WILDCATS’ PLAYOFF RUN ENDS IN DOUBLE OVERTIME SHOCKER

A second straight Northwest Conference title, a respectable showing in the NCAA Division III playoffs and a 55th consecutive winning season were some of the accomplishments of the Linfield football team during 2010.

The season began and ended with shocking losses, but between them were a string of nine consecutive victories, including two shutouts and wins over three Top 25 teams.

The Wildcats, ranked No. 4 in the nation at the time, played their worst half of the season in the opening contest at 25th-ranked California Lutheran. Linfield built a 28-7 lead midway through the second quarter and appeared well on its way to a decisive win over CLU in Thousand Oaks. But the Kingsmen had other ideas, outscoring the ‘Cats 33-14 in the second half to win 47-42.

With a loss in hand, the Wildcats knew their only remaining avenue to the playoffs was by winning the conference championship. Linfield responded with decisive wins over its next four opponents, outscoring them by a lopsided 186-37 margin.

Though the ‘Cats finished 9-2 overall, Linfield’s season was not without its share of casualties. Starting tailback Aaron Williams, the team’s leading rusher in 2009, was lost for the remainder of the year with a knee injury in the season’s fourth game.

The biggest hurdle of the regular season came Oct. 23 when the Wildcats visited Pacific Lutheran for a matchup of NWC title frontrunners. Taking over the starting job in place of Williams, Simon Lamson rushed for a career-high 132 yards and scored a pair of touchdowns to help hand the Lutes what would be their only loss of the season.

After the satisfying win over PLU, the ‘Cats squared their remaining regular-season foes, beating Menlo (38-0), Whitworth (42-17) and Lewis & Clark (52-0) in order.

Rematched against Cal Lutheran in the first round of the NCAA playoffs, the Wildcats were eager to avenge their season-opening stumble. With three sacks and three other tackles for loss, defensive end Eric Hedin wreaked havoc on the Kingsmen, pushing Linfield to a 42-26 win in McMinnville.

The playoff road came to an abrupt end on a frozen field in Minnesota, where unbeaten St. Thomas needed double overtime to halt the Wildcats in their tracks. Linfield never led in the game but twice came back to tie the contest, including a touchdown in the final minute of regulation.

Finishing as Linfield’s leading tackler while setting a Linfield single-season record with 22 sacks, Hedin was named NWC Defensive Player of the Year. His sacks total was the best in all divisions of NCAA and was the sixth-highest single-season figure ever recorded in Division III history.

Wildcats quarterback Aaron Boehme, who passed for 38 touchdowns and ran for nine more, was honored as the NWC’s Offensive Player of the Year. Boehme finished his career with more than 6,200 career passing yards and 65 career touchdowns, third-most in program history.

Joseph Smith was selected as the conference’s top coach for the second straight season. In five seasons, Smith’s record stands at 39-11.

In addition to Hedin, Boehme and Smith, 18 other Wildcats were chosen for recognition on the NWC all-star team. As a team, Linfield led the NWC in scoring offense (41.3 points), total offense (454.4 yards), scoring defense (15.6) and total defense (275.0).

CONTINUED, PAGE 3
Reaching new limits they never imagined possible was a common refrain among the seven newest inductees enshrined in the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame on Nov. 6 inside Ted Wilson Gymnasium.

The individual inductees joined the 1965 Champion Bowl Football Team in taking a special place among Linfield’s greatest athletes, coaches and teams.

Football and baseball standout Paul Asher ’90 called his induction “An absolute dream come true.” Asher noted that anyone can achieve personal success “if you have the patience to practice things perfectly.”

The late Ken Cutcher ’76, a two-sport star in football and track and field, was remembered as a tough-as-nails competitor whose on-field demeanor commanded respect from his teammates. His Hall of Fame citation was accepted by his college classmate Lester Wallace ’73.

Former head and assistant football coach Jay Locey thanked the audience of 300 via videotape (he was coaching a game with Oregon State that evening). Locey recalled, “I thought I knew a lot about coaching when I came to Linfield. What I realized, working with Ad Rutschman, was how little I really did know.” Locey noted the many similarities that he and former Linfield and current OSU coaches Mike Riley and Danny Langsdorf use in guiding the Beavers’ football program. “It’s all about relationships and making people better people,” he said.

