

Topper Tracks

Fall 2008

Following athletics at St. Edward's University

COACHES CORNER

Russell Sterns, Mens' and Women's Tennis Head Coach



Russell Sterns first came to St. Edward's as a transfer student in 1984 to play tennis for the Hilltoppers. During his junior and senior seasons, the team qualified for the NAIA

national tournament after winning the conference championship. Individually, Sterns was a conference finalist his junior season and the conference singles champion his senior season.

He is entering his 22nd season as head coach of the men's team with a NCAA Division II overall record of 90-59 and 20th season as head coach of the women's team with a NCAA Division II overall record of 89-59. The men's team has qualified three times for the NAIA national tournament and seven times for the NCAA Division II national tournament, with appearances in the Elite Eight in 2006 and the Sweet Sixteen in 2000 and 2007. Since 2000, the women's team has qualified for the NCAA Division II national tournament seven times. Both teams finished second in the Heartland Conference in 2008 and are ranked 24th in the nation.

What do you enjoy about coaching?

I enjoy the competition. I enjoyed it as a player, and I enjoy it just as much as a coach. The challenge of recruiting and preparing players mentally and physically to compete at such a high level is very rewarding.

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SEASON NEWS

WRAP-UP

The St. Edward's University men's soccer team finished the season with a 13-4-2 record. The team also finished second in the Heartland Conference and was ranked as high as 12th in the nation during the season. This is the best finish for the team since 1999.

The women's soccer team finished the season with a 13-3-1 record. The team also finished second in the Heartland Conference and just missed returning to the NCAA Division II national tournament for the third straight year.

The volleyball team kept its upward swing in motion, tallying a 16-13 record for the season. The team finished in a three-way tie for first in the Heartland Conference and advanced to the conference tournament before bowing out in the semifinals. This was the team's first conference championship since 2003.



Sophomore Sean Meller



Freshman Ashley Vander Hey

The men's and women's cross country teams both had respectable seasons this year, with the men placing fourth in the Heartland Conference and the women's top runner, freshman **Allison Flood**, finishing in 29th place. Senior **David Fuentes** won his third-consecutive Heartland Conference individual title and led his team to the NCAA South Central Regional where they placed 16 out of 22 teams. He finished 26th at the NCAA national meet, earning all-American honors.

UPDATE

The *Golf World*/Nike NCAA Division II Coaches' Poll ranked the men's golf team in a tie for 22nd in the nation. The team has won three tournaments this fall and finished second in another. Junior **Collin Mayer** is ranked 10th in the nation individually and fourth regionally.

The women's golf team is currently ranked 12th in the nation, having won one tournament and finishing second in another during the fall season. Senior **Emily Kvinta** is ranked 15th in the nation individually and third regionally.

PREVIEW

The men's basketball team is picked to win the Heartland Conference this season. The Hilltoppers have won three-straight conference championships and have one preseason all-conference player, senior **Taylor Mullenax**, on the team. The Hilltoppers finished last season with a 23-7 record.

The women's basketball team is picked to finish third in the Heartland Conference. Two players from the team were selected to the preseason all-conference team: juniors **Sara Head** and **Haley Tidwell**. The team will look to improve on last season's 12-17 record.

HONORS ROUNDUP

The men's soccer team was awarded 25 total awards, while the women's soccer team posted 22 awards and the volleyball team garnered 13 awards. The men's cross country (6), women's golf (5) and men's golf (1) teams all had outstanding honors during the fall season. Below is a list of all Hilltopper awards received so far during the 2008–2009 academic year:

Men's Soccer

Kevin Brolan: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

John Calandro: Daktronics first-team all-region, first-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Dustin Cherry: Daktronics all-American team honorable mention, Daktronics first-team all-region, first-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)

Robert Georgiefski: Daktronics all-American honorable mention, first-team all-region, first-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)

Kevin Klaus: first-team all–Heartland Conference

Patrick Miller: Daktronics first-team all-region, second-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Matt Moore: Daktronics first-team all-region, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)

Josh Nannen: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Brandin Parras: second-team all-Heartland Conference

Jorge Vega: Daktronics first-team all-region, second-team all–Heartland Conference

Women's Soccer

Kim Abbott: COSIDA first-team academic all-district

Janae Averett: second-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Bethany Bennett: Daktronics all-American team honorable mention, Daktronics first-team all-region, NSCAA all-region first-team all–Heartland Conference

