubles with 38. That surpassed the previous mark of 36 set by Jeff Menold (1995-98). Davis led the team in batting average, hitting .363. Drew Van Cleave topped the Wildcats with 45 runs batted in, including first-teamers Clark, Van Cleave, Shannon Chung and Robert Vaughan.

Brian Clark was named Northwest Conference Pitcher of the Year and a third team All-American by the American Baseball Coaches Association. He became one of seven pitchers in Linfield history to record 200 strikeouts for his career. Clark’s 10 pitching victories fell one shy of the Linfield single-season record.

In all, 16 Wildcats were named to the Northwest Conference all-star team, including first-teamers Clark, Van Cleave, Shannon Chung and Robert Vaughan.

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BRIAN CLARK, JENNY MARSHALL NAMED LINFIELD ATHLETES OF THE YEAR FOR 2007-08

Baseball pitcher Brian Clark and softball shortstop Jenny Marshall have been named the Linfield Male and Female Athletes of the Year, respectively, following a vote of the athletic department coaches and staff.

Clark, a three-year letterman and three-time Northwest Conference all-star, was named the 2008 NWC Pitcher of the Year. He also garnered third team All-America recognition from the American Baseball Coaches Association.

The righthander led the NWC in conference wins with seven and was named NWC Pitcher of the Week on March 17. He finished the regular season with a 9-1 overall record on the mound, making 11 total appearances. Clark recorded 48 strikeouts in 76 1/3 innings pitched and posted a 2.59 earned run average.

The senior team captain helped the Wildcats capture the NWC title and the league’s automatic berth in the NCAA Division III regional playoffs. With Clark collecting his 10th win of the season, Linfield won the Central Regional in Moline, Ill., and advanced to the NCAA Finals in Appleton, Wis.

Majoring in marketing, Clark is a native of Bellevue, Wash., and a graduate of Sammamish High School.

A four-year softball letterwinner, Marshall was recognized as a first team NWC all-star selection as an infielder and received first team All-America honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association for the second consecutive year. With Marshall starting all 44 games, the Wildcats won their fifth straight league crown.

She was named NWC Player of the Week three times during the course of the season, spurring Linfield to a 38-6 overall record.

Leading her team to the second-most wins in program history in 2008, Marshall hit a school-record .476 with seven doubles, four triples, one home run, 38 RBIs, 20 stolen bases and a perfect fielding percentage (1.000). She hit .392 over the course of her career, setting a school record as a senior with a .476 average.

As a junior, she was named NWC Player of the Year and was a mainstay on the Wildcats’ 2007 NCAA Division III national championship team.

During her career, Linfield won four straight NWC titles and compiled a 151-33-1 overall record.

A physical education major, Marshall is a native of Sherwood, Ore., and a graduate of Sherwood High School.

CASEY STEPAN AND STEVE TAYLOR CHOOSEN VERN MARSHALL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Three-sport athlete Casey Stepan and basketball letterman Steve Taylor have been named recipients of the Vern Marshall Award for 2007-08, honoring Linfield College athletes who exhibit the greatest tenacity.

The award was established in 2003 to honor the late Vern Marshall, Class of 1957, a former Linfield athlete, and college and professional sports referee.

As team captain for the women’s basketball team, Stepan received honorable mention Northwest Conference honors for the second consecutive year. Starting all 25 games in 2007-08, she averaged 10.2 points, 4.6 rebounds and 1.5 assists while ranking fourth in the NWC in steals (47) and eighth in 3-pointers made (40).

During her four-year career with the Wildcats, Stepan totaled 717 points in 99 games to finish 16th on the all-time scoring list. She also accumulated 120 career steals (15th all-time) and made 106 3-point baskets to rank third on Linfield’s all-time list.

As a member of the Linfield cross country team in the fall, Stepan placed 12th at the NWC championships to earn all-conference honors.

Competing in track and field in the spring, Stepan placed among the top five in three events at the NWC championship meet and earned an invitation to compete at the NCAA Division III Championships in Oshkosh, Wis.

She currently ranks third on Linfield’s all-time list in the 1,500-meter run and is seventh all-time in the 800 with a mark of 2:17.82.

Maintaining a flawless 4.0 grade point average, she received three ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District citations over the course of her career.

Stepan is a graduate of Mountain View High School in Vancouver, Wash., where she lettered seven times in basketball and track.

