

St. Andrews athletics recognized for its Outreach Program

From: Staff Reports

St. Andrews Presbyterian College was acknowledged as one of only five NCAA Division II institutions recognized on the 2006-07 Outreach Honor Roll awarded by the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) at the Founders Luncheon of the NCAS Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida last week.

"This honor is a tribute to the dedication exhibited by Knights' student-athletes and coaches to try to make a difference in the Laurinburg community, especially the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and their sponsor Liz Burris. St. Andrews is honored to be a contributing member of NCAS and hopes to receive recognition for outreach and community service on an annual basis," said St. Andrews Director of Athletics Brian Mand.

The National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) announced the honorees of the Outreach Honor Roll and Degree

Completion Honor Roll, both for the 2006 - 07 academic year. Of the 224 member colleges and universities across the country, 57 members stood out for their outstanding programs and dedication to their student - athletes and college communities.

Each summer, statistics are requested from NCAS members outlining their athletic department's time and impact in the community as well as the number of student - athletes they provide tuition assistance to after their athletic eligibility has expired in order to assist their degree completion and graduation. Based on the numbers collected, honor rolls are compiled recognizing the top 15 - 20 percent of the NCAS membership.

In the Outreach Honor Roll, 47 colleges and universities were recognized for their outreach total. St. Andrews was only one of five D-II colleges to make the list.

The National Consortium for Academics and Sports evolved in response to the need to "keep the student in the student - athlete." The NCAS was established by Dr. Richard E. Lapchick and since its inception in 1985, NCAS member institutions have proven to be effective advocates for balancing academics and athletics. By joining the NCAS, a college or university agrees to bring back, with tuition assistance, their own former student - athletes and were unable to complete their degree requirements. In exchange these former student - athletes agree to participate in school outreach and community service programs addressing social issues of America's youth. The Knights' student-athletes were active with Make A Wish Foundation and Toys for Tots during the 2006-07 academic year, while also helping out with several local churches and schools.

St. Andrews Softball Excited About the 2008 Season

From: Staff Reports

The St. Andrews Presbyterian College softball team will take the diamond for the first time in 2008 this weekend and the Lady Knights are eager and ready to get their season underway.

St. Andrews will begin the 2008 season on Saturday, February 9 at Wingate University. The season-opening doubleheader is scheduled for a 1:00 p.m. start.

The Knights, under second year head coach Elizabeth Burris, will look to build on a 15 win season last year with an experienced squad that feature's all but one student-athlete from last year's very young team. Burris also added two key freshmen in Jasmine Dobbins (Pikesville, N.C.) and Kelsey McIntosh (Fairfax, Va.) that will not only help improve upon last years record but also become a dominate force within Conference Carolinas.

The '08 St. Andrews roster features 13 letterwinners that gained at least 25 games of experience last year including a solid core group of four senior infielders and a number of sophomores.

Senior right-handed pitcher Samantha Stewart (Ft. Pierce, Fla.) will lead the way for the Knights on the mound with her strong pitching and ability to lead the team. Stewart led St. Andrews in wins, innings pitched, strikeouts, ERA, and complete games last year.

Senior middle infielders Mika Tanji (Honolulu, Hawaii) and Erin Haugen (Ft. Mill, S.C.) teamed up as one of the best double play duo's in the nation, ranking 22nd nationally last year. Tanji and Haugen, who are the two most experienced Knights having each played in 119 games for St. Andrews, will look to turn even more double plays in their senior season. Tanji, who has pitched for the Knights in the past, may also see some time on the rubber.

Senior Ashley Shurtleff (Colton, Calif.) will continue to be a versatile player for the Knights playing both third base and in the outfield. Shurtleff started 72 games in her first two seasons at St. Andrews. Shurtleff added, "I am looking forward to making this season the best so far and cannot wait for game day to come."

A trio of junior Lady Knights have become seasoned veterans for Coach Burris. Brittni York (Indian Trail, N.C.) is multi-tool player who plays centerfield, adds depth to the pitching squad, and led last years club in stolen bases. Both Dani Ghramm (Hayden, Idaho) and Tiffany Capone (Jacksonville, N.C.) have played at SAPC for two seasons and give Burris more options on both defense and at the plate.

Burris will continue to develop a sophomore class of six talented players that provide a strong foundation that is needed for the upcoming season. Catcher Kailee Munden (LaVerne,

Calif.) had a .331 batting average in her freshman season; Lauren James (Bahama, N.C.) hit the pitchers mound 24 times as a rookie last year, Brianna Shurtleff (Colton, Calif.) has a good eye at the plate leading last years squad in walks; and Morgan Farroll (Newton Grove, N.C.) will continue to patrol the outfield in a Knights uniform.

