

Center Circle

Summer 2010
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Grove City College Men's Soccer Alumni News

Questions or comments?

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Center Circle

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Center Circle is the official alumni newsletter of the Grove City College Men's Soccer Team.



Veteran team to take field in 2010

Hopes are high for the 2010 season as the men's soccer team returns nine starters and has a veteran team comprised of 10 seniors. Hopefully, the team can gel quickly after camp opens on Aug. 22. With only a scrimmage and 12 days before the opener, the boys will have to do just that to be prepared for what looks like a challenging season.

This fall, the schedule will feature a mix of new opponents and the traditional rivals. During the non-conference portion of the schedule, the



Andrew Quinn '13 and the Wolverines will face new and old rivals.

team will face traditional foes Penn State Behrend (AMCC

runner-up, ECAC South Champion) and Carnegie Mellon University (UAA champions, NCAA round of 16), while adding Alfred and Penn State New Kensington to the mix. Hopefully, the Wolverines can gain some momentum for October and conference play as they look to finish first or second in the conference and host a PAC match for the first time since 2005. A key matchup looks to be the final game of the regular season against 2009 PAC champion and NCAA qualifier Thomas More.

Spring Training

Players work to stay sharp in offseason

The NCAA regulations are present in all divisions, with Division III athletics probably as the most restrictive and rightfully so.

As President Richard G. Jewell '67 often says, "Division III athletics is the last area where athletes truly uphold the 'amateur athlete' moniker, as they participate purely for the love of the sport." (Division III has no athletic scholarships.)

While the restrictions on contact hours are tight, each program does get a five-week non-traditional season in which the coach can train the team together. During that time, the team can practice for numerous sessions and is allowed to participate in one day of competition.

This five-week spring season is a great time for the team to learn and grow as individual players and as a group.

This year was no different and the opportunities for young players were magnified as seven of the

10 rising seniors were studying abroad (see article on page 3). With a depleted leadership core, many of the younger players had to step up in a variety of ways.

Freshmen and sophomores were given opportunities and repetitions that they would not have received otherwise.

A total of 19 players participated in spring practices this year. The focus of the training was concentrated into three main areas: transitional play, training a 4-3-3 and team defense.

With an emphasis on functional training, the team worked on those concepts leading up to a day of competition May 1 at Westminster College.

The team played three matches on that Saturday, losing 2-0, winning 2-0 and losing 2-1. Each match lasted 45 minutes and was played on the turf stadium at Westminster.

See SPRING, page 2

Senior Class

Experienced leaders ready to take field

The 2010 Wolverines will be led by 10 senior veteran leaders.

With several years of experience under their belts, they are ready to lead the team through what promises to be a challenging season.

They come from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Arizona. They feature a pair of twins. A number of them have studied abroad, landing all over the globe.

With at least one player at each position, they are the backbone of the team this year. Take a few minutes to get acquainted.



Daniel Bernal

Position: midfield

Hometown:
Tucson, Ariz.

Fact: Studied in Peru during spring 2010

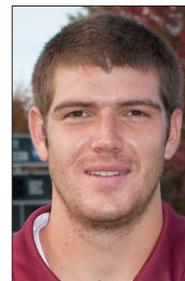


Dave Larkin

Position: outside back

Hometown:
Lititz, Pa.

Fact: Studied in Holland during spring 2010



Erich Beyer

Position: midfield

Hometown: Chester Springs, Pa.

Fact: Studied in Germany during spring 2010



Evan Moore

Position: midfield

Hometown: Biglerville, Pa.

Fact: Studied in Spain during spring 2010



Zach Barzanty

Position: centerback

Hometown:
Bridgeville, Pa.

Fact: Returning starter, biology major



Alex Ford

Position: midfield

Hometown:
Bridgeville, Pa.

Fact: Studied in Spain during spring 2010



Ben Wagner

Position: midfield

Hometown:
Rochester, Md.

