

GRIDIRON

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GROVE CITY COLLEGE
WOLVERINE FOOTBALL TEAM

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Season finishes strong

“Strong finish, bright future” would be a very good and accurate way of describing the 2006 Wolverine football season. The Wolverines were able to tackle 2006 with a persistence that paid off with back-to-back wins at the end of the season.

It was a season built on strong senior leadership combined with talented underclassmen who made significant contributions. This past fall saw a resurgence of the Grove City College passing game with the Wolverines averaging nearly 30 passes a game.

Seniors finishing their four-year career for the Wolverines include: LB Garret Choby, SE Scott Fichter, CB Chris



THE WOLVERINES ENDED THEIR SEASON WITH TWO CONSECUTIVE VICTORIES OVER CASE WESTERN RESERVE AND THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY.

Schwamberger, RB Anthony Giuliani, RB Seth Fox, FS Clay Piper, RB Greg Reinbold, DL Jordan Johnston, OG Matt Rice, OL Howie Riley, OG Fred Mueller, OT Bob Perri, DE Rich Welch, SE Bryan Hanna, TE Dan Jeltés and Punter

Henry Johnston. Their leadership and efforts were an inspiration during the last four years. Although their presence will be missed, their influence on the underclassmen will be a strength throughout the upcoming years.

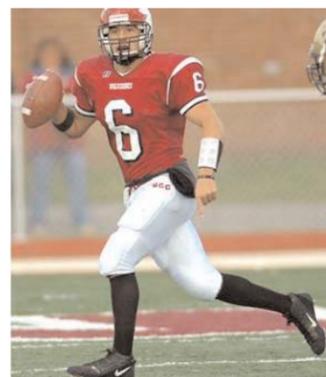
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DiDonato sets records in debut season

Freshman QB Andrew DiDonato started off his career at Grove City College in a big way in the fall of 2006. He started all 10 games and was a key element in a rejuvenated passing game.

DiDonato's records set this past season include most passes in a game (47), completions in a game (27), passes in a season (275) and completions in a season (151). His 1,554 yards is the third highest for a season in Wolverine football history.

DiDonato was also recog-



nized by the Associated Press as one of the Top Five Performances nationally for the weekend of Nov. 5. In that game, a 40-33 win over

Freshman Andrew DiDonato, left, wasn't the only one breaking records in 2006. See page 3 for more details.

Case Western Reserve University, DiDonato threw for 236 yards and three touchdowns. He had a 5-yard run for a touchdown and capped of the day by catching a touchdown pass from senior split end Scott Fichter. His involvement in five TDs on the afternoon caught the eyes of the national media.

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GRIDIRON

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GRIDIRON is the official newsletter of the Grove City College Wolverine Football Team.

Twelve Wolverines earn All-Conference honors

Several Grove City College Wolverine football standouts were given All-Conference honors after the 2006 season:

First Team

Matt Gregg '07 (C) is a two-year starter at center. He started all 10 games, helping anchor an offensive line. He also earned Second Team All-PAC in 2005.

Henry Johnston '07 (P) led the PAC in punting, averaging 38.6 yards per punt. He also led the league in net punting, averaging 33.8 yards net. He placed 14 of his 51 punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line and had just one touchback.

Second Team

Bob Perri '07 (OT) is a three-year starter at right tackle. Like Gregg, he started all

10 games and earned All-PAC Honorable Mention in 2005.

Justin Fowler '08 (DT) started nine games at defensive tackle and finished with 42 total tackles. He also had three sacks and forced three fumbles. In addition, he also blocked seven extra-point attempts.

Chris Schwamberger '07 (CB) tied for the PAC lead with a career-high five interceptions this season. His five picks were the most for a Grove City player since Gene Iannuzzi had five interceptions in 2002. Schwamberger also broke up eight passes.

Honorable Mention

Matt Rice '07 (G) finished his career as a four-year starter at right guard. He started the final seven games

of 2006 after missing the early portion of the season due to injury.

Scott Fichter '07 (SE) started nine games at split end and caught a team-leading 39 passes. Fichter also led Grove City with 443 receiving yards and six touchdown catches.

Matt Weil '08 (TB) led Grove City in rushing with 591 rushing yards, including a 4.3 yards per carry average. Weil also caught nine passes and scored three touchdowns. He is also an Academic All-District selection.

