

Otterbein University

## Digital Commons @ Otterbein

---

Cardinal Athletics Newsletter

Otterbein University Athletics

---

Spring 2013

### 2013 Cardinal Athletics Vol,7, Issue 1 Spring

Otterbein University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/athletics\\_newsletter](https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/athletics_newsletter)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Sports Sciences Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Otterbein University, "2013 Cardinal Athletics Vol,7, Issue 1 Spring" (2013). *Cardinal Athletics Newsletter*. 17.

[https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/athletics\\_newsletter/17](https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/athletics_newsletter/17)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Otterbein University Athletics at Digital Commons @ Otterbein. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cardinal Athletics Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Otterbein. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons07@otterbein.edu](mailto:digitalcommons07@otterbein.edu).

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Otterbein University Athletics Newsletter

- 1 Athletic Alumni Network
- 2 Message from the Department
- 2 2012-13 Achievement Milestones
- 3 New Assistant Head Coaches
- 4 Winter Sports Wrapup
- 4 Spring Preview
- 5 Recruiting 2014
- 5 Turf and Track Update
- 5 Get to Know Our Staff
- 6 Where are they Now?

## ATHLETIC ALUMNI RETURN TO CAMPUS TO NETWORK WITH CURRENT STUDENT ATHLETES

**F**our Otterbein University athletic alumni returned to campus Jan. 30 to participate in the first-ever Alumni Networking Event, sponsored by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

SAAC teamed up with the Office of Alumni Relations and the

“This event was the perfect opportunity for us as student athletes to learn from successful professionals who were once in our shoes,” SAAC President Dominic Porretta said. “Our guests did a phenomenal job and the feedback from both our guests and the student athletes in attendance has been positive. We’re already working to set up another event in the near future.”

The alumni panel consisted of: 1989 graduate Craig Sutherland, a former All-American football player and current owner of Money Concepts of Columbus and ICEbox; 1995 graduate Andrew Hess, a former member of the football team and current President of Mattingly Foods; 2003 graduate Dr. Markita Suttle, a former All-American hurdler and current pediatric critical care fellow at Nationwide Children’s Hospital; and 2010 graduate Brooke Stull, a former softball player and current marketing coordinator at Victoria’s Secret.



Panel participants **Andrew Hess '95**, **Craig Sutherland '89**, **Markita May Suttle '03** and **Brooke Stull '10** talked to current student athletes on a wide range of topics.

Center for Career and Professional Development to bring back successful alumni for a program aimed at assisting current student athletes. Topics during the panel discussion ranged from getting a foot in the door for a first job, leveraging student athlete experiences in job searches, and the importance of finding the right career path.

“It was a pleasure to welcome Andrew, Craig, Markita, and Brooke back to Otterbein’s campus,” Director of Athletics Dawn Stewart said. “They shared incredible insight and advice with the student athletes that not only outlined steps toward professional development, but also encouraged personal growth.”

The Athletic Department will be hosting similar networking events approximately three times per year. Please let us know if you might be interested in attending!



OTTERBEIN  
UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

## Message from the Athletic Department

### Hello Cardinal Fans!

It is hard to believe we are more than halfway through the 2012-2013 academic year! As you may have heard, we had record breaking performances during the fall and

winter seasons. Our football program completed one of the best seasons in history, women's soccer won their fourth OAC Regular Season title in five years, the women's volleyball program won their first ever OAC Tournament title, and women's basketball earned the program's first berth into the NCAA Tournament.



While the success of our teams is without question, driven by the time, effort, and energy of our student athletes and coaches, I also attribute our success to the camaraderie of the staff, student athletes and you, our faithful alumni. The football program chose an acronym to use as the focus for its season— ONE (Only Now Exists). While Coach Doup may have only intended this statement to motivate and provide perspective for the football team, I believe the spirit of this acronym accurately describes the tone of the Otterbein Athletics program this year — We are stronger when we come together and can confidently take on the challenge in front of us.

We are looking forward to the challenges that spring competition brings. As we watch our teams compete, and look to continue breaking records, know that you are an important part of our success!

Best wishes for a warm spring and relaxing summer!

