

VARSITY

The Official Newsletter Of Grove City College's
Department of Physical Education and Athletics

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Courage, Whitbeck win Div. III national crowns

Grove City junior sprinter Caleb Courage and sophomore sprinter Tim Whitbeck both captured national championships at the NCAA Division III Men's Swimming and Diving Championships March 15-17 in Houston.

Courage won his second straight NCAA championship in the 100 freestyle, winning the title with a Grove City-record time of 44.36 seconds. Courage also won his preliminary heat with a time of 44.40 seconds.

In 2006, Courage became the first Grove City men's swimmer to win a national title as he won the 100 free

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FROM LEFT, HEAD COACH DAVE FRITZ, PETER LARSON, CALEB COURAGE, MITCH YOUNG, ANDREW GILBERT, TIM WHITBECK, DREW SNYDER AND CHIP CRESSMAN.

Wolverines place 9th nationally, six earn All-American honors

The men's swimming and diving team placed ninth overall at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships March 15-17. Grove City accumulated 118

team points during the three-day event in Houston.

Grove City's ninth-place finish is the program's best finish at the NCAA Division III Championships. In 1964, Grove

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College inducts inaugural Hall of Fame class

Grove City College inducted the inaugural class into its Athletic Hall of Fame Feb. 17, 2007. The 12 individuals and one team officially entered the Hall at the induction ceremony and dinner that evening.

College President Richard Jewell '67 served as master of ceremonies in Mary Anderson Pew dining hall. Approximately 200 guests attended.

The induction ceremony capped a full day of Hall of

See page 3 for
a list of inductees.

Fame-related events on campus. The inductees and their guests received a private tour of the Hall of Fame that morning, followed by a reception.

The inductees then participated in a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony that formally opened the Grove City College Athletic Hall of Fame to the public.

The College also recognized the class of inductees at halftime of the Grove City-Thomas More men's basketball game that afternoon.

Each Hall of Fame inductee (or living relative of a posthumous entrant) received an engraved, raised-letter plaque. A duplicate is permanently displayed in the Athletic Hall of Fame, which is located in the southwest corner of the Physical Learning Center.

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CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOCCER COMPLEX INCLUDE A PRESS BOX, WHICH IS PICTURED ABOVE IN AN ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING.

More soccer complex improvements on tap

Alumni and friends of Grove City College have donated funds that allowed the second phase of a new varsity soccer complex to begin in April. Improvements in this phase include a three-level press box and covered team benches for the Wolverines and visiting teams.

Donations from alumni, friends and former soccer players enabled the project to become a reality. These funds were added to a gift from alumnus John Arnold '85 earmarked for the soccer complex. Thanks to the generosity of these donors, all funding for this phase of the project is outside the College's operating expenses.

The \$180,000 project is estimated to last eight weeks, finishing around the end of May or early June in plenty of time for the fall 2007 soccer season kickoff. The press box features storage on the first level, an area for the scorekeepers, timekeepers, public address announcers and scoreboard operators on the second level, and a media and filming area on the third level.

The press box phase is the second of four phases in the Grove City College soccer

complex. Started under the leadership of longtime head coach Dr. Don Lyle, the team and initiatives are now led by Mike Dreves, a former player under Lyle and a 1997 graduate of the College.

The first phase of the project, completed in 2005, included a new field surface, irrigation and drainage, as well as a set of bleachers for fans. The press box and team benches will mark the halfway point for improvements to the soccer complex. Possible future plans include a picnic pavilion, ticket booth, restrooms and other aesthetic touches.

The design for the press box phase was done by Ligo Architects of Slippery Rock, Pa., and work will be completed by Wallace Builders of Pulaski, Pa.

The Grove City College soccer program began in 1938 under head coach Robert E. Thorn and has seen just six head coaches in the program's history.

For more information, contact Senior Director of Development Dave Hollenbaugh '92 at dmhollebaugh@gcc.edu or (724) 458-2992.

Welcome to 'Varsity G'

Dear varsity athletes, parents, alumni and friends:

It is hard to believe that the winter season is over and we are well on our way into the spring sports season. We finished the winter season on a very positive note. The College inducted its first class of Athletic Hall of Fame honorees on Feb. 17 and several of our winter sports teams advanced to postseason play.

