

# SPARTAN REPORT



A publication of the Aurora University Spartan Club Booster Organization

Winter 2003-04



Senior runningback Geary Pryor

## Football: A Season to Build On

The 2003 Spartan football team finished the season 5-5, 5-2, which landed the team a third-place finish in the Illini-Badger Football Conference for the second consecutive year. The Spartans concluded the season by taking on Division I Valparaiso University, a game in which the Spartans battled but fell short 44-26.

For the season, junior quarterback Kyle Daniels led the Spartan offensive attack (119-205, 1520 yards, and 12 touchdowns). His main targets were junior receiver Kevin Rynne (40 receptions, 536 yards, and seven

touchdowns) and sophomore receiver Troy Blaser (34 receptions, 419 yards, and two touchdowns). Senior runningback Geary Pryor (198 rushes, 885 yards, and 13 touchdowns) concluded his career as a Spartan by anchoring the Spartan ground attack. Pryor leaves AU as the Spartans all-time leader in career points with 236, touchdowns in a season with 15, and career touchdowns with 39. He is also second in career rushing yards with 2,611 and third in career rushing attempts with 496.

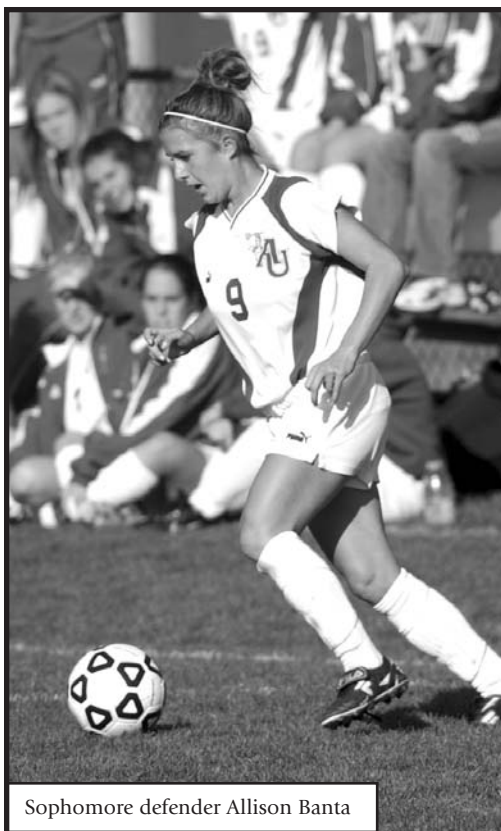
The Spartan defense came into the season as a young, untested group and showed great strides in its growth process throughout the season. The core

of the Spartan defense was led by junior strong safety Ryan Schrader (85 tackles, seven for loss, two sacks, one interception, and five pass break-ups), sophomore defensive back Jerral Davidson (28 tackles, three interceptions, and one touchdown), junior linebacker Dustin Robertson (75 tackles, ten for loss, and two and a half sacks), and sophomore linebacker Aaron Moore (86 tackles, nine for loss, two sacks, and three forced fumbles). Junior defensive end Josh Lane (39 tackles, nine for loss, two and a half sacks, and nine quarterback pressures) anchored the defensive line along with sophomore defensive end Kyle Simons (29 tackles, four for loss, and one and a half sacks).

## Women's Soccer: Back to Back Champs

The Aurora University women's soccer team finished the 2003 season by winning their second-consecutive Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference championship and their sixth NIIC championship in the last eight seasons. Going 6-0-1 in regular season and conference tournament play, 14-7-1 overall, the Spartans received some significant postseason conference recognition.

Sophomore defender Allison Banta (Griffith, IN) was named Northern Illinois-Iowa Conf-



Sophomore defender Allison Banta

erence Player of the Year by the conference coaches. Banta was a cog in the Spartan defense that allowed just five goals and 5.3 shots per game in NIIC competition.

"I'm elated for Allison and the entire team, having a record nine players named all-conference. Banta worked hard to get ready for the season and continued that hard work throughout the season. Her dedication epitomizes what it means to be a Spartan women's soccer player, and she has become a leader because of it," Head Coach Kanute Drugan stated.

