It’s been a difficult 15-month stretch for the Linfield Athletic Department. We have lost devoted alumni, a key benefactor, Hall of Fame members, and yes, even a student-athlete.

It was October of last year when age claimed the life of Ezra Koch, a one-time college trustee who devoted himself to helping run the football scoreboard for 50 years. Ezra lived to be 93.

In January, we were deeply saddened by the news of the passing of All-America football player Bruce Assily, who drowned in a diving accident in Hawaii at age 36.

In the spring, we lost Hall of Famer Steve Davis to cancer at age 63. Not a day goes by when I’m not reminded of the inspiration Steve provided for us all. Steve and I shared a love for the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making Linfield athletic events run smoothly.

Then in July, it was Gil Hargreaves who was taken from us. Gil was a loyal organizer of the Bar West Classic, the golf tournament that brings together a wide range of alumni every Homecoming Weekend. Gil died much too young at 64.

The next big blow was losing Del Smith, another former trustee and a man whose generous donations are responsible for so many vital enhancements to our athletic venues. In declining health for some time, Del enjoyed a fulfilling life that spanned 84 years.

As great a collective void as losing those giants has been, the loss of the life of a relatively unknown football player named Parker Moore made perhaps an even greater impact on us all.

Moore’s shocking departure from our world drew national media coverage. It brought the Linfield community closer together than we could have ever imagined.

It is never easy working through the grief and sorrow of losing people who mean so much to us. But in memory of Ezra, Bruce, Steve, Gil, Del, Parker and other Wildcats who have passed, it’s my prayer that we take time to love a little more, be tolerant more frequently, and offer ourselves in service to others in ways we haven’t yet considered.

Linfield benefactor and former trustee Del Smith, who founded Evergreen Aviation Inc. in 1960 and grew it into a global shipping giant, died Nov. 7 in his home in Dundee at age 84.

A world-famous aviation innovator and entrepreneur, Smith remained an avid supporter of Linfield athletics for more than 30 years.

“Del Smith made a tremendous impact on Linfield athletics, in particular the football, basketball, softball and soccer programs,” said Linfield director of athletics Scott Carnahan.

“The college and the community will forever be in Del’s debt for the prosperity his company brought to McMinnville and for his philanthropy in support of everything from Boy Scouts, to Little League programs, to churches and charities of all kinds.”

A trustee emeritus, Smith was honored for his long-time support of the college in April of 2012 with the naming of the Wildcats’ softball facility in his honor. Due in large part to Smith’s generosity, Del Smith Stadium now contains a 400-seat grandstand, enclosed press box, enhanced scoreboard and two covered and partially enclosed batting cages. Smith also contributed toward development of the Linfield football, soccer and baseball venues.

In addition, he provided transportation, lodging and meals for the Linfield baseball team when they have traveled to Arizona for preseason games and provided use of his aircraft to members of the coaching staff for recruiting.

Smith served on the Linfield Board of Trustees from 1975 to 2009. He supported the college through numerous gifts and by providing internships to hundreds of Linfield students at his local businesses. Many of those interns went on to work full time at Evergreen after graduation.

His support for the college extended far beyond athletics and included contributions to the Nicholson Library, Linfield Business Department, Edith Green Endowed Lecture Fund and the President’s Discretionary Fund in addition to numerous internships and full-time employment for students at Evergreen Aviation, Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, and Wings and Waves Waterpark.

“Del Smith’s support of Linfield students, both athletically and academically, has changed the lives of countless young people,” Linfield President Thomas L. Hellie said in 2012.

Smith was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005 for meritorious service to the athletics program.

Smith also created Evergreen Humanitarian and Relief Services, Inc. to support local and international relief projects. And he branched into agriculture with about 8,000 acres in the Willamette Valley, growing everything from nuts to grapes to Christmas trees.

His interest in all types of aviation led Smith to launch the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum, for which he brought the Spruce Goose, the largest airplane ever flown, to McMinnville. The surrounding complex also includes the Wings and Waves Waterpark and Evergreen Theatre.

‘Cowboy’ Kay Garrison passes away

Walter “Kay” Garrison of the Class of 1956, passed away Dec. 5 at age 81. Garrison was a basketball and track & field athlete during his two years at Linfield. Following his graduation from La Pine High School, he spent two years at Central Oregon Community College.

