FOOTBALL KNOCKS ON PLAYOFF DOOR, BUT IT WON’T OPEN

It was a season marred by an unusually high number of serious and sometimes season-ending injuries. The 2008 Linfield Wildcats marched on, seemingly unaffected by key losses that robbed the team of its starting quarterback, tailback and key personnel on both lines.

Faced with similar adversity, most football programs would have folded their tents and given up on the season. Not Linfield. Despite using three different starting quarterbacks as a result of injuries, the Wildcats kept their focus and went on to clinch a 53rd consecutive winning season, extending the program’s national all-divisions record.

Linfield’s 6-3 record and 5-1 mark in the Northwest Conference included victories over league rivals Whitworth and Pacific Lutheran. The Wildcats’ three losses were to Division III playoff qualifiers Hardin-Simmons and Willamette, and to emerging Division II power Western Oregon.

“It was a difficult season in a lot of ways,” said third-year coach Joseph Smith. “I’m very proud of our team. I knew our schedule would be as difficult as anybody’s in the country. In reality, we could have won all three of those games. We were a good football team at the end of the year. There’s no doubt had we gotten into the playoffs we would have made some serious noise.”

The Wildcats began the season with a hard-fought 29-22 defeat to nationally ranked Hardin-Simmons in Abilene, Texas. The loss was even harder to accept after starting QB Aaron Boehme suffered a season-ending injury in the game and starting tailback Reggie Ford was also sidelined indefinitely. The loss of Boehme, in particular, took a lot of wind out of the Wildcats’ offensive sails, but the sturdy play of a veteran offensive line allowed time for some on-the-job training for understudies Cole Franklin and Cole Bixenman.

To their credit, the ‘Cats, rebounded from the loss at HSU to reel off four straight victories, including beating Southern Oregon 14-7 in overtime and bouncing defending NWC champion Whitworth 31-28 in another taut contest. Next, Linfield ran head-on into a runaway train called Willamette. The Bearcats pounced on the Wildcats early, and then withstood a third-quarter rally that saw Linfield pull within three points to start the fourth quarter. The loss was a difficult pill for players and coaches to swallow.

“Emotionally, the Willamette game really ripped our heart out,” said Smith. “It was a game we expected to win and, in our minds, should have won. That was really hard to take and it probably affected us for a couple of weeks. I was so proud of our guys to finally move past that and play phenomenal football the last two weeks.”

Though the playoffs were presumably out of reach, Linfield concluded its season on the upswing. The Wildcats battled Western Oregon tooth-and-nail before falling 17-9, then walloped PLU 45-0 in the season finale.

Linfield topped the NWC in total defense and scoring defense. Leading the way was NWC co-defensive player of the year Taylor Summers, who racked up 12 sacks during a dominating season that saw Linfield hold four opponents to seven points or less.

CONTINUED, PAGE 4
SUCCESS STORIES REVEALED DURING EMOTIONAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Why are Linfield student-athletes and sports teams so consistently successful?

The secret, according to 2008 Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Tony Ah Yat, is to “surround yourself with good people.”

Ah Yat was one of eight individuals enshrined in the Hall of Fame at the 11th annual banquet and induction ceremony, held Saturday, Nov. 8, inside Ted Wilson Gymnasium on the Linfield campus. More than 200 attended the AT&T-sponsored event, which followed the final home football game of the season at Maxwell Field.

HALL OF FAME

Described as “a quiet leader who instilled confidence in others” when introduced by Hall of Fame coach Ad Rutschman, Ah Yat reflected on his career as an All-America defensive end in the 1960s. He was nearly overcome with emotion when remembering his coach, the late Paul Durham, just one individual on a long list of “good people” that included Hugh Yoshida, Jon Froberg, and Mike Stelman.

Basketball great Dan Beeson, termed a “vital organ” on Coach Ted Wilson’s “Go-Go-Go” teams of the 1960s, recalled his growth and maturation during a Hall of Fame career that included four trips to the NAIA championship tournament in Kansas City, Mo. A nagging neck injury that was eventually treated by a local chiropractor led Beeson on a path to a successful career in chiropractic medicine.

Football All-American Floyd Halvorsen Jr., the Wildcats’ all-time leading tackler, had a hand in three national championship teams during the 1980s. His greatest memories while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.

