

percentage with a .418 on-base percentage.

Head men's basketball coach James Lancaster followed with the Male Athlete of the Year presentation to senior basketball standout forward and team MVP Terrell Watkins (Bellwood, IL/Proviso West). Watkins leaves AU as a 2003-04 Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference All-Conference selection and a Spartan team captain. Watkins helped lead the 2003-04 Spartans to the university's first conference title since the 1997-98 campaign. Watkins averaged 10.4 points and 7.8 rebounds per game for the Spartans. Watkins played a prominent role in the Aurora Spartan Reading Club program as well, spending numerous hours at area grade schools, speaking to students about the importance of reading in their education and its role in athletics.

STUDENT-ATHLETE RECOGNITION DAY

On May 4, the Athletic Committee, the provost, and the Athletic Department recognized 30 student-athletes for their academic achievements at a special luncheon. The students recognized have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher, are at the sophomore level or higher, or are transfer students not in their first year.

Congratulations to the following student-athletes:



*Sophomore women's soccer/track athlete
Jen Garlinsky with Dr. Andrew Manion, provost*

Allison Banta – Soccer
Katherine Barnidge – Soccer
Ryan Brooks – Baseball
Sean Carlson – Football
Thomas Dean – Soccer
Anthony Ermitage – Baseball
Michelle Faber – Tennis
Jennifer Garlinsky – Soccer, Track
Jesenia Gonzalez – Cross Country, Track
Adam Gura – Soccer
Melissa Hart – Soccer
Corey Krysiak – Soccer
Jay Lavender – Baseball
Erick Leffler – Football
Cami Loving – Cross Country, Track
Andy Madden – Basketball
Alicia Martin – Soccer
Joseph McCormick – Football
Adam McCoy – Basketball
Shawn Muskovin – Tennis
Nicole Pieart – Basketball
Zurisaday Quiles – Softball
Dustin Robertson – Football
Kyle Solberg – Soccer
Nick Turvey – Football
Abby Wackerly – Soccer
Megan Wagner – Volleyball
Chris Weber – Football
Blake Whitney – Baseball
Carmen Zobel – Soccer

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 Kristin Savas, graphic designer. Most of the photos were taken by Al Benson, media relations director.

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SPARTAN REPORT



A publication of the Aurora University Spartan Club Booster Organization

Summer 2004



Spartans with the Regional Championship trophy

SPARTANS FINISH WITH WORLD SERIES APPEARANCE

The NCAA Division III Baseball Championship was the final stop for the Spartan baseball team. AU traveled to the World Series for the fifth time in school history and the first time since 1999. The Spartans concluded their season with the third-place finish in the NCAA Division III Championships, Central Region champions, Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference tournament champions, and a 28-19 overall record.

The Spartans went 2-2 and came home with a third-place finish. After falling 5-2 to SUNY-

Brockport on Friday, May 28, the Spartans won their next two contests, 7-6 over Manchester College and 7-4 over Rowan University. The Spartans bowed out of the tournament against the eventual National Champion George Fox University, falling 12-6. The game, which began on Monday, May 31, extended into June 1, finally concluding at 12:40 a.m.

Championship Honors

Two Spartans were named to the 2004 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship All-Tournament team. Sophomore outfielder John Hopkins (Lockport, IL/Lockport) and junior outfielder Jay Lavender

(Oswego, IL/Oswego) were both recognized for their contributions to the Spartans' tournament success. Hopkins led the tournament with a .545 batting average (6-for-11), five runs scored, and a .737 on-base percentage. Lavender was second in the tourney in hitting with a .538 batting average (7-for-13), three doubles, and four runs batted in.

The Spartans placed four players on the NCAA Division III Central Region All-Tournament team. Junior outfielder Jay Lavender, junior designated hitter Kevin Morris (Norridge, IL/College of DuPage), junior pitcher George Creviston (Rockford, IL/Guilford), and sophomore pitcher Adam Hutten

(Lockport, IL/Lockport) were all named to the Central Region All-Tournament team. For the regional, Lavender hit .500 with three home runs, three doubles, 10 runs batted in, and seven runs scored. Morris hit .611 with one double, eight runs scored, and six runs batted in. Creviston threw 9-1/3 innings, including eight in the regional championship game against Carthage College. Creviston had a 3.86 earned run average, allowing 10 hits and four runs. Hutten threw a complete game against Simpson College to move the Spartans into the regional championship. In the game, Hutten allowed 10 hits, five runs, and struck out 11 hitters.

