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# PAWPRINTS

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CHECK OUT THE STUDENT SERVICES PAGE ON THE NEWLY REDESIGNED VILLANOVA ATHLETICS WEBSITE



## VILLANOVA MAKING ITS MARK ON THE NBA

WITH WILDCAT BASKETBALL ON THE RISE, SO IS THE PLAY OF 'CATS IN THE NBA

Villanova basketball's assault on the National Basketball Association (NBA) is in full swing. The Wildcats have five players in "the league" in 2001-2002, marking the most Villanova players in the NBA at one time since the 'Cats had five in the late 1980's. The number of Wildcats currently in the NBA is not the most impressive feat, however. It is what those players are doing in the NBA that makes Villanova's basketball resume so impressive.

The Wildcats relationship with the National Basketball Association goes back all the way to 1941 when Arthur Spector became the first Villanovan to play in the NBA. Spector played with the Boston Celtics from 1946-1950. The most well known of the Wildcats' NBA alum is Paul Arizin who graduated from Villanova in 1950 and went on to a Hall of Fame career with Philadelphia from 1950-62.

Following the Wildcats' magical 1985 National Championship season, Villanova once again began making its name a prominent one in the NBA. In 1989, Stewart Granger, Ed Pinckney, Harold Pressley, Rory Sparrow and Doug West were each playing in the league.

Heading into the 1996 season, however, only Pinckney and West remained. Then came Villanova's NBA resurgence. In 1996, the New Jersey Nets drafted Kerry Kittles with the eighth pick of the first round. One year later, three Wildcats were chosen in the NBA Draft - Tim Thomas who was chosen with the seventh pick of the first round by the New Jersey Nets and later traded to the Philadelphia 76ers, Jason Lawson who was picked by the Denver Nuggets in the second round, and Alvin Williams who was chosen by the Portland Trailblazers in the second round.

In 2001-2002, two more Wildcats have joined this well-known NBA fraternity. Michael Bradley was chosen by the Toronto Raptors in the first round of the 2001 draft. Despite going undrafted following his senior season at Villanova in 2000, Malik Allen earned a roster spot on the Miami Heat as a free agent heading into this season.

As a rookie in 1996-97, Kittles averaged 16.4 points, 3.9 rebounds, and 1.9 steals per game for New Jersey. He set an NBA rookie record with 158 three-pointers made. For his performance, Kittles was named to the NBA All-Rookie second team. His second season was even better as he went on to average 17.2 ppg., and 4.6 rpg.

Knee injuries would plague Kittles causing him to miss 138 games over three seasons, including the entire 2000-01 campaign. Following knee surgery, he came back healthy this season and has picked up right where he left off. Through 41 games, Kittles has posted 12.8 points, 3.4 boards, 2.6 assists, and 1.8 steals per game. He is among the top 10 in the NBA in total steals, steals per game, steals to turnover ratio, and steals per 48 minutes. Kittles has helped the Nets jump out to a 28-13 start, good enough for first place in the Atlantic Division and the best record in the Eastern Conference.

As a rookie in 1997-98, Thomas was named a second team All-Rookie performer. After less than two seasons in Philadelphia, however, he was traded to the Milwaukee Bucks. Thomas has improved every season in Milwaukee and has made a name for himself as a dangerous offensive threat. In 1999-2000, his first full season in a Bucks uniform, he averaged 11.8 points and shot 34.6 percent from three point range. One season later in 2000-2001, he posted an average of 12.6 ppg., and improved his three-point shooting to 41.2 percent. Thomas also helped lead



Current Toronto Raptors point guard Alvin Williams, a '97 Villanova graduate, averages 11.8 points and 5.8 assists per game this season.

Milwaukee to the Eastern Conference finals last season.

The 2001-2002 season has been Thomas' best to date. He is currently averaging 13.6 points and five rebounds per game. Thomas' performance has helped the Bucks to first place in the Central Division at the mid-way mark of the season.