Women’s basketball great Julie Morgan ’84, who averaged 20 points a game during her first season at Linfield, described her induction as “a once in a lifetime” thrill. She reflected on how far the Linfield athletic venues have come, comparing cramped Riley Gym with the newer, more spacious Wilson Gym.

Remembering how a fork in the road nearly took him to Pacific but ultimately brought him to Linfield, former All-America quarterback Randy Mueller ’83 called his days at Maxwell Field “the best time I’ve had in football in 25 years.” That includes time as a general manager with three National Football League teams. “We learned not only the fundamentals of football, but also the fundamentals of life,” he said.

The late Gene Peterson ’48, a three-sport athlete from the 1940s, was a lifelong Linfield man. His devotion was so strong that his family’s social calendar revolved around Linfield athletic events. Peterson is one of the few people to witness each of Linfield’s seven national championship football game appearances.

“Coming to Linfield was the best decision I ever made,” said one-time football All-American Jim Winston ’83 upon accepting his Hall of Fame honor. “Linfield has had a profound effect on my life.” A key member of the Wildcats’ 1982 national championship club, Winston has gone on to an accomplished career in the video production business.

Gene Forman ’67 spoke on behalf of the 1965 football team, which pulled off an amazing come-from-behind victory in the NAIA semifinals to reach the national championship game.

“What other school in the country can claim the kind of success that Linfield has enjoyed?” he asked, rhetorically. “I’m often asked ‘what makes Linfield so good?’ It’s the Linfield attitude. Coaches recruit players who are willing to stick their egos in their pocket and put their personal goals behind those of the team. Linfield’s campus has changed a lot since 1965 but that winning attitude really has not.”

Thirty-seven members of the 1965 team traveled from as far away as Canada and Hawaii to attend the Hall of Fame banquet.

A special line of Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame apparel is available at the Linfield Bookstore, located in Riley Hall. Customized hats and collared sport shirts with the words “Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame” embroidered on are now on sale. Hall of Fame members are encouraged to purchase and wear the commemorative clothing.
ATHLETICS STAFF WELCOMES KATHERINE BRACKMANN, BRIAN TROWBRIDGE

Katherine Brackmann has joined the Linfield athletics department as the Sports Information, Promotions, Marketing and Athletics Administration Assistant.

Brackmann provides leadership and support toward the day-to-day operations of the sports information office and coordinates special annual events, such as the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet. She plans and guides new outreaches in the areas of athletics promotions and marketing and offers administrative support to the athletics office.

“This is an amazing opportunity. I am looking forward to serving Linfield in both traditional and innovative ways,” Brackmann said.

Brackmann earned a bachelor’s degree from Gonzaga University, graduating summa cum laude in Sport Management. As a student, Brackmann wrote for her college newspaper, The Gonzaga Bulletin, and held several leadership positions on campus.

Prior to Linfield, Brackmann served as the communications and marketing intern with the Spokane Regional Sports Commission. In that role, she helped publicize various sporting events in the Spokane region, including the 2010 USA Cross Country Championships. Brackmann also worked one season with the Seattle Storm of the WNBA in the public relations department, assisting with writing press releases and coordinating game-day media operations.

A native of Mercer Island, Wash., Brackmann attended Skyline High School in Sammamish where she competed in basketball and track and field.

“Katherine brings a tremendous skill set to her new position,” said Linfield sports information director Kelly Bird. “She is a gifted writer and her leadership experiences at Gonzaga are going to enable us to continue to strengthen and expand the outreach of the Linfield sports information office.”

She is serving Linfield in a full-time capacity. Her position is funded through the NCAA Division III Ethnic Minority and Women’s Internship Grant, which seeks to foster the development of women and minorities into positions of leadership within college athletics administration.

Brian Trowbridge has taken over direction of the Linfield women’s golf program. A 2002 Linfield graduate, he succeeds Karly Cramer as head coach. Cramer is stepping aside after four seasons as coach to devote more time to her family, including her one-year-old son, James.

Cramer guided Linfield to four straight top-three finishes in the Northwest Conference, including a runner-up showing during the 2006-07 competitive season. The Wildcats were third in the final NWC point standings each of the past three seasons.