Fact: Worked soccer camps in the Pittsburgh area during the summer



Austin Bernal

Position: midfield

Hometown:
Tucson, Ariz.

Fact: Studied in Chile during spring of 2010



Jake Kern

Position: forward

Hometown:
Fairfield, Pa.

Fact: Studied in the Czech Republic during spring 2010



Chuck Witt

Position: midfield

Hometown:
Dillsburg, Pa.

Fact: Did summer research internship with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute



Donations welcome

If you would like to support the men's soccer program, make checks payable to Grove City College with "Men's Soccer" on the memo line. Mail to: Advancement Office, Grove City College, 100 Campus Dr., Grove City, PA 16127.

SPRING from page 1

With a glimpse into the future, the starting lineup included nine current freshmen and sophomores. Outside of starters Chuck Witt '11 and Zach Barzanty '11, the team that lined up to begin the tournament is a possible

lineup the Wolverines could see in 2011.

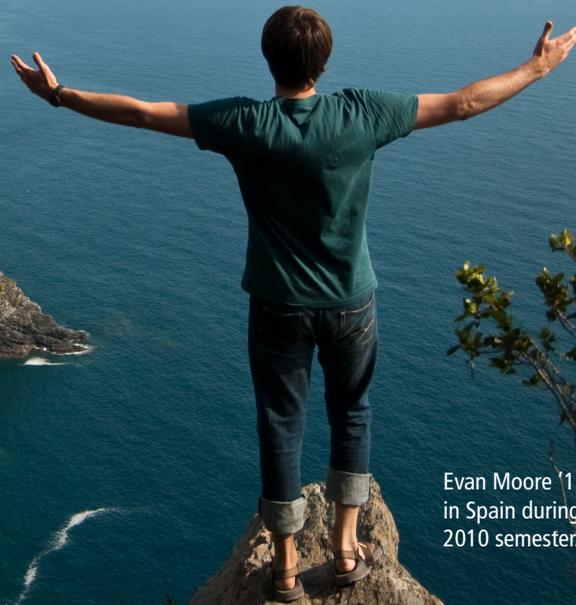
Hopefully, the young players can learn and grow from the spring experiences and add much to the veteran team that returns this fall. Only after the 2010 season will we be able to truly evaluate the spring's impact.

World Travelers

Over the years, many Wolverine players have made the hike to class from various points of origin. Some may remember the long walks from Colonial to upper campus while others were able to sleep late and rush to class from Hicks or Alumni halls. This spring, several team members would have had to travel quite some distance to get to class (and they would have needed a passport).

During the spring semester, seven team members, all juniors, decided to study abroad and forgo their spring semester on campus. Those players (see "Meet the Seniors" on page 2) studied in Germany, Holland, the Czech Republic, Spain, Peru and Chile. Even one of the team managers, Kirby Kinda '11, joined the action and spent the semester in the Czech Republic.

Many of these players were able to experience soccer in a different culture and hopefully will come back refreshed and willing to share what they learned from their experiences.



Evan Moore '11 studied in Spain during spring 2010 semester.

Two standouts to be inducted

Grove City College will induct two former standouts into its Men's Soccer Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend October 9. Alex Eggers '51 and David Howard '81 comprise the 10th class of inductees. Their inclusion brings the total number of inductees to 27.

Eggers earned four letters for the Wolverines from 1947 to 1950. After playing in goal as a freshman, Eggers moved to forward for his final three seasons. In 1948, Eggers scored against Carnegie Tech in the season finale to secure the Wolverines' first-ever undefeated season (5-0-3).

As a junior in 1949, he led the team in scoring with four goals in eight matches. In 1950, Eggers helped lead Grove City to a 6-2 record as the Wolverines set a new program record for wins in a single season. Grove City went a combined 17-10-6 during his career.

