

Center Circle

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Grove City College Men's Soccer Alumni News

Questions or Comments?

Contact Mike Dreves
(724) 458-2151
mfdreves@gcc.edu

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Head Soccer Coach

Mike Dreves '97

Design

Ross Wyszomierski
Media Relations Specialist

Printer

SCP Group
Sharon, Pa.

Center Circle is the official
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City Men's Soccer Team



The Wolverines hope for more

Reflecting on the 2012 season has been hard, but motivating, for the men's soccer team. Memories of overtime losses and a conference semi-final defeat were constant reminders of what could have been last fall. "The guys all know how good we are and how much potential we have," comments Coach Mike Dreves. Dreves continued by adding "We played great soccer last season and were so close that I think this team will be highly motivated for the next level of conference success this fall. We learned several hard lessons and are ready to put our knowledge to use in 2013." During the 2012 season, the Wolverines lost five matches in overtime and were defeated in the ninth round of penalty kicks in the conference semi-final. When things begin to click and the hard lessons learned take effect in September and October, this team should be able to have an impact in both conference and non-conference play.

All told, the team returns seven starters who will be joined by numerous veterans and a solid freshman class. The Wolverines open the season with an away tournament at



Frostburg State University and then spend the rest of September playing mostly traditional non-conference opponents like Penn State Behrend, Allegheny and CMU. Allegheny is back on the schedule for the second time in two years and is historically the most frequent opponent for the team. New this season is Muskingum College, a team the men have faced in the past, but not since the 2011 season. A total of one scrimmage and 18 games await the team for what looks to be a great 75th of soccer at Grove City College.

Spring review

The Wolverines had another successful spring in 2013. During the April and May, the team participated in its annual non-traditional season that lasts for five weeks and encompasses 15 training sessions and one day of competition. With the loss of six seniors, several injuries and a junior studying abroad, the team trained most of the spring with 16 players. This low number allowed for increased repetitions and a lot of positional training. The weather was better than normal, but still was not ideal and forced

the team to train inside, on turf and on the practice field.

The growth and development of the squad was put to the test in the spring match against local Division II team Slippery Rock University (SRU). Slippery Rock was completing its five game spring schedule and was confident after a second place finish in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference with an 11-4-6 record. Unfortunately for Grove City, SRU scored early and kept the lead for the entire match. True

See Spring on page 2

Huckel tapped to lead coaches



Jack Huckel

Former Grove City College soccer player Jack Huckel '68 was named president of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America this February. He will serve his one-year term succeeding his predecessor, Ralph Polson.

Huckel has been a member of the NSCAA for 40 years and previously served as the board's vice president of marketing. He also served 10 years as a director at the National Soccer Hall of Fame and is the founder of J.R. Huckel & Associates, a consultation and management services

firm for Hall of Fame elections. Huckel previously coached the men's soccer teams at Skidmore College, Maine Maritime Academy and George Mason University.

Soccer has been a part of Huckel's life since 1962. In his president's letter of the Soccer Journal, Huckel thanked his coach at Grove City College, Cliff Wettig, for his profound effect he had on his soccer career. "He [Wettig] had a calm demeanor and a special human touch, he always knew how to find the best in his players," Huckel said.

"The Grove City College soccer family is extremely proud of Jack Huckel and what he has been able to accomplish in the game of soccer," men's head soccer coach Michael Dreves said. "His lifelong dedication to the game he loves is a living tribute to Coach Wettig who would have been very proud of Jack."

Huckel played four seasons at Grove City, from 1964 to 1967. He helped the Wolverines compile a 30-5-2 overall record, including undefeated teams in 1964 (9-0-0) and 1965 (8-0-1). The 1965 team earned an invitation to the NCAA Championship Tournament.

Since its founding in 1941, the NSCAA has grown to include more than 30,000 members who coach both genders at all levels of the sport. The NSCAA fulfills its mission of coaching education through a nationwide program of clinics and week-long courses, teaching more than 6,000 soccer coaches each year.

The mission of the NSCAA is to develop and to deliver educational programming and events that inspire members to improve and to enhance their environment in soccer. To find out more information on the NSCAA, visit <http://www.nscac.com/>.

Spring cont.

to form, the wolverines dominated possession in the first half and carried most of the play, but SRU scored a goal in transition to take the lead 1-0. After half time, the teams traded goals and the score was 2-1 Slippery Rock in the 75th minute. As the final whistle approached the game tilted in favor of Slippery Rock who scored two late goals to win the game 4-1. While disappointed, the team learned much and was proud to be able to go toe to toe with a strong Division II opponent. In the week following the match, the team had two more training sessions and finished the spring with its annual clinic for the local youth soccer association.