In his later years, Garrison became an excellent horseman and team roper. He was a working cowboy who contributed his time helping Central Oregon ranchers with cattle roundups and brandings and also assisted with the Crooked River Roundup rodeo.
Hall of Fame success stories share common refrain: Linfield

In the words of 2014 Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Schweitzer ’66, “Everyone has a story.”

And though each Hall of Fame tale is distinctively different, eight strikingly similar success stories emerged Nov. 15 during the 17th annual Hall of Fame induction banquet.

The seven standout athletes and one longtime volunteer all arrived at Linfield as unshaped pieces of clay, most drawn to Linfield by random circumstance. As they accepted their Hall of Fame honor one by one, each inductee described how their first and perhaps most important step on the pathway toward long-term success was enrolling at Linfield.

“Linfield is a place where students come to learn about excellence on the field and achieve excellence in the classroom,” college president Dr. Thomas Hellie told the audience of nearly 250. “Linfield graduates people with tremendous character.”

The testimonies that followed Hellie’s remarks underscored his assertion.

“Coming to Linfield was more than an opportunity,” said Bruce Lundquist ’78. “It was a gift that was absolutely priceless.” In addition to a record-setting career in track and field, Lundquist’s Linfield pursuits included helping publish the yearbook, singing in the choir, participating in theatre productions and supervising a student-managed garden.

Record-setting quarterback Tyler Matthews ’03 overcame doubt about his own athletic ability to twice lead the Wildcats to the national playoffs.

“It takes a village to raise a child,” said Matthews, who passed for 69 touchdowns and nearly 7,000 yards in three seasons. “Linfield raised me. The experiences Linfield gave me I will forever want to be giving back to others.”

Matthews, who was 26-2 as Linfield’s starting quarterback, called his inclusion in the Hall of Fame “a phenomenal honor. I’ll forever be proud to be a Wildcat.”

“Tyler Matthews defines leadership,” said Doug Hire ’87 in presenting Matthews for induction.

“Fortune favors the prepared mind,” a phrase coined by 19th century French scientist Louis Pasteur, continues to ring true in the head of men’s soccer All-American Chris McDonald ’02, the centerpiece of the greatest stretch of accomplishment in Linfield history.

“Success is rarely an individual occurrence,” said McDonald. “I was part of an unbelievable team and never would have been able to accomplish what I did without some incredible teammates.”

Not only is athletic achievement rewarded with induction to the Hall of Fame, so too is loyalty and unwavering support. In the case of longtime football statistician and basketball scorekeeper Tom McFadden ’80, date night with his wife, Becky, was often “dinner out followed by the Wildcats.”

“There are only a handful of people who bleed purple and cardinal, and Tom is one of those people,” director of athletics Scott Carnahan said.

The camaraderie McFadden shared with fellow volunteers Mack Farag, Ryan Carlson ’98, and the late Arnold Owens ’53, Steve Davis ’70, and Norm Goss ’46 made volunteering an opportunity to be a part of a special team.

Jeff Owens ’79 termed his decision to attend Linfield and compete in football “a game changer.”

Owens recited his former coach Ad Rutschman’s three pillars of success (People, Preparation and Performance), making it clear “Linfield was the only place for me. It’s the place I learned one of life’s greatest lessons: Trust is fundamental in relationships.”

Scatterbrained as a Linfield freshman in 1961, Schweitzer had yet to understand how to remain focused on long-term goals.

It was through football coach Paul Durham ’36 and baseball coach Roy Helser ’36 that Schweitzer learned tenacity and resilience.

“Paul saved me in many situations,” said Schweitzer, a football and baseball star. “He was always encouraging me.”

An offensive lineman who could “run like a deer,” Doug Walker ’78 very nearly attended Lewis & Clark rather than Linfield. But like many before him and since, Walker’s opportunities expanded from narrow to broad during his time as a Linfield student-athlete.

“I believe there’s a strong correlation between participation in activities of all kinds and success,” said Rutschman, noting that his former All-American was not only a leader on the field but in the college’s choir, band and theatre.

“What a wonderful experience Linfield can provide for an athlete and a student,” said Walker. “If you want to win and receive a quality education, Linfield is the place you want to go.”

“I was totally blessed to come to Linfield,” he said. “Because Linfield promotes personal growth. I thank God I made that left-hand turn toward Linfield instead of Lewis & Clark.”

Linfield had a similarly profound effect on football halfback Steve Beguin ’63, who achieved greatness despite a short two-year stay in McMinnville. Beguin went on to a notable career as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War as well as a 30+ year career as a commercial airline pilot.