A native of Dallas, Ore., Trowbridge was a four-year letter-winner in golf for the Wildcats from 1999 until 2002, helping his team achieve a runner-up finish in the conference as a sophomore in 2000. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in health education and physical education. He is certified as a golf fitness trainer and personal trainer and spent 4½ years as assistant golf professional at McMinnville’s Michelbook Country Club.

“I’m really excited to be back at Linfield,” said the 30-year-old Trowbridge. “I enjoyed my experience at Linfield as a student and an athlete and I’ve wanted to come back since graduation. For me, it seemed like only a matter of time before I returned.”

Most recently, Trowbridge spent one year as assistant men’s and women’s golf coach at Willamette University and currently works as sales manager for Openroad Transport, a freight brokerage firm in Dallas.

“Brian has good teaching experience as an assistant club professional as well as substantial experience as a competitive golfer,” said Carnahan. “I feel confident that he will be able to continue to improve the women’s golf program at Linfield and will strive for excellence within the Northwest Conference and NCAA Division III.”

Trowbridge becomes the fifth head coach since the program was founded in 1996. During its brief history, Linfield won four consecutive NWC championships from 2000 to 2003 and was runner-up on three other occasions. The Wildcats have slipped below fourth place just twice in 15 seasons.

Carney’s Corner, continued from Page 1

needy charitable organization. It is extremely important that we develop a donor base of the younger generation of former student-athletes and alumni. Realizing that most cannot give sizeable amounts soon after they graduate from college, hopefully it is realized that consistent gifts in small amounts are the “Power of a Small College” as well.

Recently the Linfield Board of Trustees offered to match all alumni who take the step to become first-time donors to the institution. It is also possible for donors to make smaller monthly donations if it better fits their budget. We have such a program as part of our TopCat Club. The Lettermen’s Club program is a critical component of giving that makes up the TopCat Club which supports each and every athletic program at Linfield.

It is my hope that when you read this, you will think about the impact your Linfield education, and if applicable, your athletic experience, has made in your life and consider contributing back to the college. If you are already a contributor, I offer my sincere appreciation for supporting us.

If you currently are not an annual donor, I hope you will consider Linfield as the charitable organization you wish to support. Simply fill out the form on page 5 and return it to us.

Please remember “The Power of a Small College” and understand that your support remains a critical element to our past, current and future success.

Sincerely,

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

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Lofty goals translated into great success for the Linfield women in 2010. The team set out to win its first NWC championship in program history, and came painfully close to achieving its goal.

“We’re all left wanting a little more,” said head coach Dominic Doty. “But we need to look at where we came from and be happy with the season.”

There was much to be happy about, too. The ‘Cats placed third in a talented conference, finishing with an 11-4-1 win-loss record in conference play, 13-6-1 overall. The 13 wins match the most in program history.

Freshmen were a huge part of this squad’s success, none more so than Emily Fellows, the Northwest Conference Women’s Soccer Offensive Player of the Year.

The forward demolished the previous record for most goals in a single season, scoring 26 in her debut season. That number already matches the career scoring record.

But Fellows wasn’t the only newcomer to make a splash. The ‘Cats featured as many as six freshmen in the starting lineup, including Emily Allison, Lindsey Dahl, Stephanie Socotch, Christine Tamamoto and Ayla Zahler.

“We had to grow up fast this year,” Doty said.

Defense was a huge plus for the Wildcats all season. Led by junior Jenna Quiring, the club enjoyed two long winning streaks, including a stretch of five consecutive shutouts.

However, the team also had to swallow some bitter losses, including both contests against conference champion Puget Sound.

“There are games we didn’t deserve to lose,” Doty said of his team, which dominated the majority of their games, statistically speaking. The ‘Cats led the league in goals (52), points (132) and shots (384).

“Where we struggled was playing in the moment, playing in big games,” Doty said. “We made some mental mistakes and had trouble finishing.”

But overall, Linfield easily enjoyed more success than heartbreak.

CROSS COUNTRY

A pair of newcomers led the way for the Linfield cross country programs in 2010 during an overall steady year.

“I feel pretty good about the whole season,” said first-year head coach Travis Olson. “Everybody did what we asked and worked hard. They stayed as a team, competed as a team and put out their best effort.”