Go Cards!

Dawn Mamula Stewart '98  
Director of Athletics

## MANY MILESTONES ACHIEVED THIS YEAR

Otterbein Athletics saw various milestones surpassed in 2012 and so far in 2013, with many likely to follow in the spring season. Listed below are just a few:

Head Women's Soccer Coach Brandon Koons achieved his 100<sup>th</sup> win in OAC competition on Oct. 6 and his 200<sup>th</sup> win overall on Oct. 27.

The football team earned its 400<sup>th</sup> win since the beginning of the program. The Cardinals were ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation according to the D3football.com poll in mid-October. Sophomore Alana Gaither became the first female player to score points in 122 years of Otterbein football, converting 3 of 4 extra points on Sept. 15 against Wilmington.

Head Volleyball Coach Monica McDonald earned her 100<sup>th</sup>-career win against Ohio Wesleyan University on Sept. 22. History was made early in September as the Lady Cardinals became nationally-ranked in volleyball for the first time in school history. In addition, the team amassed 20 wins for a third-consecutive season. As the season drew to a close, the team garnered its first OAC Championship in school history, which landed them a spot in the NCAA tournament. This marked the team's third-straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

The softball team continued its excellence in the classroom and was recognized by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association in Spring 2012. The team was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the



**Head Volleyball Coach Monica McDonald talks with sophomore Tabatha Piper.**

NCAA Division III All-Academic rankings.

Connie Richardson, long-time head women's basketball coach, earned her 300<sup>th</sup> career win on Dec. 29 in a game against Thiel.

Women's Basketball reached 20 wins for a second-straight year, and earned its first ever at-large bid to the NCAA tournament,

New Men's Head Basketball Coach Todd Adrian achieved his 100<sup>th</sup> career win during his Rike Center debut Dec. 4 against Wittenberg.

Volleyball and women's track and field athlete Kristen Bennett became the only female athlete to earn Academic All-America recognition three times. She was recognized twice in volleyball and once in track.

**Want more sports?  
Visit [www.otterbeincardinals.com](http://www.otterbeincardinals.com)  
Suggestions?  
Send to [kmazza@otterbein.edu](mailto:kmazza@otterbein.edu)**

## NEW ASSISTANT COACHES FOR MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### Rob Purlee



Rob Purlee just completed his first season as assistant coach for the men's basketball program.

Purlee comes to

Westerville from Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., where he served four seasons as men's head basketball coach and men's head golf coach.

"The situation presents a winning formula when you combine Coach Adrian's past success and the opportunities heading forward for the

Otterbein men's basketball program," Purlee said. "I would have walked to Westerville if I had to."

A 2004 graduate of Monmouth College, Purlee spent two seasons at his alma mater as a football and basketball assistant. He worked as the quarterbacks coach for the Monmouth football program, coaching the top-ranked passer in NCAA Division III in 2005.

Purlee was a four-year starting quarterback and two-year football team captain for Monmouth during his collegiate career, while also competing as a three-year starter and senior captain for the basketball team.

"We have a lot in common," head coach Todd Adrian said of Purlee.

"He's a student of the game and has gathered a vast amount of knowledge by always talking to others in our profession."

"His values fit perfectly with what we want to accomplish at Otterbein," Adrian continued. "He's a family guy and active within the community, so I think he'll be great for our staff and players. It's beneficial any time you can have someone with head coaching experience come and be an assistant."

Purlee and his wife, Jenna, have two children: son Carson, 4, and daughter Kate, 2.

### Diana Noles



**Diana Esterkamp Noles '04**

has just completed her first season as the newly appointed full-time position of women's assistant

basketball coach.

A native of Cincinnati, Noles returns to coaching after spending the last three years working in quality assurance for Chase Bank.

"I am extremely excited to be back at my alma mater and to have an

impact within the women's basketball program again," Noles said. "I'm anxious to begin taking on challenges and working to contribute in any way possible."

Noles served as a volunteer assistant coach for Otterbein women's basketball during the 2005-06 season before coaching for two years at Ohio Dominican University from 2006-08.

