SOFTBALL TEAM HOISTS NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

Will the 2011 Linfield softball season ever be topped?

That’s about the only question that remains to be answered in the wake of a historic season that included an NCAA-record 51 victories and 103 home runs, plus the program’s second Division III national championship in five seasons.

"I couldn’t be more proud of a group," said Wildcats coach Jackson Vaughan.

“We've never had a team at Linfield where we've let them talk about a national championship in the preseason. With this team, we did because with how well we did last year we only lost one player, so really anything less than this would have been a little bit disappointing for them. They set their goals for that the very first day we met in January."

SPRING SPORTS

Ranked No. 1 in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll from the start of the season until the finish, Linfield set new standards for team success. The Wildcats strung together 35 straight wins on their way to capturing an eighth straight Northwest Conference championship, a second consecutive regional title, plus the inaugural NWC Tournament crown.

The Wildcats broke their own Division III record for home runs in one season with 103 in 54 games, far surpassing the mark of 78 they set last season.

At the NCAA Regional in Pella, Iowa, Linfield blitzed to the regional title, winning all four games it played and outscoring opponents 49-0. In the tournament, the Wildcats produced a team batting average of .505, hitting eight home runs.

The ‘Cats flew from Iowa to the NCAA Finals in Salem Va., where they won six of seven games, outscoring the opposition 50-9. After falling 4-0 to Texas-Tyler to drop into the losers bracket, Linfield won four consecutive elimination games, including three in one day, to take the ultimate prize.

At the NCAA Finals, Karleigh Prestianni led the way with six home runs, 21 RBIs and a .567 batting average, Emilee Lepp hit .500 with 12 RBIs and a team-best nine stolen bases, and Linfield pitchers combined to post a 0.88 ERA, holding opponents to a paltry .167 batting average. Claire Velaski went 6-1 in the postseason with a 0.67 ERA and 38 strikeouts. Lauren Harvey was 3-0 in five playoff appearances with a 0.74 ERA, 11 strikeouts and no walks.

Linfield’s season statistics were equally impressive. The ‘Cats broke the 2007 national championship team’s record for batting average, hitting .396. The team also set new standards for slugging percentage (.682), on-base percentage (.471), hits (.595) and runs scored (494).

First baseman Staci Doucette set new single-season records for batting average (.547) and on-base percentage (.653).

Lepp enjoyed one of the finest individual seasons ever for a Division III player, setting school- and NCAA-records for home runs with 29. She also set Linfield single-season marks for slugging percentage (1.089), hits (89), total bases (195), runs (74), and RBI (94).

Velaski set single-season standards for appearances (35) and wins (25), while Harvey became the only pitcher in Linfield history with 10 or more decisions to complete a season with an unblemished record (16-0).

Doucette, Lepp, Keagbine and Kayla Hubrich earned first-team All-America recognition from the NFCA. Prestianni was accorded second team All-America honors while Velaski was appointed a third team All-American.

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TWO-SPORT STARS BIXENMAN AND OLBIRCH NAMED LINFIELD’S ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

A pair of two-sport standouts, Cole Bixenman and Abby Olbrich, were named Linfield Male and Female Athletes of the Year following a vote of the athletic department’s coaching staff.

Bixenman was a three-year starter at catcher for the Wildcats baseball team. As a senior, he was named the 2011 Northwest Conference Player of the Year, helping the ‘Cats clinch their second-straight league crown and qualify for the NCAA Division III playoffs.

He stands as Linfield’s all-time leader in runs batted in (168) and shares the school record for most home runs (32). This spring, he hit .351 with 10 home runs and 44 RBIs.

Also a three-year letterwinner in football, Bixenman was a member of two NWC championship teams that reached at least the second round of the NCAA playoffs.

As a backup quarterback, he saw action in 11 games in 2010. He also served a vital role as the starting holder on extra points and field goals.

“Cole is the consummate teammate and a great leader,” said football coach Joseph Smith. “You knew he’d be ready to go when his number was called. That’s not easy to do.”

