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## 'Cat Tracks

Linfield Magazine Staff

Laura Davis  
*Linfield College*

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## Dakotah Lawrence-Pine '15

Sport: Men's basketball, point guard

Hometown: Port Townsend, Wash.

Major: Exercise science and nursing

**Academic plan:** "I chose to study both nursing and exercise science because both education pathways are interesting to me. I believe that having a background in both fields will help me to better understand health and fitness in a more holistic sense."

**Path to Linfield:** "I transferred to Linfield from Western Washington University. Because I will be pursuing a nursing double major, I will complete an additional two years at the nursing campus in Portland."

**Final year:** "This is my third and final season playing basketball at Linfield. Unfortunately, I will not be able to play for Coach Doty next year while attending classes in Portland."

**Balancing sport and academics:** "Balancing is definitely a difficult task, however during the season you are forced to manage your time more efficiently and I generally do better in my classes during the season."

**Proud moment:** "In high school I was fortunate enough to make a game-winning shot to clinch third place in state for my team. As a Linfield athlete, it's always fun to beat George Fox."

**Future plans:** "My first career goal is to work as a nurse. After a few years, I plan to either return to school for a certification as a nurse anesthetist or enter a career path that combines both my degrees."

## Spring sports begin play

*It may only be February, but spring sports are in full motion.*

**TRACK AND FIELD** – Anna LaBeaume '14 seeks to defend her Northwest Conference championships in the women's shot put and hammer events, and sprinter Melany Crocker '13 is among the conference's best. The men's squad should get quality performances each week from middle-distance star Lester Maxwell '14 and decathlete Michael Madden '14.

**SOFTBALL** – Linfield seeks its 10th straight Northwest Conference championship and a fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAA championship game. Three-time All-America third baseman Karleigh Prestianni '13 and pitching ace Karina Paavola '14 are the headline performers.

**BASEBALL** – All-America second baseman Tim Wilson '13 is back as the Wildcats begin their quest for a return to the NCAA Division III playoffs after a one-year absence. Pitchers Zach Manley '14, Zach Brandon '14 and Chris Haddeland '15 return with the most experience on the mound.

**MEN'S TENNIS** – The Wildcats are young but continue to build their experience and skill. Zach Lyons '13 is the Wildcats' number one player heading into the spring.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS** – Veterans Lexi Thomas '14 and Caroline Brigham '14 will play prominent roles this spring as Linfield eyes a second consecutive

berth in the NCAA regional tournament.

**WOMEN'S GOLF** – The season resumes after the winter hiatus with Brinn Hovde '13, Sophie Corr '13 and Maggie Harlow '16 leading the way.

**MEN'S GOLF** – Taylor Klopp '14 and A.J. Taylor '14 are expected to continue their consistent play throughout the spring as Linfield chases its fifth NWC title in six seasons.



View schedules at [www.linfield.edu/sports/](http://www.linfield.edu/sports/)

# Students earn while they learn

Dozens of Linfield College students are gaining tangible experience in the world of sports media – while boosting Linfield's sports message.

Each semester, some 15 work study students assist Kelly Bird, director of sports information, broadcasting games, taking photos, writing stories and creating video. They run scoreboards, compile statistics, broadcast games, provide office support, prepare rosters and game programs and much more.

This real-world experience, along with a new sport management minor and a unique January Term class focused on the sport industry, is preparing students for careers in sports media and administration.

According to Bird, the students who work with him enable Linfield to meet the real-time expectations of the public in this internet-driven age.

"We've come to rely on our students in so many different roles," said Bird, who noted students have made it possible to add video webcasting and same-day reports of every athletic event. "Using students, the outreach of athletic communications has expanded."

Jerry Young '14, a mass communication major with an eye on a sports broadcasting career, is in his third year working with sports information. He serves as the primary play-by-play broadcaster, calling games for volleyball, basketball and football video webcasts.

"None of it is really work for me," said Young, who grew up captivated by play-by-play announcers on TV and radio. "It's all a blast. I get to do what I loved listening

to as a kid. It's fun to experiment with phrases and find new ways to describe things."

Young spends two hours before each game researching stats and fun facts in preparation for pre- and post-game shows. "It takes a lot of work if you want to sound good on the air," said Young. "I watch it on TV with a different perspective now."

Kelsey McGarry '16, a political science major, keeps score at volleyball, basketball and softball games, and also writes feature stories and post-event recaps. "The interviewing I'm doing helps me with my people skills," said McGarry, a devoted baseball fan with aspirations of a career in local politics. "Plus, I get paid to go to sporting events."

Eric Evenson '11 spent four years working in Linfield's sports information department and is now pursuing a master's in sport management at the University of San Francisco and as an intern with the San Francisco Giants. He has also interned with the Oakland Raiders, Cal Berkeley Athletic Department and the United States Golf Association.

"For those of us working in sports, we must get used to working nontraditional hours and juggling responsibilities," he said. "Working with Kelly prepared me for high-stress environments and taught me to hold myself to a high standard even when things get busy."

This fall, Linfield instituted a new sport management minor that incorporates classes in business, philosophy, economics and other departments to provide a liberal arts view.

Courses encourage critical analysis of the culture and social significance of sport, the need for ethical and moral decision-making and the role of sport as business, according to Denise Farag '88, program coordinator and assistant professor of business.



*Jerry Young '14 polishes his play-by-play broadcasting skills during a Linfield basketball game in January. He and other Linfield students are gaining experience in the world of sports media through work study positions, a new sport management minor and, most recently, a January Term course, Career Exploration: Through the Lens of Sport Management.*

"Having that liberal arts perspective is important," Farag said. "We've had a lot of students with an interest in athletics, but who wanted to pursue areas of sport management. This will be helpful as they prepare for careers in the sport field."

In addition to the minor, a January Term class provided an in-depth look at aspects of the sport industry. During Career Exploration: Through the Lens of Sport Management, students met with representatives from adidas, Nike, Columbia Sportswear, Portland Timbers, Portland Trail Blazers, Seattle Mariners, Seattle Seahawks and other sport-related entities. 🍀

– Laura Davis