



Topper Tracks

Spring 2006

Following athletics at St. Edward's University

Coaches Corner

Ryan Marks,
men's basketball
head coach



What drew you to coaching?

My most vivid childhood memories pertain to watching and playing sports. Baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, tennis, I played them all at a young age — not necessarily well, but I tried them all. By the end of high school, I realized there wasn't a market for a slow, poor-shooting point guard, so I shifted my focus to coaching.

What new strategies have you put in place at St. Edward's?

The bottom line is that great players make coaches look good, so recruiting is the lifeblood of any program. We have broadened our recruiting perspective both nationally and internationally, and it has paid major dividends. St. Edward's is a wonderful place to be a student-athlete and that makes it very easy for me to share the opportunities we can provide to a prospective student.

What is the funniest thing that has happened with the team?

We had a team holiday party before Christmas where players exchanged gag gifts. It was interesting to hear just how much these guys really know about each other. A lot of the gifts were funny, but the team exploded with laughter when freshman **Taylor Mullenax** gave junior **Cornelius Gilleylen** a baby's outfit and socks. Cornelius is our shortest player at 5-foot-6 — but he's arguably our largest personality and a real character. Needless to say, he happily takes the good-natured ribbing about his height.

What are your goals for the team?

I hope this team gets the opportunity to play in the NCAA tournament; they are a great group of guys and are deserving of that reward. Also, we had a very strong fall semester academically, so I hope that we continue at the same pace through the spring.

Editor's note: The team successfully earned its first-ever NCAA tournament berth (see Season News, this page, for details).

Season News

WRAP-UP: Men's & Women's Basketball

Both the men's and women's basketball teams completed very successful seasons. Both teams were co-champions of the Heartland Conference. The men's team, led by Head Coach **Ryan Marks**, performed a stunning turnaround over years past and earned its first-ever bid to play in the NCAA Division II Tournament. The women's team, led by Head Coach **Jennifer White**, finished the season with a strong conference record and a trip to the semifinals of the Heartland Conference Tournament.

After beginning the season at 5-3, the men's team went on to win its next 10 games, including big victories over 21st-ranked Hawaii-Hilo and 10th-ranked Central Missouri State. The Hilltoppers also defeated Division I schools Texas State and Tulane University. After handily taking co-champion status in the Heartland Conference, the team earned a bid to play in the NCAA Division II Tournament for the first time in school history. The Hilltoppers narrowly lost to Southwest Baptist University,

75-70, during the regional competition in Boliver, Mo. The Hilltoppers ended the season at 21-9 overall. The Heartland Conference honored Marks as Coach of the Year and recognized senior **David Lunn** as Player and Newcomer of the Year. Lunn was also selected to the First Team All-Conference while junior **Daniel Pierre** was named to the Second Team All-Conference. Junior **Chavon Farmer** and sophomore **Shawn Weinstein** received All-Conference Honorable Mention.

The women's team wrapped up the season with a 15-12 overall record, a 9-3 Heartland Conference record and the conference regular season co-championship. The team rallied with a winning streak through January that included just three losses in 15 games. The squad went on to narrowly lose to St. Mary's in the Heartland Conference Tournament. The Heartland Conference selected White as Coach of the Year and recognized senior **Jennifer Knight** as Co-Player of the Year and First Team All-Conference. Senior **Sara Baca** was named to the Second Team All-Conference, and sophomore **Tammy Bartosh** earned Honorable Mention.

UPDATE: Baseball, Softball, Men's & Women's Golf, Men's & Women's Tennis

Currently at roughly the halfway mark of the conference schedule, the **baseball** team is 23-16 overall and 16-8 in Heartland Conference play. Leaders include infielder **Brian Thomas**, outfielders **Logan Wood** and **Bradley Goldsmith**, and pitcher **Enrique Losano**. Thomas leads the team with a .385 batting average and 34 runs; Wood leads in at bats, triples, slugging percentage and RBIs; and Goldsmith leads in home runs. Starting pitcher Losano leads the pitching staff with a 5-1 record and an ERA of 1.68.