Homecoming preview



Wolverines give out post-game salute to fans

Over the weekend of October 4-6, 2013, Grove City College will celebrate its annual homecoming. In conjunction with the College's celebration, the men's soccer team will host several activities for the men's soccer alumni. Starting on Friday the Wolverines will host conference rival Waynesburg University at 4 p.m. Later that evening at 8 p.m., the alumni will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the team with a reception in Rathburn Hall. On Saturday the day kicks off with the Hall of Fame March at 10:15 a.m., followed by the Hall of Fame game at 10:30 a.m. A luncheon for the returning players and their families is at 12:30 p.m. The day concludes with a ceremony honoring the hall of fame inductees at 1:15 p.m.

Every homecoming is special in its own unique way, but 2013 looks to be one of the best yet. Plan on coming to some or all of the events as the team celebrates 75 years of tradition and family. Please contact Coach Dreves with any questions.



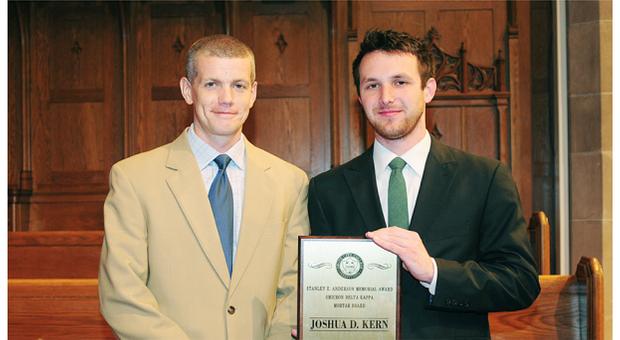
Alex Ayer '13 challenges for a headball

Wolverine player in campus spotlight again

Following the conclusion of the spring athletic season, Grove City College selected senior All-Region men's soccer player Josh Kern as its ODK Sportsman of the Year for the 2012-13 academic year. Kern received his award at the Saturday morning Honors Convocation in Harbison Chapel during parent's weekend in early May. A senior captain, Kern started two seasons at defender for the Grove City men's soccer team and earned First Team All-PAC honors in 2011 and 2012. This year, he started all 19 matches at center back and helped the Wolverines post eight shutouts.

Kern's work contributed to Grove City's aggregate 0.96 goals-against average in 2012. In 2011, Kern earned NSCAA All-Great Lakes Region recognition after helping the Wolverines to 12 wins and six shutouts. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship, was a Dean's List student and was named to the conference's Academic Honor Roll.

Grove City first awarded the Sportsman of the Year award in 1948. In 1982, the College split the award into Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year.



Head Coach Mike Dreves and Josh Kern

Homecoming profiles

Grove City College will induct three men into its Men's Soccer Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend October 5. Harvey Miller '40, Tom Fleming '75 and Matthew Towle '93 comprise the 13th class of inductees. Their induction brings the total number of inductees to 34.

Miller played on the first two varsity men's soccer teams at Grove City in 1938 and 1939. He lettered in 1939 after helping Grove City to a 2-2 record.

Miller also competed in swimming and tennis at Grove City from 1937 to 1940. He became a Trustee of the College in 1963 and currently serves as Trustee Emeritus. In 2009, Miller received the inaugural Grove City College Athletic Heritage Award in recognition of his lifelong service to the College.

Fleming earned three letters at stopper, sweeper and outside back for Grove City from 1971-74. As a junior in 1973, Fleming earned Honorable Mention All-West Penn Intercollegiate Soccer Conference (WPISC) recognition. He then co-captained the 1974 squad and earned First Team All-WPISC as a senior. His teammates selected him as the team's Most Valuable Player.

Towle started all four seasons in goal for Grove City (1989-92) and compiled a 1.05 goals-against average for his career. He earned First Team All-WPISC and First Team All-Presidents' Athletic Conference in each of his final three seasons. He also earned the team's Outstanding Junior award in 1991 and team MVP as a senior captain in 1992.

2013 Men's Soccer Schedule

Aug. 30	Frostburg State	Away	7 p.m.
Aug. 31	Buffalo State	Neutral	12 p.m.
Sept. 4	Allegheny	Home	4 p.m.
Sept. 7	Hilbert	Away	1 p.m.
Sept. 11	Penn State Behrend	Away	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	Baldwin-Wallace	Home	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 18	Muskingum	Away	4 p.m.
Sept. 24	Heidelberg	Home	4 p.m.
Sept. 28	Carnegie Mellon	Away	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	Waynesburg*	Home	4 p.m.
Oct. 8	Thiel*	Away	7 p.m.
Oct. 12	Bethany*	Home	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 16	Geneva*	Home	4 p.m.
Oct. 19	Wash. & Jeff.*	Away	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 22	Point Park	Away	5 p.m.
Oct. 26	Westminster*	Away	12 p.m.
Oct. 30	Saint Vincent*	Home	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	Thomas More*	Home	3:30 p.m.

