



MILESTONE!

The 2008-2009 year will mark the 60th anniversary of Men's Basketball and Baseball and the 50th anniversary of Men's Soccer and Cross Country.

We are asking for stories or pictures from former athletes to use in publications to help commemorate the milestone.

Please send information to:

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008

The SUNY New Paltz Department of Athletics is seeking nominations for the Hall of Fame class of 2008. The ceremony will take place Friday October 17th as a part of Alumni weekend.

If you have a nominee please send your recommendations to SUNY New Paltz Director of Athletics Stuart Robinson.



New Paltz Athletics

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET CAPS OFF 2007-2008 YEAR

The SUNY New Paltz Department of Athletics announced the winners of the prestigious Heinz Ahlmeyer, Carol Eckman, Floyd Patterson, Athletic Director's, Kenneth F. Burda, and Donald Bishko awards. These awards are given annually to outstanding student-athletes who have contributed in an exemplary fashion to the college's intercollegiate athletics program and were presented at the Annual Athletic banquet on Wednesday, May 7, 2008.

Michelle Coombs (Newburgh, NY) was the recipient of the Heinz Ahlmeyer Award. The award is presented annually to a junior or senior athlete with at least two years of varsity participation whose dedication, perseverance and service throughout his or her athletic career at SUNY New Paltz has been an inspiration to both his/her teammates and fellow students. A team captain and team MVP, Coombs had a decorated career. She elevated the swim program to a standard of excellence. Outside of the pool, she succeeded as a Psychology major with a minor in sociology and worked with professionals in the Disability Resource Center, volunteered with agencies in her hometown, and served as a Resident Counselor at a crisis shelter. Coombs made a difference in so many ways and she has left her mark at New Paltz.

Coombs also earned the Carol Eckman Award for the second consecutive year. Given to the top female athlete of the year, Coombs was a three time All-American and a two time honorable mention all-American. At nationals, she finished third in the 50 Free, third in the 100 Back and fifth in the 100 Free. The 200 free relay finished 16th and the 200 Medley relay

finished 14th. She was a six-time ECAC Champion and a five-time SUNYAC Champion. Coombs was named the SUNYAC Outstanding Female Swimmer for the second consecutive year and was named the Division III Swimmer of the Week for her performance at SUNYAC's.

A member of the baseball team, senior Zachary Potter (Pine Plains, NY), claimed the Floyd Paterson Award as the top male athlete of the year. Senior pitcher Zachary Potter earned first team all-conference with 2.30 ERA and a 7-1 record on the mound, tying the all-time single season mark. Potter threw 87 strikeouts on the year and completes his career at New Paltz second on the strikeout chart with 146 (accomplished in two seasons).

The Kenneth F. Burda Award was presented to seniors Eri Yamakawa (Eastchester, NY), and Pedro Medina (Brentwood, NY). The award is presented to a student-athlete, who has participated for at least three years and who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement, sportsmanship, citizenship, ethical conduct and leadership throughout his/her career, beyond that which is generally expected of student-athletes at New Paltz. Yamakawa was a four year member of the women's tennis team and a three year captain. She led her team to back-to-back SUNYAC titles and earned the individual title at second singles in 2006 and first doubles in 2007. Yamakawa is a member of the National College Athlete Honor Society, SUNYAC All-Academic and Commissioner's List, was a 2006 Arthur Ashe Sports Scholar and in 2005 was selected to the NCAA Leadership Conference. She has volunteered her time with Special Olympics, Relay for Life, served as a tutor, and been a member of SAAC. Yamakawa earned a degree in International Business and Finance and accepted a job with IBM.

Medina was a four year member of the men's volleyball program, an event staff worker, a recognizable face around the Athletic Department, and someone who bleeds blue and orange. He majored in Spanish and Latin American Studies and in 2006 was named a SUNYAC Chancellor Scholar Athlete. Off the court, he was a valuable event worker and if not working – you could find him in the stands as a general fan supporting New Paltz. He participated in the community leaf raking project, helped with Kids Sports Night, and was usually first to lend a helping hand when asked. He had an outstanding

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career and finished ranked #1 in Division III for digs. But he earned the award based on the person he is and the impact he made during his four years at New Paltz.