One of the best stories of the Wildcats' success in the NBA is that of Alvin Williams. After breaking into the league with the Portland Trailblazers, he was traded to the Toronto Raptors during the 1997-98 season.

Williams played well off the bench for Toronto, but midway through the 1999-2000 season had yet to really make a name for himself with the Raptors. That was before he was traded. Or was he? A would-be trade to the Boston Celtics was overturned after Williams failed his physical with the Celtics.

Williams proved to be in fine shape physically as he took over the role as the Raptors' starting point guard during the 2000-2001 season for head coach Lenny Wilkens and Toronto. He would average 11.5 points and 7.6 assists per game as a starter, and finished the season ranked second in the NBA with a 3.95 assist-to-turnover ratio and fourth in the league with a 1.19 steal to turnover ratio.

In 2001-2002, Williams has continued to be one of the most consistent point guards in the entire league. Through 43 games, he has registered 12.1 points, 5.8 assists, 1.5 steals and only 1.7 turnovers per game. Williams is once again in the top 10 in the NBA in assist to turnover ratio.

Bradley and Allen have seen limited action with their respective teams, the Toronto Raptors and Miami Heat, but both have played well in their time on the floor. Showing the tremendous range that made him an All-American at Villanova, Bradley has received the highest praise from head coach Lenny Wilkens.

Allen has also drawn raving reviews from his mentor, Miami head coach Pat Riley, who believes Allen has outstanding range for a big-man. Bradley and Allen both appear to be well on their way to achieving the success the rest of Villanova's NBA players have earned.

Who will be the next Wildcat to move on the NBA greatness? Only time will tell, but the reputation that Villanova has made for itself in the National Basketball Association has only begun to grow.

By Jonathan Gust, Athletics Media Relations



## VILLANOVA BASEBALL ALUM GIVES BACK TO ATHLETICS

**SCOTT REIDENBACH '93, ESQ. PRESENTS LEGAL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS TO ALL TEAMS**



Scott Reidenbach '93, Esq. was a four-year member of the Villanova Baseball team, including the 1991 Big East Tournament Championship team and the 1993 Big East regular season championship team. Reidenbach, now a practicing lawyer in Berwyn, Pa., contacted the Athletics Department this year and proposed doing a workshop for our student-athletes entitled *Sports & the Law: A Legal Rights Workshop*. He will address issues on:

- Taking responsibility for one's own actions and creating one's own destiny
- Legal ramifications of alcohol - underage drinking, supplying alcohol to an underage person, DUI, using fake identification
- Ramifications of sexual assault, date rape, including what to do if one is a victim or has been accused
- What to do if one gets in trouble - sources of help, how to deal with legal authorities
- Many other important aspects of the student-athlete and his/her actions

Reidenbach met with all head coaches on Friday, February 8 to go over the program with them and discuss any of their concerns before addressing the student-athletes over course of this semester.

The workshops have already proven to be valuable for both the coaches and student-athletes. And, feedback from a follow-up evaluation survey indicates this to be true. To view the survey, please go to this web page: <http://www04.homepage.villanova.edu/kelly.gust/survey/legalrights.htm>

Reidenbach states, "If this workshop stimulates thinking on behalf of the student-athletes and prevents them from making poor decisions in the future, our goal has been accomplished."

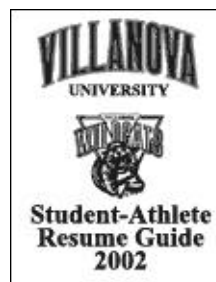
## 2002 STUDENT-ATHLETE RESUME GUIDE ON VILLANOVA.COM

**ANNUAL PUBLICATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE OFFICIAL SITE OF VILLANOVA ATHLETICS**

The Villanova Department of Athletics is proud to provide employers with the 2002 edition of the Student-Athlete Resume Guide. Published by Athletics Student Services, this guide is distributed as part of the Providing Athletes With Support (PAWS) program. PAWS is dedicated to the total development of the student-athlete and has supported the seniors featured in this guide throughout their collegiate careers in academics and athletics.