Andrew DiDonato '10 (QB) set new Grove City single-season records for pass completions (151) and attempts (275). He threw for 1,554 yards and 13 touchdowns. DiDonato also ran for

178 yards and scored a team-leading seven touchdowns.

Jordan Johnston '07 (N) started all 10 games at nose tackle and tallied 32 total tackles. He had two quarterback sacks and forced one fumble. He is an Academic All-District selection.

Bill Waugh '08 (LB) led Grove City with 103 total tackles this year, including 59 solo hits. Waugh led Grove City in tackles for loss (15) and sacks (four). He had one interception and five pass breakups.

Shane Coughlin '09 (SS) moved to strong safety prior to the season and finished with 90 tackles. He started nine games and had seven tackles for loss.

2007 Wolverine Football Schedule

Aug. 23	Denison*	1:30
Sept. 1	Dickinson	1:30
Sept. 8	@ CMU	1:30
Sept. 15	@ Thomas More**	1:30
Sept. 22	Waynesburg**	1:00
Sept. 29	@ Westminster**	1:30
Oct 6	Bethany**	2:00
Oct. 13	@ Thiel**	1:00
Oct. 20	W&J**	1:30
Nov. 3	St. Vincent**	1:00
Nov. 10	@ Geneva**	1:00

Home games in bold
*Scrimmage **PAC Homecoming
Kickoff times subject to change.



FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: HOWIE RILEY, GREG REINBOLD, CLAY PIPER, ANTHONY GIULIANI, SETH FOX AND GARRET CHOBY. BACK: FRED MULLER, HENRY JOHNSTON, RICH WELCH, DAN JELTES, BOB PERRI, JORDAN JOHNSTON, MATT RICE, SCOTT FICHTER AND CHRIS SCHWAMBERGER.

Wolverines team up with United Way

The Wolverine football team once again helped the Grove City United Way reach its fundraising goal. This year's goal of \$220,000 was met. This marks the 15th year that the players have gone door-to-door in the community, asking residents to contribute to the fund.

This canvassing of the city is done during the College's fall break.

To date, this joint effort between the Wolverines and the United Way of Grove City has raised a total \$25,000 for the United Way since the team became involved in 1992.

Strong end to season promises bright future

From page 1

Highlights from 2006 include the 21-20 victory over archrival Westminster. The Wolverines faced the Titans in the friendly confines of newly renovated Thorn Field.

The contest was close from start to finish. The fourth quarter began with the score knotted at sevens. Each team added one TD in the fourth with the Wolverines finally taking a 21-14 lead with 2:50 left.

The Titans came back to score with 24 seconds left in the game, but defensive pressure caused the ensuing extra point kick to sail wide right and the victory was sealed.

A Parents' Day victory over Case Western Reserve by a score of 40-33 and a season-ending road win against the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy were victories that

made for the strong finish and bright future scenario.

Players selected by their teammates for special recognition were: MVP senior Henry Johnston; Defensive Player of the Year (Jim Keefer Award) junior Bill Waugh; Offensive Player of the Year (Tom Miles Award) senior Scott Fichter; Junior of the Year Award (Mike Kirsch Award) Bill Waugh and Matt Greg; Rookie of the Year Award Andrew DiDonato; and the Jim Cross

Homecoming Award went to junior running back Matt Weil.

Team leaders for the 2006 season were: Rushing – Matt Wiel, 591 yards; Passing – Andrew DiDonato, 151-275, 1,554 yards; Receiving – Scott Fichter, 39 receptions for 443 yards; Interceptions – Chris Schwamberger five;



SENIOR SCOTT FICHTER CARRIES THE BALL AGAINST CMU THIS SEASON.

Scoring – Andrew DiDonato with 42 points; Punting – Henry Johnston, 38.6 yrd average; tackles – Bill Waugh 103; Sacks – Bill Waugh, four; Tackles for a loss – Bill Waugh, 15; and Blocked Kicks – Justin Fowler, seven.

The Wolverine underclassmen are hard at work prepar-

ing for what promises to be a very exciting 2007 season.

The seniors are all finding that their time here at Gove City College went by in an amazingly fast manner. They are also finding that a degree from Grove City College is opening many doors of opportunity.

Thorn Field receives upgrade; new turf, lights installed

Grove City's athletic facilities have undergone numerous renovations and improvements in recent years, with more upgrades scheduled in the immediate future.

On lower campus, Robert E. Thorn Field is home to the College's football and track and field teams. During the summer of 2006, the College installed CSTurf at Robert E. Thorn Field.

CSTurf is a synthetic playing surface that features polyethylene LSR grass fibers and a rubber infill system.

Lights were also added at Robert E. Thorn Field while the eight-lane track around the field was resurfaced.

These upgrades benefit the entire campus community as the complex is now being used by both the College's club sports teams and intramural program, along with the varsity teams.



“ **THE NEW FIELD AND THE LIGHTS HAVE BEEN A FANTASTIC ADDITION TO OUR FOOTBALL PROGRAM. IT HAS ALSO BEEN A POSITIVE FOR THE ENTIRE CAMPUS. IT WAS A GREAT DECISION BY OUR ADMINISTRATION AND OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES.** ”

Chris Smith '72
Head Coach

Four Wolverine players receive Academic All-District honors

Four Grove City College football players earned ESPN The Magazine/College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) College Division Academic All-District II honors.

Senior linebacker **Garret Choby** (North Huntingdon, Pa./Norwin) and junior tailback **Matt Weil** (Fombell, Pa./Riverside) each earned First Team All-District honors, Choby for the second year in a row, while senior defensive linemen **Jordan Johnston** (Clarion, Pa./Clarion-Limestone) and **Richard Welch** (Dryden, N.Y./Dryden) received Second Team recognition. It is the second straight year that four players have earned Academic All-District honors.

A team tri-captain, Choby is a four-year letterman and two-year starter at middle linebacker for Grove City. He is currently fifth on the team with 50 total tackles, including four for loss. As a junior, he had 73 total tackles and helped the Wolverines limit opponents to 2.9 yards per carry.

Choby, majoring in biology,



GARRET CHOBY '07



JORDAN JOHNSTON '07



MATT WEIL '08



RICHARD WELCH '07

has been named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll three times and has also been inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board honoraries. A six-time Dean's List student, Choby is president of Grove City's Student Government Association and a member of the College's Disciplinary Appeals board.

Weil is a two-year starter and three-year letterman in the Wolverine backfield. He has started all nine games at tailback and leads Grove City

with 512 rushing yards this year. Weil is averaging 4.2 yards per carry and has scored three touchdowns. He has also caught eight passes for 88 yards. The 6-foot, 215-pounder opened the season with a 104-yard effort against undefeated Carnegie Mellon.

Weil also led Grove City in rushing as a sophomore, gaining 410 yards in six games in 2005.

A mechanical engineering major, he is a three-time Dean's List selection and has also been named to the National Dean's List. Weil earned Second Team All-

District in 2005.

Also a team tri-captain, Johnston earned his second straight Second Team All-District selection. A four-year letterman and three-year starter at defensive tackle, he has 28 total tackles this year for Grove City. Johnston was Grove City's snapper for field goals and extra points for four years. He earned All-PAC Honorable Mention in 2005.

An elementary/early childhood education major, Johnston is a Dean's List student and has been inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi education honorary. Johnston earned Second Team All-District honors as a junior.

Welch is a three-year letterman and two-year starter at defensive end for Grove City. In 2006, he had 23 total tackles and two sacks. He has nine career sacks.

A Dean's List student in business management, he studied in Namibia during the spring 2006 semester and is also involved with the theater department's technical crew. In 2005, he earned First Team Academic All-District honors.

Fowler breaks Weary's 2005 season mark for blocked kicks; NCAA record possible

Setting an NCAA record is not a common occurrence. It is also something that usually exists for an extended period of time. That was not the case for Steve Weary.

During Weary's senior season, he blocked six kicks for the Wolverines, a statistic not being kept by the NCAA, but believed to be the highest number of blocked

kicks by an individual in a season.

But then Justin Fowler took over for Weary as the designated rusher on the Grove City College extra-point/field goal black unit in 2006 and preceded to block seven of the Wolverine opponents' attempts.

Fowler, a junior engineering major, will look to add to his total this fall.



THE 2005 MARK SET BY STEVE WEARY '06 FELL IN 2006 WHEN JUSTIN FOWLER '08 BLOCKED SEVEN KICKS.

