

2008

## 'Cat Tracks

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### Recommended Citation

Linfield Magazine Staff and Davis, Laura (2008) "'Cat Tracks," *Linfield Magazine*: Vol. 5: Iss. 2, Article 12.  
Available at: [http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield\\_magazine/vol5/iss2/12](http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol5/iss2/12)

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# Former Wildcat finds outlet for Wildcat fever

A former Linfield College athlete has found an outlet for his Wildcat fever.

Ryan Carlson '98 of Lafayette created catdome-alumni.com, a website celebrating Linfield football, in 2006. The site contains dozens of video clips, game highlights, player and coaching blogs, and more.

Carlson created the site to provide a way for Wildcat fans to return to the "Catdome," a long-held nickname for the Maxwell Field facility, and connect with the Wildcat teams.

"No matter where you are, you can always get your fix of Linfield football," said Carlson, a former business major and defensive end for the Wildcats. "I'm a huge fan of the program and wanted to find a way to give back to Linfield and specifically Linfield football."

The site has developed a dedicated following – it averages 2,250 unique hits each month and is a useful supplement to the Linfield athletics website, according to Kelly Bird, director of sports information.

Carlson, who works for Synopsys Inc. in Hillsboro, was an honorable mention NAIA All-American in 1997 and still holds the Linfield single-season record for sacks with 18. He spends his off-hours reviewing historical tapes, traveling with the team (he hasn't



Ryan Carlson '98, creator of catdomealumni.com, can be found shooting on the sidelines of every Linfield football game. The website contains video clips, game highlights and blogs celebrating Wildcat football.

missed a football game in three years), and creating the digital videos and other web content. His involvement is more than just a hobby; it's like a part-time job.

"Ryan's love for Linfield and its athletic programs runs about as deep as you will ever find," Bird said. "His main motivation for staying involved is not about personal glory or a pat on the back, but about helping perpetuate the ideals and lasting success of the program that he once competed in."

Carlson gets feedback on his work from wife, Kelly (Bradstreet) '00, a teacher at McMinnville High School and former Linfield basketball player. Carlson recently added a second site, catdomehoops.com, for Linfield women's basketball.

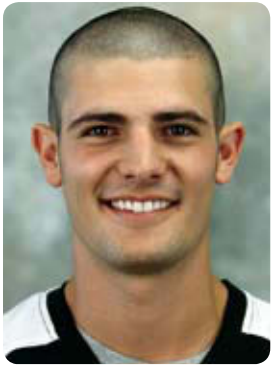
"I use Kelly as a sounding board," he said. "She always has outstanding suggestions on music and content. When I can get her to say 'wow,' I know that I have a winner."

Devoted fans, the couple has a "Linfield" room in their home. Their daylight basement contains a "truckload of Linfield fanfare," including both Ryan's and Kelly's jerseys and a display of football media guides, which Carlson references while working on the sites.

— Laura Davis



# Spencer Winter '10



**Sport:** Soccer

**Hometown:** McMinnville

**Major:** Business

**Athletic achievements:**

Four-year letterman, two-year starter at left back and senior captain.

**Favorite sports memory:**

“The overtime win against Pacific Lutheran University in the pouring rain my sophomore year.”

**Favorite professors:** Malek Daaboul, adjunct professor of math, and Larry Doty, associate professor of health and human performance and men’s basketball coach. “They both have a very positive outlook on life and it shows every day. It makes things much more enjoyable when teachers are so passionate about what they are doing. They inspire me to be better and push me to do better in all aspects of life.”

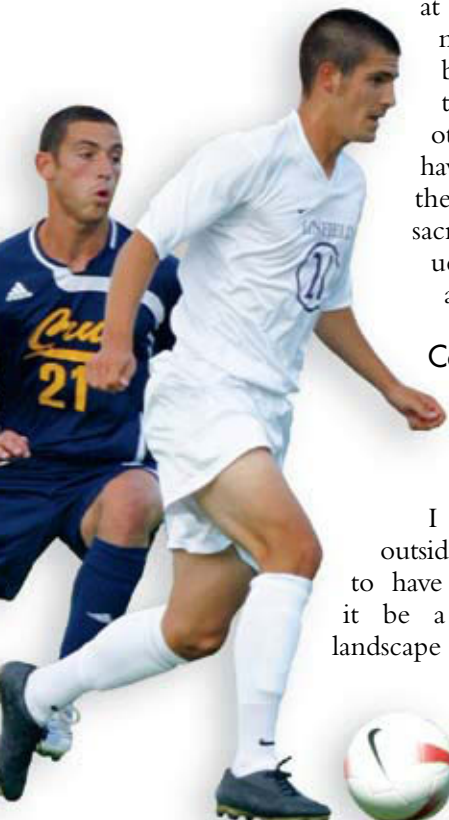
**Favorite class:** “Soccer coaching theory because I love soccer and I would someday like to coach. It was a great class to help me with the fundamentals that I would use to be a well-rounded coach.”

**Will miss about Linfield:** “The beautiful campus and all the great people who work here.”

**Balancing sports and academics:** “It was hard to do at first, but I learned to balance my time on and off the field by using my time off the field to study in the library or with other students in class. I may not have a lot of free time during the season but I am willing to sacrifice that time to continue to better myself in school and athletics.”

**Career goals:** “To find a job that I love going to every-day. I enjoy sports, so it would be nice to be able to do coaching on the side.

I enjoy cooking and being outside, so someday I would like to have my own business, whether it be a breakfast restaurant or a landscape company.”



# Hall of Fame '08

Six former athletes and two longtime supporters have been selected as part of the 11th class of inductees to be enshrined into the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame.

The group is slated for induction on Nov. 8 at the annual AT&T Wireless Hall of Fame banquet, which follows that afternoon’s Linfield-Western Oregon football game. The Hall of Fame class of 2008 includes:

- Two-time football All-American Tony Ah Yat '65, a starter on the Camellia Bowl team and member of three Northwest Conference championship teams.
- Dan Beeson '70, three-time NWC basketball all-star and the school’s third-leading all-time rebounder. Beeson was a member of four straight NAIA national tournament teams.
- Two-time football All-American Floyd Halvorsen '86, who holds the Linfield single-season record for most unassisted tackles and ranks fourth all-time in total tackles. He was a member of two NAIA national championship teams.
- Toby Robillard '76, who earned five varsity letters in track & field and football. More than 30 years after his graduation, Robillard continues to hold the Linfield record in the shot put and ranks sixth all-time in the discus.
- The late Kyle Tarpinning '83, who earned seven varsity letters in football and track & field. A kicker and defensive back, Tarpinning led the football team in scoring three straight seasons, and also captured the 1983 NWC pole vault title.
- Basketball and baseball standout Bill Wallin '63, who earned All-America honors in each sport and was a member of four NWC championship teams. Wallin went on to an accomplished career as a baseball, basketball and football official.
- Jim Wright and Jim Reimann, for meritorious service to the college’s athletic programs. Wright, together with his wife, Sondra, and Reimann, along with his wife, Beverly, have made sizable monetary contributions toward the development of Linfield athletic venues.

The Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame was established in 1998 as a means to honor outstanding former athletes, coaches, staff and contributors, and to preserve the memory of their achievements.