Toby Robillard, who set a school record in the shot put while at Linfield were of earning his first varsity letter and of memorizing hand-written game plans. His fastidious preparation habits developed at Linfield proved to be his “ticket to success,” in the field of education and coaching, he said.

Why did Halvorsen choose Linfield in the first place? “Because it fit,” he said, matter-of-factly.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW? LINDSAY HARKSEN

Lindsay Harksen graduated from Linfield in 2006 as the most decorated volleyball player in program history. She was a two-time AVCA All-American and also was named the CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year as a senior.

What position do you currently hold?
I am a Senior Investment Analyst at an investment consulting firm in downtown Portland called R.V. Kuhns & Associates, Inc. I interned there three days a week during my last semester of college, then started full-time with the firm after graduation.

What were the highlights of your college career?
One highlight from my athletic career at Linfield was my senior year when we won our preseason tournament down in San Antonio, Texas, beating several nationally ranked teams. It was a time when we came together as a team and gave us a great start to our season. On a more personal athletic note, I would say another wonderful athletic memory was senior year when I received recognition as the Academic All-American of the Year for the college division, which was the first time ever the honor was bestowed upon a Linfield athlete. Highlights of my academic career included many hours spent with friends in math alley and in Professor Steve Bricher’s office, as well as being the class speaker for the McMinnville campus at graduation. I was very honored to be asked to speak at graduation and address my classmates and sum up our four years together of athletics, academics and social memories, and from all the positive feedback I received, I think it went really well!

What are the highlights of your college career?

Are you still active in sports?
I am still active in sports, and hope I always will be in some way. I play volleyball in the winter and spring seasons on a Portland city league team with several girls who I played with in college. It is great to keep in contact and still be able to play together. Also, I play softball on a coed work team during the late summer/early fall season. I also try to get outdoors and remain active as much as possible. When the weather is nice, I enjoy playing tennis and I also have picked up golf this year and get out on the course as much as I can!

What are your favorite memories of Linfield athletics?
Most memories of Linfield athletics include playing volleyball under a great coaching staff and with a wonderful group of girls that have created lasting friendships and great stories. My junior year, when our football team won the national championship was a great time when the whole student body seemed to come together to cheer on our team and share a sense of unity.

What did you take away from your athletic experience?
My athletic experience taught me how to interact with various types of people and personalities, how to be successful in a team environment, how to become a leader and role model for others, and most importantly, how to have fun while doing it!

Carney’s Corner, continued from Page 1

We continued to schedule Eastern Oregon until that school joined the Frontier Athletic Conference following the 2003 season. From then until now, we have maintained a scheduling agreement each year with Southern Oregon, which remains an independent NAIA institution in football.

In 1998, it was necessary to move beyond the Northwest region to fill our football schedule. We played Redlands in 1998 and 1999 and added Menlo to our schedule in 1999 when WOU changed its conference affiliation for a few years. Redlands opted out after the 1999 season when we beat them 48-0, but in 2000 we were able to get Whittier on our schedule for a two-year cycle through 2001. Redlands came back onto our schedule in 2002 and 2003. It should also be mentioned that during this time Linfield was competing very well in Division III and went deep into the playoff structure in 2002 and 2003.

In 2004, we needed another non-conference opponent as Eastern made their move to the Frontier Conference so we were able to pick up Wisconsin-Stevens Point through 2005. During this time, we won a NCAA championship and went deep in the playoffs again in 2005. We continued to schedule Western Oregon and Southern Oregon to fill our schedule even though neither game really benefitted the college when in terms of the Division III playoff structure.

After the 2005 season, we had a very difficult time finding any Division III opponents on the West Coast. We repeatedly tried to attract any member of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) to play us…NO DEAL! Forced to look further east, we were able to get a home-and-home agreement with Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. After our first two-year deal with HSU, both schools tried desperately to find another opponent closer to home. Again we went back to the SCIAC and again we could not find any school willing. NO DEAL! So, we entered into a subsequent two-year agreement with Hardin-Simmons that concludes in 2009.

Since the fall began, both Joseph Smith and I have called every Division III football playing institution in the SCIAC. We have finally been able to make some headway and have scheduled California Lutheran and La Verne for the 2010 and 2011 football seasons. Obviously, this is going to create a big increase in our budget, but we all feel it is in the best interest of our student-athletes and institution to move in this direction.