Howard earned four letters for Grove City from 1977 to 1980 and helped the Wolverines to one

of the program's finest four-year stretches. As a freshman, Howard helped Grove City set a new program record for wins in a season by posting an 11-3 mark. He moved to outside defender as a sophomore and contributed to the 1978 team's 8-3-1 campaign.

In 1979, Howard earned the team's Most Outstanding Junior award after helping lead Grove City to a 10-2 mark. As a senior, he captained the 1980 squad that advanced to the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament. Howard earned the team's Most Valuable Player award along with First Team All-Western Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Soccer Conference honors.

He capped his career by earning Honorable Mention Regional All-America from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) in 1980. The Wolverines posted an aggregate 38-13-1 record during his career.

Ryan Briggs '01

Nominations sought for Hall of Fame

If you played with an outstanding teammate, please consider nominating him for the Soccer Hall of Fame. Nominations are easy! Simply go to www.gcc.edu/sports, navigate to the soccer page and click on the "Hall of Fame Information" link. You can also send an e-mail to soccer@gcc.edu, fax to (724) 458-3855 or mail your nomination to Box 3074, 100 Campus Dr., Grove City, PA 16127.

Men's Soccer Hall of Fame

- Class of 2010:** Alex Eggers '51
David Howard '81
- Class of 2009:** Glen Zembower '48
Robert Bishop '66
- Class of 2008:** Phil Donatelli '77
Greg Kreutzberg '97
- Class of 2007:** Bill Buchanan '66
Angelo Mariotti '78
Gary Tissue '80
- Class of 2006:** Vaughn "Stu" Irwin '53
Jon Bornholm '78
Dr. Don Lyle
- Class of 2005:** Jim Pontier '68
Phil Ahlschlager '75
- Class of 2004:** Travis Young '59
Richard Manley '67
- Class of 2003:** Scott Johnston '55
James Foraker '58
- Class of 2002:** Charles Slemmons '53
Ross Emerson '57
- Class of 2001:** Peter Büttner '61
William Juergens '87
Matthew Lux '70
John Mulholland '65
Frank Sbrocco '57
Robert E. Thorn
Clifford Wettig



Eleven Grove City College students, including five soccer players, watched the debut of the Major League Soccer expansion team, Philadelphia Union.

Road trip: Major League Soccer style

On April 9, 2010, a group of 11 Grove City College students (including five men's soccer players) made the cross-state trip to the City of Brotherly Love to watch the debut of the new Major League Soccer expansion side Philadelphia Union take on D.C. United. The travelers set up base camp at the home of Mack Lloyd '12 in Glenside, Pa., where they would spend the weekend.

With every inch of available space seemingly taken up, and the NCAA basketball tournament fresh in everyone's minds, it meant only one logical way to decide who slept where – NBA Street tournament video game, of course. The victors received their beds, while those knocked out in the earlier rounds were relegated to the couches and sleeping bags (sorry Connor Baer '13 and Andrew Quinn '13).



Saturday, April 10, consisted of waking up early and taking the subway downtown. A picture-perfect day ensued as the group toured the typical Philadelphia sights: the art museum, Rocky's run, South Street and, of course, cheese steaks. After once again jumping on the subway for a short ride to Lincoln Financial Field, the group gathered in the parking lot for pre-game festivities

with the rest of our group of 50 family and friends attending the game. The raucous Philadelphia supporters group, The Sons of Ben, led the fans into the stadium, and continued their chants throughout the game, draped in the light blue and yellow found in the city's flag.

In typical Philadelphia fashion, Vice President Joe Biden made a surprise pre-game appearance, and was quickly

booed off the pitch. Thankfully, the game itself had a lot to cheer for, as the back-and-forth home opener finally tipped in favor of the Union 3-2. The crowd of 35,000 was treated quickly to the franchise's first goal four minutes into the game, off a Sebastian Le Toux header. The 2,000 D.C. United supporters who made the trip up I-95, along with our own D.C. United faithful, Andrew Quinn '13 (Maryland native), could only look on in sorrow.