Not surprisingly, Beguin’s story followed closely in line with his seven fellow inductees.
The peaceful, friendly community that Linfield resides within received a violent jolt Nov. 15 when football linebacker Parker Moore was stabbed to death at an off-campus convenience store. He did not know his attacker and there was no reason to believe he provoked the assault.

A business management major, Moore was an engaged campus leader who had many friends. As news spread across the campus the following morning, a makeshift memorial of flowers, notes, candles and signed tributes took shape along the fence surrounding Maxwell Field. It grew to over 40 feet in length.

“We have endured great pain. But we also draw comfort from each other,” Linfield President Dr. Thomas L. Hellie told the nearly 2,000 mourners who gathered inside Ted Wilson Gymnasium for Moore’s celebration of life later that week. “I have never been prouder to be the president of Linfield College. We are a strong community, but we will never be the same as we were (before Parker’s death).”

Football coach Joseph Smith described Moore as a model student-athlete who was admired by all whom he met.

“Extraordinary doesn’t just happen, it takes work and patience. Parker was everything we want a Wildcat to be: he loved football, he was a man of character, and he was extremely talented. Those three things are hard to find when we’re recruiting guys.”

Smith wished he had 125 Parker Moores on his football roster.

“As a friend, Parker was honest, humble to a fault, considerate, compassionate and empathetic. He didn’t judge anyone, he just accepted them the way they were. He asked how people were and really cared what the answer was. If the reply was anything but ‘good,’ he would do whatever he could to make their day better.”

Chandler went further in describing the influence Moore had upon him during the 15 months they had known one another.

“Parker had a great, mischievous sense of humor. He was always laughing. His life wasn’t easy, but he went around with a big smile on his face because he wanted to encourage everyone around him, and he did. His laughter was infectious—he was everything anyone could have wanted in a friend. Knowing Parker is a blessing that I will always be thankful for. He has been one of the greatest influences in my life, and he has made me a better person. He had that affect on not just me, but on everyone he ever got to know. He touched countless lives and his influence will go on for a long, long time.”

Legacy left by Parker Moore will live on

“I believe everyone in our program is a better man for having known Parker,” said Smith. “At the same time, I think that everyone in the program is a better man for having lost Parker. I say that because I think there’s going to be a ripple effect. This group of young men is going to go out and be stronger men, better men, because of Parker, and shape and influence lives to a greater degree than they would have before, and that’s a powerful impact. Parker has had a great impact on this college and on our program, but he’s going to have an even greater impact in the future. Well done, Mr. Moore. I love you, Parker.”

Kyle Chandler, a fellow linebacker and Moore’s best friend on the team, said: “As a friend, Parker was honest, humble to a fault, considerate, compassionate and empathetic. He didn’t judge anyone, he just accepted them the way they were. He asked how people were and really cared what the answer was. If the reply was anything but ‘good,’ he would do whatever he could to make their day better.”

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PARKER ARCHIE MOORE MEMORIAL FUND

Parker Moore’s family established a scholarship in his memory to provide support to a Linfield student who most exemplifies Parker’s outstanding character and qualities. The Parker Archie Moore Memorial Fund at the National Christian Foundation Seattle fund celebrates his life, legacy, and love for Linfield. Contributions may be made at www.linfield.edu/parkermoore.
I am writing this edition of Carney’s Corner from 30,000 feet as I journey with the football team from Wisconsin back to McMinnville after playing a tough semifinal game at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. A horrific four weeks have passed since we lost Parker Moore, a member of our student body and football team, to a senseless act of violence.

Throughout this period of great grief, we have witnessed the tremendous solidarity of family throughout our football team, campus and alumni. Though “Linfield Strong” has become a catch phrase that represents us; defining it is nearly impossible for me. The love and caring one has for family has extended outward without boundaries.

We received an outpouring of condolences and support from every member institution in the Northwest Conference and so many others from across the nation, along with our extended Linfield family and the McMinnville community. The support we have felt from all who have had virtually any association in any capacity with Linfield has been greatly valued.

This tragic event will remain vividly etched in our hearts and minds forever. The special bond that the football team had already created was magnified during the past four weeks. Parker Moore was a tremendous young man and the memories of him, who he was, and the traits he exhibited as a positive role model, friend and teammate, will forever be remembered.

The words “Linfield Strong,” provide us with tremendous meaning as we work to resolve our grief and mend our hearts, but it also gives us great peace knowing we are members of such a close-knit family.

