

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

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

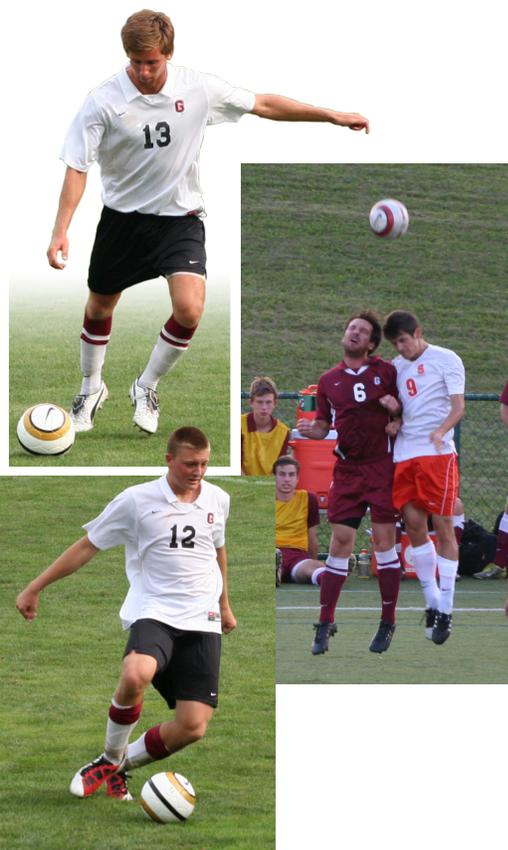


SEASON REVIEW

The 2012 season marked the sixth time in the last seven seasons that the men's soccer team has qualified for the conference semi-finals. The path was slightly tougher this season as the Wolverines finalized a third-place finish on the last day of the season with a 1-0 shutout win against Westminster. The team finished with a 5-2-1 conference record and was set to play Geneva in the semi-final for the second straight year. The Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) was extremely close this season as the fourth place team also had a 5-2-1 record and only three points separated first and fourth places.

The team battled hard all season and faced a tough schedule along the way (third most difficult in the Great Lakes Region). Almost every game was hard fought and the Wolverines went to overtime in a total of six matches. As the regular season began to wind down, the team seemed to be on an upswing with a 0-0 tie against Geneva and two key conference victories against Saint Vincent

see **SEASON** on page 2



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HOMECOMING

For more than 30 years, the soccer alumni and current team have celebrated their heritage by gathering on Saturday morning of Homecoming to fellowship, eat and, most of all, play soccer. On Sept. 22, 2012, close to 50 alums came together to take part in the annual festivities. With everyone satisfied from a varsity win the previous day, the group was greeted with some

sun and fair weather for the Hall of Fame game.

The first half of the game went on as normal with the alumni squaring off against the varsity. At halftime, with the varsity team leading by several goals, Coach Dreves announced a change in format for the second half. For the first time ever, the alumni mixed with the current players and played odd graduating

see **HOMECOMING** on page 3



TEAM CELEBRATES 500TH WIN!

On Oct. 6, 2012, the men's team celebrated the program's 500th win with a 2-0 victory over visiting conference foe Waynesburg. After the completion of the 2012 season, the Wolverines are 503-333-75 for a winning percentage of 59.3 percent! Congratulations to all the coaches, alumni and current players who have made this possible!

SEASON (continued)

(5-1) and Westminster (1-0). This stretch of games set up a rematch of the 2011 semifinal against Geneva (Geneva won the 2011 match by a score of 1-0 on a late second-half goal). The match, originally scheduled for Tues., Oct. 30, was pushed back until Wednesday because of the remnants of Hurricane Sandy. The rematch ended up to be one for the ages. After playing to a scoreless tie in the regular season, the teams again played to a scoreless tie in the semifinal. The Wolverines carried much of the play in the second half and overtime periods, outshooting Geneva and earning more corners, while hitting the crossbar twice. All of this was meaningless, though, when the game went to penalty kicks.

The tension of two scoreless contests could not match the feelings during the deciding penalty kick rounds. The format was set up to be a best of five penalty kick shootout. Both teams scored on the first three attempts, missed on the fourth attempt and scored on the fifth attempt, setting up a sudden death situation. The match was finally decided in the ninth round when Grove City was stopped by the Geneva goalie and Geneva converted on its ninth shot. The crushing finish ended the Wolverines season at 8-9-2.

While the painful loss will stay with the team for some time, many positives can be taken from the season. Grove City finished the season ranked first in shots, corner kicks, shutouts and goals against average in the PAC. After coming within a penalty kick of the conference final, the Wolverines will definitely be hungry for the 2013 season.