Postseason Honors

The Spartans placed two players on the NCAA All-Central Region team. Senior pitcher Jeff Salzmänn (Elgin, IL/Burlington Central) and sophomore outfielder John Hopkins were named Second-Team All-Central Region by the Central region men's baseball coaches. On the season, Salzmänn went 8-3 with five complete games, one save, a 4.34 earned run average, and 70 strikeouts in 76-2/3 innings pitched with opponents hitting .251 against him. Hopkins led the Spartans offensively with a .412 average, one home run, one triple, eight doubles, 53 runs scored, 31 runs batted in, and 28 walks.

The Spartans placed five players on the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference First-Team All-Conference and earned two Honorable Mention All-Conference selections. Senior pitcher Rob Fontana (West Dundee, IL/Jacobs), senior pitcher Jeff Salzmänn, junior outfielder Jay Lavender, sophomore catcher Chris Forbes (Lombard,

IL/Glenbard East), and sophomore outfielder John Hopkins were all named First-Team All-Conference by the NIIC men's baseball coaches. On the conference season, Fontana went 4-2 with four complete games, one shutout, and 57 strikeouts in 46 innings pitched. Salzmänn went 5-0 with two complete games, and 34 strikeouts in 34-1/3 innings pitched. Lavender hit .404 with three home runs, three doubles, 18 runs batted in, and 15 runs scored. Forbes hit .396 with two home runs, three doubles, 12 runs scored, and 12 runs batted in. Hopkins led the Spartans offensively in conference action with a .439 average, one home run, one triple, three doubles, 22 runs scored, and 10 runs batted in.

Senior first baseman/designated hitter Brian Chelgren (Munster, IN/Thornwood) and senior outfielder Jason Smith (Chicago Ridge, IL/Richards) were named NIIC Honorable Mention All-Conference. Chelgren hit .297 with five doubles, three home runs, 23 runs batted in, and 14 runs scored; while Smith hit .333 with three home runs, two doubles, 17 runs scored, and 12 runs batted in.

The Season

On the season, the Spartans hit .334 as a team and had a 5.24 earned run average. Hopkins led the team in hitting with a .412 average, runs scored with 53, hits with 63, walks with 28, and times hit by pitch with 16. Jay Lavender contributed a .361 batting average, 36 runs scored, 12 doubles, seven home runs, and 41 runs batted in, while Chelgren hit .337 with 14 doubles, five home runs, 31 runs scored, and 54 runs batted in. Senior infielder Dan Gregory hit .336 with eight

doubles, five triples, one home run, 42 runs scored, and 40 runs batted in.

Salzmänn, named team Most Valuable Player, led the pitching staff with an 8-3 record with a 4.34 earned run average and 70 strikeouts in 76-2/3 innings pitched. Fellow senior Rob Fontana went 8-4 with a 4.32 earned run average and a new school record for strikeouts and innings pitched in a season. Fontana had 104 strikeouts in 93-2/3 innings. Junior George Creviston went 4-4 with a 6.27 earned run average and a school record for appearances in a season with 19. He had 43 strikeouts and two saves in 47-1/3 innings pitched. Sophomore Adam Hutten went 5-4 with a 4.86 earned run average with 59 strikeouts in 66-2/3 innings pitched. Freshman Ryan Baird (Streamwood, IL/Streamwood) came up big out of the bullpen late for the Spartans. Baird had one save in 10 appearances with a 3.07 earned run average with 12 strikeouts in 14-2/3 innings pitched.

Record Breakers

In addition to the records set by Fontana and Creviston, the Spartans set numerous other records this season. Brian Chelgren now holds individual records for games played in a season with 47 and at bats in a season with 184. As a team, the Spartans broke the season record for at bats in a season with 1583, most strikeouts by a pitching staff with 326, most putouts with 1114, most assists with 466, and most chances with 1663.

SPARTAN SOFTBALL CAPTURES NIIC CROWN

This year's Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference title is the first for the Spartan softball program since the 1997 season. The 2004 AU softball team finished the season 29-11-1, 13-3 in NIIC play, and regular season conference champions.

Postseason Honors

Several Spartans received postseason honors for their play. Junior third baseman/pitcher Taylor Petersen (Aurora, IL/West Aurora) was named Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference Player of the Year and team Most Valuable Player. Petersen and sophomore catcher/designated hitter Melissa Rousse (Bloomington, IL/Lake Park) were named Second-Team Great Lakes All-Region by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. On the season, Petersen had a 12-6 record with one save, two no-hitters, 19 complete games, 11 shutouts, and 176 strikeouts in 138 innings pitched. She allowed just seven walks, and opponents hit just .162 against her. At the plate, Petersen

hit .374 with 14 doubles, one triple, five home runs, 27 runs batted in, and 20 runs scored. She had a .626 slugging percentage with a .418 on-base percentage. Rousse hit .379 with ten doubles, one triple, 18 runs scored, and 21 runs batted in. Rousse had a .476 slugging percentage with a .455 on-base percentage.