Freshman Mimi Seeley was consistently the highest finisher on the women’s side. Her top showings came at the Linfield Preview (first) and the Willamette Grass Course (second). She garnered all-conference and all-region honors by placing seventh at the NWC Championships and 35th at the NCAA Division III West Region Championships.

The women also realized solid contributions from Siena Noe, Claire Hann and Jill Boroughs. As a team, the women enjoyed a trio of third-place finishes at the Lewis & Clark Invitational, the Willamette Grass Course and the Linfield Preview.

One thing that was missing on the women’s squad this season was vocal leadership. Though there were many runners who led by example, the team struggled to find a strong individual voice.

For the men, newcomer Scott Pinske and veteran Scott Gage took turns being the highest finisher for the ‘Cats. Pinske, a senior competing in his first and only season of cross country, came in ninth at the Lewis & Clark Invitational, second at the the Linfield Preview and 14th at the conference meet.

Gage was also a team-high finisher at a pair of meets, taking eighth at the Lewis & Clark Invitational and sixth at the Willamette Grass Course. Freshman Joe Gladow was the fastest Wildcat at the Charles Bowles Willamette Invitational.

At the NWC Championships, both teams finished in the middle of the pack, with the men placing fourth and the women fifth. Pinske and Seeley were once again the highest Wildcat finishers, placing 14th and seventh, respectively.

MEN’S SOCCER

Though the Wildcats fell short of achieving a top-four finish, the team fared well in a highly competitive league.

The ‘Cats finished sixth in the NWC at 7-7 and were 8-9-1 overall.

“Overall it was a positive season,” said head coach Ian Lefebvre. “We saw a lot of improvement over last year.”

Seniors Michel Camacho and Kevin Donato led Linfield on the offensive end of the field. Camacho recorded seven goals and two assists, and Donato contributed a team-high eight assists.

Goalkeepers Jon Thompson, Cody Tipton and Joe Locascio all split time in the goal. Tipton saw the most action, recording 46 saves in 13 matches.

One of the year’s high points included Linfield’s 7-0 throttling of George Fox, in which Danny Snelgrow scored five goals to set a Linfield single-match record. But for Lefebvre, the greatest part of the season was competing well against some of the top teams in the league late into the season, highlighted by a three-game winning streak at the beginning of October.

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Seniors Colin Bebee, Camacho, Donato, Carter Elhabbassi, Locascio and Thompson capped off their careers on a positive note with a 2-0 win against rival Willamette.

One of Linfield’s focuses was defense. Though the team finished seventh in the conference in goals allowed (28), the team significantly decreased that number from 2009 (38).

Offensively, the ‘Cats finished fourth in the conference in goals scored (28) and fifth in assists (19).

Seven ‘Cats were named to the all-league team, led by first-team selection Camacho. Teammates Donato, Elhabbassi, Zach Farrington, Wil Hiles, Tyler Repic and Danny Snelgrow were honorable mentions.

VOLLEYBALL

It was truly a tale of two halves for the Linfield volleyball team this season. The club got off to a great start, winning five of its first eight conference matchups. That spurt was highlighted with a thrilling five-set victory over Willamette on the Bearcats’ home floor.

Things went south after the halfway point of conference play. The ‘Cats dropped their last seven contests as mistakes and ineffectiveness caught up with the team.

“Inconsistency hurt us,” said head coach Shane Kimura. “Our hitting percentage was the lowest in the conference.”

In the end, the Wildcats finished in the middle of the pack in a three-way tie for fourth place at 6-10 in the NWC, 8-16 overall.

However, not all was bad news for Linfield. Without a strong offensive game to rely on, the Wildcats fought for victories with great defensive performances all season long.

“Usually, when you have a low hitting percentage, it’s reflected in the win-loss column,” Kimura explained. “What kept us in contention in games was our defense. We were one of the top digging teams in the NWC.”

Most of the defensive effort came from libero Samantha Lau, a first team all-Northwest Conference selection. The junior set school records for both single-season and career digs, finishing with 561 on the year and 1,299 for her career.

Another positive takeaway from a tough season was how well the ‘Cats competed against some of the top teams in the conference. Linfield took league champion Whitworth and runner-up Pacific Lutheran to five sets.