Equally as remarkable as his athletic career was Bixenman’s success as a student. He was a three-time CoSIDA Academic all-district honoree, carrying a 3.78 GPA in finance. He was also a three-time NWC Scholar-Athlete.

Appearing in all but two contests for the Wildcats, Olbrich averaged 31.6 minutes per game, 5.4 points, 2.7 rebounds and team-high 2.9 assists. Her assists total ranked among the top-10 in the NWC.

With Olbrich running the offense, the Wildcats achieved a 13-11 record, doubling the victory total from the previous season and posting the first winning season in five years.

The second half of the basketball season spelled double-duty for Olbrich as she geared up for the upcoming tennis season. Yet the demands of multiple practices did not prevent her from fulfilling her role as the Wildcats’ top player.

Competing at No. 1 singles and doubles, Olbrich received first team all-NWC accolades for the third straight year. She compiled a 13-6 record in singles action and went 14-8 in doubles. She claimed both the singles and doubles championships at the NWC tournament, leading Linfield to the team title and a berth in the NCAA playoffs.

VERN MARSHALL AWARD GOES TO SENIORS EMILY KEAGBINE AND ERIC HEDIN

Seniors Emily Keagbine and Eric Hedin are the 2010-11 recipients of the Vern Marshall Award, saluting the Linfield student-athletes who exhibit the greatest tenacity.

Keagbine, the first repeat winner, was a key member of the softball team. Her outstanding play landed her a spot on the NWC all-star team for the fourth time and on the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-West Region team for the third straight year. She also was named first team NFCA All-American after hitting .434 with 14 doubles, 17 home runs and 60 RBIs.

“Over the course of her career Emily has established herself as one of the greatest all-around players to put on a Wildcat uniform,” said Wildcats coach Jackson Vaughan, noting that his fourth-year player has started and excelled at three different positions: catcher, third base and shortstop.

At the same time she was enjoying success in uniform, Keagbine has also privately experienced heartache off the field. Her brother, Danny, passed away in mid-March after nearly a two-year battle with cancer. Despite the tragedy, she played on.

“Even when Emily and her family were coping with the loss of her brother Danny she remained constantly positive and focused on giving her best to the team every day,” said Vaughan.

Hedin, the 2010 NWC and All-West Region Defensive Player of the Year, led all divisions of the NCAA with 22 sacks over 11 games. The total not only established a new Linfield single-season standard, it was also the sixth-highest figure recorded in Division III history.

Opponents found it difficult to escape or elude Hedin, who by season’s end had amassed a team-leading 80 tackles, including 36 for a loss of yards, in addition to four pass breakups and three blocked kicks.

“Eric is the most dominant defensive player I’ve ever seen play here,” said football coach Joseph Smith. “I’ve never seen a player take over games like he did.”

Hedin was a member of two NWC title teams and twice competed in the NCAA postseason. He graduates as Linfield’s leader or co-leader in 12 different defensive categories, encompassing single-game, single-season and career marks. In all, he ranks among the top-10 in 28 defensive statistics.

In addition to his player of the year awards, Hedin was named to the American Football Coaches Association All-America team and was selected as the Wildcats’ most valuable player.

A West Region defensive player of the year, Keagbine graduated May 29 with a bachelor’s degree.

The Marshall Award was established in honor of Vern Marshall ’57, the former Linfield athlete and college and professional sports referee who passed away in 2002.
TARA LEPP INDUCTED INTO OREGON TRAINERS HALL OF FAME

Longtime Linfield certified athletic trainer Tara Lepp was recently inducted into the Oregon Athletic Trainers’ Society Hall of Fame.

Lepp, in her 29th year as athletic trainer and professor at Linfield, was inducted into the OATS Hall of Fame at the organization’s annual recognition ceremony March 25.

Many of Lepp’s current and former students were present during the announcement of her induction, which was two years in the making and came as a complete surprise to Lepp.

She was selected to be enshrined as part of the 2009 OATS Hall of Fame class, but missed the ceremony that year due to her involvement with helping aid the underprivileged at medical clinics in Kenya. In 2010, Lepp was again scheduled for induction, but did not appear at the annual presentation due to her attendance at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Athletic Trainers Association Research and Education Foundation.