At this time we are not sure whether Linfield will continue to face Southern Oregon or Western Oregon in 2010 and 2011. If the rumblings about Pacific University bringing back its football program becomes reality, Linfield may soon enjoy one of the best scheduling situations we have had in years.

Sincerely,

Scott Carnahan ’73
Director of Athletics
Fall Sports, continued from Page 1

Fourteen other Wildcats earned NWC all-star citations, including first teamers Travis Masters, Jared Hinkle, Aaron Heston, Scott Birkhofer, and Alex Tkachuk.

Birkhofer, an outstanding kicker, carved his name into the Linfield record book with three field goals of 50 yards or more, including a school-record 56-yarder in a 55-7 win over Lewis & Clark. His kicking prowess did not go unnoticed. Birkhofer was accorded first team All-America honors by the American Football Coaches Association.

Though the high number of injuries did limit Linfield's effectiveness, they did provide a silver lining, opening doors for younger players to gain valuable game experience.

"We had a tremendous number of freshmen who earned varsity letters," noted Smith. "We had a substantial amount of first-year guys contributing in a major way. That's going to pay dividends big time next year."

CROSS COUNTRY

The Linfield Wildcats could take pride in a season that overcame debilitating injuries to their stars and conclude with a pair of top-10 regional team finishes, plus two record-setting performances at the NCAA Division III championship meet.

"By and large, we achieved our goals," said Wildcats coach Dr. Garry Killgore.

Shawn Fisher and Marci Klimek were shining stars throughout the season. Both athletes became the highest finishers ever in NCAA competition. Klimek set a six-kilometer distance record at the NCAA Championships in Hanover, Ind. Fisher was 112th in a field of 279 national-championship meet competitors, eclipsing the highest-ever finish of 118th set by former Wildcat Shawn Pollard in 2007.

Three times, Klimek earned Northwest Conference Student-Athlete of the Week honors. She went on to place 13th at the West Region championships, nabbing the final individual berth to the national meet. Fisher, who claimed sixth place in the men's race at the regional championships, twice earned the same conference recognition.

Another standout for the Linfield women was Frances Corcorran, who narrowly missed qualifying for the NCAA meet. Chris McIsaac and Tyler Davis both enjoyed solid seasons for the men's squad.

"Shawn and Marci both deserve big pats on the back," said Killgore. "It's tough to be the front-runner all season long. Frances also deserves an enormous amount of praise, coming back from what could have been a career-ending injury. Chris showed tremendous character coming back from a difficult injury, also. And Tyler had a breakthrough season."

Earning all-NWC honors for the men were Fisher (third at the conference meet) and Davis (11th). Klimek (third) was the lone Linfield woman to collect all-NWC recognition.

"I like our future," said Killgore, noting the overall youth of his roster. "After getting a season of collegiate experience under their belts, our younger runners know what they need to do to be competitive. I'm very excited about our possibilities for growth."

VOLLEYBALL

Linfield celebrated its fourth consecutive winning season and eighth in the last nine years, running to a 13-7 overall record and a 9-7 mark in the NWC.

Winning five of their last six matches including four on the road, the Wildcats ended up fourth in the final NWC standings, trailing champion Pacific Lutheran, runner-up Puget Sound and Lewis & Clark.

Coach Shane Kimura's club couldn't quite get past NCAA playoff participants PLU or UPS, which swept the 'Cats in home-and-home matchups.

"We had a chance to beat both of those teams," said Kimura, who wrapped up his 31st season at the helm.

Bouncing back from consecutive losses, Linfield did show its resolve by knocking Lewis & Clark out of first place with a four-set victory in Portland.

Leading the way for Linfield was junior middle blocker Emily Vuylsteke, who garnered all-conference and all-West Region honors. Vuylsteke led the NWC in hitting percentage (.325) and was sixth in total kills per game (3.07).

Two talented freshmen played prominent roles. Outside hitters Samantha Lau and Tara Hill were each honorable mention in NWC all-star balloting. Lau averaged a team-best 4.03 digs per game while also contributing 2.55 kills. She was one reason why the Wildcats were statistically the top defensive team, leading the NWC in total digs. Hill also assumed a starring role, averaging 2.19 kills and 2.43 digs.

