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Otterbein University Athletics

Spring 2009

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Cardinal Athletics



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Otterbein College Athletics Newsletter

SENIOR CLASS HELPS FOOTBALL PROGRAM MAKE HISTORY, PLAYOFFS

The Otterbein football team was able to do something this season that they had never done before—take the field in postseason play. After finishing with a

To go along with making their first playoff appearance, the squad set single-season records for best start (8-0), most wins (9), and most points scored (427). In addition, junior-



The record-setting 2008 Otterbein football team

9-1 regular season record this fall, the Cardinals, who were ranked 10th-nationally at the end of the regular season, hosted Franklin (IN) in the opening round of the NCAA Division III football championship.

Unfortunately, the team was unable to come away with a victory in the contest, but it doesn't take away from what was a season to remember.

eligible quarterback Jack Rafferty was named a finalist for the Gagliardi Trophy, recognizing the nation's top well-rounded Division III football player.

Head Coach Joe Loth was able to coach in his first career playoff game, and is very familiar with the road the program has had to travel in order to arrive at this point.

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OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

ATHLETICS

MESSAGE FROM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR DICK REYNOLDS

Hello athletic alumni and welcome to the Spring '09 Athletics Department newsletter.

After a fall of outstanding sports success in football and women's soccer, we look forward to an exciting spring. The addition of men's lacrosse and the possibility of women's lacrosse in a few years, adds to our department's scope. It is a challenge to maintain excellence in all sports, especially during the hard economic times, but our coaches are working hard at recruiting and we look forward to the coming year.

Providing an outstanding education and a positive competitive sports experience remains our challenge.

As always we do appreciate your interest and support in all our programs.

We look forward to hearing from you. Drop us an e-mail and let us know what you are doing.

Don't forget to keep updated on the Athletics Department activities by visiting our website at www.otterbein.edu/athletics.

Dick Reynolds

(continued from page 1)

"We've gone from a last-place program to making the playoffs in six years," said Loth. "It hasn't been easy, but the journey has been exciting. We have recruited very good players and worked hard to develop them. We've been able to retain the majority of good players and it has led to a winning formula."

One of those players was senior offensive lineman Andy Fries, who was a crucial member of an offensive unit that finished the season ranked second in the conference in scoring offense and 14th nationally with 38.8 points per game.

"Offenses have times where people complain about getting the ball, but nobody on our team was really too greedy," explained Fries. "The guys understood that the offense had certain spots where it was going to hit or miss. Everybody knew their role and it worked really well because of that."

However, many football fans love to say that defense wins championships. This year the Cardinal defense accepted the challenge of competing

week in and week out in an extremely tough Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC).

"We had linchpins at every position," said senior linebacker Eric Burnsides. "Guys stepped up and made plays when they needed to at every layer of our defense. If you look at our tackling statistics this season, they were much more spread out than they have been in the past."

The excitement was not only built in the locker room, but around campus as well.

"Professors encouraged us to keep it going and told us how proud they were," Fries said. "It really made a difference because in past years they may have just been trying to be nice with encouragement. This season we knew they really meant it."

While many around campus are proud of the entire program, a special appreciation should be held for the senior class. Since coming to Westerville as freshman, the class posted a 25-16 record, which is the best since the 1977 freshman class. They also finished in the top half of the OAC three out of their four years, something that was only done one other time, 23 years ago.

Even though the season may have ended with disappointment, many on the team knew they were able to create a special memory for Cardinal fans and members of the Westerville community who have watched the program blossom.

"There were good teams at Otterbein back when the playoffs were not around, but it's still incredible," Fries explained. "Fifty years down the road when we come back and watch, we'll be able to say we were that first class that hopefully made a difference in the school's football program."

Thanks to Adam Prescott for submitting this article.



Jack Rafferty

MEET COLIN HARTNETT, OTTERBEIN'S FIRST LACROSSE COACH

Otterbein has announced the appointment of Colin Hartnett as the college's first head men's lacrosse coach.

Hartnett, 28, has been the assistant coach for the men's lacrosse team at St. John Fisher College in Pittsford, N.Y., since he graduated from the College of Wooster in 2003. Otterbein is expected to begin varsity competition in spring of 2010.

"Colin is a young and enthusiastic coach from a good NCAA Division III school out East. He has several ties within the Central Ohio area and we are excited to get the program started," said Athletic Director Dick Reynolds.

"I am very excited to have the opportunity that Dick Reynolds and everyone at Otterbein College has given me," said Hartnett, a native of Canandaigua, N.Y. "I think that the College is committed to building a successful lacrosse program that will be consistent with the high level of athletics at the school."

In his five years at St. John Fisher, Hartnett helped build a team from the



Colin Hartnett

ground up and take it to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) playoffs three years in a row and to a school best 11-3 record in 2008.