SENIOR CAPTAIN REFLECTS ON FINAL YEAR

By senior captain Alex Ayer

This past season was one marked with difficult times. Close game after close game, we simply struggled to find a way to win. The frustrating part was that we were good enough. We were good enough to beat every team we played on any given day. We were good enough to win a conference final and go the NCAAs. But we didn't - and it's always difficult to try and explain that to people while justifying why we had an 8-9-2 record.

Although it wasn't the way I would have liked to end my senior season, and I know I speak for the choir when I say none would have liked to end it that way, playing soccer at Grove City College has been more than just the sport. As anyone who has been through the Grove City soccer program



Alex Ayer

knows, it's more than the soccer. What playing soccer at Grove City meant for me was the ability to play with my brothers in Christ. Every game was a battle, because every game, we weren't just playing for our teammates, coaches, or any enthusiastic fan that

had our support. In playing for Christ, there is no greater peace knowing that it's all for the one who loves us infinitely more than we can possibly comprehend.

The alumni game was a little different this year as the second half consisted of splitting up current players with alumni based on graduation years (evens and odds). Probably one of the biggest highlights of the year was the program's 500th win. Winning the 500th game was something special because it meant something so much bigger than our team. It was something so much bigger than last year's team, or the team before that. It encapsulates all that the program has accomplished as a whole. The number 500 is a number that no one person is responsible for, but something that we have all had the privilege to take part in and contribute to.

In the same way, one of our team's core values is that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. I think the program's 500th win truly encapsulates this. It was a blessing to be a part of a tradition that has such a strong foundation, and the tradition will continue to grow. It has been a privilege to play soccer for Grove City College, and to be a part of this family. To God be the Glory.

PLAYERS RECOGNIZED FOR GREAT SEASON

The men's team placed senior defender Josh Kern (Fairfield, Pa./Fairfield) and freshman forward Seth Loew (Center Valley, Pa./Southern Lehigh) on the conference's First Team. Junior defender Dan Adams (The Woodlands, Texas/The Woodlands) and senior forward Andrew Quinn (Damascus, Md./Damascus) both earned Second Team status and senior midfielder Alex Ayer (Farmington, Conn./Farmington) earned All-PAC Honorable Mention.



Andrew Quinn

Kern earned First Team All-PAC for the second consecutive season after helping the men's team record eight shutouts in 2012. He started all 19 matches at center back for Grove City, anchoring a defense that yielded only 19 goals on the season.

Loew led Grove City with six goals and 15 points this season. He moved into the starting lineup early in the season and started 12 matches while playing in all 19 matches.

Adams led Grove City with five assists from his outside back position. He led all conference defenders in assists and finished with seven total points while starting 17 matches. Quinn, a two-time First Team All-PAC selection in his career, scored three goals and added two assists in 19 matches this season.

Like Quinn, Ayer had three goals and two assists in 19 matches in 2012. Ayer, Kern and Quinn served as the team's co-captains.

HOMECOMING (continued)

years versus even graduating years. The sides became more balanced and the play was extremely competitive. More importantly, the mixing of the teams forced a new communication between young and old. Instantly, current players were knocking the ball around with alums that played decades before and new relationships began forming. Overall, the new format was well received and Coach Dreves is contemplating keeping some form of this new format.

After the game and a picnic lunch, the new Hall of Fame members were inducted. Chris Takoudes '60 and Paul Fletcher '66 became the 30th and 31st members of the Soccer Hall of Fame. Takoudes, a forward, was a top offensive threat in the late 50s and helped the team finish the decade with no losing seasons. Fletcher played midfield for the Wolverines from 1962 to 1965 and helped the team to a 29-7-2 record that resulted in two NCAA invitations.

TEAM AWARDS



MOST IMPROVED FRESHMAN
SETH LOEW



OUTSTANDING JUNIOR
DAN ADAMS



MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
JOSH KERN



DAVID HENSON MEMORIAL AWARD
ALEX AYER

PITTSBURGH SOPHOMORE REVIEWS THE SEASON

By sophomore George DeAugustino

The 2012 season was a season that was a very interesting one to say the least. I have never have been on a team that experienced the amount of emotional highs and lows as we did this season. We went to overtime six times. Unfortunately, we came out on the wrong end of most of those games and eventually fell in the PAC semifinal in a shootout.