Presently, we are in second place in the competition for both the Men's and Women's PAC All-Sports Trophies. The men's basketball team won the Presidents' Athletic Conference Championship Tournament and advanced to the ECAC regional basketball tournament. Our men's swimming team completed its season by making history at the NCAA Championships in Houston. As a team, Grove City finished ninth in the nation. The last time our swimming team finished in the top 10 was in 1964. Tim Whitbeck '09 won the national title in the 50 free with a time of 20.25 seconds. Caleb Courage '08 repeated as national champion in the 100 free with a time of 44.36.

As you will read in the "Varsity G," our athletic program has had a great winter season and the momentum is carrying over into the spring seasons. Our baseball and softball teams both had very successful trips to Florida in early March. Several track and field athletes have already qualified for the ECAC Championship meet. The men's tennis team is looking for its 17th straight PAC championship. Both golf teams produced the individual champion at their season-opening events. The women's water polo team opened CWPA play 2-2, with the two losses coming to Michigan and Indiana.

From a facility point of view, we have made many changes within the building to make the Physical Learning Center look more like an athletic facility. We recently purchased 28 trophy cases, which are being used to display much of our sports history and the accomplishments of our current athletes. The renovation of the front lobby area of the building has provided both a beautiful space for our Hall of Fame and an area which showcases our athletic program as prospective students enter the building on tours and official visits.

Thanks to the generosity of our soccer alumni and friends, renovation of the soccer facility is in full swing. In just a few weeks, we will break ground for the new press box and bench area. It is scheduled to be completed in June. This will allow plenty of time to for the area to be reseeded and ready for the fall season.

Thanks to all of you, our athletic program is doing well and changing to meet the growing needs of our student athletes. We hope that many of you will be able to visit sometime this spring to enjoy the weather and one or more of your favorite sporting events. Please stop in and say hello when you return to campus. You are always welcome.



Donald L. Lyle

Sincerely,
Donald L. Lyle, Ed.D.
Director of Athletics

Wolverines cap magical run with PAC title, ECAC berth

Despite having no players earn Presidents' Athletic Conference Player of the Week honors during the season, nor any player being named First Team All-PAC, the Grove City men's basketball team captured the PAC title and the program's 10th all-time postseason berth.

Grove City finished 16-13 overall and qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Southern Championship Tournament. The Wolverines fell to eventual ECAC runner-up Penn State Behrend in the quarterfinals in Erie.

Prior to the season, few outside of Grove City expected the Wolverines to contend for the conference title as Grove City landed in fifth in the PAC preseason poll. But after entering the season-ending PAC Championship



ENTERING AS THE FOURTH SEED IN THE PRESIDENTS' ATHLETIC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT, THE WOLVERINES ROLLED THROUGH THEIR OPPONENTS TO WIN THE PROGRAM'S SIXTH PAC TITLE.

Tournament as the fourth seed with a 6-6 conference mark, the Wolverines kicked into another gear.

Grove City won three games in five days to capture the program's third PAC title since 1999. Grove City earned the title with a thrilling 60-58 come-from-behind win at Washington & Jefferson Feb. 24 before a raucous capacity crowd at W&J's Henry Memorial Center.

Grove City took the lead for good with 5:21 left on a three-pointer from junior guard Ryan Gerber. Grove City eventually stretched its lead to 60-53 with 1:56 left.

Still, the Wolverines had to fend off a final charge from W&J. A potential game-tying jumper from W&J's

Jon Koch, the 2007 PAC Player of the Year, glanced off the backboard at the buzzer, securing victory for Grove City.

The Wolverines' improbable march to the conference title began in the PAC quarterfinals against Waynesburg. Waynesburg had swept Grove City during the regular season. But in the quarterfinals, Grove City rolled to an 89-60 home victory. Grove City shot 70 percent (14 of 20) from the floor in the second half.

Two nights later, another strong second-half effort carried Grove City past top-seeded Westminster, 86-67. The Wolverines outscored the Titans 50-31 in the second half. As a team, Grove City made 11 of 22 three-point shots and owned a 43-28 rebounding advantage.



Gerber named Academic All-District

Men's basketball player Ryan Gerber earned College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) "ESPN The Magazine" College Division Academic All-District II Third Team honors this winter from the region's sports information directors.