I love being a Linfield Wildcat!
The 2014 football season was extraordinary, perhaps the greatest of any of Linfield’s 100 seasons. Uniting together to turn the worst imaginable tragedy into triumph - both on the scoreboard and in the hearts of those connected with the program - Linfield very nearly reached the national championship game.

As the nation watched, the Wildcats displayed exemplary grace, character and resilience in overcoming the devastating loss of a charismatic team member before standing tall as one of the last four teams remaining in the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Linfield came within 20 yards and a converted extra point of knocking off defending NCAA champion Wisconsin-Whitewater on its home field. Though they lost 20-14 to the top-ranked Warhawks on a foggy night in Wisconsin, the Wildcats emerged as winners for having made it so far in the first place.

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Hours after drubbing Northwest Conference co-champion Pacific 59-0 on the final weekend of the regular season and clinching a sixth straight NCAA playoff berth, the football program was shaken to its core. The morning when NCAA playoff berths were to be announced, Linfield awoke to the news that linebacker Parker Moore had been slain in a random attack at a nearby convenience store.

Few programs could have navigated such an emotional rollercoaster. Yet in spite of the overwhelming grief and sorrow, and a rugged playoff road that included three lengthy plane trips, the Wildcats stood at the doorstep of playing for a national title.

“Losing Parker was truly a great tragedy for our team, something that shook us to our core,” said Wildcats coach Joseph Smith. “We really had to pull together and take it one step at a time and one day at a time to get through that.”

With some big holes to fill at quarterback, linebacker and in the secondary to begin the season, reaching the national semifinals was an impressive feat all by itself.

“It’s been quite a year with all the highs and lows. Knowing we had the talent in the program to compete with the best in the country and then to make a legitimate run and ultimately come up 20 yards short of winning the game and going to the Stagg Bowl. I’m real proud of our guys in terms of the improvement they made.”

Two days after a stirring on-campus memorial service for Parker Moore that was attended by nearly 2,000 mourners, Linfield faced the prospect of hosting Chapman in its first-round NCAA playoff game. The Wildcats’ resolve was clearly on display that afternoon as Linfield pummeled the champions of the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference 55-24.

The victory earned Linfield a trip to central Texas to play second-ranked Mary Hardin-Baylor. The ’Cats emerged with a hard-fought 31-28 victory over the undefeated Crusaders.

The Wildcats returned to Oregon briefly before heading to the airport again for a trip to Philadelphia to play at Middle Atlantic Conference champion Widener. Riding a wave of confidence, Linfield dominated Widener 45-7, setting up a playoff rematch with UW-Whitewater.

The Warhawks jumped to a 14-0 advantage in the first half. The Wildcats rallied behind the arm and legs of Sam Riddle. Trailing by six points with time running out, Linfield moved to the UWW 20-yard-line before being stopped on fourth down.

SEASON OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Linfield featured one of the top defenses in Division III, holding opponents to 13.2 points and 236.2 yards per game. Six of the Wildcats’ 13 opponents rushed for fewer than 100 yards.

Monsterback Jordan Giza led the team with 54 total tackles, seven pass breakups, two interceptions and one fumble recovery. Defensive end Alex Hoff was a force throughout the season, piling up 16 sacks and 13 other tackles for loss.

The Wildcats’ offense was no slouch, averaging 45.1 points and 453.5 yards per game. Riddle finished as the team’s leading rusher. He scored 13 touchdowns on the ground while passing for another 34 scores. Receiver Charlie Poppen became just the sixth receiver in Linfield history to surpass 1,000 receiving yards.

By pounding Whitworth 65-13 during Homecoming Weekend, Linfield assured itself a 59th consecutive winning season, extending the nation’s longest such streak at all levels.

For the first time since 2010, the Wildcats did not complete an unbeaten regular season. Willamette stunned the Wildcats 31-28 in Week 6, a game in which Linfield never led.
Linfield Football By The Numbers

6  Consecutive Northwest Conference titles, a school record
235.8  Average yards allowed per game, second fewest in Division III
47  TDs, rushing and passing, by Sam Riddle, third-most in Division III
15½  Sacks recorded by All-American Alex Hoff, best in Division III
15,672  Miles traveled over the course of eight road games, a record

Smith, Hoff, four others draw national recognition


Smith remains among the finalists for the American Football Coaches Association Coach of the Year award. That prestigious honor is expected to be announced in mid-January.