The Athletic Director's Award is presented to an individual who has provided dedicated service to the Department. This year two recipients were chosen. The first recipient was Kevin Saunders; an alum, employee and a friend to athletics. The work that Saunders does for the department is largely behind the scenes. He fixes all of our computer issues, shows support at athletic contests, takes prospective employees to lunch and around the town. This year he co-chaired the first ever golf tournament for the department and simply does all of this out of the goodness of his heart. The second recipient of the Athletic Director's Award was presented to Kyle Clancy. Clancy has grown tremendously over the past two years, since he first arrived at New Paltz. He takes control of event management, upholds department policies and serves as the face of the department at high school sectional games. He works tirelessly to make sure SUNY New Paltz is seen in its best light and has set a standard of excellence.

Senior Katie Becofsky (Altamont, NY) and sophomore Bobby Moorehead (Pine Bush, NY) were the recipients of the Donald Bishko Award. The Donald Bishko Award is given each year to the male and female student-athlete who had the highest grade point average at the conclusion of the fall semester. A member of the women's volleyball team, Becofsky earned a 3.95 grade point average as a psychology and communication major. Moorehead, a member of the baseball team, earned a grade point average of 3.91 while majoring in accounting.

DIFABIO AND WILLIAMS INDUCTED INTO CAROL ECKMAN SOCIETY

On March 29th the Department of Athletics held its annual Carol Eckman Society Medal of Honor Induction. Every year, former female student-athletes are inducted into the Society based upon their athletic experience while at New Paltz and, more importantly, their continued service to young women and girls in both athletic and professional development. The 2008 recipients of the honor were former swimmer Jessica



Silver Williams, Dr. Charlotte West, Jessica DiFabio

DiFabio and basketball player Silver Williams. This year's induction featured Dr. Charlotte West as a guest speaker. Dr. West spent many years as the Associate Athletic Director at Southern Illinois

University before retiring in 1998. She was the first member of the National Association of Collegiate Director of Athletics and later served on their Executive Committee. In addition, West was the first recipient of the Honda Award given for outstanding achievement in women's collegiate athletics. Today, she still continues unfinished work of ensuring equal opportunity for women in sport. DiFabio was a four year member of the women's wim program. She brought the program to levels within the SUNYAC, setting the stage for the national powerhouse it is today. DiFabio won multiple SUNYAC titles, was honored with the Grace Mowatt Award and was selected the Heinz Ahlmeyer recipient in 1999. She is currently a guidance counselor at Waterford-Halfmoon High School and serves as an assistant swim coach for the Greenbush YMCA and Shenendehowa HS. Williams is one of the most distinguished players in the history of women's basketball at New Paltz. She finished her career fourth all time in scoring with 946 points and second in rebounds with 671. She was a second team All-SUNYAC selection in 2002 and was the Heinz Ahlmeyer Award recipient in 2003. Williams is currently an English teacher at Newburgh Free Academy.

FIRST ANNUAL ATHLETICS GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

The Tournament Committee for the First Annual SUNY New Paltz Athletics Golf Tournament has reported that this year's event raised an estimated \$7,000 to benefit the student-athletes at SUNY New Paltz. The tournament was held at the Apple Green Golf Course in Highland on April 25. Seventy



participants, making up 18 teams, played 18 holes in a scramble format. An awards dinner and raffle drawing were held at the club banquet hall in the afternoon.

Team Anaconda finished first on the day, while team Burke took second and team Ryan finished third. Winners of the longest drive were Jillian Langenau and Bert Myers. Colleen Bruley and John McCormick won closet to the pin and Mike Gropuso won the putting contest.

