2011 team builds on 2010 success

Outsiders may look at 2011 as a rebuilding year, after the team lost 10 seniors to graduation. The view from inside the program, however, is much different. Coach Dreves points out, “While we have lost some excellent players and a lot of depth, we still return seven players who started in 12 or more games, plus numerous others who have extensive game experience.”

“We are trying to build on our strong foundation that has been established over the years and improve to the point where we can string together multiple years that resemble 2010,” Dreves adds. The team looks to create a culture so strong that even the adversity of losing a large senior class or losing a player to injury can be overcome. Leading the way to building this culture will be seniors Brian Eckenhoff (captain), Tim Boswell (captain), Mark Leach, Ben Kuniholm and Adam Brewer (learn more in the “Meet the Seniors” section on page 3).

The challenge begins in late August with two preseason scrimmages against La Roche and Slippery Rock. Some additions to the traditional schedule of the last few years include Adrian and longtime rival Allegheny. For more information, see the entire schedule on page 6.

Conference play begins on Oct. 1 against Bethany. The Wolverines will look to better their second-place finish in the 2010 regular season with an eye on the conference championship and an automatic place in the NCAA playoffs.

Chuck Witt named Senior Man of the Year

Each spring, the College recognizes many of its students for various accomplishments at the Parents’ Weekend Recognition Convocation. The final awards presented are the Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year and Senior Woman and Man of the Year.

This year, senior soccer player Chuck Witt was named Senior Man of the Year. Witt joins soccer players Ian Lamborn ’07 and Michael Manahan ’09 in winning the coveted award. A native of Dillsburg, Pa., William “Chuck” Witt was a four-year letterwinner and starter for the Wolverines. His senior year was quite memorable as the team achieved the second-best record in its history. Witt was selected to the all-region team as well as being named academic All-American.

As is customary for the award, Witt’s name has been placed on a rock near Harbison Chapel.
In Memory

Alumni, former MVP pass away

The soccer alumni lost several members in 2010.

John W. Powless ’50 died in August 2010. Powless, a longtime Carlisle, Pa., resident, visited Grove City College during Homecoming 2008 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first unbeaten team in 1948.

In October, Dr. Frederick L. “Rick” Jenks Jr. ’63, passed away. Jenks was a professor emeritus at Florida State University. During his time as a Tallahassee resident, Jenks was a youth coach and avid recreational soccer player.

2007 MVP remembered

The 2007 team MVP Barry Snyder passed away on Feb. 21, 2011. Snyder, a standout for the Wolverines before graduating in 2008, accidentally drowned while visiting Biloxi, Miss.

The 24-year-old native of Hollidaysburg, Pa., had just finished officer training with the Air Force and was traveling to Texas for the 60th anniversary of the first unbeaten team during his senior season. Prior to entering officer training, Snyder spent two years coaching the women’s soccer team at Mount Aloysius College.

Team battles weather during spring

The Wolverines tackled the non-traditional season with enormous passion this year. They needed this passion and quite a bit of perseverance to push through several challenges.

Each spring, the team is allotted five weeks of practice time that includes 15 practices and one day of competition. Normally the spring season runs during March and April and is split by a weeklong spring break.

This year, because of a late Easter, Coach Dreves chose to use the allotted five weeks before Easter break. This pushed the start earlier and forced the team to battle some rain and snow. As the spring wore on, the rain continued to fall and made the field unplayable most of the time. All told, at the end of the five weeks, the team was able to have only three outdoor sessions (with one being cut short by a bad snow storm). The unusual weather forced the men inside to the Intramural Room. In addition, the men were often forced to take an early morning time slot before classes because of scheduling conflicts.

To the credit of the 19 participating players, much was learned during those early morning sessions. Coaches Dreves and Edwards set out several important goals: to solidify the team’s core values and make them more meaningful to the players; to cement the roles, responsibilities and playing principles in the team’s system; and to make the team more dynamic in the final third. With all of the adverse conditions, the team still absorbed everything and was prepared for a scrimmage against conference foe Waynesburg and neighboring Division II Slippery Rock University.

In the first match, Slippery Rock beat Waynesburg 4-0 and demonstrated some clinical finishes. The Wolverines played Waynesburg in the second match. Grove City dominated the possession and attacking chances but could not find the back of the net. The game ended 0-0, with Grove City conceding only one goal kick and two corner kicks in 60 minutes of play.
On May 14, 2011, the men’s soccer alumni program had a large increase in membership. On that rainy Saturday and with the former First Lady Laura W. Bush looking on, 10 seniors received their diplomas. The 2011 soccer class will go down as the largest in the last 20 years. As students, they left quite a stamp on the program. They finished the 2010 season with a 15-6-2 record, scoring 51 goals while conceding 20. The record marks the second-most wins in program history and the most goals scored in a season since 1996. The new alumni were three-for-three on conference sportsmanship awards (the Presidents’ Athletic Conference instituted sportsmanship awards in 2008) and four-for-four on National Soccer Coaches Association academic awards (the NSCAA awards teams that have a 3.0 or higher). The group finished with a 35-35-10 record. Congratulations on a great career, Class of 2011!
Grove City College will induct two former standouts into its Men's Soccer Hall of Fame during Homecoming weekend, on Sept. 24. Ross Carnes '70, a former goalkeeper, and Chuck Harrington '73 comprise the 11th class of inductees. Their induction brings the total number of inductees to 29.