Despite his side's loss, Quinn actually did smile. In fact, the whole group had a blast. Whether it was getting free energy drinks, heckling D.C. fans or trying to figure the shower schedule, the weekend proved to be a time of laughs and soccer. What more could you ask for?

Mack Lloyd '12

Team helps deliver sweet treats for local church

Almost everyone loves fresh-baked cookies. A Grove City church, East Main Presbyterian, uses this fact to earn money for its mission projects.

On the second Friday of each month during the school year, church

members bake dozens of chocolate chip cookies for distribution on campus. The church contacts parents and volunteers to deliver a dozen cookies to their sons or daughters in exchange for a donation to the church's mission fund. It works well

for all involved – the church raises money, the parents send some love to their children and the students get a taste of home.

For more than 10 years, the team has helped with delivery. Members convene on the library steps and

wait for the cookies to be delivered at around 5:30 p.m. They take the bags to all of the men's dorms. All told, the team delivers over 150 dozen cookies. This simple act of service by the team has really helped the missions program at East Main.

1980 Team



Team celebrates 30th year after NCAA berth

The year 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of the last Grove City College men's soccer team to make the NCAA tournament. The men's soccer alumni will welcome back players from the 1980 team this fall during the Homecoming festivities. If you were a member of the 1980 team, please plan on returning to campus to celebrate your wonderful achievement.

Those 30 seasons ago, the Wolverines received a bid to the tournament after going 9-4 during the regular season.

Coach Lyle and the team played Scranton in the first round and lost a hard-fought match 2-1 in sudden death overtime. Check out The

1980 Team

Coach: Don Lyle
Season Record: 9-5-0

3	Gannon	1
2	Slippery Rock	1
2	Allegheny	0
1	Fredonia	3
1	Geneva	0
0	Pitt	2
2	Indiana	3
7	Mercyhurst	2
5	Mount Union	0
5	PSU Behrend	2
10	Alliance	2
2	Bethany	5

Collegian articles from the fall of 1980 for more details. Members of the 1980 tournament team are Tom Juliano, Dave Howard, Fahmy Mechael, Jeff Jacoby, Andy Markley, Chris Barstow, Dave Reno, Frank Cerminara, Doug Dimittroff, Jim Martin, Tony Caruso, Steve Babcock, Coach Don Lyle, Chris Druyff, Lee Wish-ing, Seth Stearns, Tim Watt, Len Morton, Scott Pennell, Dave Woodward, Dave Sedlak, Ed Warburton, Eric Hamman, Jeff Wasley, Jeff Kemp, Bill Bainbridge, Chris DeRonda, Mike Fiorucci, Al Findlay, Kevin Gunning, Don Templin, Paul Sauer, Jim Sas, Jim Pekins and Bob Pugh.

Booters Go To Nationals

by Eric Hamman

The 1980 Grove City soccer team has been selected by the NCAA for Division III post-season play. On Saturday, the Wolverines will play at Scranton in the first round.

The booters finished their season 9-4-0. They were selected by the NCAA as one of the top 24 out of 274 Division III

soccer teams in the nation. Of the thirty-two teams in this region, the Wolverines are seeded fourth.

Grove City's region consists of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Scranton (15-2-1) was seeded first; second and third went to Elizabeth (10-5-1) and Haverford (8-4-2), respective-

ly. Scranton, the Wolverines opponent, is currently ranked fifth in the nation in Division III. They compete in the Mid-Atlantic Conference where they traditionally finish first or second. Scranton is ranked second regionally while Grove City is eighth.

Booters Bow to Scranton

by Dave Howard

The Grove City soccer team traveled to Scranton on November 10, for the first round of the NCAA National Playoffs.

Scranton entered the contest seated in the #1 slot for the region. They had a fantastic season record and were ranked fifth in the nation for Division III.