Linfield’s relentless pass-rushing defensive end Alex Hoff earned unanimous first-team All-America honors from three separate organizations. For starters, the American Football Coaches Association recognized the 6-foot-3, 240-pound junior on its All-America list.

The Associated Press followed suit by naming Hoff to its AP Little All-America first team, an all-star cast that includes Division II, Division III and NAIA players. Hoff was among just six Division III players named to the AP first team and the only Northwest Conference representative to be cited on the complete AP Little All-America list.

Hoff also received first team All-America prestige from D3football.com. He was one of five Wildcats to be singled out by that news outlet.

Also chosen for national recognition by D3football.com was Wildcats center Jeremy Patrick, who received third team All-America honors.

Drawing honorable mention All-America acclaim were offensive tackle Steven Schultz, defensive tackle Jeremy Girod and defensive back Jordan Giza.
As an active NCAA Division III member, Linfield is required once every five years to complete what is called the Institutional Self-Study Guide (ISSG), as mandated in Bylaw 6.3.1. The ISSG is designed to assist Division III member institutions in assessing the role of athletics in the institution’s educational mission and to ensure we are complying with the eighteen points detailed in the Division III Philosophy Statement. We are asked to give detailed responses to several questions that allow us to review our current philosophy, policies and procedures. One question asked is how we educate our fans, boosters, alumni and parents regarding compliance issues. A key component to our answer is our quarterly In Compliance column.

This column is designed to inform you about NCAA legislation that affects our current student-athletes. In addition, we hope you become more educated about the activities you’re involved in that may or may not be permissible.

My last column discussed extra benefits for student-athletes. In addition to the general definition of and philosophy behind the bylaw, I provided examples of permissible and prohibited extra benefits. Yet, I only covered several of the frequently researched or common extra benefits.

For extra benefits and other bylaw interpretations that may require further research and aren’t explicitly listed in the Division III Manual, I am able to utilize an online tool that allows me to submit a specific question and receive an interpretation from the NCAA. For example, I recently had a fan and booster call to inquire about permissible extra benefits for a student-athletes’ family he had a friendship with prior to the student coming to Linfield. I was able submit his specific question to the NCAA and receive an official interpretation. Thus, if there is any question regarding what is and isn’t permissible, we hope that you will contact us so that we can keep you and Linfield In Compliance!

Achieving the greatest one-season turnaround in program history, Shane Kimura enjoyed perhaps his most satisfying season in 38 years of volleyball coaching. After tumbling all the way to ninth place in the NWC standings the previous year, Kimura’s gritty and determined Wildcats clawed their way back to fourth place this fall. It was a season of redemption for a program that had fallen on hard times in recent years. The rejuvenated ‘Cats opened the NWC schedule with victories in four of their first five contests, including a thrilling five-set result over reigning NWC champion Pacific Lutheran. The exciting home-court win halted a 14-match losing streak against the Lutes, who came in ranked 13th in the nation.

Linfield competed hard throughout the fall, just missing its goal of a winning season. The Wildcats ended with a 10-11 overall record and were 9-7 in the NWC.

“We had more depth this year, which made practices more competitive,” Kimura said. “When we had some injuries, the players on the bench stepped up and filled in nicely. We were also stronger at the net both hitting and blocking.”

Senior Kailana Ritte-Camara was the Wildcats’ workhorse, both offensively and defensively. The left-handed outside hitter earned first team all-NWC honors, averaging a team-best 2.81 kills per set, while also totaling 25 blocks and 286 digs. She finished her career with 999 career kills while becoming just the fourth player in history to surpass 1,000 career digs, ending with 1,038.

Senior Victoria Thompson also made vital contributions toward the turnaround season. An outside hitter, Thompson wound up her career No. 4 on Linfield’s career block assists ladder. For the season, she totaled 33 blocks and 144 kills.

Two newcomers played key roles as well. Caiti Barrie, a transfer from American River College, made an immediate impact. Barrie led the team in blocks with 53 while also averaging 1.78 kills per set.

Libero Courtney Uyeda was a valuable performer in the back row, averaging 4.91 digs per set. Uyeda, a second-generation Wildcat, played an elevated role when senior Courtney Wanamaker was lost for the season with a foot injury.

Though Wanamaker, Ritte-Camara and Thompson are set to graduate, Kimura believes a great nucleus is in place that can put the program in position to climb even higher in 2015.
Every objective except a championship achieved by women’s soccer

Injuries prevent fall sports teams from reaching new plateaus

CROSS COUNTRY

Relying on freshmen to lead the way by the time the season-ending championship events rolled around, Coach Travis Olson’s Wildcats faced a tough task trying to compete with the NWC’s elite squads.