Though the honor came two years later than planned, Lepp was nonetheless astounded as she accepted the award.

“Being inducted was a really big surprise,” said Lepp. “I am amazed the people in our organization were able to keep it secret for so long.”

Her inclusion in the OATS Hall of Fame recognizes her outstanding contributions to the athletic training profession, to education and development of athletic training students, and honors Lepp’s remarkable record of public service. It is considered the highest honor that can be given to an athletic trainer by their professional peers, according to Linfield assistant certified athletic trainer Greg Hill.

After arriving at Linfield in 1980, Lepp helped establish and grow the Linfield Athletic Training and Education Program into an accredited major.

“Why have I lasted this long? I love what I do,” she said. “I have a passion for helping people, whether it’s a patient recovering from an injury or a student seeking a career in athletic training.

Lepp’s interest in athletic training was inspired by Laura deGhetaldi, longtime track and field coach at Orland (Calif.) High School. DeGhetaldi recognized Lepp’s interest in athletics and the medical field and eventually suggested she pursue athletic training at Chico State University.

Upon graduating from Chico State, Lepp was among the first women to become certified by the NATA.

EMILEE LEPP IN THE RUNNING FOR HONDA AWARD

Linfield softball All-American Emilee Lepp is one of 11 finalists for the Honda Division III Athlete of the Year Award.

The Honda Award winner will be announced June 27 in New York City. The award is part of the Collegiate Women Sports Awards program, recognizing accomplishments of outstanding female athletes in colleges and universities around the country.

Lepp is coming off a remarkable junior season in which she led Linfield to the Division III national championship while setting two prestigious Division III records and leading the nation in five statistical categories.

Lepp hit .497 with 13 doubles, three triples and NCAA records with 29 home runs and .537 runs per game. She also led the nation in RBIs (94), slugging average (1.089) and runs scored (74).

An exercise science major, she carries a 3.33 GPA.

Finalists are recognized for superior athletic skills, leadership, academic excellence and community service.

TEAMMATES TO HONOR MEMORY OF LATE VIETNAM SOLDIER MIKE BARROW

Former Linfield football quarterback Mike Barrow ’68 will be remembered publicly Saturday, Nov. 12, during an event on campus.

The Mike Barrow Study Room in Nicholson Library will be dedicated in an hour-long program in the library’s Austin Reading Room.

The event is expected to start about 4 p.m., following the conclusion of the Lewis & Clark at Linfield AT&T Hall of Fame football game, which kicks off at 1.

Barrow graduated in 1968 from Linfield and in 1963 from Prineville’s Crook County High School. He died June 23, 1969, at age 23, while in combat in Vietnam serving with the U.S. Army.

He lettered in Linfield football for the 1964, 1965 and 1967 seasons.

Barrow quarterbacked the 1967 Linfield football team which upset the University of Hawaii’s 15-13 in Honolulu, before a crowd of 20,000, the most ever to see a Linfield game.

Taking part in the program, organized by Barrow’s Linfield football teammates, will be his sister, Mary Gail Barrow, Portland. His parents Missionary Baptist Elder Eugene and Myrna Barrow and brother, Gerald (“Jerry”), a Linfield grad, are deceased.

When the library opened in 2003, it included the study room named for Barrow thanks to a fundraising effort led by the late Ken Williams, former Linfield faculty athletic representative, registrar, and member of the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame.

For additional information about the event, contact Bob Ferguson, via email, rofefergus@aol.com, or by telephone at 360-254-1224.
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BASEBALL

Close wasn’t good enough for the 2011 Linfield baseball team, which was left unsatisfied after coming two wins short of a return trip to the NCAA Finals.

Champions of the NWC and worthy of a No. 9 ranking in the final polls, the Wildcats met their season’s end with a heartbreaking, one-run loss to Chapman in the final game of the regional tournament.

“It was a disappointing end to the season, obviously,” said head coach Scott Brosius. “But at the same time I’m very proud of what this team was able to accomplish.”

