

VILLANOVA

UNIVERSITY

VILLANOVA ATHLETICS
2001 - 2002
ANNUAL REPORT

Brooks Sales



Rob Cafiero

Trish Juhline

Janel Schilig

Sara Carlson

From the Desk of Vince Nicastro, Director of Athletics



As Director of Athletics, I am frequently afforded glimpses into extraordinary achievement and strength of character. In reflecting upon the 2001-02 academic year, those moments are what I keep coming back to.

Coach Ann Clifton guided our women's soccer team to its first NCAA Tournament appearance and victory. In women's basketball, coach Harry Perretta's squad posted its second consecutive 20-win campaign that was capped by an NCAA Tournament victory. Andy Talley's football team earned a share of the Atlantic 10 title. Jay Wright's contagious enthusiasm energized our basketball program. Our men's Distance Medley Relay team won the NCAA title at the Indoor Track and Field Championships. It's the first time that has happened since 1981.

There were exceptional individual performances too. Brian Westbrook became the second Wildcat in five years to take home the Walter Payton Award as Division I-AA's top player. Shannon O'Neil was voted Patriot League Coach of the Year for her efforts in reviving our women's lacrosse program. Junior Adrian Blincoe captured the 3,000-meter national title at the NCAA Track & Field Championships, becoming the first male to win an NCAA individual title since 1983.

As they have so often in the past, our student-athletes also maintained their balance by succeeding in the classroom. Our overall grade point average for the 2001-02 academic year was an impressive 2.94.

One of the most remarkable moments of 2001-02 came on Feb. 1, 2002. Swimmer Katie Sosnowski returned to compete in a meet for the first time since being injured in a near fatal automobile accident in 1997. What we saw in Katie was the kind of courage and determination that inspires us all.

Of course, it is impossible to ignore all that we endured as a nation and University in assessing 2001. On the front cover you saw an American flag. This is our small way of acknowledging the incredible tragedy of September 11. With so many of our alums employed at the World Trade Center, Villanova's loss was large. Yet, from incredible sorrow came breathtaking heroism in many different areas.

We are very proud of the resilience displayed by all our student-athletes, who pressed onward academically and athletically even as they tried to come to grips with the magnitude of the devastation. Our football team provided financial assistance to an adopted family affected by the tragedy. A New York firefighter, Gerard Gorman, was seated on the bench for a men's basketball game at the Pavilion. In his or her own way, every student-athlete displayed great will in focusing on their goals while displaying compassion for those directly impacted by the loss.

As we move ahead into 2002-03, we are grateful for what we have here at Villanova and more mindful than ever of the world events that shape us. Friends like you have allowed us to sustain Villanova Athletics at a high level without sacrificing the values that define this University. That is a goal we will continue to strive for on a daily basis.

Sincerely,
Vince Nicastro
Vince Nicastro
Director of Athletics

Academic Excellence

- The overall GPA of Villanova student-athletes in 2001-2002 was 2.94.
- 114 Wildcat student-athletes tallied a 3.5 GPA or better during the 2001-2002 academic year.
- Mark Blattner of men's track & field and Sara Carlson of softball were named the Villanova University Male and Female Student-Athletes of the Year.
- Softball's Sara Carlson earned first team Academic All-American honors for the second straight year.
- Sarah DePeters was named the Patriot League Women's Lacrosse Scholar-Athlete of the Year.
- Janel Schillig of women's soccer and baseball's Bob Grzenda were named Big East/Aeropostale Scholar Athletes.
- The women's soccer team was awarded the NSCAA College Team Academic Award for the fourth consecutive season.
- Senior Dyane Noonan of women's soccer earned second team Academic All-American distinction.