Joining Banta on the NIIC All-Conference team was senior forward Laura Bozek (Indian Head Park, IL, nine goals, one assist, 19 points), sophomore defender Corey Krysiak (Milwaukee, WI), sophomore goalkeeper Alicia Martin (Roselle, IL, 4-0-1, three shutouts, .92 goals against), freshman forward Morgan Roewer (Woodstock, IL, three goals, one assist, seven points), sophomore sweeper

Meghan Stoltman (Algonquin, IL), sophomore midfielder Abby Wackerly (Godfrey, IL, one goal, two points), freshman forward Anna Wallace (Madisonville, KY, three goals, four assists, 10 points), and senior forward Carmen Zobel (Lewiston, ID, six goals, two assists, 14 points).

## Men's Soccer: Foundation Set

The 2003 Aurora University men's soccer team turned Head Coach Pete Watkins' preseason outlook into reality. According to Watkins' outlook, "The key to returning to winning ways will be this year's group of youthful newcomers. We will attack much more than team fans saw in the last few years. The team will be more competitive with several of the young newcomers expected to contribute immediately," Watkins



Freshman forward Alex DeGurian

stated. Young was exactly what the Spartans were, starting as many as eight freshmen at a time throughout the year. The youthful freshmen led the Spartans to a 7-11-2 overall record, 2-3 Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference, and a berth in the postseason NIIC tournament. Freshman forward Alex DeGurian (Naperville, IL) led the way for the Spartans' attack and was the lone Spartan honored by the conference coaches. Selected to the NIIC first team, DeGurian, a team captain, had four goals, three assists, and 11 points, two each coming in NIIC contests. Other key contributors to the men's soccer attack were freshmen Amador Contreras (Aurora, IL, four goals, three assists, 11 points) and Larry Heiden, Jr (Somonauk, IL, three goals, one assist, seven points), as well as junior goalkeeper Pat Drews (Aurora, IL, 4-4-2, two shutouts, 2.39 goals against average).

## Volleyball: Flashes of the Future

Going 8-8 in the final 16 matches of the season, the 2003 Aurora University volleyball team showed flashes of what fans can expect to see in the coming years. Led by Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference all-conference selection senior setter Coley Johnsen (Batavia, IL, 7.9 assists, 1.6 kills, 3.0 digs per game), honorable mention all-conference selections junior outside hitter Lindsay Michael (Geneva, IL, 2.38 kills, 1.18 blocks, .7 digs per game), and sophomore outside hitter Megan Wagner (Aurora, IL, 2.31 kills, 4.5 digs per game), the Spartans finished up the season 12-27 overall, 3-3 NIIC.



Freshman outside hitter Julia Eggert

## Men's and Women's Cross Country: Success Starts Early

The 2003 Aurora University men's and women's cross country teams have set the foundation for a bright future. In just the first season, both the men's and women's cross country teams competed in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference championship meet and came away with impressive showings.

The men ended the season with a second-place finish in the five-team 8k race. Leading the way for the Spartans were a freshman fleet of runners. Kel Bond (Dixon, IL) finished in sixth with a time of 28:08, Danny

Hernandez (Aurora, IL) came in seventh (28:09), Mohamed Ahmed (Chicago, IL) was ninth (28:44), while Aaron Smith (Sugar Grove, IL) was twelfth (29:40).

The women's team fared well, finishing third in the five team 6k meet. Jessi Gonzalez (Aurora, IL) was the Spartans top finisher with a time of 27:27, while Lyndsey Todd (Elgin, IL) finished in 18th (27:55).

## Women's Tennis: Looking to Next Year

This year's tennis team finished 1-13; 1-5 NIIC. Jennie Askren and Michele Albrecht led this year's team. Albrecht came up with a third place finish at the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference Tournament, the Spartans top finisher. The youthful Spartans look toward the future with young talent returning next year.