Heading into the final two weeks of conference play, the **softball** team has a strong overall record of 39-11 and 14-0 in the conference. **Jennifer Hollas** leads the team with 162 at bats .395 batting average, and **Melissa McSheffery** is the team leader with 16 home runs. The leading pitcher is **Jennifer Bishop**, who has a 17-3 record, a 1.94 ERA and 130 strikeouts. With only four games left at home, the team has lost just two games at Diane Daniels Field. The team's upcoming conference schedule includes

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The men's basketball team: (front row, l-r) Dian Ivanov, Taylor Land, Shawn Weinstein, Chavon Farmer, Ryan Marks, Cornelius Gilleylen, Craig Gilson, Andrew Nagel and Jeff Obersteller; (middle row, l-r) Steve Groothuis, Brandon Lepow, Curtis Johnson, Jeff Samuels, Ja'Faar Johnson, Anthony Felder, Ryan Hunt, Rodrick Rhodes and Clifton Jones; (back row, l-r) Jack Dorn, Taylor Mullenax, Darrell Thompson, David Lunn, Brandon Foskey, Kenneth Edwards, Daniel Pierre and James Gaskin.

SAAC Update

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee — SAAC — 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.

Academic Enhancement

SAAC received NCAA funding from the Heartland Conference for academic enhancement programs, such as tutoring, for student-athletes.

Take A Kid to the Game

In January, SAAC sponsored "Take A Kid to the Game" night during one of the men's and women's basketball games. The annual NCAA-sponsored event encourages kids from the community to attend college athletic events. SAAC helped with face painting, T-shirt giveaways and other gifts for attendees.

Make-A-Wish Foundation

On Feb. 21, SAAC teamed up with Taco Cabana for a fundraiser benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The restaurant contributed a portion of proceeds from customers who purchased meals within a designated timeframe. The event was part of an overall effort by the Heartland Conference to support the foundation.

SAAC Players of the Month

December: David Lunn, men's basketball, averaged 19.0 points per game and helped the Hilltoppers to a 5-1 record in December. • **January:** Jennifer Knight, women's basketball, averaged 15.6 points and 3.9 rebounds per game in January. • **February:** Sara Baca, women's basketball, led the women's basketball team in scoring with 16.5 points per game and helped the Hilltoppers to a 7-1 record in February; she scored her 1,000th point on Feb. 8. Enrique Lozana, baseball, led the Hilltoppers in ERA (1.17), innings pitched (23) and strikeouts (22), and he was named Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week on Feb. 26. • **March:** Melissa McSheffery, softball, led the team in homeruns (9), slugging percentage (.738) and runs (26) and helped the Hilltoppers to a 22-5 record in March. Nick Cristea, men's golf, led the team with a 73.8 scoring average during four tournaments in March and helped the team finish fifth or better in all four, including a second place finish at the North Alabama Spring Classic.

Round-Baller Garneres ESPN Academic All-District Honors

St. Edward's University men's basketball guard **Shawn Weinstein** was named to the 2006 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District VI men's basketball team. The Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., native was the only sophomore on the team, which is selected by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Weinstein played in every game this season and ranks second on the team in scoring with 13.4 points per game. He led the team in three-point field goals with 59 and ranks third in assists with 70 and steals with 41.

To be eligible for the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District VI team, a player must be at least a sophomore with a 3.20 cumulative GPA.



Shawn Weinstein handles the ball against Texas State University. He scored 22 points in an upset win against the Bobcats.

Versatility and dedication are key to athletic success. Nobody knows this better than softball teammates **Kristin Lozano** (left), sophomore outfielder, and **Karen Varteressian**, sophomore infielder. Both compete in two intercollegiate sports.

That's right, two.

In the fall, Kristin is a middle blocker on the volleyball team and Karen plays midfield for the women's soccer team. Both women have earned All-Conference honors — Kristin in volleyball and Karen in softball. And when they're not busy with classes and training with their respective teams, both women enjoy competing in triathlons.



"I chose to come to St. Edward's because I love the balance of athletics and academics here. I'm glad that I made the decision to come here. Every minute has been memorable."

— Leah Foster, '06, women's basketball

2006 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Honored

The St. Edward's University Athletics program announced its 2006 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees on Feb. 11. New inductees who joined the other 82 distinguished hall of fame members were **Karl Jauhiainen, '86**, men's tennis; **Kevin Karo, '91**, baseball; **Aaron Farris Seafous, '92**, women's basketball; **Jimmy Wheeler, '93**, men's basketball; and **Julie Burleson Grant, '96**, volleyball.

Jauhiainen competed in the top two singles and doubles positions throughout his four-year career. He graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in General Business and received an MBA in 1988 from Texas State University. He currently works for Flow International Inc. in Stafford.

Karo, who played in the outfield for the Hilltoppers from 1988 to 1991, holds four school records in runs (159), hits (210), RBIs (161) and total bases (379). At St. Edward's, he was named Team Rookie of the Year and Team Senior of the Year. Karo graduated with a BA in History and earned a Master of Education in Educational Leadership at Bridgewater State College. Karo serves as an assistant principal with Brockton Public Schools in Brockton, Mass.

