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Otterbein University Athletics

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Cardinal Athletics



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Otterbein University Athletics Newsletter

NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Dawn Mamula Stewart, a 1998 graduate of Otterbein University, has been named director of athletics. Stewart, 35, comes to Otterbein from Capital University where she has served as athletic director since June 2008. She assumed her new position May 7, replacing Dick Reynolds, who retired in March after 43 years of service to the university.

"We are delighted to have as our next athletic director a professional administrator with Dawn Stewart's background," said Bob Gatti, vice president and dean for Student Affairs. "She is a tireless worker with the vision to lead Otterbein athletics to the next level."

"Dawn's competitive spirit, while understanding the importance of the student experience, was evident throughout the interview process. I am so pleased Dawn is coming home," Gatti continued.

"Otterbein has always held a special place in my heart. It was a place that provided me with a successful athletic experience and strong professional foundation. I am excited to return to Otterbein and give back to a place that has given me so much," Stewart said.

Stewart began her professional career at Otterbein in 1998, serving as recruiting coordinator and assistant women's tennis coach before moving

on to the University of Dayton in 2000.

At Dayton, Stewart worked from the ground up, first serving as director of ticketing services

before being promoted to assistant director of athletics for business and communications in 2002. In 2007, she was named senior woman administrator and, in addition to continuing to manage a \$17 million budget and athletics communication, was placed in charge of the Office of Athletics Academic Affairs.



Dawn Stewart

"I have been blessed with wonderful career opportunities at both the Division I and III levels," Stewart said. "Each of these opportunities has provided similar perspectives in that the student-athlete experience should come first. No matter the division or the amount of resources an athletics program might have, the student-athletes should always remain the primary focus."

Stewart received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Otterbein in 1998. She holds a master's degree in sport management from The Ohio State University and is working on her doctorate in sport management at OSU.

She is married to Steve Stewart, a 1998 graduate of Otterbein. They live in Westerville. Stewart is a native of New Philadelphia, Ohio.



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Message from the Athletic Department

Greetings from Otterbein Athletics! As we wrap up our first year on semesters, we wind down our spring sports rather early this year! Men's golf won the conference title and have positioned themselves to participate in the NCAA Championships; women's golf finished second in OAC tournament play; men's and women's tennis advanced to the OAC semifinals; and our softball team made the OAC tournament for the first time since 2006!

This month marks the beginning of new leadership for the Athletics Dept. as we welcome Dawn Stewart to the staff.

A search committee for the new men's basketball coach position has been formed and Skype interviews with potential candidates took place the first week of May.

We would like to thank Associate Athletic Director Connie Richardson for serving as the interim athletic director since Coach Reynolds' retirement. Connie has worked tirelessly on day-to-day departmental business as well as serving on the search committee for both the athletic director position and the men's basketball coach position.

Our coaching staff has been working with great fervor on recruitment of student-athletes entering fall 2012. We look forward to a great group of individuals who can contribute to their respective sports and represent Otterbein in grand fashion.

GOODBYE TO COACH REYNOLDS

After 40 years of service to Otterbein, Coach Dick Reynolds has retired from his positions as men's head basketball coach and athletic director. Reynolds was honored on Feb. 18, 2012, by the Otterbein Board of Trustees, community members, former players, family and friends at the team's final regular-season home game against Wilmington. All were invited to a pre-game celebration held in the back of the Rike Center, recognizing the accomplishments of the man who

events were underway on the main floor. All former players were invited down to the floor and formed a tunnel through which Coach Reynolds entered the court. Just prior to tip-off, members of the Board of Trustees announced that the Rike Center floor will now be known as Reynolds Court. A mock decal on the floor was unveiled and Coach was presented with a framed version.

"I'd certainly like to thank the Board of Trustees, President Krendl and my boss Bob Gatti," Reynolds said at the



Coach Reynolds is greeted by past players as he enters the court for his last home game on Feb. 18.

dedicated himself to Otterbein and the many young men he mentored both on and off the court.

Hundreds of well-wishers arrived at the pre-game event, signed the guest book, received rally towels and enjoyed the buffet catered by TJ Susi of Berwick Party House.

Coach Reynolds arrived at the event, mingled with the many in attendance and entertained the crowd with an impromptu speech before heading to the locker room in preparation for the game. His team would need to defeat Wilmington in order to secure a spot in the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Tournament.

While the usual pregame events were taking place in the locker room, special

post-game press conference. "The gesture was totally unexpected and quite overwhelming. I haven't had a chance to digest that quite yet."

