



TopperTracks

Fall 2005

Following athletics at St. Edward's University

Coaches Corner

**Debbie Taylor,
Athletic Director**



Do you have an athletic background?

I was involved in just about everything in high school and played volleyball in college. I was fortunate to play in two national tournaments and in one national championship match. I also had the good fortune to be named All American and to tryout for the Olympic team.

How is the Athletics program developing as part of the university's strategic plan and meeting the needs of the growing number of students?

The growth that St. Edward's is experiencing is wonderful. There are more students with similar interests, which is creating more opportunities. There are several new club sports forming, and we are offering more intramural opportunities and have more students participating. We also are seeing increased attendance at games, which has a positive impact on school spirit across campus.

What are the goals for Athletics over the next five years?

First, to be one of the best NCAA Division II programs in the country. In the National Collegiate Scouting Association's Collegiate Power Rankings, St. Edward's is 10th — that places us among the top academic and athletic Division II programs in the country. Second, to provide our student-athletes with the best possible experience and the best opportunity to succeed both athletically and personally. Finally, we want to build additional facilities and make some improvements to our existing facilities.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

I think the biggest challenge is keeping a balance between work and personal time. I enjoy watching all of our athletic events and that can make for long days — often seven days a week. What keeps me motivated is that I have a job I love and a workplace that is an incredible community.

Season News

WRAP UP: Volleyball, Cross Country & Soccer

The **volleyball** team finished the season with two consecutive wins including one over rival St. Mary's University. Through the season, the young team played six nationally ranked teams. The group will lose only two seniors. The team finished the season 10-22. The **men's and women's cross country** teams, in their third year of existence, enjoyed successful seasons. **Grant Glauser** led the men's team to a sixth place finish in the Heartland Conference Meet.

The **men's soccer** team won four of their last six games, with the two losses coming to nationally ranked teams. The squad also shutout opponents six times this fall. The **women's soccer** team played five nationally ranked teams this season, which included their meeting on Alumni Day with number one Metro State, who they narrowly lost to 0-1. The men's team finished the season at 7-12-1 and the women finished at 6-11-2.

PREVIEW: Basketball

The **women's basketball** team is heading into the 2005–2006 season with high hopes. The veteran team, which lost only one player from last season, is looking for a Heartland Conference title. Head Coach **Jennifer White** is searching for leadership in seniors **Sara Baca, Leah Foster, Jennifer Knight** and **Jeanette Vlasak**. Eyes will be on Knight as she has been named All-Heartland Conference Honorable Mention in all three of her seasons as a Hilltopper. She also recorded her 1,000th career point during the 2004–2005 season. The return of the team's top five scorers will make the Hilltoppers a force in the Heartland Conference.

Ryan Marks, entering his second season as the **men's basketball** coach, wants to focus on improvements in the team's quickness, athleticism and scoring ability. Marks will especially work on these things with his eight new recruits. "They have competed against some of the nation's top collegiate players. **David Lunn** will quickly earn the reputation of being one of the top players and defenders in the Heartland Conference. **Shawn Weinstein** displays a great exuberance on the court to go along with his natural offensive creativity," Coach Marks said of his newcomers. Seven players return to the team this season including leaders **James Gaskin** and **Brandon Foskey**. Gaskin will bring experience after appearing in 71 career games as a Hilltopper and Foskey will return after leading the Hilltoppers as last year's top scorer and three-point shooter.

UPDATE: Golf & Tennis

The **men's golf** team is celebrating one of the most successful starts to a season in school history. The group played a short fall schedule and, after a break, plays a longer spring schedule. Both seasons count in the overall record. After finishing in the top five at five tournaments this fall, including a first place finish in the Territory Classic, the team finds itself in great position to start the spring. The great



Sophomore **Katie Cahill** outleaps the opponent for the header while freshman **Kelsey Yeatts** (right) and sophomore **Dustin Kreitner** look on.

Can't make it to the game? No problem: You can listen to all men's and women's basketball home and away games this season via webcast at www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.

SAAC Update

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee — SAAC — is a committee that provides insight on the student-athlete experience. SAAC also offers input on the rules, regulations and policies that affect student-athletes' lives on NCAA member institution campuses.

SAAC Buddy System

Freshmen from each team have been paired up with upperclassmen from other teams. This offers new freshmen athletes a mentor, as well as somebody to help them with their course work. The program encourages team play and also gives young athletes a chance to meet new people.

Academic Enhancement Grant

SAAC has received an Academic Enhancement grant from the Heartland Conference. The funds will be used to purchase laptops that student-athletes can check out before a road trip and use to complete school work.

Make-A-Wish Foundation

The Heartland Conference as a whole is raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. SAAC at St. Edward's will sell backpacks featuring the university logo as a fundraiser during the holiday season.

Toss-A-Ball

The Toss-A-Ball event encourages attendance at men's and women's basketball games. Participants pay \$1 to compete in the halftime shootout. Prizes for those who make baskets include T-shirts and gift certificates.

SAAC Player of the Month

October: Simon Boyce and Tyler Lyon, men's tennis doubles team (see "Season News," page 3).

