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## 'Cat Tracks

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# Challenges don't hinder Rodgers

When Megan Rodgers '07 steps on the tennis court, her pre-game preparation is different from other members of the Linfield College team.

Instead of walking a few blocks to the tennis courts on the McMinnville Campus, she drives 42 miles from Portland, where she's a nursing student at the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing.

Rodgers is undaunted by the challenges presented in combining a demanding major with her love of tennis. On any given morning, she might be found administering injections, learning how to set an IV or helping dress a wound at a clinical or in the nursing lab. By that afternoon,

she's braving the traffic bottleneck at Dundee to make a team practice or a match.

"She is the core of the team, which is distinctive given her geographical challenges," according to Amy Dames Smith, Linfield women's tennis coach.

Focus and hard work are not new for Rodgers. A passionate tennis player since picking up her racquet at the age of 12, the Prineville native was a state qualifier all four years at Crook County High School. After high school, she wanted to combine her love of tennis with her interest in health care. Linfield seemed the perfect fit with its small class sizes, strong tennis program and nursing school.

Rodgers spent her first year in McMinnville focusing on basic requirements and fundamental health care classes. She found she loved the team aspect of college tennis.

"The play of one person can determine the winning of the entire team's match," Rodgers said. "You realize it isn't over when your match is done. Your teammates are still out there and they need your support."

Her move to the Portland Campus as a sophomore presented new challenges. Each year of the nursing curriculum builds on the previous year, beginning with basic skills such as taking vital signs and moving into clinical settings such as foster homes or the Oregon

State Hospital. The clinicals require students to spend a certain number of hours each semester working in a professional facility.

Even with a move to the Portland Campus and the challenging curriculum, Rodgers decided to remain part of the tennis team.

"I wasn't ready to be finished competing," she said. "In a lot of ways it is therapeutic for me to do something that I love."

During the last two years, Rodgers has made the commute to tennis practice almost three times a week. She admits her schedule is hectic, but stays on track with her schooling by being organized and making the best use of her time.

And when it comes to tennis, she's proven her talent. Rodgers has been named first team Northwest Conference and twice received second team NWC honors. What's more, her teammates voted her Most Valuable Player this year.

"Megan is an outstanding person," said Dames Smith. "She has a good sense of herself and has one of the greatest work ethics I have ever seen."

Although Rodgers is uncertain whether she will compete her senior year, she knows tennis will always fit somewhere in her lifestyle.

"My schedule is tough. But I know I am receiving a good education and doing what I love," Rodgers said. "I can walk away saying I didn't take the easiest route and I didn't give up at the first obstacle that landed in front of me."

— Laura Graham '07

Celia Grachico, assistant lab coordinator at the Linfield-Good Samaritan School of Nursing, helps Megan Rodgers '07 check a blood pressure in the Nursing Simulation Lab.





Members of the Wildcat softball team are, back row, from left, Kendra Strahm '09, Stephanie Rice '08, Amanda Attleberger '08, Meredith Brunette '08, Assistant Coach Greg Herman, Stephanie Morgan '06, Assistant Coach Ben Blosser, Kori Kajitsu '08, Amy Hammons '06, Shayna Clark '07, Brittany Miller '09, Shelly Steinke '06; front row, Head Coach Jackson Vaughan '97, Erica Hancock '08, Jenny Marshall '08, Lisa Smith '07, Jena Loop '07, Erin McCann '09 and Bethany Dobie '06.



Stephanie Morgan '06, heads for homeplate during a World Series game.

## Softball team places fourth at Division III World Series

The Linfield College softball team knows a thing or two about comebacks.

For the first time in college history, the softball team advanced to the NCAA Division III Women's Softball World Series, placing fourth in the nation this spring.

The Wildcats, staving off playoff elimination eight consecutive times, were finally defeated 2-1 by Muskingum at the NCAA Division III Championships in Raleigh, N.C. The Wildcats ended their season at 37-11.

Led by Jackson Vaughan '97, head coach since 2001, the team battled adversities including late-season injuries to beat out more than 400 teams across the nation.

"It was very, very satisfying," Vaughan said. "We accomplished everything we set out to do at the start of the year, and not many teams can say that."

The 2006 team rewrote the record book, setting club records for most games played (48), wins (37), runs (295), hits (472), batting average (.341), doubles (68), home runs (22), slugging percentage (.454), stolen bases (124), strikeouts (245) and fielding percentage (.969).

This year's young team graduated only four seniors and Vaughan has high hopes for next year as well.

"They know what's expected and what it takes to get there," Vaughan said.

### Baseball

Linfield logged its 15th consecutive winning baseball season and finished second in the NWC with a 15-9 record. This is the 18th time in head coach Scott Carnahan's 23 seasons they have placed first or second in the conference. Ten 'Cats made the all-conference team.

### Track and Field

Head Coach Garry Killgore was named the West Region Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross County Coaches Association, and the NCAA Division III West Region Indoor

Coach of the Year. The 'Cats were second in the NWC. Joni Claypool '06 placed third in the women's shot at the NCAA III championships. Also advancing to the national meet were Danielle Bielenberg '06, women's shot, discus; Riley Bernard '07, women's 400 hurdles; and Gabe Haberly '09, men's javelin.

### Tennis

The women's team finished 21-3 including an 18-0 mark against NWC competition, extending its unblemished run of NWC victories to 63. The season included the most victories in program history and a

fifth consecutive NWC title.

The men's team finished third in the NWC, with a 15-8 overall record, including a 14-5 mark in the NWC.

### Golf

Linfield enjoyed its best men's golf season in six years, taking second place in the NWC and shooting three of its best team scores in years. The consistent play of Laurie Wheeler '07, who earned first-team all-conference distinction, highlighted the women's season. The team placed third in final standings.

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