

theFULL90

The Official Newsletter of the Grove City College
Women's Soccer Team

Inside ...

2013 Recognition	3
Senior Spotlight	4
Soccer as a means	5
2014 Schedule	6

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theFULL90

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*The Full 90 is the official newsletter
of the Grove City College
Women's Soccer Team.*



2013 - THE SEASON IN A NUTSHELL?

There is so much that goes on during the course of a soccer season, it is hard to summarize in this small space. As you may remember, the season is a brief three months long at best, but the depth of involvement during that time makes for some meaningful life lessons and relationships. This season was no different. The depth of commitment to our core values and goals and the investment in relationships with teammates was exemplary this year. It led to a very united team with high expectations and lofty goals. After a highly successful 2012 campaign, the bar was raised for this team that returned 20 players and nine starters from that experience.

A rugged non-conference schedule would be the testing ground to find out if the team could reach those expectations.

After a highly competitive pre-season week, the team headed to Gettysburg for two tough games and some history lessons on the battlefield. A split over the weekend was well-earned with two close, competitive games.

A tough stretch of three one-goal losses marked the next two weeks of play as the team worked to find its rhythm. Things finally began to come together over the next three games which included a big win over Behrend on the road, a tie with John Carroll and a double overtime win over Mount Union. A loss to Messiah and a

see **NUTSHELL** page 2

FIRST WOMEN'S SOCCER PLAYER TO ENTER COLLEGE HOF

The first athlete to represent GCC women's soccer in the college's Athletic Hall of Fame will be Jody Swauger-Simms '99. Jody will be inducted into the 2014 class this February.

Jody earned 10 total varsity letters at Grove City College while competing in soccer, basketball and track and field from 1994-1998.

She helped lead the women's soccer program to its first three Presidents' Athletic Conference titles in 1995,

see **JODY** page 3



Jody Swauger-Simms '99

NUTSHELL cont.

last-second loss at Houghton were disappointing, but prepared us well heading into the conference season.

Though things did not happen as seamlessly as they did in 2012, the tough competition caused us to search for solutions and demand more of ourselves and our teammates.

The start of conference play marked a turning point for the team as we rolled off six straight wins including an overtime win at W&J. A rough loss to Westminster, a win over St. Vincent, and a 2-1 loss to nationally ranked Thomas More meant a 7-2 conference record and the number two seed in the conference tournament.

The semi-final game matched us against Westminster, and though the score was only 1-0, we definitely atoned for the recent loss to them by dominating play over the whole field. This meant a trip to

Thomas More for the final. A hard fought 1-0 loss meant a second straight year losing the final, and waiting for an invite to a post-season tournament.

An invite to the ECAC South Region Tournament was not as exciting as an NCAA bid, but a chance to keep playing is always a welcome opportunity. The team prepared to make the most of that chance and set a goal to challenge for the title. We hosted the quarterfinal game against Juniata and with an early November chill and a backdrop of hill-covered snow, we exploded for a 6-0 win, a wonderful send-off for the seniors playing their final game at College Field. This meant a semi-final match-up against Stevenson

University, the reigning ECAC champs. In a great competitive game, both teams had their chances. After a scoreless first half, the second half was wide open with both teams scoring two goals. After two scoreless overtime periods, a shoot-out would decide it.

Some textbook penalty shooting ensued with neither team missing a shot until the seventh shooters, who both failed in their attempts, and then the deciding eighth shooters when Stevenson made theirs and we could not match it. It was a rough way to lose, by the smallest of margins, but dealing with those small margins was a lesson we'd learned many times

through the year. The team dealt with it well, still leaving an impression there in Baltimore of what our team is really about.

The season was very successful in terms of wins (only six seasons in our team history have

seen more wins), going to the PAC final, and then being selected for post-season play. But beyond those markers, the team was a success in terms of fighting through tough times, and remaining a team with very high standards. Our core values were visibly seen in practice, in games, on the field and off. This team and this senior class in particular, raised the bar for future Grove City College teams. They were not afraid to set high goals and to get to work chasing those goals. Practices and games were extremely competitive, and this standard of play, within the context of highly valued beliefs, will become a new norm within the program.