We were a very talented team and those overtime games show that we could hang with some of the best teams in the region for 90-plus minutes. Those overtime games and late

see **REVIEWS** on page 5

COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

Thanks to donations from numerous alumni, the soccer complex is seeing continued improvement. Last August, some new hardscape was added at the base of the bleachers. A 135-foot brick wall with drainage was added along with some additional landscaping. The wall replaced a temporary retaining wall made from reclaimed railroad timbers. The brick matches the brick in the existing pressbox and wall near the flagpoles. The hope is that with continued donations, additional improvements will be made in coming years. If you have questions about the ongoing improvements, please contact Coach Dreves.



WOLVERINE SOCCER TO CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2013

In 1938, after working with some intramural teams on campus and traveling to Canada to learn more about the game, Athletic Director Bob Thorn (Class of 1916) founded the men's varsity soccer team at Grove City College. During Homecoming in

2013, the team will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

During those 75 years, the Wolverines produced hundreds of players and touched thousands of fans, leaving a positive impact on and off fields throughout the country. Only six

coaches graced the sidelines in those years, culminating in an aggregate record of 502-333-75.

Soccer alumni are encouraged to watch the athletics website (www.gcc.edu/athletics) and look for mailings with details of special 75th Anniversary events.

NOMINATE A GRAD TO THE 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/Soccer, 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.

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.

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.

HOMECOMING 2013

It is always good to plan ahead – even 10 months ahead! Homecoming 2013 is set for October 4-6. On Fri., Oct. 4, at 4 p.m., the men's team will take on Waynesburg in conference action. On Saturday, the festivities will start with the Hall of Fame March at 10:15 a.m., followed by the Hall of Fame game at 10:30 a.m. The day will conclude with a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. and Hall of Fame Ceremony at 1:15 p.m. Check the athletics website this spring for the announcement of the Hall of Fame Class of 2013 and further details on special events.

TEAM CLOSE TO BREAKING THROUGH *By sophomore Jordan Carmichael*

This was my second season on the team, and it continues to be an awesome part of my college career as a whole. It's really a great group of guys and a wonderful program, and even though we weren't as successful in the win-loss column as we would have liked to be, it was a successful season for other reasons.

Personally, I felt the team come together through the trials we faced. Losing five overtime games would normally get a team down, but it was encouraging to see the team come to practice after those games and feel like a unit willing to get better and push harder.

Our team culture really helped us improve and persevere throughout the season. In our last four games, we only allowed one goal in regular time, and I believe our culture was a big part of how we ended the season. We're teammates on the field, but we're friends off of it and we invest in each other's lives. That's a big reason why this program is special. We've bought into the idea that a strong team culture off the field can really affect how we play on the field.

I think the best example of our team culture showing on the field was during the last stretch of the season. We were playing Carnegie Mellon at home, and at the time they were ranked in the top



10 nationally. We played well and were up 2-0 with less than 10 minutes to play, but we ended up losing 3-2 in overtime. We were in a position where one more loss could potentially knock us out of the conference tournament, and we all knew it. On top of that, we had to travel to our rival Geneva, who knocked us out of the tournament last year. The team really came together after a spirit-crushing defeat when most other teams might have let it get to them. We played

Geneva to a 0-0 draw after double overtime, and we played better. We took that same work ethic and confidence into Saint Vincent, where we won in convincing style 5-1.

On the last day of the regular season, we played Westminster at home. It was raining, and we needed a win. We won 1-0, and the goal was very reminiscent of the way we had been playing; do whatever it takes. Andrew Quinn ran his hardest to a ball in the box that he was never going to win. But he was able to cause a sloppy clearance which created a 50-50 ball on the edge of the box. Seth Loew dove for the ball and just got enough contact to score the game winning goal. We secured a spot in the semifinal against Geneva, and after playing a scoreless 110 minutes, we lost in nine penalty kicks.

I do believe that this team is very close to making a breakthrough, and I believe that the end of the 2012 season hints to it as well. This program is special, and if we continue to work for each other on and off the field, we have potential to win a lot of games and continue our success as a culture. I'm excited about next season.

REVIEWS (continued)

second-half losses were the emotional lows we experienced this season. One of the emotional highs was earning the program's 500th all-time win. I was very proud to be a part of the team to reach this milestone. Getting that 500th win was a great moment for the program because it is a testament to all the great and hardworking men that have been a part of this team since 1938. Five hundred wins shows that Grove City has always been a great "team."

We continued that theme this year, with 12 different players scoring at

least one goal this season. We are a deep and hard-working team and multiple people have the ability to step up and do something special on any given day. In addition, some other impressive stats that show the program's tradition of hard-work are: leading the PAC in Goals Against Average (0.96), Shutouts (8), Corner Kicks (153) and Shots On Goal (299). To lead the Conference in two defensive and two offensive categories really shows how deep we are and how well coached the team is.