The Knights, who were picked No. 11 in the Conference Carolinas preseason coaches' poll after winning five league games last year, will look to make big improvements this season with 20 scheduled conference games. SAPC's home opener is scheduled for Saturday, February 16 at 1:00 p.m. against non-conference Mars Hill College. The Knights begin conference play at home against Anderson University on February 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Burris, who helped St. Andrews nearly double their win total of two seasons ago, is also eager to start, "We learned a lot last year, both myself and the players. We have spent the fall and this preseason working on our mental toughness. We know that things at times will be rough, so this year we plan to be ready to meet those challenges head on."

Knights baseball starts season with split against NGU

From: Staff Reports

Senior starting pitcher B.J. Horne (Hamlet, N.C.) allowed just two hits in six innings of work in a 5-1 season-opening victory for St. Andrews Presbyterian College but North Greenville University was able to survive a 5-4 battle in the nightcap as the two non-conference baseball teams split a pair of seven-inning contests on Saturday afternoon at Scotland High School's McCoy Field.

Junior catcher Kyle Norris (Laurel Hill, N.C.) collected four hits and three RBI's to lead the Knights (1-1) offensively as first year head coach Keith Williams picked up his first win at St. Andrews. A two-run home run by senior Curt Marshall (Rock Hill, S.C.) sparked the Crusaders (1-1) win in the finale.

"It was a good first day for us as the pitchers threw very well and we were in a position to win both games," said Williams.

Horne (1-0) collected his first win of his senior season allowed just two hits, two walks, and one unearned run over six innings. The rightie fanned five Crusaders while senior reliever Travis Lee (Frederick, Md.) preserved the victory with a scoreless seventh inning.

"B.J. did very well today and showed confidence in his pitches at certain points of the game. He was strong and after we got some runs on the board Lee did a good job finishing off the game for us," expressed Williams.

After four scoreless innings, North Greenville scored an unearned run in the top of the fifth on a sophomore Chad Drosieko (Easley, S.C.) sacrifice fly. Sophomore third baseman Charles Weber (Concord, N.C.), who had a great defensive day, made a diving catch in foul territory to end the inning and keeping the Crusaders from a potentially big

frame.

The Knights bounced right back with a five-run outburst in the home half of the fifth. The surge included a Weber RBI-single up the middle and a senior Michael Eastwood (Grantsboro, N.C.) run-producing fielder's choice. Norris capped the rally with a two-run double to left field while also hustling around the bases and scoring on the same play because of a throwing error.

Crusaders junior pitcher Devin Vance (Taylors, S.C.) matched Horne with five strikeouts but allowed five runs (four earned) on seven hits in the loss. Freshman Justin Walters (Laurel Hill, N.C.) had two of NGU's three hits in the first game.

In the second game, senior right-hander T.J. Chrusch (Fleetwood, Pa.) gave the Royal Blue and White a chance to win by hurling 4 1/3 solid innings of solid performance in only his third collegiate start. Chrusch registered seven strikeouts for St. Andrews but was pulled in the fifth due to a high pitch count.

"It a shame T.J. did not win today as he threw extremely well. He pitched really hard, pounding it for us, but because of the pitch count we had to take him out. Today's performances by our starters shows we have a reliable top side of the rotation, and with the help of assistant coach Jim Blair, they will give us a chance to win every time they take the mound," stated Williams.

The Knights jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first on Norris single that scored junior Ivan Rodriguez (New York, N.Y.) but the Crusaders were able to tie the game up with back-to-back doubles to lead off the fourth by Marshall and freshman Grant Kelley (Morehead City, N.C.).

Marshall followed his double in the

fourth with a two-run homer over the 375-foot sign in center field in the fifth to put North Greenville ahead, 3-1. However, a senior Sam Williams (Rockingham, N.C.) single through the left-side of the infield in the sixth plated Eastwood and cut the deficit in half.

The Crusaders took advantage of a fielding error in the seventh and scored two more unearned runs on a sophomore Randy Stegall (Spartanburg, S.C.) single to pull out to a 5-2 lead.

With their backs against the wall, the Knights started a rally in the home half of the seventh with a leadoff walk by sophomore Vince Giunta (Sewell, N.J.) followed by a double by senior Eric Stone (Laurinburg, N.C.). Rodriguez later scored Giunta with a sacrifice fly and Weber reached base as the potential tying run after being hit by a pitch. Eastwood then pulled St. Andrews to within one with an RBI single that scored Stone.

After a stolen base by Eastwood put the would-be tying and scoring runners in scoring position, junior reliever Mark Bordeaux (Sumter, S.C.) finally settled down and forced a ground-out as the Crusaders escaped with the 5-4 victory. Bordeaux earned his first save of the season while junior starter Grayson Smith (York, S.C.) was credited with the win.

"Our team showed a lot of heart to put some runs up late and rally and if they keep working at it and believing in themselves we will start winning those type games," added Williams.

Norris collected three base knocks in the final game while four different Crusaders had two hits as each team collected 10 hits in the finale. SAPC collected a total of 18 hits on the day but left 10 runners on base.