She is the daughter of Mike and Laurene Stepan.

Taylor earned his first NWC all-star recognition in 2007-08. He led the NWC in free-throw percentage (.862) and ranked seventh in the conference in 3-pointers made with 59. That equaled Linfield’s single-season record for 3-point shots made, tying the mark set by Ryan Cruz during the 2000-01 season.

He was the Wildcats’ second-leading scorer, averaging 13.6 points per contest. He also averaged 2.8 assists and 2.7 rebounds a game.

“Steve is very deserving of the Marshall Award,” said Coach Larry Doty. “From a scoring standpoint and the fact that he was one of the top free throw shooters in the NWC speaks to his mental toughness and consistency.”

A graduate of South Salem High School, he is the son of Ed and Martha Taylor.
HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO WIN A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP? JUST ASK THE ‘CATS

One year ago, I was flying back to Portland from Salem, Va., with a jubilant group of softball players and coaches who were fresh from winning the NCAA championship. This year, many of those same Wildcats and I returned home without a trophy after being eliminated from the West Regional playoff tournament at Tyler, Texas.

As I walked alone from the deserted ball field to the parking lot trying to comprehend the season-ending loss, my cell phone rang. It was friend and Linfield sports statistics guru Tom McFadden ’80.

“Did the ‘Cats win?” Tom asked eagerly, not having heard that night’s internet broadcast.

“No,” I said. “We lost 6-4 in 9 innings to the host school, Texas-Tyler. It was an epic battle of Whitewater proportions.”

Tom knew my Whitewater reference called to memory the scene at Maxwell Field after the Linfield football team narrowly lost 44-41 to Wisconsin-Whitewater in a 2005 NCAA playoff game that had a mind-boggling 10 lead changes.

“What happened?” Tom persisted. “Were there some bad calls by the umpires?”

“No, we actually had a couple of obviously blown calls go our way,” I said.

“Did our team not play well?”

“We played great. The girls came from behind to tie the game three times. Our senior all-stars did what we counted on them to do. The freshmen played beyond their years. We had the bases loaded in the last inning with a chance to win, but just couldn’t get it done.”

Coach Jackson Vaughan ’97 often reminds his squad that so many things must go perfectly right for a team to win a title. In the end, just not enough things fell into place.

The 2008 softball team won 38 games. That would have set a school record, were it not for the 2007 team’s 45 wins. Ditto for this year’s remarkable .353 batting average and 335 runs scored.

Our expectations for each new season constantly need recalibration. As defending NCAA champs, the 2008 team played with a target on its back and with the constant weight of each player’s personal expectations, and those of their fans.

The baseball team experienced similar anguish, only their sorrow came at the Division III Finals in Appleton, Wis.

In each of their two losses at the Finals, the Wildcats put the potential tying run in scoring position in the bottom of the ninth inning, but couldn’t get the runner home. Players and coaches knew they had let a golden opportunity to perhaps win the national championship slip through their fingers.

“We’re all hurting right now,” said coach Scott Brosius ’02 at the post-game press conference. “Our expectations coming in were that we thought we had the type of team to make a run in this tournament.”

Brosius’ Wildcats raised the bar for most wins in one season (35), won the program’s first regional title in 37 years, and represented Linfield with honor and class at a NCAA championship event. For most schools, those would be reasons enough to paint the town red.

At Linfield, we strive always to reach our full potential. When we come up short, it’s natural to be disappointed. What’s important is to take a step back and appreciate each team, and each season, on its own merits, rather than in comparison to any other group.

LEGENDS BEELER, OSTLUND PASS AWAY

Al Beeler ’35 died of natural causes in his sleep at home April 3 in McMinnville. He was 94.

The term “longtime supporter” doesn’t begin to properly credit a man who spent 75 years attending Linfield athletic events and volunteering his time to help make the college and the city better places.

Beeler was a football and basketball season-ticket holder for decades, and, as recently as March 21, was seen in his customary seat at Roy Helser Field for a Wildcats baseball game that day.

Beeler was an active member of the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame Committee and the group’s foremost advocate for nominees from the decade of the 1930s.

Up until five years ago, Beeler volunteered his time each summer to sell advertisements to area businesses. The ads appeared in Linfield athletic publications, helping offset the cost of production. He also was a volunteer each August at the Wildcat Open golf tournament, selling raffle tickets or assisting with registrations.

