

Topper Tracks

Summer 2008

Following athletics at St. Edward's University

VORPAHL RISES TO TOP



Angela Vorpahl, '08

Angela Vorpahl embodies what it means to be a student-athlete at St. Edward's — academically motivated, a proven student leader and driven to make a difference. As an athlete, she played outside hitter and served as captain of the women's volleyball team. She was also a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and with a 4.0 cumulative GPA, she was consistently on the President's Honor Roll for the Heartland Conference. Academically, the Spring 2008 valedictorian participated in the Honors and Fellows programs. She also interned at the Texas Capitol for state representative Abel Herrero and later worked for state senator Dan Patrick as a legislative aide. Before she left St. Edward's for law school, Vorpahl spoke with *Topper Tracks* about being a student-athlete with political ambitions.

What drew you to St. Edward's?

It was volleyball that originally brought me to St. Edward's, but once

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NATIONAL TREASURES



The men's golf team finished tied for second place in the nation at the NCAA national tournament in Houston.

the nation. The softball team won its first two games of the national tournament before falling twice to Emporia State University in the semifinals. The team finished the season tied for third in the nation.

The success of the 2007–2008 season is a hallmark of the continually evolving and improving Athletics program. Since the arrival of Athletics Director **Debbie Taylor** in 2002, all of the teams have become competitive in the Heartland Conference, with five of 13 teams winning conference championships this past academic year. And with a solid group of coaches and a continued influx of talented student-athletes, St. Edward's looks for national rankings and NCAA tournament appearances to be a common theme on the hilltop.

The end of the spring season signaled another banner year for athletics at St. Edward's University with six teams advancing to the NCAA Division II national tournaments and two teams making it deep in their sports' tournaments: men's golf and softball.

The men's golf team, whose national ranking included a one-time spot at No. 1, played a solid tournament and rallied on the final day to finish regulation tied for first. The team lost in a three-way sudden-death playoff but ended the season tied for second in



The Hilltopper softball team won its first-ever NCAA regional title and advanced to the national tournament in Houston, where the team tied for third place in the nation.

A NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

Hilltopper Athletics hosted its annual banquet in May honoring the accomplishments of teams and individuals from the 2007–2008 Athletics seasons. Major award winners include:

Outstanding Senior Athletes of the Year

Kristen Gascoyne, Women's Soccer
Bradley Goldsmith, Baseball

Athletic Staff Member of the Year

Chris Magott, assistant athletic trainer

Student Athletic Trainer of the Year

Matt DeGeorge

HILLTOPPER HIGHLIGHTS

Following the record-breaking 2006–2007 season, the Hilltoppers continued to garner acclaim in 2007–2008 with six teams advancing to the NCAA Division II tournaments. In addition, teams continued to set the bar with the following honors.

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Cheerleading

- Received first-place trophy in the best all-around cheer division at Universal Cheerleaders Association cheer camp

Men's Cross Country

- David Fuentes** named Heartland Conference Runner of the Year
- Fuentes advanced to the NCAA Division II national meet and finished 53 of 187

Volleyball

- Finished third in the Heartland Conference with a 16–14 overall record, an eight-match improvement from the previous season

Women's Soccer

- Heartland Conference co-champions
- Advanced to the NCAA Division II tournament for the second-consecutive season
- Finished the season with a 17–4 overall record, tying the school record for most victories in one season, which was set in 2006
- Ranked No. 1 in the region and No. 7 in the nation

Men's Soccer

- Finished second in the Heartland Conference with a 9–9–1 overall record
- Received the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Award (team GPA of 3.0 or higher) for the third-consecutive year

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Men's Basketball

- Finished with a 23–7 overall record, a third-straight Heartland Conference title and a third-straight trip to the NCAA Division II South Central Region tournament

Women's Basketball

- Finished third in the Heartland Conference with a 9–5 conference record
- Advanced to the Heartland Conference finals for the first time

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

One hundred thirty St. Edward's University student-athletes received Heartland Conference academic awards during the 2007–2008 academic year. The overall GPA of student-athletes for 2007–2008 was 3.2, the second highest in the conference. Three teams — baseball, men's basketball and women's tennis — compiled the highest GPA in their respective sports.