Gerber, a junior, played in all 29 games this season for the Presidents' Athletic Conference champion Wolverines. He started 25 games and averaged 10.5 points per game. Gerber led Grove City with 46 steals this year while finishing second on the team with 38 three-point goals.

Gerber also shot 80 percent at the

foul line this season. He fired in a career-high 27 points in Grove City's 87-77 win over Wright State-Lake. Gerber also added 23 points in Grove City's 101-91 upset of host Westminster.

That night, Gerber poured in 20 points over the final 9:36 of the game.

In the classroom, Gerber is majoring in electrical engineering. He is a Dean's List student and has been named to the PAC's Academic Honor Roll.

District II includes all non-NCAA Division I colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Men's swimming ends season with national rank

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City also finished ninth at the inaugural NCAA College Division Championships, which Grove City hosted.

Six Grove City swimmers earned All-America honors, including national champions Caleb Courage and Tim Whitbeck.

Whitbeck won the 50 freestyle in 20.25 seconds, edging Courage by .07 seconds. Courage repeated as 100 freestyle national champion, winning with a Grove City-record time of 44.36 seconds.

Whitbeck, Courage, sophomore Mitch Young and sophomore Drew Snyder earned All-America honors in the 200 free relay. Grove City closed the meet by placing eighth in the 400 free relay as Whitbeck, Courage, Snyder and sophomore Peter Larsen posted a time of 3:06.19 in the finals.

Freshman Chip Cressman contributed a leg to the 400 free relay during the preliminaries and also earned NCAA All-America honors for his effort.

Cressman and Larsen became the

Courage, Whitbeck swim to national titles

From page 1

title in Minneapolis.

Whitbeck won the 50 freestyle with a time of 20.25 seconds the first night of the three-day championships.

Whitbeck entered the Championships as the second seed but finished seventh in the preliminaries.

Whitbeck rebounded in the finals to earn the national title. He nipped Courage for the title by .07 seconds.

Whitbeck is the second member of his family to earn an NCAA Division III championship while swimming at Grove City. His older sister Peggy '04 won three

50th and 51st all-time men's swimming and diving All-Americans in Grove City history.

Cressman also finished 25th in the 1650 and 31st in the 400 individual medley while senior Andrew Gilbert touched 28th in the 100 breaststroke. Gilbert also competed on Grove City's 200 and 400 med-

straight NCAA 200 butterfly championships from 2002-04.

Courage joins diver Chris Van De Mark '82 as the only multiple-time national champion in Grove City men's swimming and diving history. Van De Mark won the NCAA title in 1-meter diving in both 1981 and 1982. He also won the NCAA 3-meter diving crown in 1981.

Two other Grove City divers captured national titles in the mid-1980s. Dan Young '83 won the national 1-meter diving title in 1983 while Clark Johnson '84 won the NCAA 3-meter title in 1984.

ley relay teams, which did not place. Courage is now the College's most decorated swimmer, having earned 11 NCAA All-America citations through his first three seasons. Whitbeck is a six-time All-American. Snyder is a five-time All-American while Young is now a three-time NCAA All-American.

12 former athletes, one team inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

Grove City inducted the following 12 individuals and one team into the Hall of Fame:

R. Jack Behringer '69 – Spent 40 years as coach and athletic director at Grove City (1956-96); helped engineer Grove City's entrance into the Presidents' Athletic Conference in 1984.

Jeff Claypool '69 – First basketball All-American at Grove City. All-time leading scorer and rebounder in Grove City men's basketball history; first two-time Sportsman of the Year.

Paul Cameron '73 – Grove City's first cross country All-American (1971). Two-time NCAA College Division All-American; two-time Sportsman of the Year recipient.

Jody (Imbrie) Smith '83 – Unanimous women's basketball All-American in 1983. All-time leading scorer in Grove City basketball history; owns



every major scoring record at the College.

Thomas "Jake" LaMotta '60 – First Grove City football player to earn All-America honors (1957); also first Grove City athlete to earn multiple All-America honors. Owned College's career rushing record for nearly 40 years.