Any Linfield fan can be proud of the way the Wildcats powered through the NWC, losing just four games to league opponents. Along the way, the team established a 33-11 overall record (20-4 in the NWC) and won every weekend on the conference schedule, tying for the most career home runs with 32.

Rookies Tim Wilson, Nate McClellan and Clayton Truex also supplied a good portion of the offense. All three hit .325 or higher in runs scored (43). He rewrote the career record book for most career RBI with 168 and graduates tied for the most career home runs with 32.

Together, the staff combined for a 2.81 ERA, the ninth-best team statistic in the nation this year.

Senior catcher Cole Bixenman, the NWC Player of the Year, led the team in hits (59), RBI (45), total bases (105) and home runs (10), and also co-led the club in runs scored (43). He rewrote the career record book for most career RBI with 168 and graduates tied for the most career home runs with 32.

Rookies Tim Wilson, Nate McClellan and Clayton Truex also supplied a good portion of the offense. All three hit .325 or higher and combined for 23 doubles, two triples, 14 home runs and 93 RBI. Wilson set the Linfield single-season record for batting average at .490 and designated hitter Truex ranked second on the club with nine home runs.

In addition to their unmistakable talent, the freshmen also benefited from the encouragement and guidance of an experienced group of veterans. Along with Bixenman and Hilberg, seniors Eric Evenson, Dustin Smith, Kevin Coleman and Gunnar Cederberg provided great leadership for a very young team.

On the conference level, 14 Wildcats were named to the all-star team, including NWC Coach of the Year honors for Brosius. American Baseball Coaches Association all-West Region accolades went to Wilson, Bixenman, Larson, Vaughn, Truex and Hilberg. In the final year-end awards, Wilson was a second-team All-America honoree and Bixenman was named to the third team.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

It is not a struggle to find good things to say about the Linfield women’s tennis club this season. Among the highlights for Coach Amy Dames Smith’s Wildcats were a first-place finish at the Northwest Conference tournament and the program’s third appearance in the NCAA regional playoffs.

Even before the official competition season began, the ‘Cats enjoyed success at the fall USTA/ITA Women’s Tennis Small College Northwest Regional. Four singles players advanced to the round of 16, making Linfield the only team to claim that feat.

Once the calendar turned over to 2011 and matches started to count, the Wildcats rattled off a 16-5 win-loss record.

Linfield rolled through the regular season with a nearly unblemished record in the NWC at 11-1. The Wildcats’ only loss was to Whitworth – by a single point – but Linfield would exact its revenge on the Pirates at the NWC tournament.

Playing as the No. 2 seed at the league championship, the Wildcats first cut down Whitman by a score of 5-2 to set up a title match against Whitworth. By virtue of a 5-3 win over the Pirates, the Wildcats moved on to NCAA competition for just the third time in program history.

A first-round matchup against Texas-Tyler went Linfield’s way, as the ‘Cats narrowly defeated the Patriots by a score of 5-4. The Wildcats then ran up against the nation’s seventh-ranked club, Pomona-Pitzer, losing 5-0.

Senior leadership was key to the success of this year’s club. Three seniors – Sarah Click, Sophie Larson and Sarah Watanabe – each brought unique strengths to their roles.

All season long, the ‘Cats also benefited from a solid lineup from top to bottom, beginning with No. 1 singles and doubles player Abby Olbrich. The junior went 13-6 in singles and 14-8 in doubles this season, earning all-conference accolades for the third consecutive year. She was also individually selected to compete in the NCAA Division III Championships.

Olbrich’s doubles partner, Click, also came up big for the Wildcats, particularly down the stretch. Two of her 12 singles victories were match-clinching wins at the conference tournament. On the year, Click went 12-5 in singles and teamed with Olbrich to finish with a 14-8 doubles record.

In addition to Olbrich, three Wildcats were named to the all-Northwest Conference team: Click was a second team selection and Caroline Brigham and Larson were honorable mentions.