The Hilltopper baseball team won its second-straight Heartland Conference title along with posting 40-plus wins for the second-straight year.

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

Baseball

- Heartland Conference champions for second-straight year with a 40–16 overall record and a 38–11 conference record

Men's Golf

- Advanced to the NCAA Division II national tournament for the second time in school history and tied for second in the national tournament after losing in a three-team sudden-death playoff
- Ranked No. 1 in the nation
- Won the NCAA Division II South Central Region tournament by 31 strokes
- Heartland Conference champions for second-straight year

Women's Golf

- Heartland Conference champions for second-straight year
- Advanced to NCAA Division II West Region tournament for the third-straight year

Softball

- Finished the season ranked No. 4 in National Fastpitch Coaches Association Poll
- Advanced to the NCAA Division II World Series where the team tied for third in the nation
- Won the NCAA Division II South Central Region tournament, defeating No. 5 Angelo State University along the way
- Record-breaking season with 53–17 overall record

Men's Tennis

- Finished season ranked No. 22 in the nation and No. 4 in the South Central Region

Women's Tennis

- Finished season ranked No. 6 in the South Central Region

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Kim Abbott: First-team all-Heartland Conference, first-team all-region (NSCAA), second-team all-region (Daktronics)

Emily Arnold: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Janae Averett: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Kelly Boyd: Second-team all-Heartland Conference

Kristen Gascoyne: First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Year, first-team all-region, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (3), St. Edward's University Athlete of the Year, Heartland Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year nominee, Heartland Conference Woman of the Year, NCAA Division II Woman of the Year nominee

Troi Jorgensen: First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Dustin Kreitner: NCAA Sportsmanship Award nominee

Aimee Langlinais: First-team all-Heartland Conference, first-team all-region (Daktronics), second-team all-region (NSCAA)

Alex Podowski: First-team all-Heartland Conference, second-team all-region, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Kelsey Yeatts: First-team all-Heartland Conference, Second-team all-Midwest region



The women's soccer team finished with 17 wins for the second-straight season and won the Heartland Conference title for the second-straight year.

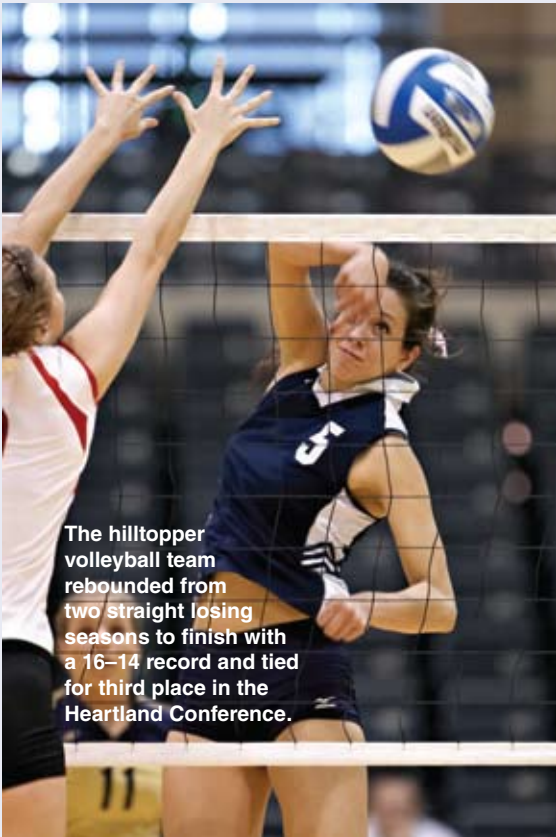
MEN'S SOCCER

John Calandro: Second-team all-Heartland Conference, second-team all-region

Dustin Cherry: First-team all-Heartland Conference

Jacob Juett: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

HONORS ROUNDUP



The hilltopper volleyball team rebounded from two straight losing seasons to finish with a 16-14 record and tied for third place in the Heartland Conference.

