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Spring sports have stellar year

It’s been a banner spring for Linfield College athletics. Five sports – baseball, softball, track and field, golf and tennis – progressed to national competition after leading the Northwest Conference this spring.

The Linfield baseball team closed out a storybook season with a record of 35-13, losing to Adrian at the NCAA Division III championship series in Appleton, Wis. Led by first-year head coach Scott Brosius ’02, Linfield captured NWC and Central Regional titles on its way to the championship finals. The season will be remembered as one of the greatest in program history, alongside the 1966 and 1971 NAIA national championship years.

One of the finest softball seasons in Linfield history ended in May as the defending national champion Wildcats fell in extra innings to host school Texas-Tyler at the NCAA Division III West Regional. The team, which won a school-record 19 consecutive games, finished with a 38-6 record.

On the track, Linfield twin brothers Josh and Jeremy Lovell, both ’10, competed in the men’s decathlon at the NCAA Division III Championships in Oshkosh, Wis. Each earned All-America honors, with Josh claiming third place and Jeremy notching sixth place in the decathlon points standings.

The men’s golf team won its first Northwest Conference team championship in 44 years and went on to grab 17th place at the NCAA Division III Championships in Braselton, Ga. Andrew Fitch ’09 and Tyler Nelson ’10 both took all-conference honors, and head coach Greg Copeland, Linfield controller, was named NWC Coach of the Year.

The women’s tennis team ended its winning season in the first round of the NCAA Division III national championship tournament in Saint Peter, Minn. This was Linfield’s second NCAA playoff appearance and its seventh consecutive NWC championship. Kasey Kuenzli ’08, Kelli Sides ’08 and Salie Katter ’10 all received All-WFCC all-star accolades.

A number of Linfield athletes have been named to conference, regional and national all-star teams. For details, go to: www.linfield.edu/sports/ontheweb

Spring sports have stellar year

Casey Stepan: three-sport scholar-athlete

Sports: Cross country; basketball; track and field
Hometown: Vancouver, Wash.
Major: Accounting; history minor
GPA: 4.0

Athletic achievements: Second team all-conference cross country; three-year basketball team captain; ESPN The Magazine academic college division All-District First Team (’06-’07); Academic All-Northwest conference team selection in all three sports; CoSIDA academic all-district selection in 2007.

Favorite sports memory: “I have been blessed with some wonderful athletic opportunities and moments. My favorite memories are simply being with my teammates on a daily basis and sharing good times with them, including beating Whitworth with my game-winning shot.”

Favorite professors: “Randy Grant, professor of economics, builds students’ confidence and inspires students’ interest in economics. Mike Jones, Harold C. Elkinton professor of accounting, is dedicated to helping students identify and reach their goals inside and outside of the classroom.”

Favorite class: “Economics of College Sports, a January Term class with Randy Grant that appealed to me as a sports fan and also as a business/economics student.”

Will miss about Linfield: “The opportunity to put on a Linfield uniform and compete with my wonderful teammates. I will also miss building and strengthening relationships with my professors, coaches, teammates and friends on a daily basis.”

Life after Linfield: Accepted a position with Deloitte and Touche, a public accounting firm in Portland.
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