TRACK & FIELD

Reflecting on his first year as head coach of Linfield’s track and field programs, Travis Olson had plenty of highlights to choose from. Not only did he witness a successful season in which the women and men placed fourth and fifth, respectively, at the NWC Championships, he can also be proud of how his athletes responded to the coaching change.

The women fielded a deep squad, entering an athlete in nearly every event at the NWC Championships, with the exception of the 100-meter hurdles and 400 dash. The team’s depth was a key reason for its fourth-place finish at the meet.
Spring Sports, continued from Page 4

Talent was a big part of the success, too. Led by three Wildcats who competed at the NCAA Division III Championships, the women's squad broke two school records and recorded 10 total top-10 marks.

Junior pole vaulter Catherine Street was a woman possessed, breaking her own school record not once or twice, but four times over the course of the year. Her best mark of 13 feet, 7 inches earned her All-America honors as the runner-up at the national championship meet.

Freshmen Anna LaBeaume and Kate Shear had a pair of remarkable rookie seasons. LaBeaume was the NWC champion in the shot put and recorded the third-best throw in program history at 44 feet, 9½ inches. Shear set a school record in the javelin with a heave of 141-7. Both women competed at the national championship meet, placing 12th in their respective events.

Throughout the year, Linfield also regularly earned points in the field events from Chelsea Machida (high jump), Kristen Allison (javelin) and Courtney Alley (throws).

Machida reached a career-best height of 5 feet, 5 inches in her event and provisionally qualified for the NCAA championships, but unfortunately will end her time as a Wildcat without an appearance at the national meet.

In just her second season competing in track, former softball player Allison posted the sixth-best throw in Linfield history in the javelin and also took sixth at the conference meet. Alley competed in the shot put, discus and hammer, placing fourth in the discus at the NWC Championships.

Standouts in the running events included freshmen Mimi Seeley and Morgan Cohen. Seeley represented the distance crew, finishing in the top-8 in both the 5,000 and 10,000-meter runs at the conference meet. In the sprints, Cohen took seventh in the 100.

Sophomore Lester Maxwell was consistently one of the top men's mid-distance runners, and placed third at the conference championships in the 800.

Junior Alex Van Slyke came on strong at the end of the year, taking third in the 3,000 steeplechase at the league meet and improving his time by more than 20 seconds.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Guided by a new leader and a returning core of veterans, first-year head coach Brian Trowbridge and the Linfield women's golf team accomplished nearly everything they set out to do during the 2010-11 season.

With one exception, the Wildcats finished among the top three at every tournament. Their only misstep was at the NWC Spring Classic, where they placed fifth.

Taking into account all three scoring tournaments – the NWC Fall Classic, NWC Spring Classic and NWC Championships – Linfield finished fourth in the final NWC team standings, just one point outside of third place.

The NWC championship event was in fact the greatest team showing all year, and also one of the best in recent memory. Linfield's two-day team total of 658 was the lowest combined score for a Wildcat team in at least three years, according to Trowbridge.

The team greatly benefited at the tournament from a pair of career-best performances from senior Katie Kilborn and freshman Alexandria Smith.

Senior Brynn Hurdus was consistently the Wildcats' best performer, earning the lowest team score at all but one tournament. As the runner-up at the league championships, she earned all-NWC accolades for the fourth time. Hurdus posted a team-low 81.7-stroke average and brought home medalist honors twice.

MEN'S TENNIS

A year removed from placing second in the NWC, the Wildcats tied for fourth. Despite a strong beginning and end, the club suffered four close losses in the middle of the season to finish with a disappointing 5-7 league record and 6-8 overall mark.

Despite its sub-par record, Linfield was still in the hunt for a spot in the conference tournament up until the last day of league play, when the ‘Cats fell to Willamette 7-2 on their home court.

Senior Mark Magdaong graduates as the program's all-time leader in singles victories with 54. He garnered all-NWC honors for the second time in his career, being named to the first team for the second straight year.

His doubles partner Brent Kingzett was an honorable mention on the all-league team. He went 8-6 during the regular season and picked up a win at the prestigious Ojai Tournament to finish the year with a 9-7 record in singles play. He departs Linfield with the second-most career doubles victories (51).

