Coming off the tremendous success of the previous year and with many key players returning, the 2008 squad felt some pressure to perform well and get results. With the most difficult preseason schedule in program history, the team trained hard to prepare both mentally and physically.

A tough week of tryouts groomed them well, and they opened the season by winning the Grove City College-Westminster Classic for the third consecutive year. They posted a pair of wins against Medaille and Mount St. Joseph to secure the championship and placed a number of players on the All-Tournament teams.

But Grove City’s biggest preseason accomplishment was yet to come. After failing to notch a win at the Fredonia State Tournament, the team had something to prove and Allegheny was next on the schedule.

Please see SEASON, page 3

The Grove City College women’s soccer team set high standards this season, earning national and conference recognition for its efforts. Grove City was one of only seven teams nationwide to earn a 2008 Gold Team Ethics Award – the highest level of recognition for sportsmanship – from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. The team also won the inaugural 2008 Team Sportsmanship Award from the Presidents’ Athletic Conference. Before the team began the 2008 season, the players set a goal: to have the manner in which they played honor and glorify God. The team focused on treating the opposition and referees with competitive respect and fairness; players also offered to pray with competitors after games.

And it paid off. Grove City finished the season without receiving any yellow or red cards.

A total of 66 men’s and women’s teams from all divisions earned either Gold, Silver or Bronze Ethics Awards from the NSCAA; all Gold winners were women’s teams from Division III schools.

Please see ETHICS, page 2
Program graduates largest senior class

This year’s team graduated the largest senior class in the history of the women’s soccer program. Eight seniors completed their collegiate careers this season, with five players finishing as four-year letterwinners and three players as three-year letterwinners. Although their time playing collegiate soccer has come to an end, they are looking forward to their future with excitement in true Wolverine fashion.

Kristin Colley
Colley, who is majoring in accounting and French, will graduate in May. She is engaged and plans to get married within the year. She will take the CPA exam this fall and hopes to find a job within the accounting field.

Sara Griffin
After graduating in December 2008 with a psychology degree, Griffin is studying in a dual master’s program in community mental health and school counseling at Canisius College in Buffalo. She also is working at a local chiropractor’s office. This summer, Griffin is coaching a U-13 travel soccer team.

Esther Harclerode
Harclerode will graduate in May with a degree in English and philosophy. She is looking to pursue graduate studies in literature criticism. She wants to keep playing and possibly do some coaching as well.

Laura Shipley
Shipley graduates with an entrepreneurship degree and art minor. She will participate in a sports ministry program in the United Kingdom for the next year and plans to apply to graduate school to study architecture upon her return.

Stephanie Wild
Wild is graduating with a biochemistry degree and has been accepted into the very competitive Teach for America program. She will teach science in rural North Carolina for the next two years, completing a master’s degree during that time.

Alumni Information
The women’s soccer team would love to hear about what you’ve been doing since graduation. Take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire and send answers by e-mail to mdelamie@gcc.edu, or mail the form to Melissa Lamie, 200 Campus Dr., Box 3063, Grove City, PA 16127.

Classwork honored
The National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Award recognizes schools around the nation with an exceptional team GPA of 3.0 or higher. For the 2007-08 academic year, 379 teams met this requirement, including the Grove City College women’s soccer team with a cumulative team GPA of 3.34. The team has earned this award eight out of the last 10 years. Each year, the Presidents’ Athletic Conference acknowledges select players for superior academic success by naming them to the PAC Honor Roll. This year, our team had six players named to the list, which requires a GPA of 3.6 or higher. The six honored players are Diana Pragel, Michelle Peck, Elise Bender, Esther Harclerode, Lauren Woodring and Hannah Yang.

ETHICS from page 1

It is the first year Grove City has been nominated. Silver award winners received a maximum of five yellow cards and no red cards, while Bronze award winners could have no more than 10 yellow cards and no red cards. The PAC’s Team Sportsmanship Award is sponsored by the members of the PAC Student-Athletic Advisory Council in order to recognize and encourage positive acts of sportsmanship in conference competitions.

The eight teams in the PAC voted for one team that displayed the highest level of overall sportsmanship. The Grove City men’s team joined the women as the inaugural winners for 2008.
2003 team notches historic season

By Ryan Briggs ’01
(Adapted by Lanie Shipley ’09)

A single-season school record for victories, numerous milestones and a second straight trip to the NCAA Championship Tournament highlighted a historic 2003 season for the Grove City College women’s soccer program. Grove City went 16-5-1 overall, posted a 10-0 mark in Presidents’ Athletic Conference play and earned the program’s 100th all-time victory. In addition, senior Meg (Tilley) ’04 Musselwhite became the program’s first CoSIDA First Team Academic All-American.

After a season-opening draw with visiting Thomas More, Grove City earned the program’s 100th all-time victory with a 2-0 home win over Pitt-Greensburg. Grove City would drop its next three matches, including 2-1 losses to regional rivals John Carroll and Allegheny. These losses would be the last tastes of defeat the Wolverines would have for 15 consecutive matches, a feat that shattered the old program record for consecutive victories (eight).

For the first time in eight seasons, the team was able to finish the season without a loss. A number of post season awards were collected to recognize the team’s impressive work. First team All-Conference honors went to Musclewhite, Katie (Klingenmuth) ’06 Williams, Danielle (Balliet) ’05 Weber and Michelle (Novosel) ’05 Dudash. Second team honors went to Autumn Hubbard ’05, right, and Diane Metzger ’04, four, fare, among the players honored following the groundbreaking 2003 season.

In retrospect

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The first of eight shutout wins during the streak came in the PAC opener at Thiel as goals from senior Danielle Ballard and Tilley gave the Wolverines a 2-0 win in Greenville. Head coach Melissa Lamie picked up her 100th career victory with the win.

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The season progressed with a variety of tight contests and ended with the team posting a 13-5-2 non-conference record. The players proved they were more than prepared for conference play as they plowed through five conference games without conceding a single goal. Before the final conference game of the season, the team was sitting in third place with a 6-2 record and its biggest rival, Westminster College, waiting in the wings. The Wolverines fought off an early goal by the Titans and came back to score three goals in the last 12 minutes to secure a 3-1 win, accomplishing another season milestone.

Grove City finished conference play in fourth place and, as the lower seed, traveled to face the No. 1-seeded Thomas More Saints in the semifinals of the Presidents’ Athletic Conference Tournament. After a tough game, the team finished with a 2-0 loss. The team narrowly missed being selected to the Eastern College Athletic Conference playoffs.

This year, six players were named to the Presidents’ Athletic Conference All-Conference Teams, in recognition of Grove City’s success during the season. Steffi Wild and Kristin Colley were named to the First Team, the third consecutive time for both of these ladies to be so honored.

Emily Ostlund and Laura Shipley were named to the Second Team, each having made one previous appearance on the All-Conference teams. Dana Prugel was named the Second Team All-Conference Goalkeeper, which was the third post-season award of her career.

The season was a success once again with an overall record of 11-8-2 and a conference record of 7-2. While the team will graduate six starters and lose a talented and experienced senior class, the team’s potential will manifest itself as the Wolverines prepare for another successful season.

PAC picks six All-Conference

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