

Blue & Gold Sports Journal

An official publication of the Marquette Golden Eagles • Winter 2008

In this issue:

- Preparations underway for 2010 “March Madness”
- 2007 Fall Sports Review
- Donor Profile: Jim Meier
- Student-Athletes garner Academic Awards
- Hy Popich, McCahill Awards Announced
- Save the Date: MU Golf Outings



MU To Host NCAA Tourney Games at Bradley Center in 2010

Marquette University has begun preparations as host of a first- and second-round session of the 2010 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship, which will be played at the Bradley Center.

It will mark the fifth time that Marquette and the Bradley Center have served as hosts of the tournament. “March Madness” came to Milwaukee in 1992, 1996, 1999, and most recently in 2004. Dates for the 2010 games are set for Friday, March 19 and Sunday, March 21.

“This is a great tribute to Marquette University and for Milwaukee to get this sought-after experience,” said **Jim Nasiopulos**, Associate Athletics Director for Facilities & Event Management.

Nasiopulos served as the Assistant Tournament Director for the 1996 games and as Tournament Director in both 1999 and 2004.

“Being in the seats is a unique experience,” said Nasiopulos. “The Bradley Center is a special place with a high level of energy. Our fans come early and stay throughout. We've also been pretty blessed with some memorable tournament moments in the past.”

Tickets will be made available to Marquette season ticket holders before tickets are sold to the general public. An announcement will be made regarding ticket sales next year.

Winners of the first- and second round games will advance to one of four regional sites. Each regional winner will advance to the Final Four, held April 3-5 in Indianapolis, Ind.

2010 First- and Second-Round NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Sites:

Providence, Rhode Island (Dunkin' Donuts Center) | New Orleans, Louisiana (New Orleans Arena)

San Jose, California (HP Pavilion) | Spokane, Washington (Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena)

Buffalo, New York (HSBC Arena) | Jacksonville, Florida (Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena)

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Ford Center) | Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Bradley Center)

Bradley Center
Milwaukee, Wis.



Marquette Student-Athletes Garner Academic Accolades

The BIG EAST Conference honored its student-athletes for their achievements inside the classroom and several of Marquette's finest from on and off the field were included on the list.

One hundred and twenty eight (128) Marquette student-athletes were named 2006-07 BIG EAST Academic All-Stars, an honor bestowed to those competitors who maintained a 3.0 grade-point average or higher in both the fall and spring semesters.

Women's track and field had 34 student-athletes represented on the list, the most of any Golden Eagle sport. Of the 34, 13 were members of the cross country team. Women's soccer had the second largest representation with 27 of its 32 team members holding a GPA of 3.0 or better.

Women's tennis placed nine from its 12-member squad on the list, while the men's track and field team had the highest representation among all men's teams with 25 of its student-athletes being recognized. Nine of them also competed for the men's cross country team.

Rounding out the Marquette list were the men's soccer team with 13 members, and the men's tennis team which added six student-athletes. Men's and women's basketball and the women's volleyball team each added four members, while men's golf had two members from its team as academic all-stars.

In all, the BIG EAST recognized 37 seniors, 33 freshman, 32 juniors and 26 sophomores from Marquette.

For the 2005-06 season, 108 Golden Eagles were named BIG EAST Academic All-Stars.

Golden Eagles Fall Sports Review

CROSS COUNTRY

Men's and women's cross country showed improved performance at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional. Each squad progressed its regional ranking as the women finished in fourth place behind Michigan State, Michigan and Wisconsin, and the men placed eighth. Prior to the regional, both squads earned seventh place finishes at the 2007 BIG EAST Championships in Louisville.

MEN'S TENNIS

Men's tennis enjoyed a large amount of team and individual success during the fall portion of its 2007-08 campaign. MU posted an overall record of 70-53 in singles action and a 36-17 slate in doubles competition. Several individuals claimed singles and doubles draw titles at multiple tournaments and the team was also represented well at the ITA All-American.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The MU women's soccer team had its best ever start to a season at 9-0-1, and eclipsed the 11-win mark for the 12th consecutive season. The Golden Eagles (12-4-4 overall) finished in third place of the BIG EAST American Division with a 5-3-3 conference mark. It was the third straight season Marquette has finished in the top-three of its division and earned a first-round bye in the tournament.

