



TopperTracks

Summer 2007

Following athletics at St. Edward's University

Coaches Corner

Rob Penders
baseball head coach



This season, **Rob Penders** led the Hilltopper Baseball team to a Heartland Conference championship and a trip to the 2007 NCAA Division II Regional Tournament in Arkadelphia, Ark. Not bad for his first season with the team.

Penders' eight-year coaching career includes stints with Galveston College, San Jacinto College and UT–Austin, where he helped the Longhorns reach the NCAA Division I College World Series. As a player, Penders was a four-year letterman at Wake Forest University and voted to the Atlantic Coast Conference All-Academic Team. Topper Tracks spoke with Penders about his initial season at the helm.

What do you like about coaching?

The interaction with the players is probably the best thing. Most of these kids coming into the program are young and a little immature at first, so it's great to see them grow into adults on and off the field as they get their education.

What strategies have you used?

I brought my own coaching style, which is getting down to fundamental baseball. I try to cover everything in practice that we're going to see in a game. That way when it comes up in a game it's not a shock or a surprise. The most important thing is the attention to detail during practice. We work really hard at practice, so the games become the easy part.

What was your goal for the season?

My goal was to get into a position where we could get into the postseason, and to do that we needed to win the conference, which we did. With a conference championship we get to go to regionals, and that's where everything starts over. It doesn't matter what happened during the season — all the teams in the regional start off with a 0-0 record.

Any favorite part of the season?

Our winning streak was probably the neatest part. We lost our first two games and then rolled off 18 wins in a row. Watching my guys do that was a lot of fun.

A Year of Champions



Freshman Cory Griffin cuts down the net after the Men's Basketball team won its second consecutive Heartland Conference Championship.

St. Edward's University Athletics reached a milestone in 2006–2007 when nine out of 13 teams won Heartland Conference championships and advanced to postseason NCAA tournaments. Men's Basketball, Men's Golf, Softball and Men's Tennis captured championships for the second straight year. Five other teams — Baseball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Golf, Women's Soccer and Women's Tennis — won conference titles for the first time.

These victories made the year the most successful in school history for Hilltopper sports, says Director of Athletics **Debbie Taylor**. "I can't say I'm surprised by our success," she says. "Our student-athletes are of the highest caliber, both as students and athletes, and our coaches have the ability to bring out the best in their players."

Fall Highlights

Men's Cross Country

- Won the Heartland Conference championship.
- Advanced to the first NCAA regional meet in the team's history.

Women's Soccer

- Won the Heartland Conference championship.
- Advanced to the second round of the 2006 NCAA Division II National Tournament, the first NCAA appearance in the team's history.



Junior Kristen Gascoyne helped lead Women's Soccer to a Heartland Conference Championship and a second-round appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

SAAC Update

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee 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.

Goals

- Promote student-athletes on campus as well as in the community at large
- Encourage community service
- Promote camaraderie among different sports
- Recognize and display excellence among athletes
- Provide information on athlete-sensitive topics like nutrition and steroid abuse

Make-A-Wish Foundation

As part of a National SAAC initiative, St. Edward's University raised \$400 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

SAAC Players of the Month

March

Regina DelBosque, '09, Women's Tennis; led team to a No. 4 regional ranking and No. 21 national ranking, compiled a 7-3 record at No. 2 singles and an 8-5 record at No. 1 doubles.

Tyler Lyon, '07, Men's Tennis; led team to a No. 1 regional ranking and No. 13 national ranking, played solid tennis at the No. 1 doubles position and the No. 2 singles position.

National Student-Athlete Day Award Winners

As part of National Student-Athlete Day, players were awarded certificates for their achievements in academics as well as community service. Each of the following players had at least a 3.0 GPA, along with multiple hours of community service:

Volleyball

Angela Vorpahl, '08

Softball

Jennifer Hollas, '07

Danielle Mangrum, '07

Women's Soccer

Elizabeth Chen, '10

Aimee Langlinais, '09

Kelsey Yeatts, '09

Men's Cross Country

Grant Glauser, '07

Men's Basketball

Dian Ivanov, '09

Taylor Land, '09

Shawn Weinstein, '08

Cheerleaders

Kristina Miller, '08

Women's Golf

April Fields, '08

Emily Kvinta, '08

Men's Soccer

Beau Grantier, '10

Harrison Nance, '10

SAAC Officers for 2007–2008

President: **Bradley Goldsmith, '08**, Baseball

Vice President: **Shawn Weinstein, '08**, Men's Basketball

Secretary: **Harrison Nance, '10**, Men's Soccer

Treasurer: **Elizabeth Chen, '10**, Women's Soccer

Women's Soccer Team Adopts Young Player as One of Its Own

In March, the Women's Soccer team adopted as an honorary team member Megan Prehn, a local youth soccer player who was involved in a serious car accident in November 2006. Prehn spent the entire day with the team as it prepared for its match against Texas State on March 31. She visited with the players in the locker room before the game and sat on the sidelines, cheering the Hilltoppers on to a 5-1 victory. Team members presented Prehn with a Hilltopper jersey and a quilt they made.

