Ten earn Academic All-District, lead PAC

Ten Grove City student-athletes earned College Division Academic All-District II honors from ESPN The Magazine and the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) this fall.

In men’s soccer, senior Ian Lamborn earned First Team Academic All-District while senior Jonathan Breese achieved Second Team Academic All-District honors.

Two women’s soccer players also earned Academic All-District honors. Junior defender Alix Flowers earned First Team Academic All-District while senior defender Jessica Van Sickel landed on the Second Team.

In football, senior linebacker Garret Choby and junior Matt Weil each earned First Team All-District honors.

Junior Ken Walsh both earned Second Team All-District for volleyball.

Choby, Flowers and Weil all advanced to the national Academic All-America ballot.

Lamborn is a two-year letter-winner at forward. He is a molecular biology/chemistry double major and owns a 3.78 cumulative grade-point average. Breese is a four-year letterman and three-year starter at midfielder for the Wolverines. He has achieved a 3.74 GPA while majoring in finance.

A two-year starter and three-year letterwinner, Flowers started 16 of 18 games for Grove City’s women’s team (9-7-2)

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For a complete look at the fall sports results, turn to page 4 for a season wrap-up.

Grove City in hunt for All-Sports trophies

Grove City captured a conference-leading three titles during the fall sports season, helping both the men’s and women’s teams move into prime position in the battle for the Presidents’ Athletic Conference’s All-Sports Trophies.

On the women’s side, Grove City captured conference titles in both cross country and women’s tennis to earn a share of the All-Sports Volleyball honors.

Grove City is currently third in the Men’s All-Sports Trophy competition. Grove City has 13% points and trails leader Washington & Jefferson by 2% points. Westminster is second with 15 points.

Garrett Choby, Flowers, Lamborn and Weil advanced to the national Academic All-America ballot.

Lamborn is a two-year letter-winner at forward. He is a molecular biology/chemistry double major and owns a 3.78 cumulative grade-point average. Breese is a four-year letterman and three-year starter at midfielder for the Wolverines. He has achieved a 3.74 GPA while majoring in finance.

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See ALL-DISTRICT, page 3

Three inducted into Soccer Hall of Fame

As a senior in 1977, Bornholm earned First Team honors from the West Penn Intercollégiate Soccer Conference. He also earned Honourable Mention Regional All-America recognition from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) following the season.

In 34 years as head coach, Lyle guided Grove City to 277 victories and six postseason berths. Grove City advanced to the NSCAA quarterfinals in 1976 while his 1996 team won the Eastern College Athletic Conference Southern Championship Tournament.

In 2005, his final year as head coach, the Wolverines won the Presidents’ Athletic Conference title and advanced to the ECAC finals. Grove City also won three conference titles (1 WPISC, 2 PAC) under his direction.

Lyle also helped foster the development of the College’s men’s soccer alumni program. He was also heavily involved in the development of local soccer programs. For his efforts in the community, Lyle earned the Florence MacKenzie Campus-Community Award in 1988.
McNees’ record-setting season leads All-Region soccer honors

Senior men’s soccer player Bob McNees earned All-Region honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) and D3Kicks.com Dec. 1.

Three Grove City College women’s soccer players also earned All-Great Lakes Region honors from D3Kicks.com: sophomore goalkeeper Diana Pragel, freshman midfielder Hannah Yang and senior midfielder Maia Siber.

The NSCAA and alidus recognized McNees as All-Mid-Atlantic Region Third Team at forward while D3Kicks.com honored McNees as Second Team All-Mid-Atlantic at forward.

McNees helped lead Grove City to an 11-7-2 record in 2006. He earned his second straight Pennsylvania Athletic Conference Player of the Year award after scoring a conference-best 17 goals this year. He also led the PAC with eight game-winning goals. McNees earned PAC Player of the Week honors four times in 2006.

McNees became Grove City’s all-time leading scorer Sept. 2 as he recorded a hat trick in a 3-0 win over Pitt-Bradford. He finished his career with 63 total goals. McNees led Grove City in scoring each of his four years and earned First Team All-PAC in each of his final three seasons.