Several Spartans received honors as NIIC All-Conference selections. Petersen, Rousse, junior shortstop Beth Nyhlen (Aurora, IL/College of DuPage), and junior outfielder Kristy Vetter (Naperville, IL/College of DuPage) were named First-Team All-Conference by the NIIC women's softball coaches. In conference action, Petersen was 7-1 with a 1.39 earned run average with five shutouts and 88 strikeouts in 58-1/3 innings pitched. At the plate, Petersen hit .512 with seven doubles, one home run, and 14 runs batted in. Rousse hit .453 with five doubles, one triple, and 11 runs batted in. Nyhlen hit .382 with five doubles, one triple, and 20 runs scored, while Vetter hit .333 with two doubles, one triple, 13 runs batted in, and 13 runs scored.

Freshman outfielder Caryssa Douglas (Elgin, IL/Larkin) and sophomore pitcher Elizabeth Parker (Downers Grove, IL/Downers Grove South) were named NIIC Honorable Mention All-Conference. Douglas hit .341 with three doubles, one triple, one home run, and nine runs scored. Parker went 5-2 with a 1.53 earned run average and 22 strikeouts in 35-1/3 innings pitched.

The Season

On the season, Rousse led the Spartans with a .379 batting average, 10 doubles, and 21 runs batted in. Petersen contributed with a .374 average, a team-

leading 14 doubles, five home runs, and 27 runs batted in, while Nyhlen hit .360 with 10 doubles and a team high 37 runs scored. Kristy Vetter hit .286 with a team high 29 runs batted in. Petersen led the pitching staff with a 12-6 record with a 1.37 earned run average and 176 strikeouts in 138 innings pitched. Sophomore pitcher Elizabeth Parker combined with Petersen to give the Spartans a lethal one-two pitching combo. Parker went 13-5 with a 1.54 earned run average and 62 strikeouts in 111-1/3 innings pitched.

AURORA RECLAIMS NIIC ALL-SPORTS TITLE

The Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference All-Sports Title for the 2003-04 season was captured by the Aurora University Spartans.

The Spartans recaptured the title having last held it following the 2000-01 season. With conference titles in women's soccer, men's basketball, and softball, the Spartans outdistanced rival Benedictine University 117 points to 111. NIIC schools are awarded points for each sports finish in the regular season conference standings.

The NIIC has been in existence for 34 seasons. The conference was formed in 1969-70. Today, the NIIC is comprised of seven schools: Aurora, Benedictine, Clarke (IA), Concordia, Eureka, Rockford, and Dominican. Conference champions are crowned in 12 sports including men's and women's soccer, men's and women's tennis, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball, men's golf, and men's and women's cross-country.



Female Athlete of the Year and softball MVP, junior Taylor Petersen

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD: SUCCESS BEGINS FROM THE START

This year's men's track and field team took its first step into Aurora University athletic history when they competed in the Carthage College Invitational on January 31, the first meet in which an AU men's track and field team has ever competed.

In the first year of the program, Head Coach James Kluckhohn's athletes showed great strides as the year progressed. A young and talented group, the Spartans posted their best meet results at the Tri-State Invitational hosted by Concordia University on April 30. Led by team Most Valuable Player freshman Austin Deer, the Spartans finished in second place with 138 points, one point behind the meet winner. Deer won the high jump with a jump of 1.73m, the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 20.41, and the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:04.44.

Other key contributors to the Spartan's first year success were freshmen Michael Aguilar, Saul Bustamante, Danny Mackinson, Aaron Smith, and sophomores Justin Harmon and Chris Garon. Aguilar holds Spartan records in the 55-meter dash (6.96), 100-meter dash (11.53), and the 200-meter dash (23.39). Bustamante holds records in the 400-meter (52.79) and 800-meter (2:04.38); Mackinson is tops in the long jump (6.18m); and Smith has top honors in 600 meter (1:32.85), triple jump (11.89m), and javelin (45.20m). Garon owns the discus record with a throw of 31.75m, and Harmon is tops in the shot put with a throw of 12.89m.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD: EARLY SUCCESS LEADS TO BRIGHT FUTURE

Like their male counterparts, the 2004 Aurora University women's track and field team took its first step into Aurora University athletic history when they competed in the Carthage College Invitational on January 31. This was the first meet competed in by an Aurora University women's track and field team.