James Longnecker – Three-sport coach who accumulated 687 total wins at Grove City from 1957-97. Coached men's swimming and diving team to 366 wins and 40 straight winning seasons. Also coached track and field and cross country;

coached 44 NCAA All-Americans and three national champions.

Dr. Donald L. "Doc" McMillan '32 – Tennis standout in 1930s; became tireless ambassador and recruiter for the College and its athletic teams for five decades. Rose to full colonel in U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Frank Sbrocco '57 – Soccer standout who became first modern All-American in Grove City history (1956); 10-time letterman in soccer, tennis and basketball.

Robert E. "Bob" Thorn '16 – Multi-sport athlete, coach

and athletic director who helped Grove City gain permanent membership in the NCAA in the 1950s.

Ubbo van der Valk '60 – First swimming and diving All-American in Grove City history (1958). AAU National Junior champion and eighth-fastest in entire nation in 100 breaststroke in 1958.

Cynthia Walters – Athletic administrator who played integral role in development of intercollegiate women's athletics during her 32 years (1966-98) at Grove City; founder and first president of Women's Keystone Conference.

Michael Zeigler '68 – Standout quarterback and pitcher/infielder from 1964-68; earned West Penn Conference Player of the Year honors in both football and baseball; quarterbacked undefeated football team of 1966.

Slew of records fall for all men's, women's winter sports teams

Numerous individual accomplishments highlighted the winter sports season. Long-standing records fell in all four winter sports.

Men's swimming

The men's swimming and diving team posted a 15-1 record in dual meets, including a 143.5-136.5 win over archrival Westminster. The Wolverines also notched wins over NCAA Division III team champion Kenyon, NCAA Division I foe Butler (Ind.) and NCAA Division II opponent Gannon.



Joe Riddell '08

Grove City closed the season with a 14-meet win streak, the program's longest since Grove City won 40 straight meets from 1993-96. Wolverine swimmers also broke 10 school records during the season.

Grove City placed second at the season-ending Grove City Invitational/PAC Championships.

The 1993-94 squad set the previous single-season win record by going 13-0 that winter.

Women's swimming

On the women's side, a very youthful Grove City squad went 8-10 in dual meets this winter. The Wolverines captured third at the Grove City Invitational/PAC Championships.



Jane Wilson '10

Grove City also earned dual-meet victories over NCAA Division II members Fairmont State and Slippery Rock during the season.

Freshman sprinter Jane Wilson provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships in the 50 free, with a Grove City-record time of 24.04 seconds. Wilson won both the 50 and 100 free races at the PAC Championships.

Men's basketball

Two starting guards for the Grove

City men's basketball team set new individual records this season. Junior Shawn Carr drilled a Grove City-record 65 three-point goals this season while sophomore guard Ryan Gibson played a record 936 minutes.



Elyse Bogusz '07

Grove City played a program-record 29 games this season. The Wolverines won twice at Westminster, including a 101-91 win in New Wilmington.

Women's basketball

Injuries and inexperience plagued the Grove City women's basketball team for much of the 2006-07 season. Junior center Rachel McCoy became the College's ninth all-time 1,000-point scorer in women's basketball. She also set new Grove City records for single-season blocks (68) and career blocks (164).

Meanwhile, senior guard Elyse Bogusz finished her career with 86 threes, third-most in Grove City annals.

Grove City 2nd in men's, women's All-Sports trophy race

Grove City College is in second place in both the men's and women's Presidents' Athletic Conference All-Sports Trophy race following the winter sports season.

Grove City's men's teams have accumulated 26.5 points and trail Washington & Jefferson (32) by 5.5 points.

Paced by a conference title in men's basketball and a runner-up finish in

swimming and diving, Grove City accumulated 13 winter points. W&J placed second in basketball and third in swimming and diving on the men's side. W&J also gained five points by finish third at the three-team PAC Wrestling Championships.

On the women's side, Grove City has 29 points, good for second place. Westminster's women cur-

rently lead the All-Sports Trophy race with 36 total points. Grove City's women's swimming and diving team earned five points while the women's basketball team secured one point in the All-Sports race.

This fall, men's and women's cross country, women's tennis and all won PAC titles.

Men's basketball added another PAC championship.

2006-2007 PAC Titles*

Men's Cross Country
Women's Cross Country
Women's Tennis
Men's Basketball

*Titles won to date