The Wolverines advanced to the semifinals of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Southern Championship Tournament this season. In 2005, McNees helped Grove City to its first PAC Championship Tournament crown and a berth in the ECAC final.

McNees is the first Grove City player to earn NSCAA All-Region since Mike Koper in 2003. This is the first year that D3Kicks.com has awarded All-Region honors. For women’s soccer, Pragel and Yang each earned Second Team honors.

Senior midfielder Hannah Yang and senior forward Kristin Coley earned All-PAC honors while six men’s soccer players earned All-PAAC recognition.

The Grove City volleyball team also placed three players on the All-PAAC squads. Eleven Grove City football players also earned All-PAAC honors.

In an effort to provide special recognition for our athletic program, I have started a new award, the “Varsity G Commemorative Coin.” The purpose of this award is to provide recognition to athletes, alumni and friends of the Athletic Department.

As you can imagine, Feb. 17 promises to be a very exciting day for the inductees, their families, guests and Grove City College. If you would like to make reservations to attend the formal reception and induction ceremony, please contact my office at (724) 458-2122 or e-mail me at dlyle@gcc.edu. The cost for the evening is $25 per person. This includes the 5 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner and the induction ceremony. For those interested in attending, we need your reservation(s) and payment for the reception/dinner/induction ceremony by Jan. 17.

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As you will see from the picture, the front of the coin displays the varsity “G” in red. Around the edge of coin is the phrase “Grove City College Athletic Department – Striving for Excellence.” The back of the coin displays the College shield and the five characteristics which I believe our athletes most represent: Character, Integrity, Faith, Scholarship and Ethic.

I believe these characteristics lay the foundation for what makes our athletes special. It is the development of these characteristics that carry us through life. The lessons and principles that are learned and developed in an athletic environment will touch our lives forever.

I want to personally wish everyone a Happy New Year.

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

Welcome to ‘Varsity G’

Dear Alumni, Athletes, Parents and Friends,

It is hard to believe that the fall season is over, and 2007 is upon us. As you will read in this newsletter, our fall sports teams have had a very successful season. At the conclusion of the fall sports season, we are ahead of last year’s pace in our quest for the Presidents’ Athletic Conference All-Sports Trophies. With our winter sports teams well into their respective seasons, we are particularly excited about our chances of winning both the men’s and women’s All-Sports Trophies this year.

Preparations are well under way for the inaugural induction ceremony for the Grove City College Athletic Hall of Fame Feb. 17, 2007. We will be spending the next few months preparing the awards and the new location that will house the Hall of Fame awards. The Hall of Fame dedication ceremony will be at 5 p.m. in the new Hall of Fame venue located in the Physical Learning Center. At halftime of the men’s basketball game against Thomas More (approximately 3:45 p.m.), all inductees will be introduced and recognized during the Hall of Fame March.

As you can imagine, Feb. 17 promises to be a very exciting day for the inductees, their families, guests and Grove City College. If you would like to make reservations to attend the formal reception and induction ceremony, please contact my office at (724) 458-2122 or e-mail me at dlyle@gcc.edu. The cost for the evening is $25 per person. This includes the 5 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner and the induction ceremony. For those interested in attending, we need your reservation(s) and payment for the reception/dinner/induction ceremony by Jan. 17.

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

All-conference honors given to 27 Grove City fall athletes

A total of 27 fall sports athletes earned All-Presidents’ Athletic Conference honors from conference coaches in their respective sports in November.

Seven members of Grove City’s women’s soccer team earned All-PAC honors while six men’s soccer players earned All-PAC recognition.

The Grove City volleyball team also placed three players on the All-PAC squads. Eleven Grove City football players also earned All-PAAC honors.

Senior forward Bob McNees earned his second straight PAC men’s soccer Player of the Year award after leading the conference with 17 goals in 2006. McNees became Grove City’s all-time leading goal-scorer with 63 career goals. He also earned First Team All-PAC honors for the third straight season.