A quartet of Marquette women's soccer players were honored by the BIG EAST. Seniors **Allison Mallams** and **Christy Zwolski** were named Second Team All-BIG EAST, and senior goalkeeper **Laura Boyer** and junior **Katie Kelly** were named to the third team.

MEN'S SOCCER

Men's soccer completed its second season under head coach **Louis Bennett** in early November. MU finished with an improved 2-12-4 (1-9-1 BIG EAST) record. The Golden Eagles were on the short end of eight contests decided by just one goal, including a 2-1 loss to No. 2 Connecticut in overtime and a 1-0 loss to No. 8 Notre Dame at Valley Fields. Marquette competed in seven overtime matches overall and four straight to conclude the 2007 campaign.



Mike Van Sickle



Jayne Grebinski

MEN'S GOLF

Men's golf climbed to a No. 54 ranking, according to Golfstat, following the 2007 fall season in which the team won two of five tournaments, including four top-3 finishes. The Golden Eagles took home the title at the 20-team Xavier Invitational in early October before claiming the BIG EAST/MAC Challenge in Orlando, Fla., later that month. Junior **Mike Van Sickle** captured back-to-back medalist honors at the Windon Memorial Classic and BIG EAST/MAC Challenge, respectively, to add to his school record for most events won.

Van Sickle, whose 69.7 scoring average this season currently ranks third in the country, was also invited to play in the renowned Western Reserve All-America Golf Classic.

This 2007 Western Reserve Classic was held Nov. 19-20 at the El Paso (Texas) Country Club and annually hosts the nation's top collegiate golfers. Van Sickle tied for 16th place. Past champions of this event include Ricky Barnes, Notah Begay, Davis Love III and Tiger Woods.

Donor Profile: Jim Meier

When the Marquette Navy ROTC program asked Miller Brewing Company for suggestions for a keynote speaker for their annual ball, it didn't take long to suggest **Jim Meier, Bus '84**.

Jim would not only be a good spokesman for Miller's "Adopt-A-Soldier" program, but he is known throughout the brewery as a dedicated Marquette alumnus. Meier, Miller's Group Director of Operations Finance, has his office filled with MU sports souvenirs and memorabilia.

From a framed Travis Diener signed-jersey and MU bobbleheads to ticket stubs from such tournaments as the Great Alaska Shootout and the Maui Classic, all collectables are prominently displayed. Amongst Meier's numerous items is an engraved medal he received for the James A. Meier Endowed Scholarship for men's basketball.

Meier is not only a faithful follower of Marquette sports, he has stepped forward to assist financially to make sure athletics has a foundation for permanent success. In addition to funding his endowed scholarship, Jim has designated it as a main beneficiary in his estate plans assuring that someday it will grow substantially.

"Athletics serves as a badge for the university," said Meier. "It is a rallying point for students, alumni and beyond that brings everyone together. Athletics promotes involvement with Marquette."

He also noted that Milwaukee and Wisconsin benefit tremendously from Marquette athletics, especially basketball. Meier's philanthropy is a value he learned from his family growing up in Racine.

"I believe you support the groups that have gotten you somewhere in life, and athletics can be a good component of any educational institution," said Meier. "Values can be learned from individual and from team sports."

In addition to his support for men's basketball, Meier has made a substantial pledge toward Marquette's new soccer stadium. "When I heard of where the BIG EAST is headed and how important soccer is to the conference and Marquette, I wanted to get involved. The Marquette athletics program is at a cross-road and I thought supporting soccer was the next logical step."

He remains excited about the men's and women's basketball teams and has enjoyed their rise in national prominence and envisions that same level of success someday for the soccer teams. "Marquette's athletic program runs on a very high level of integrity that reflects the institution it is part of," concluded Meier.



Jim Meier



Kim Todd

Fall Sports Review Con't ...