A credit to Villanova University, these student-athletes have proven that they are willing to work hard and sacrifice to succeed. Each exhibits motivation on the playing field coupled with the discipline necessary to balance the commitments that are required of them in the academic and athletic arenas. These student-athletes have accomplished so much to date given the teamwork and determination they have learned through sports. They are driven to attain their goals because they know what it takes to succeed.

The qualities these student-athletes possess can only work as a benefit to an employer, just as they have benefited from their academic and athletic experiences at Villanova University.



## VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETS WITH STUDENT-ATHLETES

**ATHLETICS COMMITTEE OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES WANTS TO HEAR**



**Vince Nicastro, Director of Athletics**

"I thank Karen, Jamison, Justin and Laura for taking the time to share their Villanova experience with our Athletics Committee of the Board of Trustees. Everyone on the committee was very impressed with how bright, articulate, and thoughtful they all were. As alums and board members, it makes them proud to see our students representing Villanova so well."



**Laura Johnson, Freshmen, Women's Soccer**

"It was a great experience for me to be able to meet such professional and approachable people. Being only a freshman, I gained valuable experience that I can take with me through my next 3 years here at Villanova. It was such an honor to represent the Women's Soccer team as well as the entire student-athlete body in front of such a warm and caring group of people. A big thank you to Mr. Nicastro and Mrs. Dowling for selecting me and I hope my suggestions can help make Villanova even better."



**Karen Niwinski, Senior, Softball**

"I was honored to be able to talk to the board of trustees. It felt like we were having a conversation because they were so easy to talk to and so interested, rather than having that interview feeling. Everyone was into the conversation and it was ideal because we all had similar but slightly different experiences, so I think we managed to span an array of different areas of concern and interest. Not only was it beneficial to the board, but I know it was beneficial to myself because I learned a lot about other sports through the other athletes in attendance."



**Jamison Young, Junior, Football & Baseball**

"I felt that the meeting was very interesting and actually fun. At first I thought it was going to be more formal and I didn't think the meeting would be so interactive. The members of the board were very open and I felt that it was an informative meeting for both the trustees, but also for me as a student-athlete. Thanks again for picking me - it was a great experience."



**Justin Buland, Junior, Swimming**

"I thought it was a valuable experience to speak with the board of trustees. I was very excited to share my experiences as a student-athlete with them. All of the members of the board were very receptive to all of our comments and ideas. The board seems interested in making the Villanova athletics experience competitive and enjoyable for all involved."





## SWIMMING READS TO CHILDREN AT AUDUBON ELEMENTARY

*BOTH THE MEN'S & WOMEN'S TEAMS PARTICIPATED IN THE READING CELEBRATION*

Every January Audubon Elementary School celebrates reading and writing. This year the theme was a sports related one. "We plan to motivate our students during 'Team Up With A Book' month by organizing a variety of activities. Some of those activities include Books Are Terrific (BAT) Day, Time Out With A Book Day, a Poetry in Motion contest and a Bouncing Ball Book Chain that will travel the halls of Audubon as the children read books," said Janet Ciliberto, reading specialist at the school.

The school also invites people from the community to come in and read to the children in class. And that is exactly what the Wildcat swimming teams did! Besides simply reading to the classes, the teams talked to the children about reading and sports. The Villanova Swimming teams' contribution to Audubon's month dedicated to reading helped to get the children even more excited about reading and writing!



### TWO WILDCATS SWIM AFTER NCAA TITLES

*AFTER WINNING THREE INDIVIDUAL BIG EAST TITLES THIS YEAR, MADDY CRIPPEN, WITH REBECCA KOCH, FLOAT ON TO NCAA'S*

On March 21-23, two Villanova swimmers - junior Maddy Crippen (Conshohocken, Pa./ Germantown Academy) and sophomore Rebecca Koch (Sugarland, Texas/ Clements High School) - will travel to Austin, Texas to compete in the 2002 NCAA Women's Swimming & Diving Championships.