Also, senior midfielder Jonathan Bresso received 20 matches and earned First Team honors. Bresso earned Second Team recognition in 2005.

Four members of the Wolverines’ suffocating defense earned Second Team honors: junior goalkeeper Michael Manahan, senior defender Brendan McCommas, junior stopper Tommy Bresso and sophomore sweeper Jack Adams. Markman started all 20 matches in goal this season and yielded just 0.94 goals per game. He posted seven full shutouts and contributed to two other shutouts this year. Manahan was named Second Team All-PAC in 2005, stopped 85 percent of shots faced this year and earned All-PAC honors. Bresso earned First Team All-PAC honors for the second straight season. He also blocked seven extra-point attempts this season. That is believed to be an NCAA Division III single-season record.

Wild led Grove City in scoring with nine goals in 14 matches this year. Yang, meanwhile, had six goals in 18 matches this year. Pragel posted nine wins in goal this year for Grove City, posting a 1.79 goals-against average. She helped the Wolverines to six shutout victories in 2006.

Junior midfielder Bethany McNees formed an iron-clad backline that helped limit opponents to just 0.92 goals per match this season. McNees earned All-PAC honors while six men’s soccer players earned All-PAC recognition.

Defensive tackle Jordan Johnston ‘07 (left) and middle hitter Carlie Roberts ‘07 were named to First Team All-PAC teams for football and volleyball respectively this year.

Peck, sophomore forward Laura Shipley and sophomore defender Kristin Coley all received Honorable Mention. Led in part by its three All-Conference selections, the Grove City volleyball team finished 20-11 in 2006. In 2007, middle hitter Carlie Roberts earned First Team honors for the second straight season. Roberts averaged 3.14 kills and 0.96 blocks per game this year.

Senior setter Kim Walsh and sophomore middle hitter Natalie Liberati each received Second Team honors. Walsh set new Grove City single-season records for total assists (1,333) and assists per game (11.89) this year. Liberati, meanwhile, averaged 3.05 kills per game this year.

Wild Grove City football players earned First Team All-PAC honors Nov. 13, junior center Matt Gregg and senior tight end Henry Johnston.

Gregg is a two-year starter at center for Grove City (9-7 in 2006). He started all 10 games this season, helping anchor an offensive line that featured several different combinations due to injury. Gregg earned Second Team All-PAC in 2005.

Henry Johnston led the PAC in punting, averaging 38.6 yards per punt. He also led the league in net punting, averaging 33.8 yards net. Johnston also placed 14 of his 51 punts inside the opponents’ 20-yard line. He had just one touchback this year.

Senior offensive tackle Bob Perri earned first team honors this year. Junior defensive tackle Justin Fowler and senior corner-back Chris Schwaamberger each earned All-PAAC Recognition. Perri is a three-year starter at right tackle for Grove City. Like Gregg, he started all 10 games and was a stalwart along the offensive line. Perri earned All-PAAC Honorable Mention in 2006.

Fowler flourished in his first year as a starter for Grove City. He helped lead the defensive tackle and finished with 42 total tackles. Fowler also had three sacks and forced three fumbles. In addition, he also blocked seven extra-point attempts this season. That is believed to be an NCAA Division III single-season record.

Schwaamberger 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 Genniannuzzo had five inter-ceptions in 2002. Schwaamberger also broke up eight passes.

Sophomore safety Shane Coughlin, freshman quarterback Andrew D’Ignoto, senior split end Mike Seiber, senior nose tackle Jordan Johnston, junior linebacker Bill Waugh and junior kicker Matt Weil all earned Honorable Mention.
Fall athletes lead PAC in All-District academics

overall this season. She helped Grove City record six shutouts on the season. Flowers has a 3.98 grade-point average as a Christian thought major. She earned Third Team Academic All-District in 2005.

Van Sickel is a three-year starter and four-year letterwinner at defender for the Wolverines. She has a 3.84 GPA while majoring in biology.