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team capped the fall season in fine fashion at the Wilson/ITA Regional Championship. The Golden Eagles had five singles players and two doubles teams compete in the regional championship.

Senior **Erin Watkins** and **Kylie Moore** each received bids in the main draw, while senior **Maria Calbeto**, and freshmen **Rachael Hush** and **Christina Ruiz** played in the qualifying draw. The freshmen duo of Hush and Ruiz, and the pair of Watkins and Moore represented MU in the double tournament.

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball concluded its season with a 10-16 overall record. They were 12th in the BIG EAST, finishing 5-9. **Kim Todd** earned First Team All-BIG EAST honors and finished her career at Marquette with 1,719 kills, second all-time.

Blue & Gold Fund Tidbits

Sheridan P. "Mike" and Ione Backus were recipients of the 2007 Hy Popuch Award for service to Marquette athletics and the M Club. Both Mike and Ione have been supporters of Marquette athletics since the early 1960s. They were instrumental leaders of the Tip-Off Club and all its activities, which supported men's basketball. Today, the Backus' are season ticket holders for volleyball, men's and women's basketball, and support these programs in many ways. They also have been significant donors to the Blue & Gold Fund since its inception. Mike and Ione are both Marquette alumni.

Jamie Mueller, an outside hitter in volleyball, was named the McCahill Award winner for 2007. The McCahill Award is given to a graduating senior from the previous year who excelled both academically and athletically while representing Marquette. In her senior year, Mueller was an AVCA Honorable Mention All-American and a unanimous selection to the All-BIG EAST First Team. She set records at Marquette in digs in a season (517) and in a career (1,567) while finishing fourth in most attacks (1,219) in a season and fifth in kills in a season (476). Mueller graduated from the College of Business Administration.

Several golf outings supporting Marquette programs have been scheduled for the summer of 2008. They are: Marquette Golf Club Invitational, Friday, June 13, 2008 at The Bog benefiting the golf program; Tee It Up for Hoops, Monday, June 17, 2008 at Bristlecone Pines benefiting the women's basketball program; Caddyshack Golf Outing, Monday, July 28, 2008 at Westmoor Country Club benefiting both the men's and women's soccer programs; and the M Club Golf Outing, Monday, August 11, 2008 at Tripoli Country Club supporting MU Athletics. For more information on any of these, contact Sarah Claus at 414-288-4785.



For more information about the Blue & Gold Fund, please visit the official website of Marquette Athletics at GoMarquette.com and click on the Blue & Gold Fund Link.

Boyer, Zwolski Honored

Women's soccer seniors **Laura Boyer** and **Christy Zwolski** were recently honored for their work and dedication in the classroom as well as on the playing field.

Boyer was named to the CoSIDA/ESPN *The Magazine Academic All-America Third Team*, while Zwolski was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Scholar All-America First Team.

Boyer, a third team All-BIG EAST selection at goalkeeper, allowed just one goal through the first 10 matches of the season, totaled a career best nine shutouts and made 61 saves. Boyer's nine shutouts ranked fourth in the league and her 0.89 goals against average was eighth in the conference.

Boyer was a finance major who graduated in December 2007 with an overall grade-point average of 3.72. She ranks third all-time on Marquette's saves list with 242 and second all-time with 23 shutouts. Boyer earned First Team CoSIDA/ESPN *The Magazine All-District Five First Team Honors* consecutive seasons in 2006 and 2007.

Zwolski is one of four players in the 15-year history of the program to earn first team NSCAA Scholar All-America honors.

Zwolski, an exercise science/pre-physical therapy major, holds a 3.76 grade-point average. She was named to the CoSIDA and ESPN *the Magazine Academic All-District Five First Team* three consecutive seasons.

Additionally, with a team cumulative grade point average of 3.38 for the 2006-07 academic year, the Marquette women's soccer team was named a NSCAA College Team Academic Award Winner. It is the 12th consecutive season the Golden Eagles have earned the honor.



Laura Boyer



Marquette University
Blue & Gold Athletic Scholarship Fund
Al McGuire Center
770 N. 12th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 288-3988

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT 628