Seafous played three years for the Hilltoppers after transferring from UT–Austin. She scored 1,115 career points and cleared 703 career rebounds at St. Edward's, and she was a member of the team that advanced to the quarterfinals and finished the season 31-2, ranked 12th nationally. Seafous earned a BBA in Accounting. She also played professional basketball for Clube Amigos De Bossuet in Madeira, Portugal. Currently, she is an assistant controller for Renew Data Corporation in Austin.

Wheeler played three years for the Hilltoppers and holds the school record for most career points (2,799). He finished his first season with two national rankings — third in field goal percentage and ninth in rebounds. In his final year he helped the team to the most wins in school history with 23 and was named MVP, All-Conference and First-Team All-American.

Grant, a middle blocker for four years, helped the team to back-to-back records for most wins in a single season, with 33-11 and 43-12, as well as two national tournament appearances, where the Hilltoppers finished ninth and fifth. She holds the school records for most digs in a single match (40), most digs per game in a season (4.86) and solo blocks in a five-game match (6). Grant graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA in Art. She currently teaches at All Saints' Episcopal School in Fort Worth.



Season News

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tough matchups St. Mary's, Montana State-Billings, and Incarnate Word. The team held the annual Hilltopper Classic and have posted a 4-1 record.

After finishing in the top five of five fall tournaments, the **men's golf** team began the spring season ranked 10th nationally and placed sixth or better in six out of seven spring tournaments. **Jeff Howard** captured the individual title at the Outback Steakhouse Intercollegiate while **Blake Slaughter** won the Grand Canyon Thunderbird Invitational. The team is getting ready to defend its Heartland Conference title in Guymon, Okla., April 17–18.

Slaughter leads the team with a 73.5 scoring average and five top-10 finishes while **Nicholas Cristea** is second with a 73.7 scoring average.

After a strong fall season, the **women's golf** team began the spring as the 13th-best team in the nation. **Emily Kvinta** began the spring season as the 21st-best Division II golfer in the nation, and **Allison Kinser** was ranked as the 25th best. During the spring season the Hilltoppers finished third or better in three out of their first four tournaments. In the final tournament of the season, the Texas State Invitational, St. Edward's finished eighth out of 14 teams and competed against Division I schools. Kvinta captured the Texas State Invitational individual title and leads the team with a scoring average of 78.6. The team is preparing for the Heartland Conference Tournament in Guymon, Okla., April 17–18.

The **men's tennis** team, currently ranked first in the region and 14th nationally, began the season with what should have been an easy victory for Division I school Lamar University. The stunned crowd looked on as the Hilltoppers upset Lamar 6-1, with most of the St. Edward's wins coming in straight sets. The Hilltoppers went on to win nine out of the next 11 games including wins against No. 2 Ouachita Baptist, No. 21 Georgia College & State University and Prairie View A&M (Division I). The Hilltoppers have a 12-2 overall record and are led by **Walter Valarezo**, **Kendall Smashey**, **Tyler Lyon** and **Simon Boyce**.

The **women's tennis** team has struggled with injuries this season and posted a 3-8 overall record. The Hilltoppers have faced some strong competition and are looking to team leaders **Regina Del Bosque** and **Andrea Adamson** to help spark a turnaround.

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



Above: Karl Jauhiainen, '86 (left), with Hall of Fame member John Lucas, '65. Right: 2006 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees (l to r): Jauhiainen, Aaron Farris Seafous, '92, Julie Burleson Grant, '96, and Kevin Karo, '91.



Topper Backers

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

The Athletics program recently welcomed three new Topper Backers:

- The **Woodward Hotel & Conference Center** has made a financial and corporate trade-out donation to the Hilltoppers and has placed signage in the Recreation and Convocation Center and at the university's spring sports outdoor venues.
- The **Boiling Pot**, a well-known Austin Cajun restaurant, sponsored Mardi Gras Night — complete with beads and Zydeco — at the last home men's and women's basketball games.
- **Spaghetti Warehouse** will sponsor a pasta night next fall.

Topper Backers gives Austin-area businesses a range of marketing opportunities at Hilltopper home athletic events — including venue signage, webcast commercials and creative game-day sponsorships.

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



"I chose St. Edward's because it provided me with the perfect type of environment to excel on the field, in the classroom and in the community. At St. Edward's I am not just a softball player; rather, I am a well-rounded student-athlete."

— Lauren Myrick, '06, softball



Athletics
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