Choby is a four-year letterman and two-year starter at middle linebacker for Grove City. Choby owns a 3.66 cumulative grade-point average while majoring in biology. He is president of Grove City’s Student Government Association (SGA). It is Choby’s second consecutive First Team All-District selection.

Weil is a two-year starter and three-year letterman in the Wolverine backfield. A mechanical engineering major, Weil owns a 3.35 grade-point average. He earned Second Team All-District in 2005.

Johnston earned his second straight Second Team All-District selection. A four-year letterman and three-year starter at defensive tackle, he majoring in elementary/early childhood education Johnston owns a 3.37 cumulative GPA.

Welch is a three-year letterman and two-year starter at defensive end for Grove City. He owns a 3.38 GPA in business management. Welch studied in Namibia during the spring 2006 semester and earned First Team Academic All-District honors last season.

Walsh earned her second straight All-District honor. She earned Third Team recognition in 2005. A three-year starter at setter Walsh set a new Grove City single-season record with 1,333 assists in 2006. She has a 3.93 cumulative grade-point average as a communication studies major.

Fraiz is a two-year starter and letterwinner at outside hitter for the Wolverines. Fraiz has achieved a 3.91 GPA as an elementary/early childhood education major.

Grove City’s 10 total All-District II selections led the PAC. The seven other PAC members had a combined 11 Academic All-District honors.

Grove City College Athletic Department Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Sport</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Donald Lyle</td>
<td>Athletic Director</td>
<td>724-458-2900</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dlyle@gcc.edu">dlyle@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Briggs ’01</td>
<td>Sports Information Director</td>
<td>724-458-3365</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rbriggs@gcc.edu">rbriggs@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Chinn</td>
<td>Assistant Football/Track</td>
<td>724-458-2124</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jchinn@gcc.edu">jchinn@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Dreves ’97</td>
<td>Men’s Soccer</td>
<td>724-458-2151</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mfdreves@gcc.edu">mfdreves@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kay Mitchell Emigh</td>
<td>Head Trainer</td>
<td>724-458-2108</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmemigh@gcc.edu">kmemigh@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Fritz ’94</td>
<td>Men’s Swimming/Diving</td>
<td>724-458-2110</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dfritz@gcc.edu">dfritz@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelea Fuss</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>724-458-2130</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmfuss@gcc.edu">lmfuss@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Harris</td>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
<td>724-458-2130</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sbharris@gcc.edu">sbharris@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Hawke</td>
<td>Assistant Trainer</td>
<td>724-458-2127</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rhawke@gcc.edu">rhawke@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Iff</td>
<td>Office Manager</td>
<td>724-458-2127</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kailiff@gcc.edu">kailiff@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Jacobs</td>
<td>Women’s Swimming/Tennis</td>
<td>724-458-2136</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccjacob@gcc.edu">ccjacob@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Stan Keehlwetter</td>
<td>Men’s Track</td>
<td>724-458-2142</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fkkehlwetter@gcc.edu">fkkehlwetter@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Lamie</td>
<td>Women’s Soccer/Golf</td>
<td>724-458-2128</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mlamie@gcc.edu">mlamie@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Lamie ’85</td>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>724-458-3866</td>
<td><a href="mailto:slamie@gcc.edu">slamie@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Roberts</td>
<td>Women’s Volleyball</td>
<td>724-458-2129</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skroberts@gcc.edu">skroberts@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Severson</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>724-458-2130</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skseverson@gcc.edu">skseverson@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Skarich</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>724-458-2126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rskarich@gcc.edu">rskarich@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Smith ’92</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>724-458-2126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csmith@gcc.edu">csmith@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Walters</td>
<td>Men’s Tennis</td>
<td>724-458-2126</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jdwalters@gcc.edu">jdwalters@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Allison Williams</td>
<td>Women’s Track</td>
<td>724-458-3863</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mawilliams@gcc.edu">mawilliams@gcc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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Fall sports season finishes strong, three teams crowned PAC champs

Three Grove City fall sports teams captured President’s Athletic Conference titles while three other Wolverine teams remained in contention until the final week of the season.