Kelly Boyd: second-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Stacey Copeland: Daktronics first-team all-region, first-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Korre Fairman: first-team all–Heartland Conference

Alex Podowski: NSCAA all-region, first-team all–Heartland Conference

Claire Tilton: NSCAA all-region

Kelsey Yeatts: Daktronics all-American team honorable mention, Daktronics first-team all-region, COSIDA second-team academic all-district, first-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)

Volleyball

Chelsea Barsamian: second-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Player of the Week (2)

Lindsey Douglas: COSIDA second-team all-district, Hilltopper Classic all-tournament team

Lindy Luleff: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Kelsey Teal: Heartland Conference Player of the Week (1)

Ashley Vander Hey: Daktronics south central all-region second team, first-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Freshman of the Year, all–Heartland Conference tournament team, Hilltopper Classic all-tournament team

Sean Donahue: Heartland Conference Coach of the Year

Men's Cross Country

David Fuentes: all-America, first-team all–Heartland Conference, Heartland Conference Runner of the Year, Heartland Conference Runner of the Week (3), national championship qualifier

Men's Golf

Collin Mayer: Heartland Conference Golfer of the Week (1)

Women's Golf

Kirby Baker: Heartland Conference Golfer of the Week (1)

Emily Kvinta: Heartland Conference Golfer of the Week (3)

Dina O'Brien: Heartland Conference Golfer of the Week (1)

CALENDAR

Feb. 1

Baseball vs. Southern Arkansas, noon

Feb. 13

Men's Tennis vs. Trinity, 2:30 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs. Trinity, 2:30 p.m.

Feb. 17

Softball vs. Tarleton State, 1 p.m.

Feb. 23–24

St. Edward's Men's Golf Invitational

Homecoming (Feb. 27–March 1)

Feb. 27

Baseball vs. UT–Permian Basin, noon

Feb. 28

Women's Tennis vs. Laredo, 9 a.m.

Women's Soccer Alumni Match, 11 a.m.

Baseball vs. UT–Permian Basin, noon

Men's Tennis vs. Laredo, noon

Men's Soccer Alumni Match, 1 p.m.

35th Anniversary of Women's Athletics Reception, 1 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Newman, 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Newman, 5:30 p.m.

March 2–3

St. Edward's Women's Golf Invitational

SAAC UPDATE

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, or SAAC, promotes student-athletes on campus, as well as in the community at large. Members encourage community service and promote camaraderie among different sports. Here's what the St. Edward's University SAAC has been working on the past few months.

Goals

- Generate a student-athlete voice within the institution and conference
- Solicit student-athlete response to proposed NCAA legislation
- Suggest potential NCAA legislation
- Organize community service efforts
- Create a vehicle for student-athlete representation on campus-wide or conference-wide committees

Make-A-Wish Foundation

St. Edward's University SAAC, along with the Heartland Conference and the rest of NCAA Division II SAAC programs, will be raising funds for the Make-A-Wish foundation. Last year, the Hilltoppers raised \$600 while the Heartland Conference raised \$4,819 and the NCAA Division II raised \$315,000. This year's goal for the Heartland Conference is to raise \$5,000 — enough money

to grant one entire wish. The NCAA Division II goal is to raise \$100,000. Student athletes will be selling chances to win several prizes in the month of November. All money raised will go directly to the Make-A-Wish foundation. Other fundraisers will be planned for later in the school year.

Legislative Grids

As part of its annual duties, SAAC reviewed, voted and made comments on legislation that is being proposed by the NCAA. These votes and comments will be passed up to the National Division II SAAC. At that point, the student-athlete voice will be presented at the 2009 NCAA Division II national convention in January. This process gives student-athletes from around the country an opportunity to speak out on legislation that will affect them and future student-athletes.

Adopt-an-Athlete

St. Edward's University SAAC has partnered with Dawson Elementary School to develop an Adopt-an-Athlete program. This new program allows athletes to spend one hour a week mentoring and tutoring elementary students. In its inaugural semester, eight student-athletes have joined the program.

NEW FACES IN ATHLETICS

St. Edward's University welcomed six new staff members to Athletics this fall.



Lisa Love
Assistant Athletic
Trainer

Lisa comes to St. Edward's after working with Peak Performance Resources. Prior to that, Lowe served as

the strength and conditioning coordinator for the women's basketball team at UT–Austin. She was also an assistant athletic trainer at the University of Georgia and a graduate assistant athletic trainer at the University of Florida.



