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## 'Cat Tracks

Linfield Magazine Staff

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## Home plate reunion at Helser Field

Casey Powell '97, second from right, head baseball coach at Whitman College, went head-to-head with college coaching mentors when the Whitman baseball team took on the Wildcats in April. A strong staff of alumni coaches is key to the success of the Wildcat baseball team. Varsity baseball coaches, from left, include Jim Ray '79, assistant coach; Scott Brosius '02, assistant coach; and Scott Carnahan '73, head coach. Also lending their experience are Jarvis Gomes '95, varsity scout; Joe Smith '93, head junior varsity coach; and Ike Ellis '03, assistant junior varsity coach.



## Meryl Witt '07, cross country and track

**Hometown:** Albany

**Major:** Accounting, with an economics minor

**Career ambition:** Certified public accountant

**Track and field achievements:** Placed second at the Northwest Conference championships in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, breaking the Linfield record by more than two seconds. Also placed third in the NWC in the 5,000.

**Cross country achievements:** Was the first freshman and sixth overall finisher at the NWC championships in November. Earned all-West Region honors after placing eighth at the NCAA Division III regional meet. Honored as an Academic All-American by the U.S. Track and Field Coaches Association.

**Her coach, Garry Killgore,** "has helped me improve so much this year. He listens to everything we say and cares about each one of us. He wants us to be happy with our performances. He offers support for academics as well as athletics."

**Future goals:** "To keep improving. To make it to the NCAA championships in cross country and track. To do well in classes and maintain a high GPA."

**Other campus activities:** Assistant to the Associated Students of Linfield College vice president for finance, Linfield Activities Board business manager.

**Chose Linfield because** "I like the small class sizes. Every professor I've had has known me on a first-name basis. I like the small atmosphere, rather than a big university where you can get lost in the crowd. The liberal arts classes make you a more well-rounded person and I wanted that. Plus, the people are the friendliest and the atmosphere is so nice."

**Favorite professors and classes:** Stephen Bricher '86 (calculus), Randy Grant (economics) and Michael Jones (accounting) "I haven't had a bad teacher here. They're all so good."

**Linfield connection:** Two brothers, Aaron and Ryan Heisinger, both '00. While still in high school, Meryl began making regular visits to Linfield to watch her brothers play football.

## 'Cats again best in NWC

For the third time in four years, Linfield College has been named the top athletics program in the Northwest Conference. Linfield won the McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy for 2003-04, recognizing athletic excellence among NWC institutions. Linfield won or shared six NWC championships, including volleyball, football, men's soccer, women's tennis, softball and baseball.

"It's nice to be able to show consistency throughout all our programs," said Scott Carnahan '73, director of athletics. "Winning the all-sports trophy is a tribute to the total effort of a lot of people. It takes quality student-athletes, great support people, and a committed coaching staff and administration."

Several Linfield teams enjoyed significant seasons. The volleyball team won its first NWC championship in 14 years, the softball team reached the top of the conference for the first time since 1986 and the baseball team claimed a share of the league title for the first time since 1999.

### Baseball

The Wildcat baseball team achieved one of the best seasons in school history, winning a record 32 games. Sixteen Linfield baseball players received recognition on the Northwest Conference all-star team. Coach Scott Carnahan '73 shared NWC Coach of the Year honors with Pat Bailey of George Fox University. The Wildcats earned a berth in the NCAA Division III West Region, but were eliminated after three games. Five Wildcats were named to the Baseball Coaches Association All-West Region Team.

### Softball

The softball team ended the most successful season in its history at 37-9, and clinched the NWC championship. Nine Wildcats received recognition on the NWC all-star team for 2004. Three Linfield players received recognition on the National Fastpitch Coaches Association all-region team and five were recognized for outstanding play at the NCAA Division III West Region tournament in Orange, Calif. Third-year coach Jackson Vaughan '97 was named NWC Coach of the Year after leading the Wildcats to a strong showing at the NCAA Division III regional tournament.

### Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team captured its third straight NWC championship, posting an 18-5 overall record and setting a new record for most victories in one season. For the second straight year, Linfield went 14-0 in conference play, extending its unbeaten streak against NWC teams to 33 matches.



Linfield President Vivian A. Bull, local businessman and Linfield volunteer Jeff Kizer and athletic director Scott Carnahan '73 kicked off a renovation of Maxwell Field with a groundbreaking ceremony in March. The running track is being reconfigured and an artificial surface installed on the football field. The new track will use modern metric standards and will be resurfaced with a polyurethane finish which is expected to last 10 to 12 years, some six years longer than other surfaces. The football field is being shifted to the east to create a buffer between the track and the stadium. FieldTurf, a grass-like surface which is the latest innovation in sports-turf technology, is being installed on the football field. It looks and feels like natural grass, but needs no maintenance. Funding for the \$1.1 million project has been donated by private individuals. The field was stripped of its natural turf (center) and the FieldTurf was installed (bottom) beginning in May. The field will be ready for the Wildcats' home football opener Sept. 11 against Western Oregon.



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