Nov. 6-9 PAC Championships Neutral TBA

* PAC match

Tales From The Pitch



Wolverines to Celebrate 75th Anniversary

Grove City College Men's Soccer will celebrate its 75th anniversary this fall. In conjunction with the celebration several alumni and coaches have been working on a book that re-counts the tales of the men who played or coached the game. Alumni and friends who attend events over homecoming will have an opportunity to preview and purchase the book. The book will be titled Tales from the Pitch.

Here is a short portion of the book that discusses the origin of the team:

Prior to 1932, soccer was played on the campus of Grove City College primarily as pick-up games and not in any organized manner. In 1932, athletic scholarships for baseball, basketball, football, or tennis, the recognized varsity sports competing at Grove City College, were no longer offered at the College. Intramural sports were introduced and became an integral component of Grove City College in the autumn of 1932 after athletic scholarships were abolished from campus. As Athletic Director for Grove City College, Robert E. Thorne became responsible for organizing intramural sports on campus. Intramural sports were instituted so the student body could have more opportunities to exercise, meet people, relieve stress and just have some fun. At this time, one of the intramural sports organized was soccer and in the inaugural year four teams on campus were formed for competition with some groups competing against teams from Slippery Rock State College. In 1933, Thorne organized a soccer team on campus that would compete against other colleges in the area. Interestingly, Thorne had cleverly constructed the first club sport at Grove City College and it had a soccer focus. Robert Thorne obviously had a genuine interest in soccer; why else would he have selected this specific athletic activity, out of the myriad of other potential sports, to be a club team that he would personally coach. Perhaps we can get a clue to his interest in soccer from a November, 1933 article found in *The Collegian* which reported that "This sport is one that sprang from the intramural program and is fast becoming a major sport here as well as many other schools. The game is fast, rough and a good test for physical endurance." Thorne knew that soccer, along

with being a contact sport, required speed, quickness, skill and strategy. These attributes appealed to him and as he was beginning to understand the strategy of the game, his keen eye for athletic talent led him to identify those intramural players who could compete on his club team and win.

Between 1933 and 1937, the Grove City club soccer team played between four and five games a season. The teams most commonly engaged during a season were Allegheny College and Slippery Rock State College, whereas Geneva College, The College of Wooster and Carnegie Institute of Technology were occasional opponents. The Collegian did not always report scores of the games but generally speaking, Grove City College club soccer usually beat Geneva College and Carnegie Institute of Technology, often won as many as they lost against Allegheny College and often lost to Slippery Rock State College.

In 1938, the Grove City Athletic Council made soccer a varsity sport establishing the standard that a player who had participated in at least 20 quarters (a soccer match was comprised of quarters in those days) was eligible for a varsity letter. In 1938, as a varsity sport, the Grove City team beat Slippery Rock State College (Slippery Rock) at home, but lost at Slippery Rock and at Carnegie Institute of Technology (Carnegie Tech) and tied Allegheny College (Allegheny) for a record of 1-2-1 in the inaugural year. Since the games played in previous years by the club team were counted, eight players were awarded the first varsity letters: Fred Burton, Crocker, Gray, S. Monroe, W. Monroe, Strickler, and Jim Walther. (excerpt from Tales from the Pitch, 2013).

Meet the seniors



CHRIS BORGAN

1 • Goalkeeper

- 2010 1st team All-Conference goalkeeper
- Pre-med major who has worked soccer camps the last few summers
- Hopes to be a physician's assistant



RICHIE KOCUR

17 • Forward

- Forward, Exercise Science major
- Played high school soccer near Pittsburgh at Seneca Valley with teammate George DeAugustino
- Claims to have the best hair on the team



KYLE MATHERNE

32 • Forward/Midfield

- From the Harrisburg area
- Entrepreneurship major who studied in Italy this spring
- Plays target, shadow forward or holding midfield



BRIAN WILKES

31 • Defenseman

- West Point transfer
- Majoring in Engineering and minoring in entrepreneurship
- Spent this past summer working on a business venture building sand wheel chairs



DANIEL ADAMS

5 • Defenseman

- Business major with an affinity for Chick-fil-A
- Three-year starter at outside back
- Hails from Texas



DONATIONS WELCOME

If you would like to donate 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

CALL FOR HELP

In seeking to improve the archive of information about the outstanding history of the men's soccer team, certain questions are left unanswered. We have several team photos that are not labeled with names, or have an incomplete list. Specifically we need help identifying players in the 1938 (incomplete), 1939, 1940, 1942, 1945, 1946 and 1947 team photos. If you are interested in helping, please email Coach Dreves.

HAVE A STORY OR 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.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS

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 for more information. You can also send an email to soccer@gcc.edu, fax to (724) 458-3855 or mail your nomination to

Box 3074
100 Campus Dr.
Grove City, PA 16127

Don't delay; nominate someone today.