In addition to Lau, other top contributors for the Wildcats included a pair of newcomers: middle blocker Kelsey Ludin and outside hitter Bethany Dickey. Ludin, a freshman, had the second-highest number of kills, averaging 2.08 per set.

Veteran players also came up big for the Wildcats. Junior Tara Hill led the team in kills, and senior Emily Carpenter was Linfield’s most consistent setter. Another junior, Kelsey Franklin, provided great energy off the bench, seeing action in 19 matches.

Mail your completed form with contribution to:
TopCat Club
c/o Linfield Athletics
900 SE Baker Street
McMinnville OR 97128

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Picked to finish second in a competitive Northwest Conference, the Linfield men’s basketball team has its sights set on the championship crown.

“We believe we’re going to be right up there battling with Whitworth for the championship,” said head coach Larry Doty.

Though the ’Cats graduated five seniors from the 2009-10 squad, including four starters, a talented group remains. Linfield will rely on a balanced attack on the offensive end of the court, an improvement over last year’s club. Headlining a returning core of veterans is center K.C. Wiser, a three-time all-Northwest Conference player. He averaged 17.1 points per game last season and was the team’s leading rebounder at 7.8 boards per game. According to Doty, it’s “no question” Wiser is a strong candidate for NWC Player of the Year in his final season as a Wildcat.

At 6-foot-8, Wiser leads a group of tall and talented players in the frontcourt. Big men David Lee (6-6), Zach Spencer (6-7) and Seiji Blume (6-6) can all cause havoc under the basket.

At the forward position, Zach Anderson returns in full form after missing the first half of last season due to injury. He takes on a starting role this year.

Senior Sergio Rosario is another starter expected to make significant contributions. “He can shoot the three, put it on the floor and do some things,” Doty said of Rosario. “We expect him to score in double figures.”

Reserves Zach Meikle and Daniel Teater can have an impact off the bench.

Yet even with his team’s impressive size, Doty wants his team to focus on controlling the boards. “Defense and rebounding are always two key areas because those things win basketball games,” Doty said.

Guard play is another important facet of this year’s club. After serving in a backup role to all-star Cody Tesoro, senior Ryan Lobdell gets his chance to run the offense for the ’Cats. Doty refers to him as a “very tough, veteran, seasoned player.” Transfer Dakotah Pine and true freshman Jay Cedergreen are two more strong guards who can come off the bench.

The coach is confident his squad will give Wildcat fans something to cheer about.

“You’re going to see a team that plays hard,” he said. “We have some very athletic people. I think it’s going to be a fun team to watch.”

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

First-year Linfield coach Robin Potera-Haskins inherits a young, yet experienced club that hopes to build off a six-win season in 2009-10. The Wildcats look to stir up the Northwest Conference with a blend of battle-tested returners and talented freshmen.

Standing in the way of Linfield’s goal to compete in the postseason is a deep pool of talented conference teams, led by George Fox, which has won or shared the NWC crown each of the previous four seasons. Lewis & Clark and Whitman, which each received first place votes in the preseason NWC coaches poll, give the conference a number of teams capable of contending for the conference title.

Linfield returns seven players, including two NWC all-stars from last season’s club. Returning juniors Gretchen Owens, Brynna Fuller, Gina Engelson and Chrissy Baumgartner all saw plenty of playing time last season and will be relied upon to provide leadership. Letterwinner Stephanie Fennimore returns from an injury that kept her off the floor for all of last season.

Linfield’s potential for success rests largely on the team’s ability to adjust to a new system. It is a process that Potera-Haskins has seen develop during the opening weeks of practice.

In order for the Wildcats to shake up the NWC, Potera-Haskins must rely heavily on Owens. A second team all-NWC selection last season, Owens hopes to build off a year in which she averaged a team-high 15.7 points per game. Fennimore provides the ’Cats with some much-needed leadership as well as savvy all-around player.

Linfield looks to find consistency at the point guard position. Sophomore Abby Olbrich, an all-star tennis player, will divide time at the point with freshman Breanna Ribeiro and junior transfer Micha Pringle.