For Koch, this will be her first of what appears to be many NCAA Championship appearances. She will swim in the 100, 200 and 500 yard freestyle events at the meet. Just last month at the 2002 Big East Conference Championships on Feb. 21-23, Koch finished in fourth place in the 200 and 500 yard freestyle events and fifth in the 100 yard freestyle.

The 2002 NCAA Championships will be the third for Crippen - Villanova's first female swimmer ever to make the United States Olympic Team. She finished sixth in the 400m individual medley at the 2000 Summer Olympic in Sydney, Australia. Crippen will compete in the 400 yard individual medley and the 500 and 1,650 yard freestyle events at the this year's NCAA Championships.

At Crippen's first-ever NCAA meet in 1999, she won an NCAA title in the 400 yard individual medley (4:06.76). She became only the second Villanova female swimmer to ever win a national title. Crippen also finished third in the 200 yard breaststroke and fifth in the 500 yard freestyle at the 1999 NCAA Championships. Just last season, Crippen placed fifth in the 400 yard individual medley at the 2001 NCAA Championships.

In addition to her accomplishments at the national level, Crippen is also a two-time Big East Conference Most Outstanding Female Swimmer. She currently has nine individual Big East titles and one conference relay championship to her credit.

At the 2002 Big East Conference Swimming & Diving Championships this month at the Nassau County Aquatics Center in Uniondale, New York, Crippen won her second Big East title of the meet by taking the 400 yard individual medley in a time of 4:13.87. Crippen's time in the 400 individual medley was an NCAA-A cut. She also collected titles in the 500 yard freestyle (4:47.45) and set a Big East Championship record in the 1650 yard freestyle, swimming a time of 16:15.07.



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## SENIORS GRZENDA & SCHILLIG EARN SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARDS

*BASEBALL PITCHER, WOMEN'S SOCCER GOALIE GARNER BIG EAST HONORS*

The Big East Conference recently announced its 2001-2002 Big East/Aéropostale Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year, as well its other scholarship award winners. Two Villanova University student-athletes, senior baseball pitcher Bobby Grzenda and senior women's soccer goalie Janel Schillig, received Big East/Aéropostale Scholar-Athlete Awards.

Grzenda is a Communication major and Sociology minor. A four-year member of the Baseball team, he has been selected for the NCAA Academic All Star Team both his sophomore and junior years.

Schillig is a Biological Sciences major. A four-year member of the Women's Soccer team, she has been a member of the Big East Academic All Star Team in each of her four years as a Wildcat.

The '01-02 BIG EAST/Aéropostale Scholar-Athlete

Award winners will each receive \$2,000 toward graduate studies. Seton Hall soccer standout Gregory Strohmann has been



named the 2001-02 Big East/Aéropostale Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He is the fourth Seton Hall student-

athlete to win the prestigious award. Notre Dame softball standout Jarrah Myers has been named the 2001-02 Big East/Aéropostale



Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Each will receive a \$4,000 stipend which will be applied to graduate studies. These winners are deter-

mined by the league's Academic Awards Committee.

Aéropostale Stores is the official apparel of Big East Championships and is the sponsor of the Conference's Post-Graduate Student-Athlete Scholarship Program. This year Aéropostale will award 31 scholarships to Conference student-athletes to assist in their pursuit of graduate or professional studies. The Men's and Women's Basketball Scholar-Athletes will be announced in conjunction with the BIG EAST Men's & Women's Basketball Championships on March 1 and 5.

Aéropostale is a popular clothing and accessories retailer that has over 275 stores in 37 states throughout the United States. Named after the Compagnie Generale Aéropostale, the pioneer French airmail company, the merchandise continues to embody the spirit and adventure of its name.

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