A three-time All-Ohio Athletic Conference performer, Noles is the program's career leader in assists (674) and also ranks among the top 11 all-time in scoring, rebounding, and steals. She is the only Otterbein women's basketball player to tally 1,000 career points and 500 career assists.

Noles finished off her career with an honorable mention All-American selection in 2004, helping guide the Cardinals to a record of 72-33 over the course of her four seasons.

"I am ecstatic to have Diana come aboard," said Head Coach Connie Richardson. "She's going to be great for our program, especially in helping our guards. She is one of the smartest players I've ever coached and was very commanding of her teammates. That's the trait I always appreciated the most."

Noles and her husband, Patrick, reside in Bexley with their three children: son P.J., 5, and daughters Charlee, 2, and Jayla, 1.

## 2012 WINTER SPORTS WRAPUP

This past winter season featured plenty of excitement on both the basketball hardwood and the track.

The Rike Center was energetic from the get-go as women's basketball reached a new level of success. The Cards won 16 of their first 19 games, highlighted by a 10-game winning streak and head coach Connie Richardson recording her 300<sup>th</sup> win during the annual Smokey Ballenger Classic.

Otterbein eventually finished second in the OAC regular season and made just its second OAC Tournament championship game appearance. The program also accomplished back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time in school history.

To make the season even more memorable, the team earned its first-ever berth in the NCAA Tournament by receiving an at-large selection. Otterbein ultimately fell, 68-61, to Maryville (Tenn.) in the tournament's opening round, but the result couldn't take away from a fantastic season.

Senior Hannah Day turned in a breakout senior season, going over the 1,000 point plateau for her career while receiving all-conference, all-region, and OAC All-Tournament team honors. Tabatha Piper was also on the All-OAC squad, while senior Allie Leopard joined Day on the league's All-Tournament team.

The Otterbein faithful were also eager to rally around the head coaching debut of Todd Adrian on the men's side. The Cardinals defeated Wittenberg in the home opener and later upset Marietta by a count of 72-62.

Adrian helped guide the team to an upset win at John Carroll in the first round of the OAC Tournament, marking the first postseason win

for the program since the 2006-07 campaign. Senior Zach Bakenhaster ended his career with a selection to the all-conference team.

The women's track and field team, picked to finish sixth in the OAC preseason poll, turned in an exciting second-place finish at the league meet on Feb. 23. Head Coach Dave Lehman and his assistants were named the OAC's Women's "Staff of the Year" as the Cards earned All-OAC recognition in six different events.

The men's track and field squad finished fourth at the OAC meet, with sophomore Andrew Mantell stealing the show. Mantell earned titles in the 1,000-meter run and the distance medley relay, while also finishing second in the mile.

The season was topped off with Aaric Milligan qualifying for the national meet in the pole vault, where he later finished 11<sup>th</sup>.

## SPRING PREVIEW

Plenty of action will take place outside over the next few months as spring season is already underway!

The baseball team, featuring a talented pitching staff and preseason All-American catcher Wes Meadows, won nine of its first 10 games to get the ball rolling. Softball looks to add to the excitement, having pieced together some quality wins over a tough spring break schedule.

Women's lacrosse has vastly improved from its inaugural season, going 3-2 over five road games to start the season. The men's lacrosse program has its sights set on an NCAA Tournament bid with the reshuffling of Pool B and the NCAC becoming an automatic bid conference. Both teams return nearly every key contributor from last year's lineup.



**Senior Hannah Day scored more than 1,000 career points and earned all-conference, all-region and OAC All-Tournament team honors.**

The women's tennis team, led by two-time OAC Player of the Year Julie Stroyne, won seven of its first nine games and looks to be a presence in the conference championship hunt again.

Men's tennis boasted a nice six-game winning streak early in the season, and hopes to take the next step after making the OAC semifinals a year ago.

Men's golf, having won the last four OAC championships, has visions of continuing its dominance within the league while the women's team hopes to make the NCAAs for the first time since 2010. Otterbein's main competitor on the women's side, Baldwin Wallace University, is ineligible to compete in NCAA postseason play this season.

Both track and field teams are eager to get outside as well. The women's team was picked to finish fourth in the league's preseason poll while the men's side was chosen to come in fifth.

