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'Cat Tracks: End of Era: Carnahan Exits Field

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End of era: Carnahan exits field

Scot Carnahan ‘73, received a framed portrait with the names of every former player before the final game of the season on April 29 at Roy Helser Field. He will remain as athletic director.

Plenty of numbers surround Scott Carnahan ‘73 as he retires as Linfield College head baseball coach this year. Among them: 1,174 games coached, 727 games won, more than 500 players mentored.

But one number is more meaningful than the rest to Carnahan – 98. That’s the percentage of Linfield varsity baseball players he coached who completed bachelor’s degrees. Carnahan, who will remain as Linfield’s athletic director, has spent the past 24 years molding students and athletes second, following in the footsteps of Linfield coaching legend and head baseball coach. He was named director of athletics in 1996.

Carnahan learned that philosophy as a student after being recruited to Linfield by Rutschman to play football and baseball. He earned a teaching degree and married Cathy (Work) ’73. After a six-year stint coaching baseball at Lower Columbia Community College, Carnahan returned to Linfield as a member of the faculty and head baseball coach. He was named director of athletics in 1996.

Career stats

Linfield record: 562-375-2
Career record: 727-445-2
Northwest Conference record: 359-127
NWC Coach of the Year: 11 times
NAIA District 2 Coach of the Year: 3 times

Under his leadership as athletic director, Carnahan has been awarded the McHoy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy three times, honoring the top overall athletics program in the NWC. He has overseen major upgrades to athletic facilities, including the 2004 $1.4 million renovation of the running track and football field.

During his tenure as baseball coach, Carnahan’s teams have won 11 Northwest Conference championships – five straight between 1992 and 1996 – and finished second on six other occasions. He has been named NWC Coach of the Year 11 times and NAIA District 2 Coach of the Year three times.

Over the years, Carnahan has passed along his own attention to detail and commitment to excellence, continually reminding players that “everything counts.”

“We go into each game with an underlying confidence, expecting to win,” he said. “We play without fear of making mistakes or losing. If we play our best on the field, we’ll put ourselves in a position to be successful. We won’t have any regrets.”

Players have been touched by his passion, including Jon Scalf ‘03, who applies many of the lessons he learned as an outfielder to his current position at Nike.

“I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to be a part of the rich tradition of Linfield athletics,” he said. “Carnahan taught me simple lessons like teamwork, leadership, time management, sportsmanship, patience, confidence and, most importantly, family.”

Standout moments on and off the baseball diamond pale compared to the relationships Carnahan has made.

“The wins and losses all kind of run together,” he said. “But the connections I’ve had with my players are the most memorable.”

Scott Brosius ‘02, who will succeed Carnahan as head coach, attributes much of his own success to Carnahan. Brosius won three World Series titles with the New York Yankees in 1998, 1999 and 2000 and was named the Most Valuable Player of the 1998 World Series.

“Carney’s had a huge impact on my development as a player, a person and now a coach,” Brosius said. “He’s built a program that has carried on what Linfield athletics is all about – the pursuit of excellence, both on and off the field. He’s a tough act to follow.”

– Laura Davis

Scholarship fund builds a legacy

Chelsea Machida ’11 knows a thing or two about achievement.

Machida, the daughter of Keith and Mary Machida, both ’86, holds Hawaiian state titles in both the high jump and 1-meter dive and plans to compete in track and field when she arrives at Linfield in the fall.

Now Machida can add one more achievement to her list. She and five other students with family ties to Linfield will receive scholarship assistance thanks to the Linfield Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, administered by the Alumni Leadership Council, provides financial aid to the children, grandchildren or siblings of alumni. It is the only fund specifically targeted to support legacy students. The fund’s growth depends on annual giving by Linfield alumni and friends. The application deadline for 2008-09 awards is Feb. 1, 2008.

In addition to Machida, this year’s recipients selected by alumni include: Stephanie Anderson ’11, daughter of Bonnie (Doferth) Anderson ’83; Travis Kinder ’11, son of Joseph and Moa (Haldane) Kinder ’84 and ’85; Phoebe Robinson ’11, daughter of Myron Robinson ’92; Jade Severson ’11, sister of Derek Severson ’91; Jeffrey Yoth($('#')01 of Salem, grandchild of Irvin Yoth ’41.

For more information, visit www.linfield.edu/giving.