The game itself was a see-saw battle throughout the entire first half, with Wilmington taking a slim 32-28 lead into halftime. Halftime events were centered around the recognition of the 1981 and 1991 Final Four teams, along with the 2002 National Championship team. A new national championship banner, proudly displayed in the Rike, was also unveiled.

The two teams were locked at 65-65 late in the game, but a Chris Davis layup and free-throw from Zach Bakenhaster put Otterbein ahead 68-65 with 15 seconds left.

(continued on page 3)

The Quakers misfired on a three-point attempt, and an offensive rebound from freshman RaNeal Ewing off a missed Cardinal free-throw at the other end would secure the victory. Celebrations lasted well into the evening for both the team victory and the recognition of Coach Reynolds' impending retirement.

In addition, Coach Reynolds was recently honored by the Ohio Athletic Conference for his 40 years of service

and dedication, with the naming of the Dick Reynolds Award. The award will be presented annually to the most outstanding men's basketball player in the OAC, beginning in 2012.

Photos from the events can be seen at otterbeincardinals.com/photo_gallery.aspx?gallery=10.

On March 13, 2012, Coach Reynolds was honored at the Ohio Statehouse and presented with Resolution - HR

283 by Representative Bob D. Hackett of London, OH, and former mayor of Westerville and House Representative Anne Gonzales.

Read the entire resolution at www.legislature.state.oh.us/res.cfm?ID=129_HR_283 and watch the video of the presentation at www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/Media.aspx?fileId=134812&startTime=689&endTime=913.

OTTERBEIN EQUESTRIAN NEWS

If the 2011 Tournament of Champions Preseason Classic proved anything, it was that the talent pool is deepening in collegiate riding. In September 2011, only a single blue ribbon separated the top seven teams in the standings at the Preseason Classic, held Sept. 24 at Otterbein.

When Miami of Ohio won the final class of the day to leap-frog several teams into the lead, they validated their trip to Nationals in 2011. Miami had been one of the top teams at IHSA Nationals and in the Tournament of Champions for many years but hadn't made a trip to either in five years, until this season. Three teams – University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Intermont's second team, and Otterbein – tied for third place, just four points off the lead, and were placed by the IHSA tie-breaker system of most blue ribbons, followed by most reds, followed by jumping points.

The Tournament of Champions Medal class – an eclectic mix of open stars, outstanding intermediate riders, along with some excellent alumni – was as competitive as ever, with 20 entries flattening, 11 called back to jump, and five coming back for a final test. Otterbein's Madi Rohl placed fifth overall.



Tournament of Champions Team. Standing: Jane Sarosy, Mae Krause, Jillian Blades, Sarah Laux, Madi Rohl. **In front:** Danielle O'Callaghan, Annie Hankins, Hannah Gorman, Heather Crather, Katie Kaiser, Kaitlyn Haussman, Tenley Struhs, Riyad Gandy (coach), Iris Morrison.

The new Otterbein University Center for Equine Studies was a beautiful and fitting site for the tournament, and horses were very solid in their jobs. Besides Otterbein, horses came from Miami, Yinger Equestrian (an IEA team in the area), and Sid Griffith Equestrian (a local IEA barn that is the new home to The Ohio State University hunter team, although OSU declined invitation as a result of just starting school).

For more info about Tournament of Champions or Equestrian Talent Search, email jimarrigon@hotmail.com, visit www.BeckettRunRiding.com or visit the Equestrian Talent Search page on Facebook.

Team Placing Points:

Champion: Miami of Ohio 30

Res. Champion: Virginia Intermont Team Gold

Third: University of Massachusetts

Fourth: Virginia Intermont Team Black

Fifth: Otterbein Otter Trotters

Sixth: Otterbein Cantering Cardinals

Seventh: Mount Holyoke

Eighth: Virginia Tech Enter Sandman

Article submitted by Wendy Hovey, assistant to facility manager and center administrator

WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP

The 2011-12 Otterbein winter sports season saw many accolades received, records broken and milestones eclipsed.

The women's basketball team cracked the Top 25 national rankings en route to winning 20 games for the first time since the 2005-06 season. The squad finished third in the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) standings and saw the senior backcourt duo of Kristi Kotterman and Shea McCoy each reach 1,000 career points in the process. Both were named to the all-conference first team.



Kristi Kotterman



Shea McCoy



Tabatha Piper

Highly touted freshman Tabatha Piper wasted no time impressing in her inaugural season on the court, cementing herself in the Otterbein and OAC record books after earning conference "Freshman of the Year" honors in both basketball and volleyball. She is the league's first freshman to ever receive the honor in two different sports.

Senior men's basketball players Chris Davis and Brice Rausch, teammates since high school, accomplished a unique feat by reaching 1,000 career points in the same game. The pair reached the milestone in a 68-66 come-from-behind win over Ohio Northern, giving Coach Reynolds career win 650.