The duo went 8-7 in doubles and was ranked in the West Region for the majority of the season. Magdaong was also regionally ranked in singles.

Other solid efforts came from fourth-year player Tal DeWitt, who graduates with impressive winning percentages in singles play (68 percent) and conference doubles action (70 percent).

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Linfield struggled through a 1-12 campaign that saw the 22-member squad outscored by a 248-106 margin.

"Obviously, our win-loss record was disappointing," said Coach Tim Hart. "What's not readily apparent is that we were able to bring 11 new players into our program and begin to develop them. We became much stronger by the end of the season."

Facing teams from all across the country, the Wildcats' schedule read like a geography lesson. Linfield played home-and-home matches against its traditional Northwest rivals, Pacific and Puget Sound, while also battling distant programs such as Carthage (Wisconsin), Fontbonne (Missouri), North Central (Illinois), Plymouth State (New Hampshire) and Redlands (California).

The lone victory of 2011 came in a 14-10 decision in the third contest of the season.

Despite the lack of measurable success, Hart remained eternally optimistic that the program is taking steps in the right direction.

Freshman Shelby Duarte (27 goals, 3 assists) led the team in scoring. Veterans Anna Gorciak (25 goals, four assists) and Mariah Jones (24 goals, five assists) were also offensive catalysts.

Playing every minute of every match, freshman goalkeeper Hayley Steele faced a whopping 446 shots over the course of the season, making 116 saves.
Wildcat Open golf tournament registration information.

Realizing that budgets college-wide remain tight, we are in need of your support more than ever. I hope you will be involved with whatever means you have in continued support of our programs.

I would also like to encourage you to look at a monthly giving option. Known as the "Lettermen's Club," this group of TopCat Club members contribute $10 or more per month, which helps stabilize our funding tremendously. This can be done through automatic deduction from your debit or credit card, or by check.

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2011-12. Our goal is to improve on our second-place finish in the NWC All-Sports Award competition. I hope to see you on campus attending one of the many competitions.

Thank you for your continued support and loyalty.

Sincerely,
Scott Carnahan '73
Director of Athletics

K.C. WISER DRAFTED IN 50TH ROUND

Recent graduate K.C. Wiser has been drafted by the Texas Rangers organization in the 50th round of the Amateur Draft.

At 6-foot-8 and 235 pounds, Wiser has the size that pro scouts notice. He is considered a long-range prospect after injuries during his Linfield career limited his total number of innings pitched.

Still, there is a lot to like about Wiser. As a senior in 2011, he pitched only 6 2/3 innings, his first season back in a Wildcats uniform since undergoing Tommy John surgery in 2009. He walked 10 batters and struck out six.

Wiser made a name for himself as one of the top basketball players the past two seasons in the Northwest Conference.

THE AMATEURISM RULE

The seriousness of NCAA violations are in the news again with the recent resignation of Ohio State University football coach Jim Tressel. Though NCAA Division I rules differ greatly from Division III rules in some areas, the definition and requirement of Amateurism is not one of them.

In the case of Tressel and Ohio State, it was the Amateurism rule that was broken when football players received improper benefits.

Linfield and other Division III schools operate under the following Amateurism rule from the NCAA Division III Manual: A student-athlete shall not be eligible for participation in an intercollegiate sport if the individual takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay in any form, for participation in that sport, or if the individual has violated any of the other regulations related to amateurism set forth in Bylaw 12 (Bylaw 14.01.3.1).

Another key piece of information referred to in the media was a form Tressel signed last fall stating he was unaware of any violations of NCAA Rules. Linfield coaches and student-athletes are required by the NCAA to sign such a form as well. All student-athletes must sign the form before they can practice and coaches sign it at the start of each academic year.

It's always good to be "in the know" when it comes to NCAA rules, so we can stay In Compliance!

THE AMATEURISM RULE

Carney’s Corner, continued from Page 1

Wildcat Open golf tournament registration information.

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Thank you for your continued support and loyalty.