- Kevin Klaus:** Third-team all-America, first-team all-region
- Ezual Lewis:** First-team all-Heartland Conference
- Sean Meller:** Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)
- Patrick Miller:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference
- Josh Nannen:** First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
- Brandin Parras:** First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
- Chris Sanders:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
- Aaron Valdez:** Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar — second team

VOLLEYBALL

- Chelsea Barsamian:** Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1), Hilltopper Classic all-tournament team
- Brittney Brown:** Heartland Conference all-tournament team, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
- Lindsey Douglas:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2), third-team academic all-district, Hilltopper Classic all-tournament team and the tournament's most valuable player
- Lauren Munselle:** Second-team all-Heartland

Conference, Cameron University all-tournament team

- Kelsey Teal:** Honorable mention all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (3), Ram Rumble all-tournament team
- Angela Vorpahl:** first-team academic all-district, 2008 St. Edward's University valedictorian, Presidential Award winner

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

- Sarah Ortiz:** Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar — first team

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

- David Fuentes:** First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Runner of the Year, qualified individually for nationals, won the 500 meters at the University of Houston Spring Indoor Invitational
- Cody Beamon:** Qualified for NCAA Division II regional meet
- Alex Gay:** Qualified for NCAA Division II regional meet

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Taylor Land:** First-team academic all-district
- Ryan Marks:** Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

- Michael Moss:** Heartland Conference all-tournament team
- Taylor Mullenax:** Preseason first-team all-conference, honorable mention all-Heartland Conference
- Daniel Pierre:** First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference all-tournament team, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)
- Shawn Weinstein:** Preseason first-team all-conference, first-team all-Heartland Conference, Jewish Sports Review first-team all-America, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (3), Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar — first team

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Tammy Bartosh:** Preseason first-team all-conference, honorable mention all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
- Sara Head:** Preseason first-team all-conference, first-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference all-tournament team
- Whitney Regian:** Preseason first-team all-conference
- Haley Tidwell:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference
- Charron Sumler:** Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar — third team

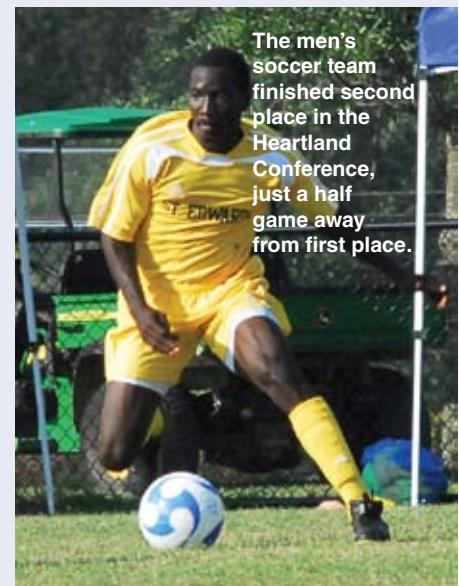
BASEBALL

- Drew Cross:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (1)
- Josh Dale:** First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week (1)
- Chris Dinges:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (1)
- Bradley Goldsmith:** First-team all-Heartland Conference, second-team all-region, first-team academic all-district, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (1)
- Robert Hays:** First-team all-Heartland Conference
- Josh Henry:** Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week (1)
- Dexter Moreno:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference
- Brian Thomas:** First-team all-Heartland Conference, first-team academic all-district, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (1)
- David Wagner:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference, second-team all-region

SOFTBALL

- Robin Becker:** Second-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference all-tournament team, South Central Regional all-tournament team, Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week (3)
- Diana Cezeaux:** First-team all-Heartland Conference, second-team all-region, Heartland Conference all-tournament team, South Central Regional all-tournament team, Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week (4)
- Stacy Giles:** Heartland Conference all-tournament team, NCAA Division II national all-tournament team
- Courtney Lavender:** Heartland Conference all-tournament team

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The men's soccer team finished second place in the Heartland Conference, just a half game away from first place.