Success in Competition

- The men's distance medley relay team won the 2002 NCAA Indoor National Championship.
- Women's soccer earned the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament bid where they advanced to the second round.
- Women's basketball received a bid to the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year.
- Women's basketball tallied 20 wins for the second consecutive season.
- The Wildcat football team won a share of the Atlantic 10 Conference Championship with an 8-3 overall record and a 7-2 conference mark.
- Men's cross country finished in the top 10 nationally for the second-straight year with an 8th place effort at the 2001 NCAA Cross Country Championships.
- Field hockey finished with a 12-8 overall record and advanced to the championship game of the Big East Tournament.
- The softball team won a school record 45 games and advanced to the Big East Tournament for the third-straight year.
- Junior Adrian Blincoe became the first Villanova male to win an NCAA individual championship since 1983 when he captured the 3,000 meter title at the 2002 NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships.
- Brian Westbrook garnered the Walter Payton Award given to the top offensive player in all of NCAA I-AA football.
- The Villanova women's crew team captured the overall points trophy at the 2002 Dad Vail Regatta and the Varsity Eight Boat participated in the Henley Regatta in London, England where they advanced to the semifinals.
- Theresa Hornick was named Big East Conference Softball Pitcher of the Year and Sara Carlson earned first team All-Conference honors.
- Meghan Helwig of field hockey was named the 2001 Big East Conference Goalkeeper of the Year.
- Field hockey's Brooke Bergmann and Krissy Malchitsky were named first team STX/NFHCA Division I Regional All-Americans, while Meghan Helwig and Christina Lugones were selected to the second team.
- Women's soccer standout Michelle Biehl was named a second team Freshman All-American, while Janel Schillig was selected to the All-Mid Atlantic Region second team.
- Maddy Crippen of women's swimming won three individual Big East titles, giving her a career total of nine.
- Maddy Crippen and Rebecca Koch both earned berths in the 2002 NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships.



Meghan Helwig



Adrian Blincoe



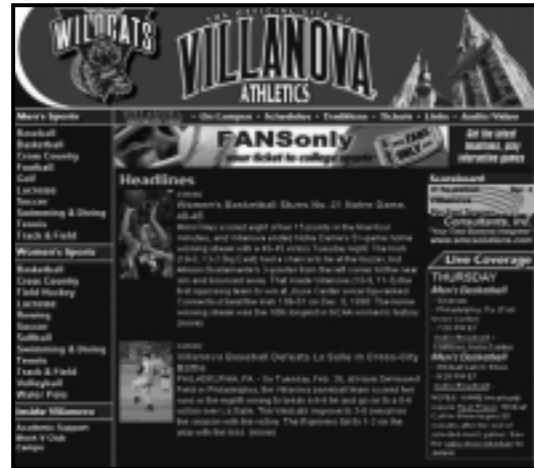
Exposure & Resources



- U.S. News & World Report recognized the Villanova University Athletics Department as having one of the top 20 overall athletic programs in the nation.
- Brian Westbrook became the first Villanova football player since Howie Long in 1981 to be drafted by an NFL franchise, when Westbrook was selected by the Philadelphia Eagles in the third round of the 2002 Draft.
- The Villanova Athletics Department produced an interactive CD to promote running back Brian Westbrook for National Player of the Year distinction, becoming one of the first Division I-AA schools to produce a CD of its kind.

- Junior pitcher Brian Slocum was selected in the second round of the 2002 Major League Baseball Draft by the Cleveland Indians, becoming the third highest draft pick all-time of a Villanova baseball player in the Major League Draft.
- Senior first baseman Rob Cafiero was chosen in the 32nd round of the 2002 Major League Baseball Draft by the hometown Philadelphia Phillies, while Brendan Mannix signed a free agent contract with the New York Mets.
- A re-design of the Villanova Athletics web site (www.villanova.com) was launched in August, 2001 giving Villanova a more fan friendly look with state of the art features.

- In May, 2002, Villanova signed a multi-year contract with WZZD 990 AM to be the flagship station of Villanova Athletics.
- The Villanova men's basketball team had 26 of its 32 games televised.
- Villanova men's basketball posted a 6-2 record on national television.
- A record number of women's basketball games were broadcast on the Villanova Radio Network.
- All radio programming can be heard through the internet at www.villanova.com.
- Former Villanova women's soccer goalie Janel Schillig was signed by the WUSA's Philadelphia Charge.



Villanova received 3.8 million page views on the newly redesigned Athletics web site during the 2001-2002 season

Wildcat Achievements

- Brian Westbrook set the NCAA career all-divisions all-purpose yards record with 9,512.
- In her second season at the helm of the women's lacrosse program, Shannon O'Neil was named the Patriot League Coach of the Year.
- Junior Trish Juhline became the first Villanova women's basketball player to be named first team All-Big East since the 1994-95 season.

Brian Westbrook



- Trish Juhline set a school record for career three-point field goals made with 200 and became the 15th player in Villanova women's basketball history to score 1,000 career points.
- In his first year as the Wildcat mentor, Jay Wright led the men's basketball team to a 19-13 record and the quarterfinals of the NIT Tournament.
- Baseball senior Rob Cafiero set a school record for career RBI with 196, while junior Chris Graziano established a school mark for career stolen bases with 81.
- Brooks Sales became just the 8th player in the history of the men's basketball program to register more than 1,000 points and 800 rebounds in his career.

Shannon O'Neil



Jay Wright