Beeler was a regular attendee at the Monday morning Quarterback Club, a weekly gathering of local Linfield and McMinnville High School fans and supporters. For many years, he served as the club’s treasurer.

His is survived by his wife, Beverly. The father of three children and four stepchildren, Beeler especially enjoyed projects related to young people.

2007 Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Jack "Cactus" Ostlund ’67 of Hillsboro, died May 12 at age 63.

His three great loves were football, fishing and his family. He started his football career at Hillsboro High under Ad Rutschman, played for Linfield and, in 1967, the Dallas Cowboys.

A standout defensive tackle during his heyday as a Wildcat, Ostlund was at the heart of some fearsome Linfield defenses. During his four-year run, in which Ostlund started every game, Linfield shut out its opponent 14 times.

The 1966 NAIA second team All-American’s best stat might be this one: He played in 24 Linfield alumni games, the most recent in 1995 when he was 51 years old.

Ostlund was Linfield’s defensive captain in 1966 and a two-time all-conference selection. In 1965, he played on the Linfield team that beat Sul Ross State (Texas) in the semifinals to reach the NAIA championship game. In 1964, he played in a semifinal at Concordia (Minn.) played in sub-zero temperatures.

He taught for 31 years in the Portland School District and worked for Hillsboro Public Works during the summer.

Once he retired, he spent about 300 days fishing on the Columbia and Willamette rivers. His last fish, the biggest he ever caught, weighed 45 pounds.

Survivors include his wife, Joanne; a son, Jack Ostlund II; stepsons, Brian Maslen and David Wood; and seven grandchildren.
Spring Sports, continued from Page 1

SOFTBALL

Plenty of offense, some dynamic pitching and mistake-free defense carried the Linfield softball team to one of the finest seasons on record.

Fueled by five all-star seniors who helped the program produce a 19-game winning streak, the Wildcats rolled to a 38-6 overall record, the program’s fifth straight Northwest Conference championship, and a solid showing at the NCAA Division III West Regional tournament in Tyler, Texas.

The reigning national champions fell short of a successful defense of their title, losing an elimination game in extra innings to Texas-Tyler. But the Wildcats did show their willingness to battle to the finish, knocking off eighth-ranked Redlands in eight innings and beating West Coast rival Chapman in the regional tournament. All told, the season included victories over five teams ranked among the nation’s Top 25.

Statistically, Linfield finished the season ranked second in NCAA Division III in fielding percentage (.981), third in scoring (8.13), fifth in batting average (.367) and scoring percentage (.875), and 10th in stolen bases (2.38). The Wildcats held opponents scoreless 15 times while posting a team ERA of 2.04.

Jenny Marshall, a repeat first team All-American, led the ’Cats with a school-record .476 batting average. Fellow first team All-American Stephanie Rice set career records for batting average (.421), hits (234), runs scored (168), and stolen bases (109). First baseman Amanda Attleberger broke club records for games played (184), home runs (31), walks (103), and RBIs (178).

Meredith Brunette, who shared most valuable player honors with Marshall, set the career record for doubles (48) while equaling the school standard for triples (7). She hit .394, one of eight Wildcats to post batting averages of .300 or better. Erica Hancock, a first team all-NWC and second team all-West Region third baseman, hit .327 with eight doubles, six home runs and eight stolen bases.

The Linfield pitching staff, led by ace Brittany Miller, was the best in the NWC, logging a combined 309 strikeouts. Miller set Linfield career marks for wins (56), saves (4), shutouts (21) and strikeouts (451). She was named NWC Pitcher of the Year, a first team West Region all-star and a second team All-American.

Coach Jackson Vaughan, who surpassed 200 career wins, was named NWC Coach of the Year for the fifth time.

MEN’S GOLF

A long and arduous season, culminating with the school’s first NWC championship since 1964, was filled with excitement and joy for the Linfield Wildcats.

Playing in their first NCAA championship event, the Wildcats approached the tournament with a relaxed and carefree attitude, knowing their task was to simply relax and play their best golf with few expectations. Linfield set a new standard of competitive success, finishing the 33-team tournament in 17th place.

Graduating senior Kyle Henderson was the talk of the course during the fall season and continued to be a dominant presence in the spring. Fellow senior Jeff Nigro’s season was characterized by strong, consistent play.