HONORS ROUNDUP CONTINUED

Kristen Lozano: First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Year, Heartland Conference all-tournament team, South Central Regional tournament Most Outstanding Player, NCAA Division II national all-tournament team, first-team academic all-district, Heartland Conference all-tournament team, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (3), Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar — first team

Melissa McSheffery: Second-team all-Heartland Conference

Lisa Paul: Second-team all-Heartland Conference

Mandy Phillips: South Central Regional all-tournament team, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (1)

Lexi Stephens: First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, second-team all-region, Heartland Conference all-tournament team, NCAA Division II national all-tournament team, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (2)

Karen Varteressian: First-team all-Heartland Conference

MEN'S GOLF

Matthew Hatcher: First-team all-Heartland Conference, conference individual champion, all-region selection

Jeff Howard: First-team all-Heartland Conference, all-region selection, third-team all-America, academic all-America

Collin Mayer: Second-team all-Heartland Conference, all-region selection, third-team all-America, first-team academic all-district, Business Sophomore of the Year at St. Edward's

Ryan Murphy: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year, South Central Region Coach of the Year

Matt Smith: Second-team all-Heartland Conference

Andrew Workman: Second-team all-Heartland Conference

WOMEN'S GOLF

April Fields: Second-team all-Heartland Conference

Allison Kinser: First-team all-Heartland Conference

Jennifer McNeil: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

Kelly Rigsby: Second-team all-Heartland Conference, NGCA Academic All-American

Alex Smith: First-team all-Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, Heartland Conference Player of the Year

Jacqueline Struck: First-team all-Heartland Conference

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Regina Del Bosque: First-team all-Heartland Conference, Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar — third team

Liz Jacobi: First-team all-Heartland Conference

Giselle Lopez: First-team all-Heartland Conference, Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar — first team

Janelle Otero: First-team all-Heartland Conference

MEN'S TENNIS

Boris Barrios: First-team all-Heartland Conference

Bernard Lancaster: First-team all-Heartland Conference

Brett Powers: First-team all-Heartland Conference

Justin Raiti: First-team all-Heartland Conference

Mick Walter: Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year



David Fuentes finished seventh at the NCAA regional and advanced to the national meet for the first time in school NCAA history.

VORPAHL CONTINUED

I visited the university I fell in love with the beautiful campus and its small-town feel.

How was your experience with the volleyball team?

The bonds I made with my teammates cannot be paralleled by any other relationship.

How did you manage to be an athlete and maintain a 4.0 GPA?

My lifestyle as a student-athlete forced me to learn self-discipline and time management skills to earn high grades.

Do your future plans involve politics?

My time at the Capitol over the past four years has helped me realize that I want to be involved in the political process somehow, whether it's working for a public official, a nonprofit organization or lobbyist group or running for office one day.

LISTEN LIVE

Can't make it to a game or want to follow the Hilltoppers on the road?

Fans can now listen to full-game live audio broadcasts for every team sport.

Catch all the action as it happens from the convenience of your computer.

Visit www.stedwards.edu/sportsbroadcasts to find out what team is playing today.

WOMEN'S SOCCER TRAVELS TO BRAZIL



Women's soccer team

The Hilltopper women's soccer team, fresh off its second-consecutive Heartland Conference title, will take 34 student-athletes to Campinas, Brazil, in August. The two-week trip will serve as a training camp, where the team will complete pre-season workouts and hold scrimmages with Brazilian teams.

True to the St. Edward's spirit, the team also plans to hold a free soccer clinic for Colegio Notre Dame, a secondary school in Campinas founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross. The squad will also spend time in Santos, Brazil, home of the Santos Futebol Clube and Pelé, the world-famous soccer player.

"This trip will be great for team bonding because the players will be thrown together in an unfamiliar environment and forced to grow together," head coach **Nick Cowell** says. "This will be an experience that they will share together. Soccer is a religion in Brazil, so it will be good for players to see the passion that exists in Brazilian soccer."