Fuller provides the ’Cats with an athletic guard who can defend and score. Chandler Jones and Kaely Malm are a pair of promising young freshmen who should see regular playing time.

“On the offensive end, I want to push the ball,” said Potera-Haskins of her style of play. “Defensively we are trying to be a strong fundamental team. We are really going to work on that and challenge the players to develop their skills in that area. I think that everyone who comes out to watch will see an exciting team that is improving every game.”

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Winter Sports, continued from Page 6

SWIMMING

The Linfield men’s and women’s swim clubs seek to match or better last season’s fourth- and fifth-place finishes at the Northwest Conference Championships.

On the men’s side, the ’Cats need to rebuild after losing top performers Dominic Rieniets and Yusuke Kobayashi to graduation.

Fortunately, the team still boasts great talent in Seth Ruwitch and Miles Phillips. Both swimmers placed in the top eight at last year’s championship meet. Ruwitch finished fifth in the 200 breaststroke, and Phillips was eighth in the 200 butterfly.

Head coach Gary Gutierrez has a lot of confidence in Phillips.

“If we can get him to realize his potential, he can race with anyone in the conference,” Gutierrez said.

Other top returners include Sean Iwamasa (butterfly), Erik Johnson (backstroke, freestyle) and Chris Mapp (freestyle, butterfly).

In addition, the Wildcats expect big things from newcomer Lee Rivers. Though just a true freshman, he can contribute both as a competitor and as a leader.

“People are going to naturally gravitate toward him for leadership,” Gutierrez said.

Another key newcomer is transfer Brock Johns. A former Division-I athlete, he returns to the sport after a brief absence.

The women’s program may not be loaded with stars, but makes up for it in depth. With 26 swimmers, the team is solid across all events.

Veterans Catherine Nakamura (butterfly, backstroke), Stephanie Longmate (distance freestyle, backstroke) and Katie Main (butterfly, distance freestyle) all had strong showings at the championship meet last season.

Other top returners include Megan Sandall (sprint freestyle), Rhiannon Ladwig (backstroke, individual medley, breaststroke), Rachel Codd (butterfly, breaststroke), McKenna Peterson (butterfly) and Maria Schwarz (freestyle).

“We had a lot of freshmen make it to the consolation finals last season,” Gutierrez said of the women’s team. “As they grow and mature, we can expect them to move up to compete in the finals.”

Freshman Natalie Groat could earn points in the butterfly and distance freestyle events, and Hawaiian products Nicole Paulachak and Kelcie Nagata are also expected to contribute.

For the Wildcats to succeed this season, they need a lot of work in the pool.

“We need to develop the kids we have,” Gutierrez said of his team. But fortunately, “there are a lot of kids who aren’t afraid to work.”

Seth Ruwitch ’13

Answer: False

IN COMPLIANCE

Amy Dames Smith NCAA Compliance Officer

RULES TEST NOT SIMPLY AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE

The Linfield Athletic Department is already enjoying what is shaping up to be another great year in sports!

As we certified athletes of fall and winter sports programs in preparation of the start of their practices and competitions, Linfield coaches were asked to sharpen their knowledge of NCAA Division III rules. The NCAA requires all Division III head coaches and any administrators with compliance duties to take a standardized test. At Linfield, all coaches (head and assistant) are required to take the NCAA compliance examination.

The NCAA Division III Rules Test consists of 50 questions – featuring a combination of true/false and multiple choice. It takes anywhere from 45 minutes to two hours to complete and is done online. The NCAA allows use of the Division III Manual, which has all the rules in it. It is not a test coaches are required to pass, rather, it is a chance to refresh knowledge of rules and be brought up to speed on new rules too.

Want to try a sample question to gauge your NCAA compliance knowledge? Here is an example of one of the questions from the test:

True or False? It is permissible for a prospective student-athlete to receive a text message from a coach if the coach wrote the message as an email and used software to convert the email into a text message.

Administering the NCAA Rules Test to key staff members is another example of how Linfield is striving to remain In Compliance!
Hall of Fame welcomes new inductees
Winter Sports seasons get rolling
NCAA rules test not a simple exercise

During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts
turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible.
And in this spirit we say simply but sincerely
Thank you and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season
and Happy New Year!

Scott Carnahan AND THE LINFIELD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT