

VARSITY



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GROVE CITY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

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PALUMBO, KERN SPORTSWOMAN, SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Grove City College has selected senior swimming All-American

Angela Palumbo and senior All-Region men's soccer player Josh Kern as its Omicron Delta Kappa Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year, respectively, for the 2012-13 academic year.

Palumbo and Kern received their awards at Honors Convocation in Harbison Chapel.

Palumbo is the first Grove City student-athlete to earn

Sportswoman of the Year twice. Last year, she became the first junior to



see **PALUMBO, KERN** on page 3

GROVE CITY WINS WOMEN'S ALL-SPORTS TROPHY; MEN 2ND

For the 15th time in 24 years, Grove City College has captured the Presidents' Athletic Conference's Women's All-Sports Trophy. Grove City's women's athletic teams accumulated 67.5 All-Sports points during the 2012-13

academic year in winning the coveted trophy. Westminster finished second with 63.5 points and Washington & Jefferson placed third with 61.

In the men's All-Sports competition, Grove City placed second with 56

see **TROPHY** on page 2

Inside

Letter from Don Lyle	2
Fuss to take over	3
Men's spring sports recap	4
Women's spring sports recap	5

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Varsity G is the official newsletter of the Grove City College Department of Physical Education and Athletics. It is published three times a year following each athletic season: winter, spring and fall.

WELCOME TO 'VARSITY G'

Dear Varsity Athletes, Parents, Alumni and Friends,

We have concluded another very successful year at Grove City College. As you will read in Varsity G, our women's teams won the Presidents' Athletic Conference's All-Sports Trophy and the men's programs finished in a strong second place. It is truly a reflection of the hard work and dedication put forth by our programs.

We have recently completed a display that recognizes the history of women's athletics at the College. The display features numerous photos and other memorabilia related to the growth of the women's athletic program from the 1880s through the 2013.

Currently, we are working on a display that will recognize all of our CoSIDA Academic All-Americans. We are also planning a similar exhibition for our All-Americans as another way to showcase Grove City College's rich athletic history.

We are always looking for any trophies, pins, pictures, awards or memorabilia that you would be willing to loan

or donate to the department for display. Piecing our history together has been a fun process and anything you could share verbally or tangibly would be very much appreciated.

We have received a number of historic items, including letter jackets, sweaters, blankets and programs. All of these items are prominently displayed in the building. If you would have any memorabilia that you would like to donate, please contact me:

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TROPHY (continued)



points. W&J won the men's trophy with 66 points.

Grove City won three conference titles in women's competition this year, prevailing in golf, swimming and diving, and cross country. The College also posted runner-up finishes in both soccer and track and field.

On the men's side, Grove City's tennis team captured the conference title. The College recorded runner-up performances in both swimming and diving and cross country.

Grove City finished with 123.5 combined All-Sports points, second only to W&J (127). W&J received seven points for finishing third out of three teams in wrestling.

Conference champions in women's sports receive 10 points and the point scale descends incrementally until the 10th-place team receives one point. The men's point scale is based on nine teams, thus, men's conference champions receive nine points.

PALUMBO, KERN (continued)

earn Sportswoman of the Year.

Palumbo concluded her career as a 21-time NCAA Division III All-American. She earned All-America honors in the 100 free, 200 free, 400 medley relay and all three free relays in March at the NCAA Division III Championships.

Her efforts helped Grove City place ninth in the team standings, which marks the program's best-ever finish at the national championships.

Palumbo owns school records in the 100 free, 200 free and all five relay events. She helped lead the Wolverines to four straight Presidents' Athletic Conference championships. Palumbo earned the conference's Most Valuable Performer award in 2012 and 2013.

A mathematics major, Palumbo earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors in 2012 and has been again nominated for that program. She is a Dean's List student and has been named to the

conference's Academic Honor Roll.

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.

Kern will graduate with a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurship. He is a Dean's List student and has been named to the conference's Academic Honor Roll.

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

FUSS ELEVATED TO HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

Chelle Fuss has accepted the head women's basketball coaching position at Grove City College after serving as the College's assistant women's basketball coach and head softball coach for seven years. She began her new duties this summer.

She replaces Michelle Bruns, who stepped down in May after three seasons as head coach. Bruns has accepted a position with the United States Army in Hawai'i.

Fuss (pronounced "FOOSE") came to Grove City in 2006 and has been an integral part of the women's basketball program during that span. She has been heavily involved in all aspects of the program, including recruiting, player development and scouting.

Fuss has also reinvigorated the Grove City softball program in her seven seasons. During that period, the Wolverines have rewritten the program's record book. Last year, Grove City recorded 19 wins, which marked the team's highest win total in 14 years.

As a student-athlete at Geneva College, Fuss excelled in both basketball and softball. As a point guard for the basketball team, she accumulated a Geneva-record 567 assists. Her 1,333 career points rank sixth in school history.



She earned NCCAA All-America and NAIA All-District honors during her playing career at Geneva.

Fuss also received NAIA All-District recognition after all four years of her career in softball.

She graduated from Geneva in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in speech and broadcast communications.

She then added a master's degree in higher education at Geneva.

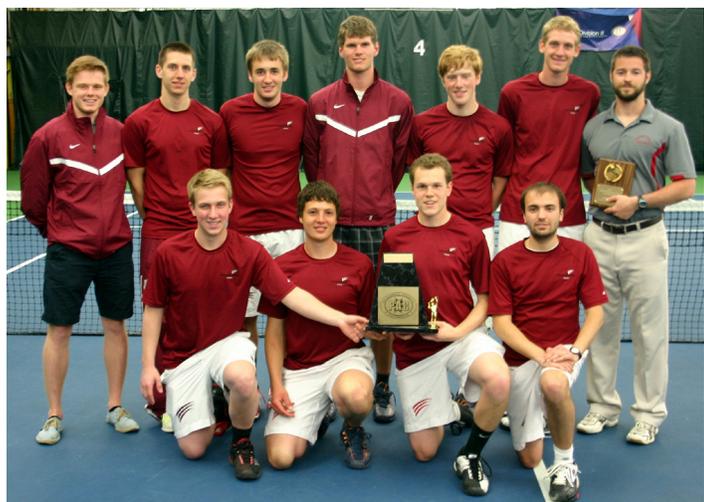
Fuss will continue in her role as an assistant professor of physical education at the College. She and her husband Matt have a son, Zane, 13, and a daughter, Logan, 11. They live in Grove City.

Bruns guided Grove City to a 30-46 record in her three seasons. In 2010-11, her first season, Grove City posted its first winning season in six years by going 14-13.

This season, injuries riddled Grove City's youth-laden lineup as the Wolverines finished 9-14 overall and 8-10 in the Presidents' Athletic Conference. The 2012-13 Wolverines led the conference in rebound margin this year at plus-5.1.

During Bruns' stint, Christine Slater (2007-11) concluded her career as Grove City's second all-time leading scorer with 1,634 points. This winter, Leah Gibson (2009-13) finished her career with 1,254 points, the fifth-highest total in program history.

SPRING SPORTS RECAP



The men's tennis team took home the PAC conference championship this year.

MEN'S TENNIS

Grove City earned its 23rd consecutive Presidents' Athletic Conference title April 20, at the Pennbriar Club in Erie, Pa., by edging Saint Vincent in the team standings at the conference championships, 46-44.

Grove City won five of nine championship flights to earn the league crown. Each of the nine championships featured a Grove City-Saint Vincent matchup in the final round. First-year head coach Jeff Buxton earned the conference's Coach of the Year award.

By winning the conference, Grove City advanced to the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament. The Wolverines fell to Wilkes in the opening round May 12, 5-2.

Overall, Grove City posted an 8-6 record, including a 6-1 conference mark during the regular season.

MEN'S GOLF

Grove City took third in the Presidents' Athletic Conference April 22-23, at Cedarbook Golf Club as the Wolverines finished with a team score of 1,243 strokes. That score includes 36 holes of play from the fall portion of the championships.

Sophomore Conor Eckhardt placed fourth overall with a 152 at the spring tournament and senior Blake Brogan earned seventh with a 153. Both men earned All-PAC honors.

During the regular season, Grove City won the Thiel Invitational April 20. Sophomore Brian Giesler tied for medalist honors at that event.

Grove City concluded the season by winning its own McBride-Behringer-Allen "MBA" Invitational at Grove City Country Club April 29. Sophomore Christian Locher earned medalist honors with a 73.

The event is named for longtime Trustee Milford McBride, former athletic director R. Jack Behringer and retired golf coach Bill Allen.



Junior John Green took home second in the 400-meter dash and the 400-meter hurdles at the PAC Championships.

BASEBALL

Youthful Grove City squad concluded the season 5-17 in the conference and 6-22 overall. The Wolverines closed the 2013 season May 4, with a 3-0 win over Waynesburg at R. Jack Behringer Field.

On April 15 and April 20, Grove City recorded shutout wins over Geneva and Bethany, marking the first time in conference history that the Wolverines blanked consecutive conference opponents.

Head coach Rob Skaricich earned his 250th career win April 13, when the Wolverines earned a 6-5 win over Thomas More.

Senior outfielder Zach Struharik earned Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-District recognition.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The Wolverines captured fourth place at the Presidents' Athletic Conference Championships in Washington, Pa., April 26-27, earning 89.5 points. The tightly-bunched team standings featured just a 59-point separation between first place and eighth place.

Junior John Green led Grove City by taking second in both the 400-meter dash and the 400-meter hurdles. During the 2013 season, he set a new school record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.95 seconds.

Green broke that mark at the ECAC Championships May 19, in Springfield, Mass., when he posted a fifth-place time of 48.51 seconds.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Grove City posted its best finish at the Presidents' Athletic Conference Championships since 2006 by earning second place April 26-27, at Washington & Jefferson College. The Wolverines earned 150 team points in the two-day event and trailed champion Waynesburg by just four points.

Junior Sadie Malone won the high jump and freshman Eliza Lowe prevailed in the 100-meter hurdles. Lowe set new school records in the 100 (14.95) and 400 (64.29) hurdles this season.

Senior Ella Smith led Grove City's contingent at the ECAC Championships in Springfield, Mass., by taking second overall in the 10,000 meters.



Senior Ella Smith captured second place in the 10,000 meters at the ECAC Championships in Springfield, Mass.

SOFTBALL

Grove City concluded the 2013 season with an 11-21 overall record, including a 4-14 conference mark.

The Wolverine lineup typically featured just one senior and no juniors throughout the season.

Sophomore shortstop Kelsey Shirey hit .441 during the season and led the conference with eight triples. She also led the team with 26 runs scored, 45 hits and 18 runs batted in. Shirey earned First Team All-PAC.

Senior pitcher Lauren Clarke helped lead the pitching staff with seven victories and a career-best 2.68 earned run average. Clarke earned Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-District and Second Team All-PAC honors following the season.



The women's golf team seized the PAC Championship title.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Grove City captured the program's eighth all-time Presidents' Athletic Conference title April 22-23, at Cedarbrook Golf Club in Belle Vernon, Pa. The Wolverines trailed W&J by 12 strokes entering the final day but rallied for the win.

Sophomore Esther Durling earned the league's Player of the Year award for the second consecutive season by shooting an aggregate 174. Head coach Melissa Lamie earned Coach of the Year recognition.

Grove City also won the Waynesburg Invitational April 15.

WOMEN'S WATER POLO

Under first-year head coach Rachel Griepsma, Grove City compiled a 12-9 overall record, including an 11-1 record in Collegiate Water Polo Association Division III play.

That 11-1 mark gave the Wolverines the conference's regular-season title and the top seed in the CWPA Division III Tournament.

Grove City advanced to the finals before falling at No. 2 seed Connecticut College, 6-3. Connecticut hosted the tournament; the host is predetermined prior to each season.

Senior Amanda Johnston, sophomore Jocelyn Hinkle and sophomore Lauren Hulsebus all earned First Team All-CWPA honors and junior Kristi Baur captured Second Team All-CWPA Division III.



2013 ATHLETIC HERITAGE AWARDS

The College also presented its fifth annual Athletic Heritage Awards in conjunction with the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies February 9. The Heritage Award honors players, coaches, administrators and those individuals who have contributed to the inception and/or growth of the Grove City College athletic program. This year's recipients are (Row 1, from left): Harold Kelly '50, Paul Cuffari '54 and Bruce Smith '58 (for Dr. Morgan Barnes, class of 1992). Back row: President Richard Jewell '67 and athletic director Dr. Don Lyle.



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