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'Cat Tracks

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Summer luncheon honors Durham
A luncheon honoring Paul Durham ’36, longtime Linfield College coach and former athletic director, will be held Wednesday, July 13, in 201 Riley Hall. The program will begin with a reception at 10:30 a.m., followed by a noon lunch. Speakers include Mary Heeter ’51, master of ceremonies; Jay Loccey, head football coach; Joe Smith ’95, defensive coordinator; and Craig Singleton, professor emeritus of communication and longtime public address announcer. Cost is $15 and reservations must be made by July 10. For more information, contact Pat Smith ’53, 503-656-3724 or bandg-dress@linn.com.

Summer camps
Linfield coaches will host a number of sports camps this summer. Sessions include High Five Basketball Camp July 17-21, Tennis Camp July 19-22, High Five Basketball Camp July 24-28, Volleyball Camp July 31-August 4, Swim Camp July 31-August 5 and Tennis Camp August 9-12. For registration information contact Auxiliary Services at 503-883-2448 or reserve@linfield.edu.

Cats dominate conference
Three Linfield College athletic teams and one individual earned Northwest Conference titles this spring. The women’s tennis, softball and baseball teams all earned top conference honors, along with three individual winners.

Women’s tennis
The women’s tennis team celebrated its fourth consecutive conference championship, finishing with a 15-4 overall record. The team boosted its conference winning streak to 46 matches and concluded the season ranked No. 7 in the NCAA Division III West Region rankings. ESPN The Magazine academic all-district honor went to Kasey Kornuth ’07 and Becca Johnson ’07, Johnson, who posted a 9-4 singles record and 13-1 doubles mark, was also named NW Player of the Year. Co-coaches Carl Swanson and Amy Dames shared conference Coach of the Year honors.

Softball
The Wildcat softball team won its second straight NWC championship this year, ending the season with a 24-4 league record and with a 31-9-1 overall mark. Ranked as high as No. 7 in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll, the team advanced to the NCAA Division III regional playoffs in Redlands, Calif., where they suffered back-to-back defeats against Redlands and Trinity. Outfielder Shelly Steinke ’06 earned academic all-district honors. This was the second winningest season in program history, trailing only last season’s 37-9 mark.

Baseball
The Linfield baseball team finished as NWC co-champion for the second straight season with a 33-7 overall record. The Wildcats advanced to the NCAA Division III West Regional tournament in Orange, Calif., but were eliminated in two games by Texas Lutheran and Chapman University. Center fielder Tommy Paterson ’05 was named NCAA III West Region Position Player of the Year and garnered first team All-America recognition.

Track and Field
Joni Claypool ’06 was NWC champion in the shot put and received All-America honors at the NCAA Division III outdoor championships. She broke a 14-year-old school record while placing fourth at the NCAA championship meet in Waverly, Iowa. Danielle Bielenberg ’06 also earned All-America distinction in the women’s discus.

Women’s Golf
Linfield golfer Leslie Wheeler ’02 earned top honors at the season-ending women’s golf championship tournament. The Linfield team finished fifth.

Finding balance: Amanda Weeber ’05

Amanda Weeber ’05, swimming and pole vault
Hometown: Redmond
Major: Mathematics and secondary education
Career ambition: Teaching
Swimming achievements: Placed second at the Northwest Conference championships in the 400 individual medley as a freshman, second in the NWC in the 200 butterfly as a sophomore and fourth in the 200 backstroke and 400 IM as a junior. She was voted rookie of the year in 2002, women’s most valuable swimmer in 2004 and team captain in 2004-05.
Track and field achievements: Placed seventh in the NWC for the pole vault as a sophomore and junior, and placed fourth as a senior. Her personal best mark is 10’ 4”.

Her coaches, Gary Gutierrez and Garry Killgore:
“Gutierrez has such an encouraging personality. Killgore has the ability to push you beyond what you think you can do. Both are always available outside of practice to talk with me, sports related or not. This lets me know that they care about me as a person as well.”

Being an athlete at Linfield, “You have to be organized and self-disciplined. It is vitally important to have a balance on what you spend your time doing.”

Other campus activities: Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Athletes Ministry.

Chose Linfield because “I knew I wanted to go to a small college in the Northwest. I liked the idea of being able to come here and not necessarily have a niche to fit into, but to be challenged in my faith, too. I definitely made the right choice to come to Linfield.”

Favorite professors: Steve Berndshiel (education), and Stephen Bricher ’86 and Charles Dunn (mathematics).
“They taught the material of the class while making it interesting. As an education major, I learned that math will be more interesting for students when you, as the teacher, are excited and passionate about it.”

What will be missed most after graduation: "I will miss the people. It is just so nice to be in such close proximity to friends and be able to walk down the street and see familiar faces.”

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Scott Carnahan ’73, Linfield College director of athletics and head baseball coach, garnered two important distinctions this spring. He earned a regional athletics director of the year award and collected his 500th victory as Linfield coach.

Carnahan was named GeneralSports TURF Systems Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. Since becoming athletic director in 1996, Carnahan has championed academics within Linfield athletics. He has overseen numerous athletics facilities projects at Linfield, including last year’s $1.44 million campaign to renovate Maxwell Field. Under his leadership, Linfield won the NWC All-Sports trophy for three of the past five years.

Carnahan picked up his 500th win as Linfield baseball coach during a March game against Whitman. His Linfield record is 518-345-2 and his career record, including six seasons at Lower Columbia College, stands at 683-415-2. As Linfield baseball coach for the last 22 years, Carnahan’s teams have won 10 Northwest Conference championships, including five straight titles from 1992 to 1996.

Integrity and solid leadership skills are important elements in Carnahan’s legacy, according to Linfield President Vivian A. Bull. He leads by example, she added, bringing out the best in others and empowering those around him. A 98 percent graduation rate for baseball players during Carnahan’s 22 years at Linfield is evidence of his strong commitment to academics.

“He emphasizes the student-athlete is extremely important,” said Bull. “Along with teaching the fundamentals of all sports, he also sets an example of good citizenship for student-athletes. He has a strong commitment to the institution and all that it stands for.”

As a Linfield student, Carnahan played football and baseball, earning all-conference, all-district and all-region honors as a catcher during his senior season.
Carnahan earns double recognition

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