## Men's Basketball: Success Breeds Success

The Aurora University 2002-2003 men's basketball season ended at Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA. An 80-61 second round loss in the NCAA Men's Division III basketball tournament took the Spartans the farthest they ever been in AU history. Two days before, at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, the Spartans were victorious, 67-66, on a perfectly drawn up play with Adam McCoy nailing the game-winning jump shot. It gave the men's program their first-ever NCAA tournament victory and Head Coach James Lancaster's second postseason victory in six tries. "Going in to the selection show with already being in the tournament, our players didn't think that they

would get excited, but then they saw San Antonio, TX and the tone was set," said Lancaster.

Lancaster and his men's cagers ended their season with games on the road at Rockford College, Trinity University in San Antonio, TX and Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA. Those three teams had a combined record of 69-11, and to go 2-1 with all three games on the road constitutes a step up for the AU men's basketball program.

## The Season Upon Us

Returning to the Spartans after a record-breaking 24-6 season are the four captains. Leading the way will be hometown product senior center Andre Meeks (Aurora, IL/East Aurora HS). Meeks averaged 12.1 points per game and 6.5 rebounds per game. Joining Meeks down low will be athletic junior Terrell Watkins (Bellwood, IL/Proviso West HS). Watkins had 5.5 points per game and 6.5 rebounds per game. Returning at the wings will be junior three-year starter Drew Gronau (Streamwood, IL/Streamwood HS) and junior Adam McCoy (Decatur, IL/ St. Teresa HS). Gronau knocked down 55 three-point shots and averaged 9.2 points per game. McCoy averaged 11.4 points per game and hit on 40% of his three-point attempts. McCoy, who primarily came off the bench last year, will be looked to carry the scoring load along with Meeks and Gronau. "We have always had a strong inside game to go along with our three-point shooters, I don't expect much to change this season. They know the pressure is on them to continue the



Pictured from left to right: Adam McCoy, Andre Meeks, Drew Gronau, Terrell Watkins,

tradition. We have a good nucleus coming back and we look to those players to fill the necessary holes," Lancaster said.

Joining Meeks and Watkins down low on the post will be sophomore Jeremy Rauch (Tinley Park, IL/Rich Central HS). Rauch averaged four minutes a game last year. Lancaster will look to Rauch to provide a strong backup off the bench. Adding depth down low will be sophomores Eric Gullickson (West Dundee, IL/Dundee-Crown HS) and Ben Stahl (Somonauk IL/ Somonauk HS), junior K.J. Brown (Chicago, IL/Hirsch HS), and freshmen David Uribe (Aurora, IL/East Aurora HS) and Tim Hooper (Chicago, IL/ Proviso West HS). Hooper is nephew of former Aurora College and NBA star Mickey Johnson.

## Quality Depth

Providing quality backup at the wing positions will be sophomore Tony Carson, Jr. (Decatur, IL/Eisenhower HS). Carson averaged 3.7 points per game and made 38% of his three-point attempts. Senior Andrew Browning (Batavia, IL/Geneva HS), junior transfer Marcus Roby (Rockford, IL/Guilford HS), junior Billy Lewis (Elgin, IL/Larkin HS), freshman Brian Nieznanski (Aurora, IL/Aurora Central Catholic HS), and sophomore Aaron Perez (Winter Park, FL/Neuqua Valley HS) all look to add depth.

After losing point guard Adam Chae to graduation, AU's offense will lie in the hands of sophomore Courtney Carson (Decatur, IL/MacArthur HS). Carson is the cousin of AU swingman Tony Carson Jr. Backing up Carson at the point

will be in the hands of Brett Carroll (Roscoe, IL/Rockton Hononegah HS). Adding depth at the point guard position will also be senior Antwione Allen (Chicago, IL/Manley HS), freshman Aaron Burden (Park Forest, IL/Rich Central HS), and sophomore Andy Madden (Aurora, IL/Marmion Academy).

## The Road Ahead

Each and every year the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference competition rises. The conference will once again show AU and Rockford College at the top of the conference. "I think that Benedictine will be back, and Eureka is looking as good as they have been since I've been here," said Lancaster. "Two of the last three years the NIIC has sent two teams to the NCAA tournament."

AU's schedule is filled with traditionally strong CCIW teams. This non-conference schedule not only prepares them for the conference season but it also prepares them for teams they could possibly see at the end of the season. "I think success breeds success. We play a style of basketball that athletes want to be associated with. They have fun getting up and down the court and at the same time we have student-athletes that put in hours of work in the classroom and on the court."