Sincerely,
Scott Carnahan ’73
Director of Athletics

KELSON BROWN PLAYING WELL IN FLORIDA

2010 baseball All-American Kelson Brown is working his way into the starting lineup of the Bradenton (Fla.) Marauders of the Class A Advanced Florida State League. In a game June 8, he was involved in the first triple play in team history. Though he is hitting .233 for the season, Brown is batting .281 over his last 10 games and is gaining more playing time.

Playing last summer for the State College (Pa.) Spikes of the New York-Penn League, Brown hit .293 with 12 doubles, three triples, 26 RBI and 34 runs scored in 62 games.

WILDCAT OPEN IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

Friday, Aug. 5 is the date of the annual Linfield Wildcat Open golf tournament at Michelbook Country Club in McMinnville.

The event includes an 18-hole tournament, box lunch, barbeque dinner and beverages. Space is limited to the first 180 golfers. The cost is $150. For an entry form, visit linfield.edu/sports/wildcat-open.html.

The format is a five-person scramble. Check-in starts at 11 a.m. Team entries are encouraged, or we are 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. A raffle and auction follow the tournament.
HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 14TH CLASS OF INDUCTEES

Eight former athletes and the 1981 national runner-up volleyball team will be enshrined in the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame this fall. The group was selected by the Hall of Fame Selection Committee and will be inducted on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the annual AT&T Wireless Hall of Fame banquet.

The Hall of Fame class of 2011 includes:

• Steve Boyea ’85, a two-time football All-America defensive tackle who set the school record for tackles for loss. Boyea was a member of two NAIA championship teams;
• Dave Burdett ’88, a member of the 1986 NAIA championship team and 1987 All-American. Burdett went on to sign a professional contract with the Seattle Seahawks;
• Emily (Baker) Chadwick ’98, a three-time all-Northwest Conference forward in soccer and a NAIA All-American in track and field. Chadwick was a NWC champion in the 1,500 in 1998 and ranks second all-time at Linfield in the 800;
• Amber Larsen ’01, a 2001 NCAA champion in the 400-meter hurdles and three-time All-American and Academic All-American. Larsen was a four-time NWC champion in the hurdles;
• Robert Raffalo ’65, a four-year letterman in both baseball and swimming. He was the first Linfield swimmer selected to compete nationally and earned all-conference honors four straight seasons in baseball;
• Two-sport standout Lynn Reed ’82, who excelled at football as a linebacker and track and field as a hurdler;
• Fred von Appen ’65, an All-America football player who also competed in track. Von Appen went on to an assistant coaching career at 10 major colleges and with four NFL teams.
• Beth (Slaughter) Whittle ’97, a two-time NWC most outstanding swimmer and NAIA national champion in the 200-yard backstroke. She set four school records during her time at Linfield and has gone on to a career as a college swim coach; and,
• The 1981 Volleyball Team, the first women’s team to compete in a national championship game. Led by two All-Americans, the 1981 team went 11-3 in the post-season and played for the AIAW Division III championship.

HALL OF FAMEER JEFF BASINSKI PASSES AWAY AT AGE 65

Longtime Forest Grove teacher, coach and administrator Jeff Basinski ’68 died at his home May 27 at the age of 65.

He coached basketball and wrestling at Forest Grove High School for many years. He was head coach of the Vikings football team from 1980 to 1991, leading league champion teams in 1981 and 1985. Before that he assisted coach Jeff Durham ’62, and after he left the head coaching job he served on the staffs of coaches Bill Bloomer and Mike McCabe.

He retired as the school’s athletic director in 2005.

Basinski taught social studies and personal finance at FGHS. After retirement, he helped coach at Centennial High School under Chris Knudsen ’76. He is survived by his wife Connie, son B.J. and daughter Jamie.

“He was a fixture at Forest Grove High School and will be missed,” said Forest Grove Mayor Pete Truax.

FGHS activities director Howard Sullivan, who knew Basinski for 30 years, called him a “friend and mentor to us all.”

A member of the 1965 Champion Bowl team, he was inducted into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010, telling friends it was one of the highlights of his life.