Sophomore Tyler Nelson began the year in fine form and grew from there, finishing fourth at the NWC tournament and earning all-conference honors. Nelson shared 44th place at the NCAA tournament with teammate Andrew Fitch.

Fitch, another all-conference performer who placed second individually at the NWC championships, took center stage when the pressure was on to capture the championship during the spring season.

Head coach Greg Copeland was named NWC Coach of the Year for the first time in his eight-year tenure.

During the fall, Linfield rattled off six straight first-place tournament finishes, including top honors at the NWC Fall Classic. In the spring, the ‘Cats added five more first-place finishes before going on to wrestle the conference title from defending champion Whitworth by 14 strokes.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The Wildcats finished 18-6 overall and a perfect 18-0 in conference play, capturing the program’s seventh straight league title. Linfield, which extended its NWC win streak to 99 matches, finished the season ranked No. 9 in the West Region.

Linfield received an automatic berth to the NCAA Division III West Regional, where the Wildcats fell to UC-Santa Cruz. Kasey Kuenzli and Sallie Katter advanced as a doubles team to the NCAA Championships in Saint Peter, Minn.

“To capture the success we had this season required a great team effort,” said Wildcats head coach Amy Dames Smith. “One of the things that set us apart and really helped us out was the team’s ability to step up when things got close.”

Standout senior Kuenzli, who sat out all of 2007 while recovering from a serious knee injury, got stronger as the season wore on. She posted a 15-5 overall singles record and a 16-3 doubles record, both at the No. 1 positions. Kuenzli was first team all-NWC and an ITA All-American in doubles.

Kelli Sides, who earned second team all-NWC, was a vital contributor, as well. Despite the demands of student teaching, her performance didn’t suffer. She went 12-8 in singles and 12-4 in doubles.

Nelson helped out the team by being a constant team player who could be depended on for strength and consistency. She played much of the season at No. 5 singles and finished the season at 12-7 in singles, 13-8 in doubles.

Katter was a valuable threat, particularly when it came to conference play. She helped out the ‘Cats primarily at No. 3 singles. Earning her first second team NWC all-star recognition, she compiled a 12-3 record and was 16-4 in doubles. Katter also earned All-America accolades in doubles.

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The season-ending NWC tournament marked the end of the four-year career of senior Shawnie Dakan, who turned in the best performance of her collegiate career to go out on a high.

MEN’S TENNIS

With an emphasis on strong team play and sportsmanship, Linfield completed another successful season under eighth-year coach Carl Swanson.

Finishing 14-10 overall, including a 13-6 NWC mark, the ‘Cats recorded a solid third-place showing at the NWC Championships.

Senior Wesley Gabrielsen was named the NWC Sportsman of the Year. Nick Ruesse was selected as a first team NWC all-star while Kyle Anderson was voted to the all-NWC second team.

The Wildcats went on a five-match winning streak during the middle portion of the schedule, downsing conference foes Lewis & Clark, Pacific, George Fox, Puget Sound and Willamette in order.

Competing in the NWC tournament at Yakima Tennis Club, the ‘Cats defeated Puget Sound 7-2 in the first round. But the ‘Cats were edged 5-4 by a strong Pacific Lutheran club, before rebounding with a 6-3 victory over Willamette to lock up third place.

Playing in his final match, Gabrielsen paired with Brent Kingzett for an 8-1 victory over Willamette’s Micah Mack and Matthew Houser at No. 2. Kingzett enjoyed a solid debut with the program, establishing a new Linfield record for most doubles wins in a single season with 16.

Tal DeWitt, Mark Magdaong, Luke Rembold, Brad Henson and Matt Kaufman all contributed positively throughout the season.

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Linfield coach Bill Hander knew he set the bar high when he lined up an array of Midwest and East Coast schools to fill out the Wildcats’ 2008 schedule.

Instead of flourishing with the increased level of competition, Linfield sputtered to a 3-11 overall record in 2008, snapping its string of consecutive winning seasons at eight.

Injuries and a lack of match experience were the two biggest contributors to the Wildcats’ losing record.

Linfield struggled after losing Jamie Mertz, the program’s star player and leading scorer from 2007, to a career-ending injury. Several other players fell victim to some sort of injury.

“Many of the players were not 100 percent at the completion of the season, however the morale of the team was incredibly high,” said Hander. “They approached every match with the desire to do the best they could.”

