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Summer 2011

## 'Cat Tracks

Linfield Magazine Staff

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# National Champions!



Emilee Lepp '12



Emily Keagbine '11



Staci Doucette '12



Alex Hartmann '11

The Wildcats softball team made good on its vow to win the national title this year, bringing home its second softball trophy in five years and the college's eighth national team championship in school history.

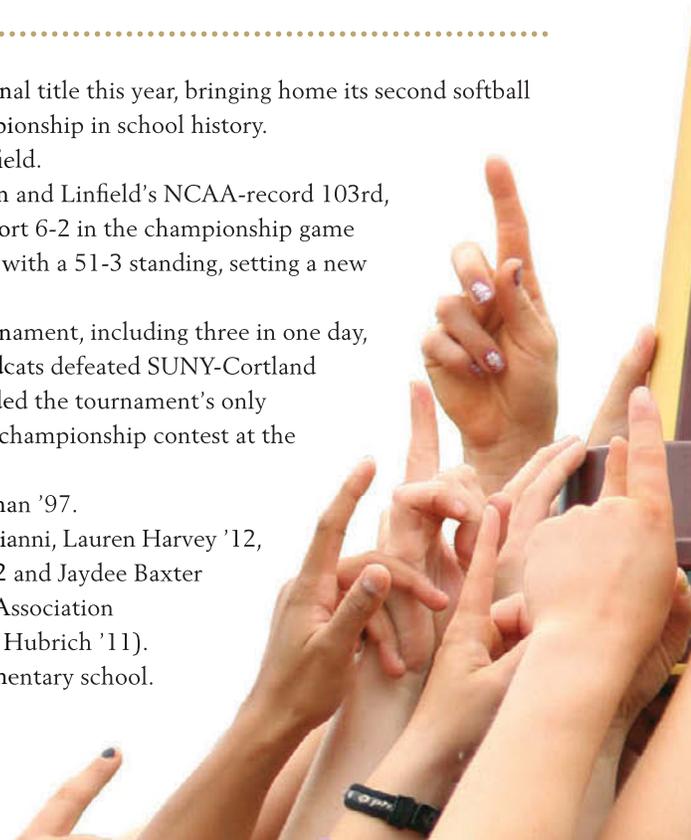
Fittingly, it was a home run that provided the difference for Linfield.

Karleigh Prestianni '13 smacked her 14th home run of the season and Linfield's NCAA-record 103rd, delivering the extra burst the Wildcats needed to defeat Christopher Newport 6-2 in the championship game of the NCAA Finals in Salem, Va. Ranked No. 1 all season, Linfield finished with a 51-3 standing, setting a new Division III record for victories.

Linfield won four consecutive elimination games at the national tournament, including three in one day, to reach the championship game for the third time in five seasons. The Wildcats defeated SUNY-Cortland (12-1 in five innings) and Texas-Tyler (7-1) in elimination games, then handed the tournament's only unbeaten team, Christopher Newport, a 6-0 loss to force a second national championship contest at the double-elimination tournament.

"I couldn't be more proud of a group," said head coach Jackson Vaughan '97.

Seven Wildcat players were named to the All-Tournament team (Prestianni, Lauren Harvey '12, Claire Velaski '11, Staci Doucette '12, Emily Keagbine '11, Emilee Lepp '12 and Jaydee Baxter '12) and six were selected for inclusion on the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America team (Prestianni, Lepp, Doucette, Keagbine, Velaski and Kayla Hubrich '11). Off the field, players read books and interacted with students at a local elementary school.





### *Record busters!*

- Linfield's 51 victories are the most by a Division III team in NCAA history.
- Linfield broke its own NCAA record for home runs in one season by 25, finishing the year with 103 homers in 54 games.
- Linfield broke the 2007 national championship team's record for batting average, hitting .396. The team also set new standards for slugging percentage (.682), on-base percentage (.471), hits (.595) and runs scored (484).
- Emilee Lepp '12 set the Linfield and NCAA home runs record with 29. The previous record was 24.

## Brosius called up by USA Baseball



Linfield College baseball coach Scott Brosius '88 has been appointed manager of the USA Baseball 18-under National Team that will compete in the COPABE "AAA"/18U Pan American Baseball Championships in September.

Brosius will continue to coach the Wildcats. During a period of respite following the college season, the three-time World Series champion with the New York Yankees will direct the nation's top amateur team.

"For me, this is a very exciting opportunity," said Brosius, a former Wildcat who has led the team for four seasons. "First, to be able to represent the United States in international competition is something that deep down I have always dreamed about. To be able to go out and put on a USA uniform and represent your country is something very few people get to experience."

The Pan American Championships are slated for Sept. 23-Oct. 2 at Cartagena, Colombia.

## Lepp named to Hall of Fame

Longtime Linfield College certified athletic trainer Tara Lepp was inducted into the Oregon Athletic Trainers



Society Hall of Fame.

Many of Lepp's current and former students were present during the announcement of her induction, which was two years in the making and came as a surprise to Lepp, athletic trainer and professor at Linfield since 1982. She was selected as part of the 2009 and 2010

OATS Hall of Fame classes, but missed the ceremonies due to prior obligations including service work in Kenya.

"Being inducted was a really big surprise," said Lepp. "I am amazed the people in our organization were able to keep it secret for so long."

## Stellar spring

Wildcats finished strong on every playing field this spring. In addition to softball's national championship, the baseball and women's tennis teams advanced to regional playoff tournaments; Catherine Street '12, Kate Shear '14 and Anna LaBeaume '14 competed at the track and field championships; and the men's golf team traveled to North Carolina for the NCAA Championships. Athlete of the Year Abby Olbrich '12 represented Linfield individually at the NCAA women's tennis national championship tournament. Read more at [www.linfield.edu/sports](http://www.linfield.edu/sports).

## Anna Gorciak '12

Sport: Lacrosse Hometown: Troutdale Major: Psychology

**Why Linfield:** The campus was gorgeous, people were smiling and friendly, and everything seemed like a good fit for me. It was a good-size college with great academics and, of course, lacrosse.

**Balancing academics and athletics:** School always comes first. I use the free time I have after classes to finish assignments knowing that I will have to leave time for practices and games.

**Achievements:** I was rookie of the year in 2009, most valuable offensive player in 2009 and 2010, leading scorer in 2010 and this year I'm a captain.

**Favorite memory:** When we played Carthage on our spring break trip last season, I scored a game-high of 11 goals. It was a close game for a while, but we pulled out a win.

**Future plans:** I hope to travel and volunteer abroad.

**Inspiration:** The speed of lacrosse and level of competition is such a thrill. I love the rush of scoring a goal and playing such a unique sport. It's fast paced, competitive, and requires a lot of mental and physical skills.

**Learned from athletics:** Being a college athlete has taught me commitment, pride and dedication. I take pride in playing on a collegiate lacrosse team, representing a respected college.