The team poses for a picture in Baltimore's Inner Harbor before the ECAC semi-final.

JODY cont.

1996 and 1997. She earned First Team All-PAC honors in each of those three seasons and earned the league's Most Valuable Player award as a senior. Swauger-Simms led Grove City with 11 goals in 1997.

Swauger-Simms also earned four letters as a guard for the Grove City women's basketball team. She led the conference with 24 three-point goals as a sophomore as Grove City posted an eight-game improvement from the previous season.

In her junior season, the Wolverines went 17-9 overall and captured the program's first ECAC Southern Championship Tournament title. The next year, Swauger-Simms earned All-PAC Honorable

Mention after helping Grove City reach the ECAC Tournament semifinals.

The Kent, Ohio, product also competed as a sprinter for the College's women's track and field team in 1995 and 1996 and helped the 400-meter relay set a school record with a time of 52.36 seconds. She qualified for the ECAC Championships in her freshman and sophomore seasons.

The College honored her as its Sportswoman of the Year for 1997-98. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Christian ministries in 1998 and currently works as an ophthalmic technician.

2013 RECOGNITION

ACADEMIC AWARDS

CoSIDA Academic All-District

Jessica Heck (First Team)

NSCAA Scholar All-Region

Sarah Cessar (Second Team)
Jessica Heck (Honorable Mention)
Holly Spofford (Honorable Mention)
Becky McManus (Honorable Mention)

PAC Honor Roll

Shannon Bishop
Anna Cessar
Sarah Cessar
Jessica Heck
Abby Mathes
Becky McManus
Holly Spofford
Chelsea Tarolli
Kristin Thomas
Sami Wild
Tiffany Yost

TEAM AWARDS:

NSCAA Team Academic Award

11th time in 13 years

PAC Sportsmanship Award

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

All-Conference

Jessica Heck (First Team)
Sarah Cessar (First Team)
Lydia Caissy (Second Team)
Becky McManus (Honorable Mention)
Leah Wilt (Honorable Mention)
Abby Mathes (Honorable Mention)

PAC Player of the Week

Tiffany Yost (Sept. 23)

ECAC Division III South All-Star

Sarah Cessar (Second Team)
Jessica Heck (Second Team)

ECAC Player of the Week

Kristi Lathrop (Nov. 10)

NCAA All Great Lakes Region

Sarah Cessar (First Team)
(first GCC player to be named First Team
All-Region in consecutive years)

NSCAA Gold Ethics Award

fifth time in six years at gold level, six
straight years receiving the award

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

WHAT IS A FAVORITE MEMORY OF YOUR TIME AS PART OF THE PROGRAM AND WHY?

Becky McManus:

My favorite memory during my time at Grove City was our last game against Stevenson this year. It was bittersweet because I knew it could be my last game with the program, but I felt like we had never clicked better as a team than during that game. Everyone played their hardest and it was a tough loss, but we could say that we really did leave everything on the field.

Sarah Cessar:

My favorite memory would have to be our trip to NCAAs my junior year. Yes the games were great, but the best part was having a fun-filled weekend with my ladies on the team. We filmed clips for the music video, ate awesome food with friends and family, practiced at night in a dimly-lit field, attended church together and laughed so much it hurt. Spending time with my best friends is by far my favorite memory.

Tiffany Yost:

My favorite memory of being a part of the team is the times we get together in the off-season just to hang out and catch up. That is when nothing is forced and you start to form friendships.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM BEING A PART OF THIS PROGRAM?

Lydia Caissy:

Too many things to name! If I had to pick one thing that I learned, it is how to love the game and let it show. Every soccer player who is trying out for the team will say they love the game, but I will admit that I didn't truly love the game of soccer until I came to Grove City and was reminded why I play it. It isn't for me, it isn't to win, it is to give glory to the One who gave me the gift and ability to play.