November: Kristen Gascoyne, women's soccer (see "Seven Hilltoppers," this page).

"I chose St. Edward's University to play golf at a distinguished institution. In my mind St. Edward's was set apart from the rest because of its outstanding academics and athletics."

— Blake Slaughter, '07, men's golf

Seven Hilltoppers earn all-conference honors

Four men's soccer players were named to the 2005 Southwest Soccer All-Conference Teams. Senior **Robert Descant** was selected to the First Team while junior **Jonathan McQuade** was named to the Second Team. Sophomores **Noor Jehangir** and **Chris Sanders** earned Honorable Mention.

- Descant started all 20 games for the Hilltoppers this season and led the team with seven goals and 17 points. He was selected as the Southwest Soccer Conference Offensive Player of the Week for the week ending Sept. 25 after scoring both goals in a 2-0 victory over Montana State-Billings.
- McQuade also started every game this season for St. Edward's. He was the team leader on defense helping the Hilltoppers post six shutouts and 1.63 goals against average.
- Jehangir started 19 games in the midfield. He finished second in points with 11 and tied for second in goals with three. He also led the team with five assists.
- Sanders played in 18 games while making 17 starts in the net. He recorded four shutouts with 1.64 goals against average and .736 save percentage.

Sophomore midfielder **Kristen Gascoyne** was selected to the 2005 All-Heartland Conference **Women's Soccer** Team.

- Gascoyne played and started every game this season for the Hilltoppers. She led the team in goals (7) and points (15). She was selected to the 2005 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Women's Soccer Second Team and named the Heartland Conference Women's Soccer Offensive Player of the Week for the week ending Sept. 25. She was also named the 2004 Conference Freshman of the Year and selected to the All-Conference Team.

Junior middle blocker **Kristen Lozano** and freshman outside hitter **Lindsey Douglas** earned 2005 **Volleyball** All-Heartland Conference honorable mention.

- Lozano led the Hilltoppers in kills (257) and total blocks (84) and finished second in kills per game (2.29) and service aces (37). She also finished third on the team in digs with 296.
- Douglas was the team leader in kills per game (2.57) and finished second in kills (254). She also added 283 digs, 40 total blocks and 19 service aces.



Senior Mitch Herr keeps the ball away from the defender.

Baseball player **Bradley Goldsmith, '08 (right)**, who lost his mother to breast cancer last May, led teammates' participation in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation "Race for the Cure" in Austin on Nov. 5. Besides gathering sponsorships for the race, the team hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser on campus. Overall, Goldsmith and his teammates raised more than \$700 for breast cancer research.



Golf Tournament a Success

Alumni, athletes, coaches and friends gathered for the first Hilltopper Golf Tournament at the Golf Club at Circle C in Austin in October to benefit the university's varsity athletic teams. After lunch and practice on the driving range, the shotgun start began with scramble golf foursomes competing for prizes including closest to the pin and longest putt. The winning foursome of (bottom: from left) **Doug Yeamans, '00, Blair Trousdale, '01, Wes Foerster, '00, and Aaron Chilek, '00** — who hit the day's longest drive — finished with a low score of 58. When the games ended, the fun continued with live music, a silent auction, prize giveaways emceed by **Erin Hogan, '96**, morning show personality for sports radio station AM 1300—The Zone, and an auction led by **Victoria Gutierrez, '00, MLA '04**. Overall, the event raised nearly \$20,000.

To learn more about how you can support Hilltopper Athletics, call 512-448-8451 or 800-964-7833.



Hilltopper Classic Softball Tourney: March 10–12

The St. Edward's University softball team will host its annual Hilltopper Classic Friday, March 10–Sunday, March 12 at Krieg Softball Complex in the South Austin.

This year's classic features 12 teams from five different states (Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas). There will be 30 softball games played over three days, and each team will have a chance to face five teams.

"The Hilltopper Classic is full of top notch softball teams from around the country," said head coach **Amy Coulter**. "I look forward to showcasing the Hilltoppers this year."

Teams in tournament:

- University of Nebraska–Kearny
- Culver-Stockton University
- Concordia University–Nebraska
- Regis University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- Mesa State College
- Abilene Christian University
- Texas A&M University–Kingsville
- St. Mary's University
- University of Incarnate Word
- Texas Women's University
- St. Edward's University

Watch www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm for details.



Season News

from page 1

start earned the squad an 11th place national ranking in the Golfstat Head-to-Head standings as well as a 14th place national ranking in the Coach's Poll. The team is led by **Tyler Duncan** and **Blake Slaughter**.

After finishing in the top four at four fall tournaments, the **women's golf** team is enjoying a break before the longer spring season, which includes tournaments in San Antonio, California and Oklahoma. The Hilltoppers are led by **Allison Kinser, Emily Kvinta** and **Kelly Rigsby**. Golfstat has ranked the team for three consecutive weeks as 13th best in the country.

The **men's tennis** team is preparing for a spring season as the nation's 20th best in Division II play. Over the fall, the Hilltoppers number one doubles team of **Simon Boyce** and **Tyler**

Lyon won the Wilson/Intercollegiate Tennis Association Small College Regional Championship. The win allowed the doubles team to travel to Florida to play in the ITA Small College National Championship, where they defeated Drury University's best team before falling to Barry University's team.