Setter Stephanie Purser enjoyed her best season, averaging 9.79 assists per set, third-best in the NWC. Purser also was accorded honorable mention all-conference acclaim.

Five seniors helped keep the team focused. Kelsey French, Meghan Flink, Hannah Velely, Rachael Rahn, and Kelsey Habura each played important leadership roles by taking the younger players under their wings.

Linfield opened the season with a 4-0 record against nonconference foes before its scheduled trip to San Antonio for the River City Classic was cancelled. Hurricane Ike brought havoc to the south Texas coastline in mid-September, disrupting all airline traffic to San Antonio that weekend and preventing the Wildcats from competing against a number of nationally ranked programs.

CONTINUED, PAGE 5
Fall Sports, continued from Page 4

MEN’S SOCCER

A fast start didn’t necessarily translate into a winning season for the Linfield men’s soccer team, which won four of its first five matches only to finish the season at 9-10.

Coach Ian Lefebvre’s Wildcats were competitive in every match, but lost seven matches by one goal. Linfield also competed toe-to-toe with the Northwest Conference’s best, falling in the 85th minute to eventual champion Whitworth. The Wildcats finished the season at 5-9 in NWC action, dropping them back to seventh place in the league standings.

Still, there were reasons to be encouraged with the product on the field. A relatively young squad with only one senior and three juniors won as many contests as the 2007 squad did with a roster that featured eight seniors.

“We’re going in the right direction,” said the second-year coach. “This season has been a good learning experience for our guys. They know what we expect as a coaching staff and where our abilities stack up against the better teams in the conference. Realizing success is just a matter of doing some of the little things.”

Linfield’s most significant victory came in early October when Kevin Donato’s goal in the 44th minute carried the ‘Cats to a 1-0 decision over Puget Sound on the Loggers’ home field.

Wildcats junior Kurtis Wong scored nine goals over the course of the season while adding four assists. Freshman Kyle Wallace added six goals and one assist.

Providing steady play throughout the season were Travis Isaacs, Michel Camacho, Bryan Alford, Spencer Winter, Kevin Donato, Roland Mason, Brad Hawk and Carter Elhabassi. In addition to Wallace, another newcomer who stood out was freshman defender Zach Farrington. Colin Bebee returned from an injury that had sidelined him for the Linfield men’s soccer team, which won four of its first five matches only to finish the season at 9-10.

Kevin Donato ‘11

Linfield’s season included series sweeps of Lewis & Clark and Pacific Lutheran.

“This was a big learning experience for all the girls,” said interim coach Dominic Doty. “The girls battled hard and worked hard for each other.”

Kate Franklin, Rennika Doty, Kristine Siler and Kelsey Hasselblad started and played in all 20 contests.

Freshman Sarah Walton and senior Emma Triplett shared top scoring honors, each with four goals and one assist. Franklin and Siler both were credited with a team-best three assists.

Hasselblad, the Wildcats’ goalkeeper, led the NWC with 149 saves. She posted a 1.77 goals-against average.

Linfield also received consistent play from jun-

iors Rachel Miller, Rennika Doty, and soph-

omores Sarah Blake and Lian Yuen.

Eight seniors played their final matches, including Franklin, who garnered all-NWC honorable mention recognition alongside Hasselblad and midfielder Steph Caster.

It’s going to be tough to replace eight of our 11 starters,” said Dominic Doty.

In addition to leading scorer Walton, several other freshmen made important contributions and will be cornerstones of building the program in the coming seasons. Jenna Quiring started 15 matches while Amy Kestek and Mari Tasche provided key support off the bench.

MEN’S GOLF

Finishing with an unblemished record for the fall campaign, Linfield captured the NWC Fall Classic, overcoming a one-stroke deficit after day one to complete a clean sweep of all four of their fall tournaments.

Linfield shot 596 to finish with a three-stroke margin over second-place Pacific. Wildcats junior Tyler Nelson shot 145 over 36 holes to finish as the tournament runner-up. Adding to the Wildcats’ team scoring was Andrew Fitch, who carded a 149.

Results of the NWC Fall Classic count as one-quarter of the season score for determining the conference champion.

WOMEN’S GOLF

Linfield finished in fifth place at the NWC Fall Classic but Wildcats sophomore Brynn Hurdus led the way with a two-day score of 170 to stake a top-five finish.

