

2015

'Cat Tracks

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Two honored at Oregon Sports Awards

Pitcher Montana McNealy '15 received the Ad Rutschman Small College Athlete of the Year award at the Oregon Sports Awards ceremony Thursday, June 11.

Also featured was outgoing baseball coach Scott Brosius '02, who was presented with the annual DNA Award.

The award is given to the individual or organization demonstrating extraordinary passion and dedication to sports in Oregon.

Track and field



Using his closing speed and a tailwind on the back stretch of the men's 400-meter dash, Jake Mihelich '17 became Linfield's first NCAA men's champion since 2009. Mihelich blazed to a career-best time of 47.07 seconds to win the race by .11 seconds. He also earned fifth place in the men's 200-meter dash. Mihelich was one of four student-athletes

to compete at championships in Canton, N.Y. Morgunn Ewing '16 earned ninth place in the men's javelin, Kate Shear '15 placed seventh in the women's javelin to earn All-America honors and Dallas Edge '17 competed in the women's 100-meter hurdles. Earlier in the season, Edge attained All-America status in the 60-meter hurdles, becoming Linfield's first top-eight finisher in a running event in more than a decade at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Baseball

Two Linfield pitchers and 2015 team co-captains have earned recognition on the All-Northwest Conference Baseball Team. Chris Haddeland '15 was named NWC Pitcher of the Year while Corey VanDomelen '15 became a three-time first team honoree. Third baseman Eric Lawson '16 and pitcher Aaron Thomassen '15 both earned second team recognition.



Wildcats go down swinging

It took an unearned run in the late innings to finally silence the never-say-never Linfield Wildcat softball team, who finished third in the nation at the NCAA Division III Finals in Salem, Va. Linfield won 11 of 14 playoff games, including five loser-out contests, on the way to standing as one of four teams left in the tournament.

McKenzie Schmolli '17, starting second baseman, was the 2015 recipient of Division III softball's Elite 89 Award. The prestigious academic honor is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 89 championship events. Schmolli carries a 4.00 GPA while majoring in computer science.

Nine team members were named to the 2015 Northwest Conference all-star team including, on first team, pitcher Montana McNealy '15, first baseman Danielle Duman '17, third baseman Erin Kinney '17, catcher McKenna Spieth '15 and outfielder Cheyenne Fletcher '18. Duman and Schmolli were also recognized for their sterling academic records with appointments to the Capital One Academic All-District 8 team.

McNealy, Duman, Fletcher, Kinney and Alissa Buss '17 drew praise on the National Fastpitch Coaches Association 2015 All-West Region team.

Women's tennis



Making history as the first Wildcat to register a singles victory at the NCAA Division III Women's Championships, Ella Riddle '18 split a pair of matches to earn All-America status at the tennis championships in Mason, Ohio. She becomes the first Wildcat to qualify for the national singles, championship since the 2012 season.

Golf

Capping one of the finest golf careers in program history, Taylor Klopp '15 was a repeat selection as a Division III Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar. Klopp averaged 77.3 strokes per round during a senior campaign that culminated with him being named Northwest Conference Player of the Year.

Brosius steps down, Carnahan takes baseball helm



Scott Brosius '02, Linfield head baseball coach and former professional all-star, announced he will not return to the program in 2016 as he seeks a new coaching challenge within the baseball world.

The program will transition back into the hands of Scott Carnahan '73, the program's all-time winningest coach over 24 seasons who has served as pitching coach for the past eight years in addition to athletic director.

"It is with very mixed emotions that I step down, as I have a deep love for this school and the baseball program," Brosius said. "I've come to realize there is never a good time to step away, but only what I feel is the right time. With our three children now graduated, my wife Jennifer and I felt the timing is right to begin our next adventure."

In eight seasons as head coach, Brosius compiled a 270-96 win-loss record while leading the Wildcats to a national championship, four regional titles and five Northwest

Conference crowns. He coached Linfield to the playoffs a total of six times, including three straight years from 2013-15, for a total postseason record of 29-14. Under his reign, Linfield captured its first NCAA baseball title in 2013 and returned to the finals in 2014, achieving the first back-to-back national appearances in program history.

Brosius was selected as the West Region Coach of the Year in 2014 and 2013, and was a five-time recipient of the NWC Coach of the Year award.

With a coaching resume that also includes international experience, Brosius was twice named USA Baseball Coach of the Year for his managerial success with the USA Baseball 18-under National Team. He led the club to a gold medal at the 2011 COPABE Pan American AAA/18U Championships and guided the team to the 2012 IBAF 18U Baseball World Championship.

At Linfield, Brosius coached nine all-Americans and three academic all-Americans among the more than 100 student-athletes that have been part of the junior varsity and varsity programs during his tenure.

Bunn to lead women's basketball



Casey Bunn is the new women's basketball coach at Linfield.

Most recently, Bunn spent three seasons as girls basketball coach at Tualatin High School and two seasons as an assistant girls basketball coach at Lake Oswego High School.

She holds a bachelor's degree in public health promotion and education from Oregon State University where, as a player, she led the Pacific-10 Conference in scoring in 2007. She played professionally in Greece, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Australia, earning all-league honors on the Portuguese All-Star team.

She is co-founder and director of the Jr. Energy youth basketball program, a skills development program geared toward girls in grades 4-12 throughout the Portland area.

Bird, Brackmann named top SIDs



Linfield College sports information duo Kelly Bird and Katherine Brackmann earned the Jack Sareault Award for the Northwest Conference Sports Information Director of the Year.

Bird, in his 26th year as Linfield's sports information director, oversees the Wildcats' athletics web site, sports publications, radio broadcasting, video display board, video webcasting, athletics newsletter and the Linfield Athletics Hall of Fame. Brackmann is in her fifth year with Linfield as assistant director for external relations and as the department's senior woman administrator.

This year, the two provided extended coverage of Linfield's prolonged runs through the NCAA football, baseball and softball playoffs. In addition, Linfield served as host school for the NWC Men's and Women's Golf Championships in Sunriver.

For more information go to: linfield.edu/sports