During this first year of the program, the team improved throughout the year. The Spartans posted their best meet results at the Tri-State Invitational hosted by Concordia University on April 30. Led by team Most Valuable Player sophomore Alesha Brown, the Spartans finished in second place with 116 points. Brown won the long jump with a jump of 4.37m, the triple jump with a jump of 10.12m, and finished second in the 100-meter (13.61) and the 200-meter (28.03). Other key contributors to the success of this first year were freshmen Julia Eggert, Osha Bledsoe, Elizabeth



Sophomore women's track MVP Alesha Brown

Rhodes; sophomore Jenn Garlinsky; and juniors Carrie Lange, Lyndsey Todd, and Jessie Gonzalez.

Brown holds Spartan records in the 55-meter dash (8.14), 100-meter dash (13.25), 200-meter dash (27.8h), 400-meter dash (1:04.84), and the triple jump (10.31m). Eggert holds records in the shot put (11.05m) and the discus (35.03m); Bledsoe is tops in the long jump (14'04.5") and 100-meter hurdles (20.29); and Garlinsky has top honors in 800-meter (2:31.47) and javelin (31.32m). Lange owns the 400-meter hurdles record with a time of 1:27.47 and the high jump with a jump of 1.30m, and Todd is tops in the 600-meter dash with a time of 2:09.11 and the 1500-meter run with a time of 5:55.71.

MEN'S GOLF: BUILDING THE FUTURE

Aurora University's 2004 golf team finished the season with the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference Golf Championships at El Paso Golf Club in El Paso, IL. The golfers finished the two-day event with a tie for fourth place with Eureka College, shooting a 678 over the two-round event. Leading golfers for the Spartans were Tim Wirth, who shot a two-round total of 158 (78/80) to finish third in the conference and receiving NIIC all-conference honors. Wirth was also named the Spartan team Most Valuable Player. Other results for the tournament were Matt Reed shooting a 171 (88/83), Matt Brandt shooting a 171 (84/87), Adam Eggleston shooting a 182 (95/87), and Bryan Collins shooting a 179 (91/88).



Junior men's golf MVP Tim Wirth

MEN'S TENNIS: FOUNDATION SET FOR NEXT SEASON

The 2004 Aurora University men's tennis team finished its season with the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference Tennis Championships at Waubonsie Valley High School and the Aurora Tennis Club, with the championships hosted by Concordia University. The Spartans finished the tournament in fourth place. The Spartans were led by team Most Valuable Player David McKim, who finished in third place in No. 1

singles. Jeremy Stepien finished in third place in No. 2 singles and Shawn Muskovin finished in third place in No. 3 singles. In doubles action, the No.1 doubles pair of McKim and Stepien finished in second place, falling in the finals 8-4, and the No.2 doubles pair of Muskovin and Cole Guetschow finished in second place falling in the finals 8-6.

WATKINS AND PETERSEN NAMED ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

The 2003-2004 Aurora University Male and Female Athlete of the Year were awarded to senior Terrell Watkins and junior Taylor Petersen at the annual Spartan Sports Spring Banquet on Saturday, May 22.

On hand to honor these two fine student-athletes were AU Director of Athletics Mark Walsh; members of the spring sports teams; their family and friends; as well as James Lancaster, head men's basketball coach, and Mike McKenzie, head women's softball coach.

McKenzie led the festivities by announcing the Female Athlete of

the Year winner – junior women's softball standout pitcher/third baseman Taylor Petersen (Aurora, IL/West Aurora). In her first year at Aurora, Petersen was named Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference Player of the Year and helped lead the Spartans to their first NIIC championship since the 1997 season. Petersen rewrote the Spartan record book, establishing new marks in season strikeouts (176) and shutouts pitched (11). The strikeout record stood since the 1981 season when Beth Sparks had 129. Petersen set the strikeout record in a 3-1 win over Clarke College on April 24. The shutouts pitched in a season record stood since the 1985 season when Amy Baudouin had 10. Petersen set the record in the NIIC conference tournament when she no-hit Clarke College in a 3-0 win. On the season, Petersen had a 12-6 record with one save, two no-hitters, 19 complete games, 11 shutouts, and 176 strikeouts in 138 innings pitched. She allowed just seven walks and opponents hit just .162 against her. At the plate, Petersen hit .374 with 14 doubles, one triple, five home runs, 27 runs batted in, and 20 runs scored. She had a .626 slugging



Junior men's tennis MVP David McKim



Male Athlete of the Year, senior Terrell Watkins