He served as the offensive coordinator in 2004 and 2005 at St. John Fisher, and as the defensive coordinator since 2006. While offensive coordinator, the team finished the 2005 season averaging 10.8 goals a game, an

increase over the 8.3 average in 2004. As defensive coordinator, the defensive unit improved to 28th of 130 teams in the country, allowing just 7.3 goals an outing in 2008, a sharp drop from the 13.4 average in 2004.

Hartnett received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Wooster in 2003. He earned four varsity letters in lacrosse, finishing his career as the school's fourth all-time leading scorer. As a freshman, Hartnett scored 52 points and was runner-up for the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Newcomer of the Year award. He was a two-time member of the All-NCAC team and served as team captain his junior season.

"The Midwest has developed as a hotbed of high school lacrosse and the addition of a varsity program will greatly benefit the school. I look forward to working with everyone at Otterbein in preparation for the 2010 season. I am excited to return to Ohio and make roots in the Westerville area," said Hartnett.

LADY CARDS SOAR INTO "SWEET 16," 8 PLAYERS MAKE ALL OAC

This past fall, the Otterbein women's soccer team made their fourth NCAA Tournament appearance in the last five years. The team defeated Penn-State Altoona and Denison in the opening two rounds to advance to the Round of 16 for just the second time in school history. The club ranked 11th nationally in goals-against average (.045) and held opponents scoreless in 14 of 22 matches, ranking them 20th in the country in shutout percentage. Sophomore defender Jenny Knox became just the fourth women's soccer player at Otterbein to earn All-America status. In addition, eight players earned a spot on the All-Conference team.



The 2008 Otterbein Women's Soccer Team

REMEMBERING DICK PFLIEGER

The 1946 football team was inducted into the Hall of Fame last year. We were very fortunate to have in attendance three members of that team: Dick Pflieger, Jim Wallace and Dubbs Roush.

It is with great sorrow that we must acknowledge the passing of Dick Pflieger. Dick passed away in December of 2008. We were very happy that he was able to attend the induction ceremony. He was thrilled to be there!



Dick Pflieger

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION TO OTTERBEIN COLLEGE'S ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Otterbein College Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2008 by the Otterbein College Athletics Department. The Hall of Fame is designed to honor men and women who have distinguished themselves as part of an intercollegiate athletics program, either by virtue of their performance on athletic teams representing the college, or by meritorious effort in behalf of athletics either as an undergraduate or in years after leaving college. The inductees will be chosen by a selection committee.

1. The nominee, if an athlete, must have been out of Otterbein College at least five (5) years. Coaches, trainers, managers, cheerleaders, and any other persons who have made outstanding contributions or offered extraordinary service to Otterbein Athletics are eligible. In addition, alumni are eligible if they have made outstanding contributions or offered extraordinary service to athletics at Otterbein College after graduation.
2. The nominee must have demonstrated good citizenship both in school and after leaving the College.
3. Preference will be given to Otterbein College graduates, but the nominee does not necessarily have to be a graduate of Otterbein College.
4. If an athlete, the nominee must have earned two letters in one sport or one letter in two or more sports.
5. Coaches, athletic administrators or others nominated need not necessarily have been former students, but must have served the College for at least five (5) years and made contributions significant to the field of athletics.
6. If currently employed by the College, coaches and athletic administrators are eligible after twenty-five (25) years of service.
7. Nominations submitted will be considered for five (5) years. After five years, they must be resubmitted.
8. The above criteria can be waived by the committee in extraordinary situations.

**OTTERBEIN COLLEGE
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone # _____

OR

Team _____

I nominate the above person or team for the Otterbein College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Your printed name

Signature

Date

E-mail Address

Phone #

Explain why, in your opinion, the nominee should be considered for this award. Please provide specific examples of the nominee's contributions to Otterbein College Athletics. Use a separate sheet if needed.

DEADLINE: To be considered for the Fall 2009 induction, this form, along with biographical and other supporting data must be received in the Otterbein College Athletics Department, c/o Dick Reynolds, One Otterbein College, Westerville, OH 43081 by June 1, 2009.





OTTERBEIN COLLEGE

ATHLETICS

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CARDINAL BASKETBALL STARS LEAD THE OAC



Laura Roth with former record-holder Jenny Lambert

Senior guard Laura Roth, from Mother of Mercy HS, Cincinnati, OH, became the women's basketball all-time leading scorer this past season, and finishes her career with 1,598 points, a total good enough to also rank her 15th in OAC history. She sat in the top 10 in the country in three-point percentage (.439) and finished in the top 25 in free-throw shooting (.867). In addition, Roth also led the conference in made three-pointers (65) and finished second in assists (4.8/game).

UPCOMING EVENTS
Men's Golf OAC Championships
hosted by Otterbein
April 30-May 1, 2009
New Albany Country Club



Brian Pollock

Junior guard Brian Pollock, from London HS, London, OH, finished this season atop the OAC scoring list by averaging 20.1 ppg. In addition to leading the league in scoring, he also led the OAC in minutes played (36.8/game) and three-pointers (73). His scoring average ranked him in the top 35 in the nation.

Want more sports?
Visit www.otterbein.edu/athletics