While improving both stick skills and tactical awareness, the youth of the team did leave Hander short on experience.

Four ‘Cats shouldered the scoring load. Melissa DePierro tallied 37 goals and three assists, Tarie Caouette put in 36 goals and had six assists, Sammy Smith had 35 goals and four assists, and Michelle Dorris scored 24 goals to go with three assists.

Linfield’s biggest win of the season came against Pacific. The Boxers jumped to an early 10-3 lead before Linfield rallied in the second half to outscore Pacific 13-5, including the final six points.

The women’s team played well on the national stage to earn All-America honors.

WOMEN’S GOLF

A fourth-place showing at the NWC championship tournament put the final touches on a year that saw Linfield overcome adversity and low numbers to maintain its position in the upper half of the conference.

One of the biggest surprises was newcomer Brynn Hurdus. The freshman reeled off three straight tournament wins during the fall season and was Linfield’s most consistent performer throughout the year, never finishing lower than third and often pushing tournaments to the final round of play before a definite winner could be determined.

Hurdus continued her strong form in the spring, consistently competing for medalist honors, including clinching second place at the NWC championships. Hurdus missed earning an invitation to the NCAA Division III Championships by the narrow margin of 0.2 strokes.

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Spring Sports, continued from Page 4
It is my goal as Linfield athletic director to provide the best possible experience for our current student-athletes relative to the support they need to be successful. Our coaches continue to work extremely hard to maintain and improve the success of our programs.

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving a brochure in the mail with detailed information about the TopCat Club. I hope you will give serious consideration to continued giving or renewing your interest and support of our athletics programs. It is my hope that we can achieve our ambitious goal of having 500 active members involved in this essential support fund. No amount is too small and there is a monthly payment plan for those who would prefer that giving option.

I hope that you have a wonderful summer and can make plans to be on campus to join in the excitement for an athletic event during the 2008-09 school year.

Go ‘Cats!

Scott Carnahan ‘73
Director of Athletics

More recently, text messaging via a cell phone has become another popular means for college coaches to make their pitch to potential recruits. Essentially, text messages are short, written messages that are instantly transmitted to a cell phone.

I recently attended a NCAA Rules Seminar where the topic of text messaging was discussed as it relates to recruiting. I was a little surprised to hear that from a college student’s perspective, e-mail is viewed as a very slow method of communication.

I have been out of college for only 10 years and e-mail was all the rage then. Text messaging, or “texting,” is now the preferred mode of communication for the majority of high school and college students. In other words, e-mail is the new “snail mail.”

It’s incredibly easy to have quick communication when “texting.” But it’s also expensive. It’s so easy and cost-ly, the NCAA recently adopted new legislation to make it impermissible for coaches and recruits to communicate this way. Many coaches were feeling compelled to constantly connect with recruits by texting them during all hours of the day to the point that it became somewhat intrusive to recruits.

The new rule, which goes into effect in August, was also adopted because it was felt that texting further removed parents and high school coaches from the recruiting process.

Starting in August, Linfield staff and coaches, along with all other Division III coaches, will only be allowed to communicate with recruits via telephone, fax, e-mail, and written correspondence.

So we can remain in compliance, the use of text messaging for recruiting will become a thing of the past.

PAUL DURHAM TRIBUTE LUNCHEON IS JULY 9

All former players and friends of Coach Paul Durham ‘36 are invited to the 12th annual tribute luncheon Wednesday, July 9, on the second floor of the Riley Student Center.

Guest speaker is Linfield head football coach Joseph Smith ‘93. Master of ceremonies is Mike Stelman ‘63.

Socializing starts at 10:30 a.m. and the program gets underway after lunch. The cost is $15 and payable at the door. RSVP to Pat Smith ‘53 at 503-656-3724 by July 6.

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Go ‘Cats!

Scott Carnahan ‘73
Director of Athletics

Join us at the Wildcat Open Aug. 1

Mark Friday, Aug. 1, on your calendar. That’s the date of the annual Linfield Wildcat Open golf tournament at Michelbook Country Club in McMinnville.

The event includes an 18-hole tournament, sack lunch, barbeque dinner and beverages. Space is limited to the first 180 golfers. The cost is $125. For an entry form, call the athletic office at 503-883-2421.