"Megan has an amazing spirit," says Head Coach **Nick Cowell**. "She's been a real inspiration to me and our team."

Prehn is a member of Austin's United '96 Blue Team, part of the Austin United Capital Soccer Club.



Megan Prehn, center, gathers with the Women's Soccer team after the Hilltopper's 5-1 victory over Texas State.

The Coming Season

St. Edward's University Athletics enjoyed a tremendous year, with nine of 13 teams winning conference championships — including a perfect 6-for-6 in the spring semester (*see story, page 1*). Athletics looks to springboard that momentum into the fall sports next year.

Volleyball hopes to return to its former dominance, while the Men's and Women's Soccer teams will try and build on last year's winning seasons. Men's Soccer has improved its record in the last three seasons, and Women's Soccer is coming off a conference championship and NCAA Tournament appearance. The Men's Cross Country team will look to defend its conference championship, and the Women's Cross Country team will try to improve on its sixth-place finish in the Heartland Conference Meet.

For more information on the coming season, visit www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm

continued from page 1

Winter Highlights

Men's Basketball

- For the second straight season, won the Heartland Conference championship.
- Advanced to the first round of the 2007 NCAA Division II Basketball Tournament.

Spring Highlights

Baseball

- Won its first Heartland Conference championship.
- Posted a 43–15 record.
- Advanced to the 2007 NCAA Division II Regional Tournament.

Men's Golf

- Ranked third in the nation in Golfstat rankings.
- Won five tournaments and captured its second straight Heartland Conference Tournament.
- Advanced to the 2007 NCAA Division II South Central Regional.

Women's Golf

- Won four tournaments and the Heartland Conference Tournament.
- Hosted the 2007 NCAA Division II West Regional.
- Ranked 12th in the nation in Golfstat rankings.

Softball

- Posted a record of 43–18.
- Won the Heartland Conference championship for the second time in a row.
- Advanced to the 2007 NCAA Division II Softball South Central Regional Tournament.

Men's Tennis

- Won the team's second straight Heartland Conference Tournament.
- Hosted the first and second rounds of the 2007 NCAA Men's Tennis National Tournament.
- Advanced to the Sweet Sixteen round for the second year in a row.

Women's Tennis

- Won the Heartland Conference Tournament.
- Advanced to the first round of the 2007 NCAA Women's Tennis National Tournament.



Men's Cross Country won their first-ever Heartland Conference Championship and advanced to the NCAA Regional Tournament.



Freshman Giselle Lopez helped the Hilltopper Women's Tennis team win a Heartland Conference Championship as she achieved first-team all-conference and Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year.



Sophomore Thomas Zente took part in the Baseball team's rise to a Heartland Conference Championship and first appearance in the NCAA South Central Regional.

Calendar

Fall 2007 Openers

Volleyball
St. Edward's University
Classic
Aug. 31–Sept. 1

Men's Soccer
vs. Incarnate Word
Sept. 2, 1 p.m.

Women's Soccer
vs. Houston
Aug. 18, 4 p.m.

Hilltopper Summer Camps

Join Hilltopper Athletics for a variety of sports camps during the summer. For more information, check out the Hilltoppers web site at www.stedwards.edu/athletic/camps

Honors Roundup



Sophomore Emily Kvinta was named first-team all-conference as Women's Golf captured the Heartland Conference Championship.

Women's Soccer

Kim Abbott: Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)
Alexis Adams: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
Nick Cowell: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year
Kristen Gascoyne: third-team all-America, second-team all-region, Heartland Conference Most Valuable Player, first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)
Heather Koudelka: second-team all-region, first-team academic all-district, first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)



Freshman Brett Powers was named first-team all-conference. The men's team won the Heartland Conference Championship and advanced to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen for the second straight year.

Dustin Kreitner: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
Aimee Langlinais: first-team all-conference, nominated for 2006 Coca-Cola Community Award
Alex Podowski: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
Megan Podowski: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
Kelsey Yeatts: first-team all-region, first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Men's Soccer

Drew Bullock: second-team all-conference
John Calandro: first-team all-conference
Beau Grantier: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
Mitch Herr: academic all-district, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
Kevin Klaus: first-team all-region, Heartland Conference Co-Freshman of the Year, first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (3)
Jonathan McQuade: second-team all-region, second-team all-conference
Chris Sanders: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (4)
Brad Tolson: second-team all-conference
Team: NSCAA/Adidas Team Academic Award

Volleyball

Lindsey Douglas: first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)
Kristen Lozano: honorable mention all-conference
Stephanie Martin:

honorable mention all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)
Kelsey Teal: second-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Cheerleading

Team: first place at Lone Star National Championships

2006–2007 St. Edward's University Athletic Banquet: "A Night of Champions"

Hilltopper Athletics recently hosted its annual banquet honoring the accomplishments of teams and individuals from 2006–2007. The major award winners include:

Outstanding Senior Athletes of the Year

Nicholas Cristea, Men's Golf
Jennifer Hollas, Softball
Heather Koudelka, Women's Soccer
Casey Plant, Baseball

Student Athletic Trainer of the Year

Stephanie Martin

Athletic Staff Member of the Year

Chris Magott, assistant athletic trainer

Men's Cross Country

James Cotter: first-team all-conference
Kevin Felts: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year
David Fuentes: Heartland Conference Runner of the Year, first-team all-conference

Men's Basketball

Chavon Farmer: honorable mention all-conference
Cornelius Gilleylen: Heartland Conference Defensive Player of the Year, honorable mention all-conference

Ryan Marks: Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Small College Coach of the Year, Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

Taylor Mullenax: first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)

Daniel Pierre: preseason first-team all-conference

Shawn Weinstein: Heartland Conference Player of the Year, first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2), preseason first-team all-conference



Junior Mandy Phillips helped lead Softball to its second-straight Heartland Conference title.

Women's Basketball

Tammy Bartosh: Heartland Conference Defensive Player of the Year, second-team all-conference, preseason first-team all-conference

Sara Head: honorable mention all-conference

Charron Sumler: honorable mention all-conference



Senior Alexis Adams, a Defensive Player of the Week, helped Women's Soccer reach a 17-3-2 record.

Baseball

Patrick Colgan: first-team all-America, first-team all-region, Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Year, first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week (5)

Bradley Goldsmith: Heartland Conference Player of the Year, first-team all-conference, Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Preseason all-America

Dexter Moreno: Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, first-team all-conference, Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Preseason Freshman all-America

Rob Penders: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

Casey Plant: second-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week (1)

Brian Thomas: first-team all-conference, Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Preseason Player to Watch

Softball

Jennifer Bishop: first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week (3)

Amy Coulter: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

Courtney Francis: second-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Week (2)

Jennifer Hollas: first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (1)

Kristen Lozano: South Central Regional All-Tournament Team, first-team all-conference

Melissa McSheffery: second-team all-conference

Rebecca Ray: Heartland Conference Player of the Year, first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Hitter of the Week (3)

Men's Golf

Nicholas Cristea: Heartland Conference Player of the Year, first-team all-conference

Jeff Howard: second-team all-conference

Collin Mayer: Heartland Conference Co-Freshman of the Year, first-team all-conference

Ryan Murphy: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

Blake Slaughter: first-team all-conference

Matt Smith: Heartland Conference Co-Freshman of the Year, second-team all-conference

Women's Golf

Ashley Chaffee: second-team all-conference

Allison Kinser: first-team all-conference

Emily Kvinta: first-team all-conference

Jennifer McNeil: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

Jacqueline Struck: Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, first-team all-conference

Katy Williams: second-team all-conference



Junior Patrick Colgan was awarded first-team all-America, first-team all-region, first-team all-conference and Heartland Conference Pitcher of the Year.

Men's Tennis

Boris Barrios: Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, first-team all-conference

Tyler Lyon: first-team all-conference

Brett Powers: first-team all-conference

Justin Raiti: first-team all-conference

Russell Sterns: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

Walter Valarezo: Heartland Conference Senior of the Year, first-team all-conference

Jacob Walley: first-team all-conference

Women's Tennis

Andrea Adamson: Heartland Conference Player and Senior of the Year, first-team all-conference

Regina DelBosque: first-team all-conference

Elizabeth Jacobi: first-team all-conference

Giselle Lopez: Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, first-team all-conference

Janelle Otero: first-team all-conference

Allison Paris: first-team all-conference



Senior Blake Slaughter was named first-team all-conference after leading his team to the Heartland Conference title.



Senior Andrea Adamson was named first-team all-conference, Heartland Conference Player and Senior of the Year.

Topper Backers

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

In November 2004, St. Edward's University 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-plus people per game. The proceeds from this partnership have funded materials, travel expenses, facility initiatives and more for over 200 student-athletes.

"This program complements the growth and success of not only Athletics at St. Edward's, but the university as a whole," says **Scott Abel**, associate athletic director, who oversees the program.

Some of the leading business participants include Güero's Taco Bar, Taco Shack, Bank of America, Hampton Inn & Suites—South, Smokey Bones Barbeque and Grill, Woodward Hotel and Conference Center, and other local hotels.

Earlier this year, Athletics welcomed Chik-Fil-A as a new Topper Backer.

"It is an honor for Athletics to have the support of so many local businesses that are

committed to philanthropy and community involvement," Abel says. He adds that the Omni at Southpark, Hampton Inn & Suites, 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. "One of the best aspects of Topper Backers is that it can help 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, Alamo Drafthouse and Cinema promoted "Popcorn Madness & Movie Night" at home basketball games, Pluckers Wing Factory & Grill hosted "Wing Night" at a volleyball match, and Domino's Pizza hosted "Pizza Night" at a home basketball game.



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