Carnes started in goal for the Wolverines from 1967 to 1969, earning three letters. He compiled a 21-7 record in goal in 28 career starts, including 10 shutouts.

As a senior in 1969, Carnes helped Grove City post a 9-2 record, tying the program record for single-season victories. He anchored a Grove City defense that posted five shutouts, which also tied a single-season school mark.

The Wolverines went 7-3-1 in 1968 and 6-4 during his sophomore season, including a 5-2 record in 1967 with Carnes in goal.

During those three seasons, he earned acclaim as one of the top goalkeepers in the region and following his senior season, head coach Cliff Wettig nominated him for All-America consideration.

Harrington earned three letters at fullback for Grove City from 1970 to 1972. A teammate of Carnes in 1969, Harrington earned National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Honorable Mention Regional All-America following the 1972 season. He became the first Grove City player to be awarded Regional All-America honors.

Harrington also received First Team All-Western Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Soccer Conference (WPISC) as a senior. He helped the Wolverines to a 25-12-2 overall record during his career. His defensive work at fullback helped Grove City record seven shutouts in his three years as a starter, including five in 1970.

Grove City established its Men's Soccer Hall of Fame in 2001. The inductees will be introduced and recognized before the annual Hall of Fame Game September 24, which features alumni against current varsity players.
When it comes to soccer, each generation has its maestro. First it was Pele and then Maradona. Now, we are in the era of Lionel Messi. While he has yet to win a major international tournament, his impact on soccer as a whole has been dramatic. The world player of the year in 2009 and 2010, Messi traveled to the United States to compete for Argentina against the U.S. in a tune-up match for this summer’s Copa America. The game was held at the New Meadowlands stadium near New York City.

Several Grove City College soccer alumni met and attended the game together. Messi dazzled the crowd (and the U.S. defenders) throughout the game. Argentina dominated possession and attacking chances but had to settle for a 1-1 draw with the organized, hardworking Americans.

From the pregame tailgate to the final whistle, a great time was had by all.

Teaching is a calling that many students at Grove City College have embraced. Not everyone takes the direct path into the field of education, though, and several soccer seniors have taken on the calling while majoring in other disciplines.

Class of 2011 graduates Austin Bernal, Evan Moore and Daniel Bernal have been awarded teaching positions through the prestigious Teach For America program. Less than 10 percent of applicants are selected for two-year placements. Teach For America recruits recent college graduates and professionals to teach for two years in low-income communities throughout the United States. The goal of Teach For America is for its corps members not only to make a short-term impact on their students, but also to become lifelong leaders in pursuing educational equality. Corps members do not have to be certified teachers. Uncertified corps members receive alternative certification through coursework taken while completing the program.

Corps members attend an intensive five-week summer institute to prepare for their commitment. Teach For America teachers are full-fledged faculty members at their schools, receiving the normal school district salary and benefits as well as a modest AmeriCorps “education voucher.”

Austin Bernal was placed in Memphis, Tenn., Daniel Bernal (high school English) in Miami, Fla., and Moore (high school Spanish) in eastern North Carolina.

You can learn more about Teach For America at www.teachforamerica.org.

Got a story to tell or a photo to share?

We’re always interested in hearing what alumni are doing, so if you have some pictures or information about a recent alumni gathering, please send items to Coach Dreves at mfdreves@gcc.edu.
2011 Men’s Soccer Schedule

Aug. 24 Slippery Rock Away 1 p.m. (scrimmage)
Aug. 27 La Roche Home 3 p.m. (scrimmage)
Sept. 1 Adrian Home 4 p.m.
Sept. 3 Muskingum Home 1 p.m.
Sept. 6 Allegheny Away 7 p.m.
Sept. 10 Hilbert Away 1 p.m.
Sept. 14 Penn State Behrend Away 7 p.m.
Sept. 17 Baldwin Wallace Home 1 p.m.
Sept. 20 Mount Union Home 4 p.m.
Sept. 23 Penn State New Ken. Home 4 p.m.
Sept. 24 Hall of Fame Game Home 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 27 Juniata Away 4 p.m.
Oct. 1 Bethany Away 3 p.m.
Oct. 4 Thomas More Away 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 7 Waynesburg Home 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 12 Thiel Away 4 p.m.
Oct. 15 Wash. & Jeff. Home 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 19 Carnegie Mellon Away 7 p.m.
Oct. 22 Geneva Home 1 p.m.
Oct. 26 St. Vincent Home 3 p.m.
Oct. 29 Westminster Away 3 p.m.

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.

Nominate for Hall of Fame

If you played with an outstanding teammate, please consider nominating him for the Grove City College Soccer Hall of Fame. Nominations are easy! 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.