The **women's tennis** team, coached by **Russell Sterns**, is looking forward to their 2006 season. This season will be a great opportunity for younger players to develop experience, as there are no seniors on the roster. The group is led by **Andrea Adamson, Allison Paris** and **Mandy Salazar**, who will all be with the team next year as well. This year's schedule gives the team a hefty home court advantage, and they will be looking to play in this year's Heartland Conference tournament in San Antonio.

Visit www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm to learn more about each team.

Topper Backers

The corporate partner program for St. Edward's University Athletics

In November 2004, Athletics launched Topper Backers, its official corporate partner program. Topper Backers offers a multitude of opportunities to market Austin-area businesses at home athletic events, which draw students, faculty, staff and fans from all over Austin — an audience of 300 to 1,000 people per game. In the first year of the program, more than two dozen businesses became Topper Backers — providing almost \$50,000 for the Hilltoppers. The proceeds funded materials, travel expenses, facility initiatives and more for over 200 student-athletes.

“It just made sense for us to launch this program to complement the growth and success of not only the athletic department, but the university as a whole,” said **Scott Abel**, associate athletic director, who oversees the program.

Some of the leading business participants include H-E-B, Coca-Cola, Peak Performance Resources and local hotels.

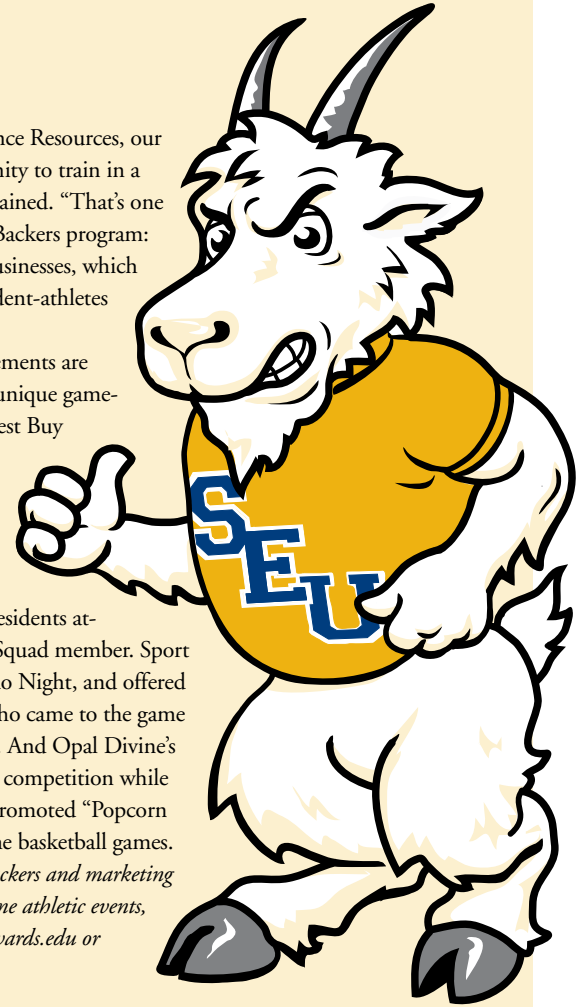
“It is an honor for Athletics to have the support of a company like H-E-B, which is committed to philanthropy and community involvement,” Abel said.

“The Omni at Southpark, Hampton Inn & Suites Airport, Hilton Austin Airport, Holiday Inn Express, Clarion Suites, and the various Marriott properties along South IH-35 have provided superior service and support to prospective student-athletes, parents of current student-athletes and visiting athletic teams.

“And through Peak Performance Resources, our student-athletes have an opportunity to train in a state-of-the-art facility,” Abel explained. “That’s one of the best aspects of the Topper Backers program: It can build a relationship with businesses, which helps create opportunities for student-athletes at St. Edward’s.”

Signage and webcast advertisements are offered to Topper Backers, as are unique game-day sponsorships. For example, Best Buy sponsored Geek Squad Night at a home volleyball game. The Geek Squad appeared in their signature car and uniforms, and Best Buy offered a \$250 gift card to the residence hall that had the most residents attend the game dressed as a Geek Squad member. Sport Clips sponsored Hilltopper Hairdo Night, and offered \$100 in free haircuts to the fan who came to the game with the best “Hilltopper” hairdo. And Opal Divine’s hosted an “Iron Chef Hilltopper” competition while Alamo Drafthouse and Cinema promoted “Popcorn Madness & Movie Night” at home basketball games.

To learn more about Topper Backers and marketing your business during Hilltopper home athletic events, contact Abel at scotta@admin.stedwards.edu or 512-233-1637.



“St. Edward's appealed to me because of the soccer, the location and the small classes. When I visited, the guys on the team seemed to have good relationships on and off the field. It seemed like a place where there would not be problems fitting in with and becoming part of the team. Also, Austin is just a great town. There are opportunities for everyone here.”

— **Scotty McNabb, '06, men's soccer**



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