Todd Ohlmeyer
Head Coach,
Men's Golf

Todd comes to St. Edward's after holding the assistant coach position at Coastal Carolina for nearly two years. He

was an assistant coach at Belmont-Abbey for one season. Todd was a four-year letter winner in men's golf at Pepperdine and a member of the 1997 national championship team. He was inducted into the Pepperdine Hall of Fame in 2007.



Tony Riehl
Head Coach, Cross
Country

Tony takes over the men and women's cross country teams after a distinguished career coaching numerous sports. He is also a

life-long educational administrator. He was a three-year letter winner in basketball for the University of Nebraska.



Kim Morgal
Assistant Coach,
Volleyball

Kim comes to St. Edward's from Oklahoma City University where she was a graduate assistant coach. She was also

a four-year letter winner for Central Oklahoma University.



Nicole Reimers
Assistant Athletic
Trainer

Nicole comes to St. Edward's after holding the same title at the University of Central Arkansas last year. She was a graduate

assistant athletic trainer at the University of Arkansas and a student athletic trainer at UT–San Antonio.



Jessica Rogers
Assistant Coach,
Softball

Jessica comes to St. Edward's after holding the graduate assistant position for the UT–San Antonio softball team. She

was a four-year letter winner for the Roadrunners, selected as the Southland Conference Player and Hitter of the Year her sophomore season, and an NCAA academic all-American.

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NEW FACES IN ATHLETICS
CONTINUED



Melinda Terry
Associate
Athletic Director
for Compliance

Melinda takes over as associate director of Athletics for Compliance after serving as the director of Sports Medicine at St. Edward's since 2004. Prior to that, she served as the assistant athletic director for Sports Medicine and Student Services at UT-Arlington.



Chris Young
Assistant Coach,
Baseball

Chris comes to St. Edward's after a very successful minor league baseball career, where he reached the Triple-A level with the Albuquerque Isotopes. He was also a three-year letterwinner at Mississippi State, where he was selected as a freshman all-American.

COACHES CORNER
CONTINUED

What strategies do you use?

I think one of the more important roles of a coach is motivation. If players are motivated, they are going to improve.

Any highlights from the 2007-2008 season?

Both teams had four players each named to the all-Heartland Conference team.

What are your goals for the 2008 season?

On the men's side, we want to reclaim the Heartland Conference championship. We would also like to host an NCAA regional tournament and compete for a national championship in May. On the women's side, we should see the benefits of having one of the best freshmen recruiting classes in the country.

THE RUNNING MAN: DAVID FUENTES

Senior cross country captain and Computer Information Science major **David Fuentes** doesn't slow down very often. He balances school and a part-time job at the university's IT help desk with a rigorous cross country training regimen. The secret to his success? Time management, says Fuentes. His strategy has paid off, too. Fuentes has been named Heartland Conference cross country Runner of the Year three times. He has also qualified for the NCAA Division II national meet the past three years, earning all-American this season.



Senior David Fuentes leads the way during a Fall 2008 cross country meet.

Fuentes stays busy in the off-season, too. Last summer, he helped schedule fall cross country meets along with ordering jerseys and other equipment for the 2008 season. And when he graduates in May 2009, he plans to join a local cross country team and keep on running. He would also like to stay close to the hilltop. "I believe the team could benefit from an assistant coach, and I'm willing to take on the task."

HILLTOPPERS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER



Hilltopper women's soccer teams lines up for the national anthem before the Kim Yeatts Memorial Classic.

This season, the St. Edward's University women's soccer and volleyball teams joined the fight against breast cancer with fundraisers to support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The women's soccer team hosted its second annual Kim Yeatts Memorial Classic on Sept. 20, to honor the mother of senior defender **Kelsey Yeatts**. At the match, the team wore pink uniforms to signify the importance of the cause and raised more than \$1,000.

The volleyball team hosted its first-ever Dig for the Cure match on Oct. 1. The national Dig for the Cure campaign included participation from more than 175 volleyball programs across the nation along with teams from the Heartland Conference. The lady Hilltoppers raised more than \$3,000 at this match.

"It's great that we can do something to help such a noble cause," says women's soccer head coach **Nick Cowell**. Volleyball head coach **Sean Donahue** agrees. Both teams plan to make each fundraiser an annual tradition.

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.