Lancaster is excited as ever for this season. Breaking the school record for wins and winning a first-round NCAA playoff game has set the tone for what is expected from Aurora University men's basketball.

## Women's Basketball: Building Traditions

Jennifer Buckley and the Aurora University Spartans have won the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference title the last three out of four years. Playing in one NCAA Tournament game and coming up one game short of making the tournament last year, AU is poised for another successful campaign.

"Even though we won the conference last year, we fell short of one of our goals, that was to win the conference tournament," Buckley said. The AU women's basketball team has set the bar for success in this program. Each and every year the expectations rise and this year should be no different.

Led this year by senior captains Tina Brooks (Streamwood, IL/Streamwood HS) and Nicki Pieart (Aurora, IL/West Aurora HS), the Spartans look to not only win the regular season title this year, but to take it one step further by winning the

conference tournament. "Tina, Nicki, and Heather Guestchow (Carpentersville, IL/Dundee-Crown HS) are looking to make it four for four on winning conference titles," said Buckley.

### The Backcourt

Starting all 27 games for AU's last season, Pieart averaged 8.1 points per game and 2.3 rebounds per game. Joining her in the backcourt will be senior two-year starter Heather Guetschow. Starting over half the games last year, Guetschow averaged 2.9 points per game, while handing out 2.5 assists per contest. Junior college transfer Danielle Widdop (Milan, IL/Rockridge HS) will look to come in and play a lot of minutes for the Spartans.

Returning for her third season will be junior Jamie Barwick (Hampshire, IL/Hampshire HS). Last season, Barwick averaged 8.7 points per game, 2.2 steals per game, and 2.1 assists. Barwick will be lost until the first week of December as she is coming off of

a torn ACL. Backing up Guestchow at the point guard position will be freshman Beth Plucinski (Vernon Hills, IL/Vernon Hills HS).

Looking to provide quality depth at the wings will be junior Anne Dinelli (Dwight, IL/Dwight HS), freshman Heather Mulholland (Capron, IL/North Boone HS), and freshman Michelle Hard (Big Rock, IL/Hinckley-Big Rock HS).

### Post Position

Senior Captain Tina Brooks returns for her senior season after leading the team in scoring last season, averaging 11.9 points per game and 6.6 rebounds per game. Brooks will not only be expected to carry the scoring load but will also be a strong presence on the defensive side of the ball. Buckley is expecting a lot from freshman Laura Wiesner (Des Plaines, IL/Maine West HS), who should see a lot of action this season. A strong recruiting class will provide depth at the post position. Freshman Courtney Lillard (Danville, IL/Danville HS), freshman Alison Kohler (Sandwich, IL/Sandwich HS), and freshman Katelyn Jorstad (Ransom, IL/Dwight HS) all look to see minutes in the coming season. Sophomore Samirah Watkins (Chicago, IL/Amundsen HS), freshman Stephanie Kiger (Momence, IL/Momence HS), and freshman Caitlin Ebbinghaus (Martinsville, IL/Martinsville HS) add a deep bench that gives Buckley many options.

With a talented core of veteran leaders and enthusiastic newcomers, the lady cagers hope to once again contend for the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference title and a berth in the 2003-2004 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championships.