Another emotional high for the team

was getting into the PAC tournament – beating Westminster at home to knock them down to the #4 seed and earning ourselves a #3 seed in the process. It was an intense game and the team worked hard to get the win and earn the shutout. We had a lot of tight games this year and though we did not always come out on top, we grew because of it.

I am very proud to be a part of such a great and historic program and I am excited for next season to continue the great tradition that is Grove City College Men's Soccer.

2012 Statistics

Overall Record: 8-9-2 Conference: 5-2-1
Home: 6-3-0 Away: 2-6-2 Neutral: 0-0-0

GOALS BY PERIOD	1st	2nd	OT	OT2	Total
Grove City	13	5	0	0	28
Opponents	6	11	3	1	21
SHOTS BY PERIOD	1st	2nd	OT	OT2	Total
Grove City	146	146	3	4	299
Opponents	99	105	5	0	219
SAVES BY PERIOD	1st	2nd	OT	OT2	Total
Grove City	40	43	2	0	88
Opponents	48	72	0	0	120
CORNER KICKS	1st	2nd	OT	OT2	Total
Grove City	78	73	2	0	153
Opponents	34	38	0	3	75
FOULS BY PERIOD	1st	2nd	OT	OT2	Total
Grove City	95	87	6	4	192
Opponents	88	112	4	2	206

GOALKEEPERS

No.	Name	GP-GS	Minutes	GA	Avg	Saves	Pct	W	L	T	Sho
0	Chris Burgan	1-0	19:18	0	0.00	1	1.00	0	0	0	0
00	Ben Weaver	8-8	705:26	7	0.89	33	.825	3	4	0	2
1	Brenden Alfery	11-10	1048:46	12	1.03	54	.818	4	5	1	5

2011 PAC STANDINGS

SCHOOL	PAC	OVERALL
Thomas More	6-1-1	13-4-4
Geneva	5-1-2	10-7-5
Grove City	5-2-1	8-9-2
Westminster	5-2-1	11-6-2
W&J	4-3-1	6-7-3
Waynesburg	3-4-1	8-8-1
Bethany	3-5	5-12-1
Saint Vincent	1-7	6-11-1
Thiel	0-7-1	4-12-2

No.	Name	GP-GS	G	A	Pts	SH	Shot%	SOG	SOG%	GW	PK-ATT
18	Seth Loew	19-12	6	3	15	39	.154	20	.513	1	0-0
9	Andrew Quinn	19-16	3	2	8	47	.064	19	.404	0	0-1
8	Alex Ayer	19-19	3	2	8	39	.077	20	.513	2	0-0
4	Jordan Carmichael	19-7	3	1	7	15	.200	9	.600	1	0-0
3	Tim Shackleton	18-3	3	1	7	15	.200	10	.667	1	0-0
5	Daniel Adams	17-17	1	5	7	12	.083	8	.667	0	0-0
32	Kyle Matherne	18-12	3	0	6	24	.125	8	.333	0	0-0
23	Jonathan Rothgeb	19-2	2	2	6	12	.167	6	.500	1	0-0
12	Justin Phillips	19-19	1	0	2	27	.037	7	.259	0	0-0
17	Richie Kocur	19-14	1	0	2	11	.091	3	.273	1	0-0
15	Mike Shupp	15-2	1	0	2	9	.111	1	.111	0	0-0
16	Kyle Richert	18-5	1	0	2	8	.125	3	.375	0	0-0
6	Josh Kern	19-19	0	0	0	11	.000	4	.364	0	0-0
2	George DeAugustino	19-19	0	0	0	9	.000	4	.444	0	0-0
10	Eric Fitchwell	3-2	0	0	0	6	.000	5	.833	0	0-0
13	Jesse Wilson	19-19	0	0	0	5	.000	3	.600	0	0-0
7	Evan Bjorndal	10-0	0	0	0	5	.000	2	.400	0	0-0
19	Peter Sulaiman	17-1	0	0	0	3	.000	1	.333	0	0-0
31	Brian Wilkes	9-0	0	0	0	2	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
22	Jude Ampolini	5-2	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
21	Jake Botzenhart	5-0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
20	Maccrae Montieth	7-0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
14	Jonathan Mathes	4-0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
11	Ben Hinkle	11-0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
1	Brenden Alfery	11-11	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
0	Chris Burgan	3-0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
00	Ben Weaver	8-8	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
TOTAL OPPONENTS		19	28	16	72	299	.094	133	.445	7	0-1
TOTAL GROVE CITY		19	21	9	51	219	.096	100	.457	9	1-1