With injuries mounting, both the men and women finished sixth at the NWC Championships. The ladies gained a place among league teams two weeks later at the regional meet, where the women finished 10th overall.

A big reason for the late-season bump was the individual performance of freshman Kaelia Neal. The rookie was 24th at the NWC Championships before placing 29th at the NCAA Division III West Regional, earning all-region honors in her first season.

The Wildcats had many question marks entering the year after losing six of their top seven runners from 2013, the majority due to graduation. Taking her cue from senior Calli Dowdy, the early season frontrunner, Neal emerged as Linfield’s No. 1 competitor by season’s end, filling a void left by seniors Brooke Niemann and Audrey Lichten. Both scored at the regional meet, but due to a chronic foot issue and illness, respectively, they were never completely healthy.

Including a 2-0 season-finale victory over Pacific Lutheran that dropped the Lutes from the top of the team standings into a share of second place, tied with the Wildcats.

All-time leading scorer and unanimous all-NWC first team honoree Emily Fellows tallied a league-high 13 goals while dishing out three assists. All-conference picks Ellie Schmidt (seven goals, six assists) and Emma Vukic (two goals, league-high seven assists) had arguably their best seasons to date. Schmidt’s speed and athleticism on the wing were serious challenges to any team in the league, while Vukic’s creativity resulted in several Wildcat goals.

Marisa Specht demonstrated that she is one of the league’s most unique playmakers and a dangerous threat in one-on-one situations, Lauren Pyrch did a lot of the dirty work and playmaking, if sometimes unseen, and Dani Nurmi proved to be a key reserve, totaling seven goals, including four in one match.

Midfielder and first team all-league pick Lindzee Baker was once again the definition of consistency and dominance, while Kendra McSheridan, Regan Cox, Erin Moller and Shelby DeRocher formed a stifling back line.

EQUALLY the second-most wins in program history and registering a fourth consecutive runner-up finish in the Northwest Conference made it relatively easy for first-year head coach Cole McCool to sum up Linfield’s successes during the 2014 season.

“It was as good as it could have been without winning conference.”

After compiling a 15-4 record, garnering three first team picks among six total all-NWC selections and sending off one of the best senior classes in program history, there are many positives to recall and reflect upon. But looking deeper, two key points of the season came to define the team’s spirit, determination and character.

A week and a half into October, the Wildcats sat at 4-3 in the Northwest Conference after losses to Puget Sound, Whitman and Pacific Lutheran. Before embarking on the second half of the league schedule, the team set a goal of winning its final nine matches. The team went 8-1 over the home stretch.

And even after a late-season 1-0 loss to UPS that all but dashed their title hopes, the Wildcats ended the year with two hard-fought wins, Chuck Bechtol’s squad was competitive in most matches. Of the nine conference losses, five were by a single score and in three of those matches, Linfield managed to score at least once.

Lineup inconsistencies played a major factor in Linfield’s season of fits and starts, preventing the team from being able to generate or sustain much momentum.

The numerous injuries gave several younger players key minutes and unexpected opportunities to contribute, most notably Miguel Garcia and Jack O’Keefe. The latter, who made six starts in goal, ended the season with 41 saves, including four stops on penalty kicks.

Another newcomer, Dylan Leathers, totaled three goals – including two game-winders – in 13 starts. Fellow rookies Moi Diaz and Alexander Gosselin significantly increased the talent level of the program. Diaz totaled a team-high seven goals, tied for fourth most among conference leaders, and Gosselin provided athleticism as well as two scores while starting all 18 matches.

Returners Jake Baker (three goals) and Brian DeGrandmont (four goals, team-high five assists) served as team leaders and serious offensive threats en route to all-Northwest Conference honors.
Talent boost has women’s basketball on the rise

It’s all about the details this season for the Linfield women’s basketball team. Head coach Robin Potera-Haskins aims to have the Wildcats finish among the upper middle half of the Northwest Conference, battling for one of four coveted spots in the league tournament at year’s end.

To get there, Linfield must focus on fundamentals. Particular emphasis is to be placed on increased rebounding prowess and free throw execution, areas in which the Wildcats have trailed the rest of the league in recent years.