## RECRUITING 2014

Recruiting of student athletes remains paramount in producing successful teams that perform well in both the classroom and on the field or court. Coaches and their staff continue to work every day communicating and visiting with prospective student athletes. Here are the coaches' goals for the 2014 recruiting class:

Baseball	12-20 athletes
Basketball, M	10-12 athletes
Basketball, W	8-10 athletes
Football	65-70 athletes
Golf, M	2 athletes
Golf, W	4-5 athletes
Lacrosse, M	12 athletes

Lacrosse, W	10-15 athletes
Soccer, M	10-15 athletes
Soccer, W	15 athletes
Softball	8-10 athletes
Tennis, W	3-4 athletes
Tennis, M	3 athletes
Track, M/W (includes cross country)	30 athletes
Volleyball	5-6 athletes

The total number of potential recruits to be brought in by Athletics ranges from 197 to 229, which is consistent with the numbers for the past several years. Recruited athletes continue to account for over 35 percent of newly enrolled freshmen.

## TURF AND TRACK PROJECT UPDATE

In the last newsletter we introduced the University's latest capital project – the Memorial Stadium Turf and Track Project. Since that time, we are pleased to announce that more than 1.26 million has been committed for the renovation. Thanks to many generous alumni and local organizations we are on our way toward the \$2 million goal. If you are interested in learning more or donating

to the project visit the project website at: [www.otterbein.edu/turfandtrack](http://www.otterbein.edu/turfandtrack) or contact Mike Griffin, Assistant Director of Development at [mgriffin@otterbein.edu](mailto:mgriffin@otterbein.edu) or (614)-823-1963.

## OTTERBEIN ATHLETIC TEAM SHOP

As promised in the fall issue, the new team shop is now up and running! Check out items available for purchase at: [www.otterbeincardinals.com](http://www.otterbeincardinals.com)

*All proceeds will support the Otterbein Athletic Department.*



## GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF

### GERRY D'ARCY HEAD MEN'S SOCCER COACH

**Mentor:** Many colleagues and bosses. Also my high school physical education teacher and master's degree thesis advisor.

**Hobby:** Reading widely. Movies – domestic, indies and foreign. Sports, especially anything relating to soccer. Anything to do with nature or animals.

**Favorite Movie:** *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

**What do I do in my spare time:** Spend time with friends and family. Walk the dog, talk to the dog. Travel to new places, domestically and internationally. Reading and movies. Exercise.

**Favorite Food:** Like to vary it: British, Italian, Thai, Seafood, Indian, German.

**Favorite Place to Eat:** Fado for Irish breakfast. Thai Palace for lunch. Ocean Club for dinner.

**Something not many people know about me:** Whenever I go to a new city, I like to go to the local museum to see how the city came about and grew.

### BRANDON KOONS HEAD WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH

**Mentor:** Father

**Hobby:** Soccer watching, playing

**Favorite Movie:** *Tombstone*

**What do I do in my spare time:** Play with my kids

**Favorite Food:** Italian

**Favorite place to eat:** Pasquale's

**Something not many people know about me:** I once gave the lead singer a ride to the show of a band I was on my way to see.



**OTTERBEIN**  
UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS  
1 South Grove Street  
Westerville, OH 43081-2006  
614-823-3530

Continue to check our website  
for upcoming events and news at  
[www.otterbeincardinals.com](http://www.otterbeincardinals.com)



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Cardinal Athletics



Markita May Suttle '03 with Professor of English Jim Gorman.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former track athlete and 2003 NCAA All-American **Markita May Suttle '03** graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in molecular biology and earned her doctor of medicine degree from Wright State University's School of Medicine in 2007. Suttle completed her pediatric residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) in 2010, followed by a chief residency year. Currently Dr. Suttle is a second year pediatric critical care fellow at NCH. Suttle and her husband, **Matt Suttle '02**, who was a cross country and track and field student athlete, celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary in June 2012. Matt is an eighth grade teacher and cross country and track and field coach for Dublin City Schools. Markita still enjoys running for exercise and occasionally even takes to hurdling from time to time.