SPRING SPORTS REPORT

SOFTBALL — The women's softball team had a record breaking season in 2008 completing their schedule 25-18 overall and 13-9 in the conference, setting school win records in both categories. The Hawks earned a spot in the SUNYAC Tournament where they finished fifth. New Paltz fell to

Cortland 3-0 and defeated Oswego 8-0, before being eliminated by Buffalo State in a 7-1 loss. Third Team All-American, first team All-Region and All-SUNYAC selection, senior Lauren



Lauren Motzkin

Motzkin etched her name into the record books. She became the all-time career leader in hits (171), steals (41) and doubles (38). She set the single season record for hits (58) and doubles (15). She batted at team high .397 on the season with 35 runs and 32 RBI. Senior shortstop Amalia DiTrapani was an All-SUNYAC selection, batting .364 with 43 hits, 27 runs, 20 RBI. Sophomore Melyssa Cilmi earned All-SUNYAC and third-team All-Region honors for her performance in the outfield. Cilmi hit .336 and registered a team and conference high eight outfield assists. Dale Cornelius hit .331 with 45 hits and earned SUNYAC all-tournament honors and was named a District Academic All-American. Sophomore Justine Scutaro posted a team high 102 putouts and 36 RBI. Senior Michelle Reinke and first year Courtney Costello split time on the mound. Reinke posted a 3.73 ERA and a 5-3 record with 57 strikeouts in 72 innings of work. Costello went 10-9 on the mound in 114 innings with 43 strikeouts.

BASEBALL — In 2008, the baseball team completed their season with an overall record of 21-19 and a 5-9 mark in the conference. The team put together a 9-2 record on their spring



Zachary Potter

trip to Ft. Pierce, FL, including an eight game winning streak. Senior pitcher Zachary Potter earned first team all-conference and second team all-region with 2.30 ERA and a 7-1 record on the mound, tying the all-time single season mark. Potter threw 87 strikeouts on the year and completes his career at New Paltz second on the strikeout chart with 146. Junior Tyler Terlecky was a first time All-SUNYAC selection as he led the team with 55 hits and a .379 average. Junior Joel Judson finished the season hitting .368 with 49 hits, 25 RBI and 12 stolen bases. Senior Jesse Marsh batted .336 with 50 hits and a team-high 31 runs scored. Jimmy Donohue, Jonathan Shanks, and Jeff Stith each posted three wins on the mound, combining for 103 strikeouts in 121.2 innings of work.

WHITBECK NAMED HEAD SWIM COACH

State University of New York at New Paltz Athletic Director, Stuart Robinson, announced the hiring of Scott Whitbeck as the Head Swim Coach. Whitbeck comes to SUNY New Paltz after two years as an assistant coach at the University of Massachusetts.



Scott Whitbeck

"We are extremely delighted that Scott will be joining our staff," stated Robinson. "His accomplishments as a swimmer and his experiences at UMass and Wooster, in addition to the Michigan swim camps, distinguished him from a talented pool of candidates. He has a lot of offer with his understanding of the ongoing developments within the sport and his view of where our programs are and want to be." In two years at NCAA Division I UMass, Whitbeck assisted the Minutemen with all aspects of running a perennially successful Atlantic 10 program including training, stroke technique, recruiting and meet preparation. The men's team won the Atlantic 10 championship both seasons while the women finished second and fourth. Twelve varsity records were set during his two seasons as an assistant.

"I am honored that the Department of Athletics and Stuart Robinson have given me this opportunity to work with the swim program," Whitbeck said. "I am thrilled to take the skills that I have learned over the past few years and work with the SUNY New Paltz athletes in maintaining a level of success, while striving to take it to the next level."

Prior to UMASS, Whitbeck served as the assistant coach/aquatics director at the College of Wooster for two seasons where he coached the 2005 NCAA Champion in the 1650 Free. In addition, he spearheaded the recruitment of fifty athletes to the program, maintained the aquatic facility, and directed a triathlon. Whitbeck has worked three summers as a swim counselor at the University of Michigan Swim Camps and assisted the NCAA Div. III meet director in running the NCAA Swim Championships in 2005, 2006 and most recently in 2008.

Whitbeck spent four seasons on the varsity swim team at Kalamazoo College where he was a 12-time NCAA All-American, three-time NCAA Academic All-American, named team captain, and elected as the team's Most Valuable Swimmer in 2004. In addition to swimming, he also earned an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship and a Charles Monroe departmental award in Economics. Since graduation, Whitbeck has stayed active in swimming through US Masters, winning two open water National Championships and currently holds the 3000 yard freestyle national record.

Whitbeck received a bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo in 2004 and completed two master degree programs; one in Business Administration and the other in Sports Management, at UMASS in 2008.