Brice Rausch



Chris Davis



Austin Curbow



Kristen Bennett

The men's and women's track and field program also saw quite a bit of history made, as senior Austin Curbow and junior Kristen Bennett took the indoor season by storm.

Curbow set a new OAC record in the 55-meter hurdles, posting 7.98 seconds in what was the fastest time by any individual in Division III for the majority of the season. He finished third at the NCAA Championships, earning All-America honors for an impressive third time. Curbow was bested just once by an OAC athlete over the course of his four-year indoor career.

An all-conference volleyball player, Bennett had little trouble carrying her success from the court to her first season for Otterbein track and field. She found her niche in the long jump, eventually setting a school and conference record with a leap of 18-9 1/4 at the OAC Championships on Feb. 24 in the Clements Center. Bennett later came in 10th at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Grinnell, Iowa.

Article submitted by Adam Prescott, assistant sports information director

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Otterbein graduate and NCAA Football All American Craig Sutherland '89 prides himself in providing professional wealth management and financial planning to his developed clientele. As president of Money Concepts Columbus and creator of "The Breakthrough Advantage,"™ Craig has found his passion in providing individual and business clients a way to create a vision, structure and obtain their bigger future in a manner that defines and instills confidence and clarity. He has developed strategic tools that not only focus on increasing your net worth, but enhancing your personal worth and impacting others in a unique and dynamic way. His unique process focuses on overcoming obstacles, creating and increasing momentum in your life and capturing your bigger future beyond the money aspect.

Craig has also founded the Money Concepts Classic, a charity golf tournament with all proceeds benefiting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Funds raised through this charity event have exceeded \$300,000.00. The 17th annual event will take place this year on June 25 at the Golf Club of Dublin.

Craig and his wife make their home in Lewis Center, OH, and enjoy spending time with their two daughters. Asked what his special memory of Otterbein was, Craig replied "I enjoyed having the opportunity to play football with my brother who graduated one year ahead of me. Being able to see my family in the stands enjoying both of their sons for multiple years was a joy and something we still talk about today."



Craig Sutherland

SAAC PROVIDES VOICE, IMPROVED COMMUNICATION FOR ATHLETES

At Otterbein, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) is a group of young, motivated individuals dedicated to improving the communication between the student-athletes and administration. The mission of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is to serve as a vehicle to promote communication between the athletic administration and student-athletes at Otterbein University by providing a student-athlete voice within the department, discussing issues and concerns, and providing feedback as necessary. SAAC also serves in a leadership role recruiting fellow student-athletes to serve the campus and the surrounding area through a variety of community service programs and events.

Throughout the year, the SAAC group meets every other week to discuss some of the potential issues on campus as well as plan for future events. Some of the activities that the committee has participated in this past year have included voting on new NCAA Legislation and Rulings, volunteering in local schools by eating breakfast with the kids, a Thanksgiving food drive, pop tab collection for the Ronald McDonald Fund, and providing representatives to help interview candidates for the athletic director position. The biggest event of the year was Otterbein Kid's Night, which was held on April 27. This event was a chance for members of the various sports teams to come and teach younger kids from the community different aspects about

the sports they play at Otterbein, and have fun with the kids as well! Overall, the event is fun for both the student-athletes at Otterbein and the children in attendance.

SAAC is a fantastic way to further strengthen the bonds within the student-athlete community. Through SAAC, athletes are granted a voice in the administration and receive opportunities to become involved in their community. SAAC helps athletes to develop skills whereby they can become even better leaders than they already are.

Article submitted by JP Lococo, SAAC President



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Continue to check our website
for upcoming events and news at
www.otterbeincardinals.com



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Hurry!
Get your Hall of Fame
nomination in! Deadline
is June 1!

Cardinal Athletics

Mark Your Calendars for

Otterbein Homecoming



Friday, September 21

- 60th reunion for ROTC/Angel Flight
- Young Alumni Awards
- AASU-AAAN 25th Reunion
- Alumni Choir Reunion

www.otterbein.edu/homecoming

Saturday, September 22

- Greek Reunions
- Homecoming Parade, Tailgate and Cardinal Carnival for Kids
- Football, Women's Soccer and Cross Country Meet
- Reunion of past homecoming king and queens; Gospel Choir; Reunion for Garst, Scott, Engle and Sanders and Cochran Halls; ROTC Reunion
- Class reunions for '07, '02, '97, '92, '87, '82, '77
- Open House for Communications and Nursing Alumni
- Otterbein Gallery Hop and Coffee House at the Otter Den