This could be a real turning point for Linfield in its fifth season under Potera-Haskins. The 2014-15 Wildcats play with a heightened basketball IQ and have developed better habits, including the ability to more quickly evaluate and adapt to situations on the court.

“We know what to do, now it’s a matter of executing,” Potera-Haskins said. “Last year we competed really well, but there were some games in which we just didn’t maintain focus enough because our habits hadn’t been developed in terms of executing, fundamentals, logistics and details. That’s what separates the teams that win.”

Offensively, the Wildcats need to replace their top two contributors from a season ago, including the program’s No. 3 all-time scorer Kaely Maltman. Though the Wildcats are without a go-to threat, returners and newcomers alike are offensively minded and confident, meaning Linfield has the potential to have a different scoring leader on any given night.

Senior guard Taylor Solomon, whom Potera-Haskins refers to as “the quiet assassin,” tallied 10.6 points per night and brings some powerful leadership skills to the court. Quincey Gibson, a sophomore, is a savvy point guard who worked relentlessly in the offseason to improve her game. Solomon and Gibson, along with sophomore Dani Krier, are threats from 3-point range.

Paige Graham, Amantha Hood and Hannah DePew constitute part of Linfield’s talented incoming class. Graham can knock down big shots from beyond the arc. Hood, who returned to the game after taking a year off, is a powerful and explosive offensive threat, and attacks the glass with vigor. In addition to being a tremendous defender and aggressive rebounder, junior-college transfer DePew can also contribute offensively.

Patience urged in second season of Rosenberg era

Measuring the progress of the men’s basketball program under second-year coach Shanan Rosenberg is best done at the end of the season, rather than at the beginning.

Rebuilding the program back into a championship contender is going to take time and patience, though Rosenberg and assistant coach Mickey Pols have already begun laying the foundation for future success by attracting a number of talented recruits.

Through diligent work during the offseason, the coaching staff welcomed 11 freshmen into the program to blend with seven returners.

Guard Ryan Potter returns after averaging a collegiate experience. Freshmen guards Matt Totaro, James Sandoval, Trevor Howard, Chase Walker and Aeastly Montilla offer tantalizing potential, though it is naturally going to take time for the newcomers to adjust to the college game.

Senior Mason Rodby teams up with two-time NWC all-star Andrew Batiuk on the front line. Batiuk sat out all of last season with lingering foot injuries and is working his way back into basketball shape.

Building around Rodby and Batiuk are a new crop of talented forwards and centers. Burly pivots Jordan Clark and Matt Wager are complemented by the addition of athletic forwards Austin Murray, Matt Woods, Jay Robinson and Connor Sende. With a variety of strengths, all are capable of contributing to the program’s rise.

Helping develop the individual games of each new post player is first-year assistant coach John Mietus, an all-star center at Lewis & Clark during Rosenberg’s assistant coaching tenure on Palatine Hill.

After a challenging preseason schedule that includes tournament games in Portland and Santa Cruz, Calif., the Wildcats settle into their Northwest Conference slate in early January. Though the ‘Cats placed eighth last season in the final NWC standings, the goal this year is to be among the top-four regular-season finishers in order to secure a berth in the NWC postseason tournament, Feb. 26 and 28.

Aiming Higher
New swim coach, fresh approach translating into faster times

*First-year coach Kyle Kimball focusing on the fine details*

Rebranding the Linfield swimming program into a Northwest Conference-championship contender is a task which energetic coach Kyle Kimball embraces. With Kimball assuming the helm, there’s every reason to believe the Wildcats are collectively on the upswing. Much of that optimism is owed to the solid leadership and skill of veterans Ian Coker, Ian White, Devin Pritchard and Elizabeth Fry.

“We have some great captains and other instrumental leaders within the team,” said Kimball. “We have a close-knit team and that will help as we gear up for the conference championships in February.”

Both squads finished at or near the bottom of the nine-team NWC last winter, positions the Wildcats are unaccustomed to.

“Our team goals include moving up in the conference, getting individual best times, growing our team, and moving ourselves into position to contend for the conference title in coming years,” said Kimball.

“Our team can improve the little details that make a big difference,” he said. “We need to work more on our starts, turns, and streamlines. If we can improve those details in the water, we will make huge strides.”

The men’s squad features a stable of capable freestylers in White, Jonathan Tillery, Hayden Cooksy and Matt Hanson. White and transfer Juan Vidal are the leading competitors in the butterfly events. The Wildcats’ best challenger in the breaststroke is Chris Purdy, a senior who expects to return to the squad once the season resumes in January.