Pictured from left to right: Nicki Pieart, Tina Brooks, Heather Guetschow

# Winter 2004 Sports Schedules

## Men's Basketball

Head Coach: James Lancaster

Date/Day	Opponent	Time	Site
Nov. 22, Sa	Millikin University	7:30 p.m.	Decatur, IL
Nov. 25, Tu	Monmouth College	7 p.m.	Monmouth, IL
Nov. 26, W	Illinois Institute of Technology	7 p.m.	Chicago, IL
NOV. 29, SA	BLACKBURN COLLEGE	5 P.M.	AURORA, IL
DEC. 2, TU	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Dec. 5-6, F-Sa	Carthage Coll. Tournament	6-8 p.m.	Kenosha, WI
	Indiana-Southeast,		
	Carthage, Maryville	2-4 p.m.	
DEC. 10, W	TRINITY INTERNATIONAL	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Dec. 13, Sa	North Central College	7:30 p.m.	Naperville, IL
Dec. 19-20, F-Sa	Elmhurst Coll. Tournament	6-8 p.m.	Elmhurst, IL
	Simpson, Elmhurst,		
	Savannah A&D	2-4 p.m.	
Jan. 3, Sa	Judson College	7:30 p.m.	Elgin, IL
JAN. 6, TU	WEBSTER UNIVERSITY	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Jan. 10, Sa	Rockford College	3 p.m.	Rockford, IL
JAN. 14, W	EUREKA COLLEGE	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Jan. 17, Sa	Dominican University	3:30 p.m.	River Forest, IL
Jan. 21, W	Concordia University	7:30 p.m.	River Forest, IL
Jan. 24, Sa	Clarke College	7:30 p.m.	Dubuque, IA
JAN. 28, W	BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
FEB 4, W	ROCKFORD COLLEGE	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Feb. 7, Sa	Eureka College	3:30 p.m.	Eureka, IL
FEB. 11, W	DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
FEB. 14, SA	CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
FEB. 18, W	CLARKE COLLEGE	7:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Feb. 21, Sa	Benedictine University	3:30 p.m.	Lisle, IL

Home games are printed in BOLD CAPS.

## Women's Basketball

Head Coach: Jennifer Buckley

Date/Day	Opponent	Time	Site
Nov. 21, F	Lakeland College	6 p.m.	Sheboygan, WI
Nov. 22, Sa	Ripon or UW-Oshkosh	TBA	Sheboygan, WI
NOV. 25, TU	MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY	7 P.M.	AURORA, IL
NOV. 29, SA	CARTHAGE COLLEGE	3 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Dec. 2, Tu	Illinois Wesleyan Univ.	5 p.m.	Bloomington, IL
Dec. 6, Sa	Wheaton College	2 p.m.	Wheaton, IL
DEC. 9, TU	NORTH CENTRAL COLL.	7 P.M.	AURORA, IL
DEC. 13, SA	HOPE COLLEGE	3 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Dec. 16, Tu	Elmhurst College	6 p.m.	Elmhurst, IL
DEC. 18, TH	AUGUSTANA COLLEGE	7 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Dec. 20, Sa	Franklin College	6 p.m.	Franklin, IN
Dec. 21, Su	Webster or Baldwin Wallace	1 & 3 p.m.	Franklin, IN
JAN. 6, TU	WEBSTER UNIVERSITY	5:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Jan. 10, Sa	Rockford College	1 p.m.	Rockford, IL
JAN. 13, TU	EUREKA COLLEGE	7 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Jan. 17, Sa	Dominican University	1 p.m.	River Forest, IL
Jan. 20, Tu	Concordia University	7 p.m.	River Forest, IL
Jan. 24, Sa	Clarke College	5:30 p.m.	Dubuque, IA
JAN. 27, TU	BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY	7 P.M.	AURORA, IL
FEB. 3, TU	ROCKFORD COLLEGE	7 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Feb. 7, Sa	Eureka College	1:30 p.m.	Eureka, IL
FEB. 10, TU	DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY	7 P.M.	AURORA, IL
FEB. 14, SA	CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY	5:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
FEB. 18, W	CLARKE COLLEGE	5:30 P.M.	AURORA, IL
Feb. 21, Sa	Benedictine University	1:30 p.m.	Lisle, IL

Home games are printed in BOLD CAPS.

## The Spartan Report

is published quarterly by the Aurora University Spartan Club booster organization. *Spartan Report* is written and edited by Brian Kipley, director of sports information, and designed by Eric Kauppila, graphic designer. Most of the photos were taken by Al Benson, media relations director.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please direct all correspondence to:

Jennifer Buckley  
AU Spartan Club Liaison  
Aurora University Athletics  
347 S. Gladstone Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506-4892

To receive information or for questions regarding the Spartan Club, please call the AU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at 630-844-5112.



When you can't  
attend games,  
catch all the scores  
on the

# SPARTAN SPORTS HOTLINE

## 630-844-3838

touchtone phone required

- statistics • highlights
- upcoming games