The format is a five-person scramble. Registration starts at 11 a.m. Team entries are encouraged, or we will be happy to place you with a team.

Prizes will be awarded for low scores, both net and gross. Closest-to-the-pin and long-drive prizes will also be given.

Fun is the name of the game at the annual Wildcat Open.

Carney’s Corner, continued from Page 1

What are the proper ways to communicate with prospects?

In recent years, there hasn’t been much of a limit at the NCAA Division III level on how and when coaches may communicate with prospective student-athletes. At Linfield, the majority of communication throughout the recruiting process takes place over the phone, written correspondence and through e-mail.

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EIGHT SELECTED TO JOIN HALL OF FAME IN NOVEMBER

Six former athletes and two long-time supporters have been selected as part of the 11th class of inductees to be enshrined into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame. The group is slated for induction at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8, at the annual AT&T Wireless Hall of Fame banquet, which follows that afternoon’s Linfield-Western Oregon football game.

The Hall of Fame class of 2008 includes:

- Two-time football All-American Tony Ah Yat ’65, a starter on the Camellia Bowl team and member of three Northwest Conference championship teams;
- Dan Beeson ’70, a three-time NWC basketball all-star and the school’s third-leading all-time rebounder. Beeson was a member of four straight NAIA national tournament teams;
- Two-time football All-American Floyd Halvorsen ’86, who holds the Linfield single-season record for most unassisted tackles and ranks fourth all-time in total tackles. He was a member of two NAIA national championship teams;
- School-record holder Toby Robillard ’76, who earned five varsity letters in track & field and football. More than 30 years after his graduation, Robillard continues to hold the Linfield record in the shot put and ranks sixth all-time in the discus;
- The late Kyle Tarpenning ’83, who earned seven varsity letters in football and track & field. A kicker and defensive back, Tarpenning led the football team in scoring three straight seasons, and also captured the 1983 NWC pole vault title;
- Basketball and baseball standout Bill Wallin ’63, who earned All-America honors in each sport and was a member of four NWC championship teams. Wallin went on to an accomplished career as a baseball, basketball and football official;
- Jim Wright and Jim Reimann are each being recognized for meritorious service to the college’s athletic programs. Mr. Wright, together with his wife, Sondra, and Mr. Reimann, along with his wife, Beverly, have made sizable monetary contributions toward the development of Linfield athletic venues, namely Maxwell Field, Roy Helser Field, Rutschman Field House, the HHPA Complex, including Ted Wilson Gymnasium, the Aquatics Center and the Hal Smith Fitness Center.

The Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame was established in 1998 as a means to honor outstanding former athletes, coaches, staff and contributors, and to preserve the memory of their past achievements.

LINFIELD PLACES SECOND IN ALL-SPORTS RACE

Linfield collected four Northwest Conference team titles in the spring, but it was not enough to catch Whitworth, which pushed past two-time defending champion Puget Sound to win the NWC’s 2008 Mcllroy-Lewis All-Sports trophy. It is the second time the Pirates have won the trophy, after winning initially in 2005.

Linfield had the strongest spring of any school and made the biggest climb in the standings. The Wildcats scored 128 points in the spring to finish with 234 points overall. Linfield won conference titles in baseball, softball, women's tennis and men's golf. It is the second year in a row that Linfield finished second in the standings. Linfield won the all-sports award in 2001, 2003 and 2004.

Whitworth won the NWC title in men's track and field, and added runner-up finishes in men's golf, women's golf and women's tennis, to score 105 points in the spring for a final total of 253. The Pirates won a total of six conference titles, and were runners-up in four other sports, in 2007-08.

UPS, winner of the last two trophies, fell to third place in the final standings with 221 points.

Willamette, which won the NWC women's track and field title, edged Pacific Lutheran for fourth place by one point.

The NWC All-Sports Trophy recognizes athletic excellence among NWC institutions across all fields of competition. It is named in honor of Jane Mcllroy, Linfield women's athletics director and physical education professor from 1950-82 who also coached field hockey (1952-81), basketball, volleyball, softball and tennis, and John Lewis, the baseball coach (1947-72), basketball coach (1947-67) and athletics director (1952-72) at Willamette.

KELLY BIRD HONORED WITH NWC'S JACK SAREAULT AWARD

Linfield’s Kelly Bird has been selected by his peers within the Northwest Conference as the recipient of the 2007-08 Jack Sareault Award as the conference’s Sports Information Director of the Year.