The men's soccer team advanced to the ECAC Southern Championship Tournament for the second straight year while individually, numerous Grove City athletes made history this fall as several long-standing records fell.

Women's Tennis
Grove City's women's tennis team secured its 20th consecutive PAC title Oct. 21 in Erie as Wolverine players won eight of nine possible flights. Freshman Nicole Andreini captured the conference's Player of the Year award after winning the PAC title at both first singles and first doubles.

Junior Kristin McNally earned PAC titles at both second singles and second doubles while sophomore Taisara Nielsen picked up titles at third singles and first doubles. Senior Lindsey Hostler, the team's lone senior, also earned two league titles by winning at second doubles and fifth singles. Junior Julie Bellissimo won the conference's No. 6 singles title while junior Erin Bennett and freshman Kristin Taylor combined to win the third doubles championship.

Andreini also won the consolation bracket of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Southeast Regional Championships Championship draw in Fredericksburg, Va. Sept. 25. Andreini went 5-1 at the three-day event and knocked off two ranked players.

Grove City went 8-5, including a 5-0 record in PAC play.

Men's Cross Country
The Wolverines earned their 16th straight PAC title Oct. 28 at Waynesburg College. Sophomore Daniel Spaulding earned PAC MVP honors after finishing third in the overall race. Senior Joey Cortez, sophomore Brett Kelly, sophomore Nathan Johnson and freshman Royce Hyland all joined Spaulding on the PAC’s seven-man First Team. Rookies Frankie Houngais, Joshua Laufer and Jonathan Sear all achieved Second Team honors. Grove City capped its season Nov. 11 with a 10th-place finish at the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships in Waynesburg, Pa. It is Grove City's best finish at the regional meet since a ninth-place finish in 1999.

Spaulding narrowly missed earning All-Region honors with a 36th-place finish while Hyland received Freshman All-Region recognition.

Women's Cross Country
Grove City earned its 18th consecutive conference title Oct. 28. The Wolverines accumulated 32 team points while host Waynesburg had 35 total points.

Sophomore Kristen Carter captured the conference's MVP award by winning the individual race by 22 seconds. Senior Cara Pierce and junior Sarah Smith both earned First Team All-PAC also. Second Team honors went to junior Candice Coholic, senior Alex Anderson, sophomore Tara Just and junior Rachel South.

Carter qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships by finishing seventh overall in the Mideast Regional Championships at Waynesburg Nov. 11. She placed 175th overall at the national championships.

As a team, Grove City placed 12th in the 41-team field.

Volleyball
The Wolverines posted their best record since 2001, going 20-11 overall and 8-4 in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference. Grove City swept Washington & Jefferson during the regular season and also earned the program's first-ever win over Thomas More on Senior Night Oct. 27.

Junior setter Kim Walsh set a new school record with 1,333 assists this season. Her PAC-leading 11.69 assists per game is also the highest average in program history. Senior Heather Fraiz led the Wolverines with 332 kills per game and was second in digs (3.51).

Grove City went 8-2 at home this year, the Wolverines' best mark in the College Arena since 2000.

Football
Grove City closed the 2006 season with back-to-back wins over Case Western Reserve (40-33) and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (14-6). The Wolverines also earned their first win over Westminster since 1979 with a 21-20 triumph Sept. 30 at Robert E. Thorn Field.

Sophomore quarterback Andrew DeDonato set new single-season passing records at Grove City with 151 completions and 275 pass attempts. Grove City had five different players catch at least 20 passes this year this season.

Meanwhile, junior defensive tackle Justin Fowler set a new school and unofficial NCAA Division III record with seven blocked extra points this season.

Under the direction of first-year head coach Mike Drewes '97, the Wolverines had their 10th winning season in 12 years. It is the team's fourth straight season with at least 10 victories.

Senior forward Bob McNees because Grove City's all-time leading scorer with 63 career goals. He surpassed the record set by Ross Emerson '57, who scored 48 goals in 27 matches during his career (1953-56).