For the women, juniors Nikki Overton and Elizabeth Fry return to anchor the freestyle races. Brandi Halemano rejoins the team after a one-year hiatus to compete in the breaststroke. Leading backstrokers include a trio of freshmen in Tina Medeiros, Erin Nelson and Ashlyn Edmondo. Rita Cohen is the top threat in the butterfly.

Kimball’s training approach “embraces solid pace training while conditioning our swimmers to be overall athletes.

“The more well-rounded our athletes are, the better swimmers they will be. We also focus on feel and positioning the body in order to become faster through the water.”

Where will the Wildcats end up at the end of the season? “I truly believe Linfield can be the best team from Oregon within our conference this year,” said Kimball.

“That’s our goal and if we can achieve it, it will position us well in future years.”

Katherine Brackmann

**FAST BREAK**

In the midst of my fifth year at Linfield, it occurs to – and amazes – me that the last time I was tied to a single place for this length of time, I was in elementary school.

I’m in a particularly reflective mood because I’ve been asked to serve as a panelist at the “Women in Sports” career seminar, hosted by the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, this January. There, I’ll share my experiences and dole out advice to a crowd of female high school and college students hoping to embark on their own career paths in athletics.

In my early preparations for the event, it’s been fun to recall my path to Linfield and some of the memorable experiences I’ve enjoyed over the past 4½ years.

My first two years at Linfield were made possible by the NCAA’s Division III Ethnic Minority and Women’s Internship grant. As one of approximately 20 college administrators to receive the grant for that cycle, I immediately gained a network of my peers and “alumni” – former interns – that to this day I keep in touch with, regularly bounce ideas off of, and am fortunate to call some of my dearest friends.

Helped by some professional development funds received through the grant, I’ve expanded my network, gained more experience, and let’s face it, had a great deal of fun volunteering at various big-time sporting events, from the NCAA Division I Women’s Final Four to the Olympic Track & Field Trials.

Here at Linfield, I’ve enjoyed a dugout-view seat as our baseball team captured a national championship, been promoted to a new role as Assistant Director-External Relations and Senior Woman Administrator and connected with many colleagues through some intense “noon hoops” battles on the basketball court.

That’s not to say I haven’t had my share of challenges. Gaining respect as a young, female professional fresh out of college was not an overnight process, the technological demands of my job become greater every year and maintaining a desirable work-life balance is a constant struggle.

But overall, I’m happy to “count my blessings” and look forward to meeting the next generation of female athletic administrators.

**SPAWNING SUCCESS**

Former Linfield football player and assistant coach Craig Howard ’74 recently led Southern Oregon University to the NAIA national championship. In only his fourth season since taking over as head coach, Howard’s SOU team hammered Marian (Ind.) 55-31 in the championship game at Daytona Beach, Fla.

Led by NAIA national player of the year Austin Dodge, SOU completed a 13-2 season.

Howard’s NAIA championship came nine years and nine days after his Tim Tebow-led Nease High School team captured the Class 4A Florida state championship.

“It’s a lot like Nease was, the young men bought into our program,” Howard said. “Our formula is our formula. If you have a good work ethic and love each other, you’ll do great things.”

**AGUANO TAKES CHANDLER TO TITLE**

1992 Linfield graduate Shaun Aguano guided Chandler High School to a 26-16 victory over Hamilton to capture the Arizona Division I state football championship. The victory ended Hamilton’s 17-game winning streak over Chandler.

A native of Kapa’a, Hawaii, Aguano is in his 13th year of teaching and coaching at Chandler.

**LOCEY TO LEAD LEWIS & CLARK**

On the subject of championship coaches with Linfield ties, Jay Locey has been named head football coach at Lewis & Clark College.

After spending nine years on Mike Riley’s staff at Oregon State University, Locey takes over a program that went without a win in 2014. Locey departed Linfield after the 2005 season to join his alma mater where he served as assistant coach and chief of staff.

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Paul Durham Monument dedicated

Football alumni Pete Dengenis, Terry Durham and Bob Ferguson (above) collaborated with sculptor Heather Green (left) to create and install the bronze-clad Paul Durham monument in the courtyard between the main Health and Human Performance building and the Aquatics Center. The monument was formally dedicated Oct. 18 as part of Homecoming Weekend.

More than 130 former players and friends of Paul Durham contributed in excess of $72,000 toward the cost of the 8-foot-tall monument and surrounding engraved marble markers and circular plaza.