2013 seniors

Jessica Heck:

This team has given me a beautiful picture of Christ's selfless love. A love that sees past mistakes, is willing to sacrifice for others and is able to overcome any type of conflict. Plus, coach has always said that all you can control is your attitude and effort. This mentality has changed not only the way I play soccer, but also my relationships, my school work and my relationship with God.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNGER PLAYERS ENTERING THE PROGRAM?

Shannon Bishop:

You're never too old or too good to keep learning. Learn everything that you can from those around you and don't take for granted the advice of anyone! Make the most of every opportunity and try new things while you're in college! You will never get these four years back, so enjoy them!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT cont.

Sam Weber:

My advice to younger players is to not dismiss Division III soccer like I did my freshman year, but to have high expectations and to challenge yourself to be the person who helps take our GCC program to the next level. My class helped lay the foundation, but it's up to the next generation of players to not only buy into our core values, but also to set a Christ-like example for other teams on the national stage.

Chelsea Tarolli:

It is humanly impossible to love a team of 30 girls because they all have different perceptions and personalities. The only way it is possible to genuinely love each other is for you to know what Christ's love is and strive to imitate that love.

SOCCER AS A MEANS, NOT AN END

Several members of the Grove City women's soccer team use their love of soccer as a means of ministry during the off-season. During the month of January, junior Julie Eckendorf went on a mission trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica, where she volunteered Robin's Nest Children's Home orphanage. While there was not sufficient space for the soccer clinic that was planned, she played soccer every day with a few of the older boys from the home. She was able to use soccer as a way to connect with the kids and show that she loved them.

Junior Megan Johnson also used soccer in her overseas ministry. From January 4-12, she served on a mission trip to Guatemala at a boys' orphanage called

Hogar Miguel Magone. She played soccer with the children every day and also had the privilege of passing out new soccer jerseys to every boy at the orphanage.

Some team members use soccer as a ministry on a more local scale. This spring marks the fourth year that senior Shannon Bishop will work as the head coach for the U-12 girls' team with the Grove City Youth Soccer Association. This job allows her to touch the lives of middle school girls in the community. As Julie, MJ and Shannon serve the Lord through soccer, they bring glory to His name and also represent what Grove City women's soccer is all about: playing (and serving) for an Audience of One.



Participants in the 2013 alumni game, the largest crew ever.

SAVE THE DATE!

**THIS YEAR'S ALUMNI
GAME IS SET FOR
SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 2014.**

**COME OUT AND
SUPPORT THE
WOLVERINES!**

2014 Women's Soccer Schedule

Aug. 23	LaRoche (scrimmage)	Away	1 p.m.	Oct. 15	Geneva*	Away	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 29	Marietta%	Home	3 p.m.	Oct. 18	W&J#*	Home	1 p.m.
Aug. 30	Houghton%	Home	2 p.m.	Oct. 22	Chatham*	Away	4 p.m.
Sept. 3	TUKS-South Africa	Home	4 p.m.	Oct. 25	Westminster#**^	Home	12 p.m.
Sept. 5	Adrian	Home	4 p.m.	Oct. 28	St. Vincent*	Away	3 p.m.
Sept. 6	Adrian vs TUKS	Home	11 a.m.	Nov. 1	Thomas More#*	Away	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 10	Allegheny	Home	4:30 p.m.				
Sept. 13	Baldwin-Wallace#	Home	1 p.m.	Nov. 5	PAC Semifinals	Neutral	TBA
Sept. 16	Penn St. Behrend	Home	4 p.m.	Nov. 8	PAC Championships	Neutral	TBA
Sept. 20	Carnegie Mellon	Home	2 p.m.				
Sept. 24	Mount Union	Away	4 p.m.				
Sept. 27	Messiah	Away	1 p.m.				
Sept. 30	John Carroll	Away	7 a.m.				
Oct. 3	Waynesburg#*	Away	6 p.m.				
Oct. 4	ALUMNI GAME	Home	8:30 a.m.				
Oct. 7	Thiel*	Home	4 p.m.				
Oct. 10	Bethany*	Away	7 p.m.				

* PAC match

^Senior/Parents Day

Double-header game

%Labor Day Classic



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WOLVERINES
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