2006

'Cat Tracks

Linfield Magazine Staff

Laura Davis
Linfield College

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol2/iss3/15

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
Athletes place academics, community first

They are as successful in the classroom and community as they are on the playing field.

A number of Linfield College athletes have recently been recognized for their academic achievements as well as their athletic accomplishments, earning the distinction of Academic All-American. Lindsay Harksen ’06, volleyball, and Dwight Donaldson ’06, football, have both been selected to ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americas. Harksen was also named Academic All-American of the Year for the college division, Runners Harrison Wilson ’08 and Whitney Mentzberry ’08 were both named Academic All-Americans by the NCAA Division III Cross Country Association. In addition, both men’s and women’s cross country teams earned academic team awards.

More than just excelling as athletes, these students are set apart by their commitment to scholarship and community. Many Linfield athletes can be found tutoring classmates, reading with youth and participating in a variety of community service projects.

“From their years of athletic commitment they have internalized the benefits of self-discipline, time management, and teamwork,” said Barbara Swidman, interim dean of faculty. “Over the years, Linfield has developed a reputation for consistently shaping strong student athletes. Twenty-four have received Academic All-American status since 2000.”

The intangibles that make a good football team are the same elements that make a good student and leader in whatever vocation they choose, said Jay Locy, head football coach since 1996.

Linfield football coach. “He understands that’s the main reason we chose to come to Linfield and if we have something to get done it’s okay to miss a practice.”

That support has been crucial for Donaldson, a physics major with hopes of pursuing a career in nuclear medicine. He participates in the Start Making a Reader Today program in the McMinnville School District and has interned at Apteck, a local company founded by Bill Mackie ’71, professor of physics.

“Coaches and professors definitely worked with me when there was a conflict between the two,” Donaldson said. “College athletics is one of the greatest classrooms you can find. And when you combine that with the academics we have here at Linfield, you have an incredible education.”

— Laura Davis
The linfield college athletic department is committed to ensuring that athletes receive the best possible education and training. They believe that a successful athletic program is one that integrates academic and athletic excellence. The department offers numerous academic support services, including tutoring, study groups, and academic advisors. The athletes themselves also strive to excel in their academic pursuits, often dedicating significant time and effort to their studies. This commitment is evident in the high number of Academic All-Americans and NCAA Scholar-Athletes that Linfield has produced.

The athletes' dedication to their studies is not only beneficial for their academic success but also for their personal development. They learn to balance their time effectively, prioritize their responsibilities, and manage their commitments. This discipline and time management skills are invaluable in their future careers, whether they choose to pursue athletics at a professional level or a different path.

Athletes like Brett Elliott '05 and Lindsay Harksen '06 exemplify this approach. They have excelled both in the classroom and on the playing field, demonstrating that it is possible to achieve high levels of success in both areas.

Brett Elliott '05, Linfield College record-breaking quarterback and first team all-American, has received shelves of awards during the past two years. His most recent additions are two prized NCAA Division III awards – the Melberger Award, given to the top individual player, and the Gagliardi Trophy, given annually to the outstanding football player in the division. For the second time, he was also named the Ad Rutschman Small College Male Athlete of the Year at the Oregon Sports Awards.

Elliott led the Wildcats to a 10-1 record and their fourth consecutive appearance in the West Regional final. He ended his Linfield career with 8,614 passing yards and 110 touchdowns. Elliott, who earned a communication degree in December, displayed leadership on campus and in the community while a student at Linfield. He worked on the student newspaper, The Linfield Review, and radio station, KSLC. He served a summer internship with KFXO radio in Portland, was a freshman colloquium speaker, and volunteered as a weekly tutor and mentor.

Lindsay Harksen '06 was a key member of the women's volleyball team, earning All-American status since 2002. She is also known for her academic achievements, being one of the first Linfield students to be named Academic All-Americans by the NCAA Division III Country Association. In addition, fourteen Linfield athletes have been named Academic All-Americans by both the men's and women's cross country teams earn academic team awards.

More than just excelling as athletes, these students are set apart by their commitment to scholarship and community. Many Linfield athletes continue their education and tutoring classmates, reading with youth and participating in a variety of community service projects.

From their years of athletic commitment, they have internalized the benefits of self-discipline, time management, and teamwork, said Barbara Swidman, interim dean of faculty.

Over the years, Linfield has developed a reputation for consistently shaping strong student athletes. Fourteen have received Academic All-American status since 2002. The intangibles that make good football teams the same elements that make a good student and leader in whatever vocation they choose, said Jay Locy, head football coach since 1996.

They are as successful in the classroom and community as they are on the playing field. A number of Linfield College athletes have recently been recognized for their academic achievements as well as their athletic accomplishments, earning the distinction of Academic All-American. Lindsay Harksen '06, volleyball, and Dwight Donaldson '06, football, have each been selected to ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America teams. Harksen was also named Academic All-American of the Year for the college division, Runners Harrison Wilson '08 and Whitney Mettberry '08 were both named Academic All-Americans by the NCAA Division III Cross Country Association. In addition, both men's and women's cross country teams earned academic team awards.

They understand that's the main reason we chose to come to Linfield and if we have something to get done it's okay to miss a practice.

That support has been crucial for Donaldson, a physics major with hopes of pursuing a career in nuclear medicine. He participates in the Start Making a Reader Today program in the McMinnville School District and has interned at Aptech, a local company founded by Bill Mackie '71, professor of physics.

“Coaches and professors definitely worked with me when there was a conflict between the two,” Donaldson said. “College athletics is one of the greatest classrooms you can find. And when you combine that with the academics we have here at Linfield, you have an incredible education.”