Hurdus shot 88 for the second round and Brittany Johnston improved four strokes from the first day to card 87 and a two-round total of 178.

Earlier in the fall season, Hurdus shot a double eagle on the 18th hole of the Linfield Invitational to clinch medalist honors. She finished with a three-stroke lead as the Wildcats took second place as a team on their home course of Michelbook Country Club.
BASKETBALL, SWIMMING PROGRAMS HAVE REASONS TO GET EXCITED ABOUT 2008-09

MEN’S BASKETBALL

The rebuilding project that is the Linfield men’s basketball program continues, though chief contractor Larry Doty says the work is far from finished.

Linfield elevated from ninth place in the Northwest Conference two years ago into a four-way standoff for third place last season. The Wildcats have the personnel and the chemistry to nail down a position in the NWC’s upper echelon, but plenty of hard work lies ahead entering the 2008-09 season.

“We have a strong front line, good perimeter shooters, a solid point guard and one of the best post players in the conference,” said Doty on the eve of his 22nd season.

Nine letterwinners, including two starters, return from last season’s 14-11 club that was a glossy 11-0 at home, but won just one conference game away from Ted Wilson Gym.

That has to change if Linfield is to realize its goal of a top-four finish.

Senior point guard Jon Weber is expected to steer the offense. Deonte Compton, a transfer from Wisconsin-River Falls, strengthens the position and should see plenty of playing time. Junior varsity holdover Paul West is also in the mix at the point.

On the perimeter, veterans Drew Schroeder and Erik Olson are expected to hold down the starting wing positions, while lettermen Cody Tesoro, Austin Hunt and freshman Travis Kinane are staking their own claims for playing time.

Up front, Doty has some excellent big men to call upon. The list begins with second team all-NWC center K.C. Wiser, who averaged 14.7 points and 7.0 rebounds as a freshman last year. Newcomer Matt McCollum, a former baseball pitching prospect, brings his 6-foot-8, 235-pound frame to join Wiser on the front line. McCollum can defend, rebound and block shots, a perfect complement to Wiser’s reliable inside scoring.

Lettermen Jeff Stoefen, Ryan Chisolm and Stephen Dennis further add to the Wildcats’ bulk and experience. Kris Rainwater, a 6-7 transfer from Highline Community College, could also make an impact this winter.

Top to bottom, the NWC offers a challenging gauntlet of teams all capable of battling for the title. Defending champion Whitworth is expected to be formidable once again, with Puget Sound, Willamette and Linfield giving chase. Pacific and Lewis & Clark are also considered capable programs that could emerge by season’s end.

“We have a lot to prove,” said Doty. “Chemistry always plays a big role in a team’s success. We have good, talented players who genuinely like each other. This has all the makings of a championship season.”

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

A new chapter is about to unfold for the Linfield women’s basketball program in 2008-09 as virtually an entire new roster of players takes the floor wearing the purple and red.

Just three players return from last season’s club that went 5-11 in the Northwest Conference and 12-13 overall.

“We’re going to focus on the little things,” said 12th year coach Robyn Stewart. “This team is competing hard and working on learning to play together. Our goal is to see just how good we can really be.”

Three transfers are expected to be difference-makers for the Wildcats. Nadra Evans and Kelsey Forrest join the program after two successful seasons at Lower Columbia College, and senior Whitney Honn comes into the program after coming off the bench last season at Seattle University.

A versatile player who can play three positions, Evans averaged 9.4 points, 5.0 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game last season. Evans and senior Whitney Honn comes into the program after coming off the bench last season at Seattle University.

Sidenotes:

Linfield’s front line could be among the tallest in program history, with Honn (6-0), Forrest (5-10) and Chrissy Baumgartner (5-10) expected to see the bulk of the playing time.

Evans (5-7) should team with guards Sarah Amina and Stephanie Fennimore, both 5-9, to give the Wildcats considerable size in the backcourt. Fennimore returns with the most experience in a Linfield uniform, having started 11 games last season. Amina saw action in 20 contests, starting seven, as a senior. Together, their athleticism and size could pose matchup problems for opposing coaches.

Also capable of contributing in the backcourt are guards Makenzie Blythe, Amanda Juarez and Brynna Fuller. The three freshmen lack experience but are all decent shooters and could earn playing time off the bench.

