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'Cat Tracks

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English soccer player David Beckham made famous the skill of scoring from free kicks by curling the ball past a wall of defenders. Just how do athletes “bend it like Beckham”? Garry Killgore, department chair and professor of human performance, explains the science behind the sport, referencing the “Magnus Effect” physics equation (see above).

The soccer player is able to “Bend it like Beckham” due to a pressure differential that is created by the player kicking the ball with the inside of the foot while putting spin on it, i.e. the “Magnus Effect.” A pocket of high pressure is created on the side of the ball that is being kicked and low pressure on the opposite side. The ball will subsequently “bend,” or deviate from the original flight path, toward the low pressure area and follow a path that may allow the soccer player to score a goal from the corner of the field.

\[ F = \frac{1}{2} \rho A v^2 C \]

(bend it like Beckham)

Wildcat soccer midfielder Ivan Colin ’16 kicks the ball with teammate Brandon Brooks ’16 in the background.
Wildcats finish third in nation

Postseason accolades were plentiful for the Linfield College football program, which finished third in the nation after falling to St. Thomas in the NCAA Division III semi-finals. Linfield ended its season at 12-1, but not before garnering a number of conference, regional and All-America honors.

Defensive end Alex Hoff ‘16 was named a consensus All-America by D3football.com, the Associated Press and the American Football Coaches Association. Hoff set Linfield career records for sacks, tackles for loss and forced fumbles, leading to his selection as Northwest Conference and West Region Defensive Player of the Year. Quarterback Sam Riddle ‘17 was named the NWC and West Region Offensive Player of the Year.

Four more Wildcats received All-America citations: first team Eric Pitassi ‘15; second team Riddle, Kyle Belcher ‘16, Kennedy Johnson ‘17; and third team Keanu Yamamoto ‘16.


Coach Joseph Smith ’93 was honored as the NWC Coach of the Year for the seventh straight season.

Neal places in Top 80 at nationals

Kaelia Neal ‘18 represented Linfield with a Top-80 finish at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships in Winneconne, Wis. Neal finished 77th out of 280 participants, running at a 5:58 mile pace, and bettered her previous career best by 11 seconds in the 29-degree cold. As Linfield’s first female representative at the national championships since 2009, when Marci (Klimek) Gage ’10 finished 17th in her third consecutive national appearance, Neal is also one of just nine Wildcats in all to participate in the championships during the NCAA Division III era.

Northwest Conference honors

Men’s soccer: Wildcats were included on the All-Northwest Conference men’s soccer team including first team Aaron Barber-Axthelm ‘18 and Moi Diaz ‘18; second team Brian DeGrandmont ‘17; and honorable mention Alexander Gosselin-Bockel ’16.

Women’s soccer: Emma Vukic ‘16, first team, wrapped up her career with a fourth straight nod to the All-Northwest Conference Women’s Soccer Team. Other honors included second team Kendra McSheridan ’17 and honorable mention Anne Ferguson ’19.

Volleyball: Jamie Talbo ‘18 and Courtney Uyeda ’16 were named to the Northwest Conference All-Star Team. Talbo received second team all-NWC honors while Uyeda was accorded honorable mention.

Golfers set to tee off at Wildcat Open

The annual Wildcat Open will be held Friday, Aug. 5, at the Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club in Aloha. Participants can build their own team of four players or be assigned to a group. Lunch, drinks and dinner are provided, as well as range balls, motorized carts, prize bags and other surprises. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. A shotgun start is set for 1 p.m.

For more information, go to linfield.edu/sports/wildcatopen