"Every year, the goal of the Linfield sports information office is to provide consistent all-around service to our fans, the rest of the conference, the media, and interested others," said Bird, who has served as the college’s SID since 1989.

Bird’s service to his institution and his colleagues around the conference has been widely recognized. He has produced 22 award-winning media guides, including his 2007 football guide which finished in second place in Division C of the annual College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) publications contest. In August of 2007, Bird was named Linfield’s Administrator of the Year for the McMinnville campus.

Bird has served as the primary media contact for Linfield's 19 varsity sports on a full-time basis since 1998. This past spring, he promoted softball, baseball, men's golf and women's tennis teams that competed in NCAA Division III national tournaments.

The NWC SID of the Year award is named in honor of Jack Sareault, who served as the conference’s SID for 19 years (1978-97). Since his retirement, Sareault has spent countless hours building detailed histories of NWC sports.

LINFIELD ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2008

Tony Ah Yat ’65
Dan Beeson ’70
Floyd Halvorsen ’86
Toby Robillard ’76
Kyle Tarpenning ’83
Bill Wallin ’63
Jim Wright
Jim Reimann

LINFIELD PLACES SECOND IN ALL-SPORTS RACE

Linfield collected four Northwest Conference team titles in the spring, but it was not enough to catch Whitworth, which pushed past two-time defending champion Puget Sound to win the NWC’s 2008 Mcllroy-Lewis All-Sports trophy. It is the second time the Pirates have won the trophy, after winning initially in 2005.

Linfield had the strongest spring of any school and made the biggest climb in the standings. The Wildcats scored 128 points in the spring to finish with 234 points overall. Linfield won conference titles in baseball, softball, women's tennis and men's golf. It is the second year in a row that Linfield finished second in the standings. Linfield won the all-sports award in 2001, 2003 and 2004.

Whitworth won the NWC title in men's track and field, and added runner-up finishes in men's golf, women's golf and women's tennis, to score 105 points in the spring for a final total of 253. The Pirates won a total of six conference titles, and were runners-up in four other sports, in 2007-08.

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ALUMNI NOTES AND TIDBITS

Former pitcher Gary Henderson has been named head baseball coach at the University of Kentucky. Henderson served as UK's associate coach for the past five years. A former National Assistant Coach of the Year in 1996 at Florida, He played baseball at Linfield in 1980 before transferring to San Diego State.

Ken Garland was recently promoted to head baseball coach at St. Martin's University in Lacey, Wash. Garland coached baseball and football at Linfield from 1992 until 1995 and most recently was head baseball coach at Puget Sound and assistant baseball coach at St. Martin's.

Jeff Dunn '05 signed a contract to play with the Edmonton Chill of the International Basketball League. Dunn, who began the season with the Central Oregon Hotshots, is averaging 26.4 points per game, fourth-best in the league.

Greg Cotton '78, is retiring from coaching at Grant High School in Portland. He and his father, Mark, have directed the Grant cross country and track & field programs for 46 years.

Howard Morris '58 was inducted April 26 into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Oregon Chapter, and nominated to receive the “Lifetime Service to Wrestling” award. Morris coached wrestling at Oregon Tech from 1962-77.

Jeff Durham '62, son of Hall of Fame coach Paul Durham, died May 1 of Alzheimer's Disease at age 68. He taught and coached football at Centennial and Forest Grove high schools and was named “Oregon Coach of the Year” in 1976.

TARA LEPP NAMED TOP TRAINER IN DIVISION III

Tara Lepp, head certified athletic trainer and professor of health and human performance, was named College/University Division III Head Athletic Trainer of the Year by the National Athletic Trainer's Association (NATA).

The award will be presented to Lepp this month at the annual NATA convention in St. Louis.

It is the second NATA honor this year for Lepp. In February, she received the NATA Service Award, given annually for contributions to the athletic training profession and the association.

Lepp, a NATA member for the last 27 years, has been a long-time volunteer in organizations including Special Olympics and Open Arms International, which provides healthcare at medical clinics in countries such as Rwanda and Kenya. This summer, she will lead two Open Arms International teams to Africa to provide healthcare to the poor.

She is the District 10 chair for the NATA Research and Education Foundation and has served as state representative for the foundation as well. She was also vice president of the Oregon Athletic Trainers Society.