“This group is unselfish at the offensive end of the floor,” said Stewart. “And we’re working on becoming a solid defensive team. Our size is going to allow us to do some different things.”

Whitworth and Whitman each welcome back the greatest number of returning players. Like Linfield, contenders Puget Sound, George Fox and Lewis & Clark each must find new identities after heavy losses to graduation.
SWIMMING

Though a number of key performers graduated, a beefed-up roster should help Linfield continue its strong tradition of success in the swimming pool during the 2008-09 season.

The men’s squad looks to at least maintain its position of third place in the Northwest Conference. The women are seeking improvement on their sixth-place showing from a year ago.

“We graduated a bunch of talent off the top,” said 10th year coach Gary Gutierrez. “But we added a lot of depth, including some kids with club experience. Because of that, the whole team is training at a higher level.”

The men’s squad is led by senior Josh Parfitt, the defending Northwest Conference champion in the 200-yard freestyle. Parfitt should ably handle the middle freestyle distances, while junior Yusuke Kobayashi will be hard to beat in the 100 and 200 freestyle events. Dominic Rieniets, an honorable mention All-American the past two seasons, will be a top points producer in the sprint freestyle and butterfly. All three Wildcat stars have NCAA Division III championship meet aspirations.

Adding to Linfield’s dual-meet punch is letterman Mark Carder, a reliable scorer in the 500 and 1,650 freestyle, and Tyler Huynh, an able contributor in the breaststroke and freestyle. The men should get stronger as the season moves along once veterans Reid Standlee and Andrew Pohl return from study-abroad trips.

Newcomers Samuel Carter, Conor Colahan, Cooper Ashley and Marc Pereira each bring a measure of raw potential to the pool.

“How well those four freshmen respond to training and competition is going to determine how our season goes,” said Gutierrez, matter of factly.

Like the men, the women’s roster has grown. Last year, the Wildcats finished the year with eight competitors. This year, the roster has nearly double that number.

Bringing tremendous promise to the program are club veterans Melissa Greenaway, Melanie Krill, Kailee Seto and Lacey Smith.

“The training level is up as well as the experience level and work ethic,” said Gutierrez. “With increased numbers, we should have more opportunity to score points at championship meets.”

Rose Hollingsworth, a two-time NCAA championship-meet competitor, returns for her senior season. Hollingsworth is expected continue to excel in the 100 backstroke.

Lending support in the sprint freestyle are Christine Nakamura and Fatima Valle. Versatile sophomore Felicia Weller should be solid in the butterfly, individual medley and freestyle. Amy Goodloe and Kimberlee Smith will also provide stability in the backstroke.

IN COMPLIANCE

Amy Dames Smith
NCAA
Compliance Officer

TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF MEDICAL HARDSHIPS

It’s not an exaggeration to say some of Linfield’s fall sports programs had to endure more than their fair share of injuries. I know first hand from the steady stream of Medical Hardship Requests that have been coming across my desk. Applying for a Medical Hardship (also known as a Medical Redshirt) is the most common means to restore a season of participation. Certain criteria must be met by the student-athlete in order to be eligible for a Medical Hardship. Here is a quick peek at the steps involved in order to be granted a fifth year of participation.

Three areas are critical in meeting the required conditions of what the NCAA defines as medical “hardship.”

The first is timing. The injury or illness must have occurred during the first half of the playing season. Secondly, the student-athlete must not have participated in more than three contests, or 1/3 of the schedule (whichever number is greater). Scrimmages and exhibitions are excluded from this calculation. Finally, the athlete must have experienced a season-ending injury. Part of the application is getting a physician to vouch for the length of time it will take the athlete to fully recover.

Like the men, the women’s roster has grown. Last year, the Wildcats finished the year with eight competitors. This year, the roster has nearly double that number.

Bringing tremendous promise to the program are club veterans Melissa Greenaway, Melanie Krill, Kailee Seto and Lacey Smith.

“The training level is up as well as the experience level and work ethic,” said Gutierrez. “With increased numbers, we should have more opportunity to score points at championship meets.”

Rose Hollingsworth, a two-time NCAA championship-meet competitor, returns for her senior season. Hollingsworth is expected continue to excel in the 100 backstroke.

Lending support in the sprint freestyle are Christine Nakamura and Fatima Valle. Versatile sophomore Felicia Weller should be solid in the butterfly, individual medley and freestyle. Amy Goodloe and Kimberlee Smith will also provide stability in the backstroke.

TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF MEDICAL HARDSHIPS

It’s not an exaggeration to say some of Linfield’s fall sports programs had to endure more than their fair share of injuries. I know first hand from the steady stream of Medical Hardship Requests that have been coming across my desk. Applying for a Medical Hardship (also known as a Medical Redshirt) is the most common means to restore a season of participation. Certain criteria must be met by the student-athlete in order to be eligible for a Medical Hardship. Here is a quick peek at the steps involved in order to be granted a fifth year of participation.

Three areas are critical in meeting the required conditions of what the NCAA defines as medical “hardship.”

The first is timing. The injury or illness must have occurred during the first half of the playing season. Secondly, the student-athlete must not have participated in more than three contests, or 1/3 of the schedule (whichever number is greater). Scrimmages and exhibitions are excluded from this calculation. Finally, the athlete must have experienced a season-ending injury. Part of the application is getting a physician to vouch for the length of time it will take the athlete to fully recover.

Like the men, the women’s roster has grown. Last year, the Wildcats finished the year with eight competitors. This year, the roster has nearly double that number.

Bringing tremendous promise to the program are club veterans Melissa Greenaway, Melanie Krill, Kailee Seto and Lacey Smith.

“The training level is up as well as the experience level and work ethic,” said Gutierrez. “With increased numbers, we should have more opportunity to score points at championship meets.”

Rose Hollingsworth, a two-time NCAA championship-meet competitor, returns for her senior season. Hollingsworth is expected continue to excel in the 100 backstroke.

Lending support in the sprint freestyle are Christine Nakamura and Fatima Valle. Versatile sophomore Felicia Weller should be solid in the butterfly, individual medley and freestyle. Amy Goodloe and Kimberlee Smith will also provide stability in the backstroke.

Rose Hollingsworth '09
ALUMNI NOTES AND TIDBITS

Linfield and Commerce (now Cleveland) High School graduates Odis Avritt ’67 and Wayne Petersen ’66 were each inducted into the Portland Interscholastic League Hall of Fame on Oct. 19. Avritt was a four-year football letterwinner for Coach Paul Durham ’36, earning all-conference and honorable mention NAIA All-America honors. Petersen played basketball and baseball and Linfield before beginning a long career as a teacher, administrator and baseball and girls basketball coach at Tigard High School.

Former Linfield All-Americans Donnie Hakala ’91 and Jay Buse ’75 were inducted into the West Linn High School Hall of Fame on Oct. 25. Hakala was an honorable mention All-American and holds the Linfield single-season record for scoring. Buse was a three-time all-conference defensive end.

Carl Haberberger ’00, who lettered four seasons in football and also helped coach football and track & field at Linfield, is engaged to marry Anastasia Phillipakis on Dec. 27. The couple plan to reside in Wenatchee, Wash., where he is teaching sixth grade and coaching football and track at Wenatchee High School.

LINFIELD TO HOST NCAA BASEBALL WEST REGIONAL

Linfield has been selected to serve as one of eight regional host sites for the 2009 NCAA Division III baseball playoffs. The multi-team playoff tournament will take place May 13-17 at Roy Helser Field.

The NCAA Division III Baseball Committee predetermined seven of the eight regional sites for the 2009 playoffs. In addition to Linfield, the others host schools include Augustana (Central), Adrian (Mideast), Wisconsin-Oshkosh (Midwest), Eastern Connecticut (New England), SUNY-Old Westbury (New York) and Salisbury (South). The eighth host site (Mid-Atlantic) is still to be determined.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for Linfield to showcase our campus and baseball facility,” said director of athletics Scott Carnahan. “Bringing the regional to the Northwest has been a long time in coming and we’re excited about the opportunity to run a first-class tournament.”

It marks the first time Linfield will host a baseball regional since joining the NCAA in 1998. The regional will be staged in McMinnville regardless of whether Linfield’s baseball team is competing. The Wildcats still must earn an invitation, either through the automatic berth awarded to the Northwest Conference champion, or as one of several at-large representatives.

Last season, Linfield won the Northwest Conference title and competed in the Central Regional tournament in Moline, Ill. The Wildcats advanced to the eight-team NCAA Finals in Appleton, Wis., winning two of four games there to place fifth nationally.