LINFIELD ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2011

Steve Boyea ’85
Dave Burdett ’88
Emily (Baker) Chadwick ’98
Amber Larsen ’01
Robert Raffalo ’65
Lynn Reed ’82
Fred Von Appen ’65
Beth (Slaughter) Whittle ’97
1981 Volleyball Team

LINFIELD IS RUNNER-UP FOR ALL-SPORTS CROWN

On the strength of three league championships in the spring, Linfield vaulted from fifth to second place in the final standings for the 2011 Northwest Conference McIlroy-Lewis All Sports Trophy.

Whitworth won its fourth consecutive trophy after posting the highest point totals in each of the three athletic seasons, totaling 267 points. The Pirates won seven team championships throughout the year, including women’s tennis and men’s track and field in the spring.

After sitting in fifth place at the conclusion of winter competition, the Wildcats scored 114 points in the spring to finish with 214 points. Nearly half of the big gain resulted from league championships in baseball, softball and men’s golf.

Linfield’s only other team championship this academic year came in football during the fall season.

Linfield also posted one runner-up finish in women’s tennis, and was third in women’s soccer.

The ‘Cats outscores third-place Puget Sound by 20 points. Other team totals include: Pacific Lutheran and Willamette (165), Whitman (161), Pacific (148), George Fox (144) and Lewis & Clark (142).

Linfield also finished second in 2010. The Wildcats have won the all-sports award just three times since it was introduced in 1986, most recently in 2004. Other victories came in 2003 and 2001.

The NWC McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy is named in honor of Jane McIlroy, women’s athletic director, professor and coach at Linfield from 1950-82; and John Lewis, athletic director and coach at Willamette from 1947-72.
SUPPORTING LINFIELD IS EASY

Supporting Linfield athletic programs through the TopCat Club has never been easier or more flexible!

In addition to our traditional annual gift program, we also offer a monthly contribution option for donors who join the “Lettermen’s Club.” This is a great option for young alumni, or for donors who simply are not able to make a large contribution at one time.

As a TopCat Club member, you also have multiple options when it comes to methods of payment. As always, you can mail us your contribution, but we now have the option to donate online. We accept both checks and credit cards, and also are able to deduct monthly from your credit card through an electronic funds transfer system.

TopCat Club members are also able to designate where their contributions are applied if they so choose. However, contributing to the TopCat Club General Fund provides the satisfaction of knowing your contribution benefits all 19 of Linfield’s varsity athletic programs and the more than 450 student-athletes who compete in athletics each year. Your donation can help offset the costs of equipment upgrades, travel expenses, uniform updates, facility enhancements and unexpected needs that may arise.

Visit www.linfield.edu/sports/topcat.html to learn more about how you can make a difference!

WILDCAT OPEN
Friday, August 5
Michelbook Country Club

SEASON TICKET APPLICATIONS IN THE MAIL

Don’t miss out on your chance to cheer on the Wildcats from the best seats in the house! Renewal applications for football and basketball season tickets were recently mailed to last year’s ticket holders. First-time buyers may also purchase tickets at this time.

Football season ticket holders will enjoy watching the defending Northwest Conference champions from reserved seats in the covered grandstand at Maxwell Field. Basketball season ticket holders get to experience the men’s and women’s hoops teams up close, sitting in reserved seats directly behind the benches at Ted Wilson Gymnasium.

Ticket packages for the 2011 football season and 2011-12 basketball season are available at the same low cost our fans have always enjoyed. Get set for the year by purchasing both football and basketball season tickets together for $172. You can also purchase separate packages for football ($60) or men’s and women’s basketball ($112 total).

Season ticket holders interested in renewing their seats are asked to return their application with full payment by July 8.

It is important to note that season ticket holders not responding to the mailing will not be called on the telephone requesting confirmation, as was the practice in the past. No reminder calls will be made this year so please return your forms by the July 8 deadline.

Visit the Linfield Athletics website to download the season ticket application or if you prefer, contact the ticket office at 503-883-2421 and a copy of the application will be mailed to you.