Grove City, seated 4th, had been ranked in the top ten in the region. The Grover booters finished with a 9-4 regular season record.

The stage was set for what was to be an exciting game in which the Wolverines showed that they could compete with the powers of the East. First half action was relatively even. Both sides failed to control the tempo of the game.

In the second half, both teams came out and displayed a fine brand of soccer. Scranton drew blood first, scoring off a scramble in front of the net. The Wolverines, however, refused to give up, as they came back and violated Scranton's net minutes later.

At the end of regulation play, the score was tied 1-1. According to NCAA playoff rules, the game was sent into 15 minute sudden death overtime.

The first overtime period was played relatively even. Near the end, however, Scranton began to dominate, forcing the Wolverines to play defense. Scranton was unable to score, and the first overtime ended with the score still tied.

About five minutes into the second overtime period, Scranton scored, ending the game. The loss eliminated the Wolverines from further competition, and sent them home with a 9-5 record.

At the Awards Banquet, on the 17th, several booters received awards. Freshman Jim Pekins was voted the Most Improved Freshman. Junior, Chris Barstow received the Outstanding Junior Award. A \$50 scholarship goes along with this award. Senior Dave Howard received the Most Valuable Player Award.



GROVE CITY COLLEGE
WOLVERINES

100 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127

2010 Men's Soccer Schedule

Aug. 28	LaRoche	Away	3 p.m.
Sept. 3	Alfred	Away	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 4	Oswego or Sage	Away	1 or 3 p.m.
Sept. 8	Heidelberg	Home	4 p.m.
Sept. 11	Hilbert	Home	1 p.m.
Sept. 15	Penn State Behrend	Home	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	Baldwin Wallace	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	Mount Union	Away	7 p.m.
Sept. 25	Carnegie Mellon	Home	2 p.m.
Sept. 28	Juniata	Home	4 p.m.
Sept. 30	Penn State New Kensington	Away	4 p.m.
Oct. 2	Wash. & Jeff.*	Away	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	Westminster*	Home	4 p.m.
Oct. 8	Geneva	Home	4 p.m.
Oct. 9	Alumni Game	Home	10:30 a.m.
Oct. 12	Thiel*	Home	3 p.m.
Oct. 16	Bethany*	Home	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	Waynesburg*	Away	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Saint Vincent*	Away	1 p.m.
Oct. 27	Fredonia	Away	3 p.m.
Oct. 30	Thomas More	Home	noon

* PAC match

Mark your day planner:

Homecoming

Oct. 8: Home match vs. Geneva, 4 p.m.

Oct. 9: Alumni game, 10:30 a.m.

Team honored for classwork

For the third year in a row, the men's soccer team was rewarded for its efforts in the classroom.

Each academic year, all the Division I, II, III and NAIA soccer teams in the country are eligible for the National Coaches Association of America Team Academic Award. If an entire team can maintain a 3.0 grade point average during the academic year, the team is awarded a certificate and recognized on the NSCAA website.

This past academic year, the team earned a cumulative 3.12 grade point average, with eight players earning a 3.6 or higher during the fall season (this level qualifies them to for a conference academic award). This impressive score follows a 3.02 in 2008 and a 3.08 in 2009. By excelling academically, the Wolverines truly demonstrate what it means to be student athletes.

Soccer field upgrades continue

Since 2001, College Field has seen constant changes to its landscape.

For the last three years, donations have continued to arrive, and additional upgrades are in the works. This summer, seating was expanded to near 1,000; a new flagpole area (for the American flag and conference flags) and sidewalk were constructed, along with an upgrade to landscaping.

With the additions this sum-

mer, the complex continues to develop into one of the finest facilities in the region. The new seating is now more handi-cap accessible with the new sidewalk. The sidewalk will also direct fans around the practice field when it is in use.

All soccer alumni can look upon the complex with pride knowing that they played a significant role in developing a project that will continue to shine for years to come.