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Around Campus: Athletics

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We’re No. 1!
DePaul Tops BIG EAST in Academic Excellence Awards

DePaul earned six BIG EAST Team Academic Excellence Awards, marking the sixth straight year that DePaul has led the 22 BIG EAST teams recognized for having the highest collective grade-point averages in each conference sport during the 2015-16 season. The DePaul teams honored were women’s indoor track and field, women’s outdoor track and field, men’s soccer, softball, women’s tennis and volleyball.

Since 2008-09, the DePaul women’s basketball, women’s cross country, golf, men’s soccer, women’s soccer, softball, men’s tennis, women’s tennis, women’s indoor track and field, women’s outdoor track and field, and volleyball teams have all earned the BIG EAST Team Academic Excellence Award at least once. In the last eight academic years, a total of 48 DePaul programs have earned the conference’s Team Academic Excellence Award, with a school-record eight teams in 2012-13 and 2014-15.

Good Works!
Garrett Named to Allstate NABC Good Works Team

DePaul senior Billy Garrett Jr. was one of 10 men’s basketball players named to the Allstate Insurance and National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Good Works Team. The Good Works Team showcases the benevolent community service and humanitarian efforts of exceptional student-athletes who have made a positive and lasting impact on and off the court. This year’s honorees have been involved in such projects as helping those affected by the Flint, Mich., water crisis and educating students in Nigeria. This year’s Good Works Team members were recognized at the NCAA Final Four in Phoenix, where they participated in a community service project.

All Heart
Student-Athletes Serve Others

Senior men’s basketball player Peter Ryckbosch came up with a novel way to spend part of his last summer vacation—he ironed 100 blankets. It was all part of an effort to connect children of the St. Vincent de Paul Center with something they really needed.

Ryckbosch and other student-athletes attached and ironed on individually decorated heart-shaped logos that read “DePaul Blue Demons.” “I spent quite a few hours in the Athletics Academic Advising office ironing on the logos so the kids would know where the blankets were coming from,” said Ryckbosch, whose ironing partner was senior volleyball player Colleen Smith.

“What Peter did was awesome,” said senior cross country and track athlete Paige Skorseth. “I tutor with him and have gotten to know him these last four years. He is a phenomenal student-athlete and a great role model.

“Not everyone enjoys the same privileges we have nor are they as fortunate as we are,” Skorseth continued. “DePaul’s mission is that no matter what your status in life may be, you are fortunate to be a student-athlete at a great university, and it’s your responsibility to reach out and help others.”

Student-athletes decorate blankets.
A Deep Bench

Injuries Fail to Derail Women’s Basketball Season

The fortitude of the women’s basketball program was front and center when Coach Doug Bruno’s team strung together a magnificent run of wins despite losing three key players to injury. DePaul won 16 of 17 games in the middle of a season that included a 10-game winning streak without the help of BIG EAST Preseason Player of the Year and leading scorer Jessica January, second-leading scorer Ashton Millender and forward Marte’ Grays. The program was ranked among the nation’s Top 25 for most of the season.

Most prominently stepping into the breach was senior guard Brooke Schulte, who was named BIG EAST Player of the Week four times, had games of 35 and 30 points and is the 2017 BIG EAST Player of the Year. Senior forward Jacqui Grant also raised her game and was averaging double digits in points and rebounds during conference play. Others playing the best basketball of their respective careers included Amarah Coleman, Lauren Prochaska, Kelly Campbell, Tanita Allen and Chante Stonewall.

The Blue Demons won 20 games or more for the 10th time in a row. They spent virtually the entire season ranked among the Top 25 teams in the nation.

Class Acts

DePaul Honors Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017

Nine individuals and one team were celebrated recently for their athletic accomplishments when they were inducted into the DePaul Athletic Hall of Fame on Feb. 25:

- **Bobby Simmons (CMN ’14), Men’s Basketball (1998-2001)**—Helped lead the Blue Demons to the 2000 NCAA tournament and 1999 National Invitation Tournament. DePaul was 18-13 in his first season and 21-12 in his second year after going 7-23 and 3-23 the two years before his arrival.

- **Mfon Udofa, Women’s Basketball (1994-98)**—Led the Blue Demons to two NCAA tournament appearances, including advancing to the second round in 1996. Second all-time in career free throw attempts, No. 4 in rebounding, No. 5 in free throws and rebounding average, No. 9 in field goal percentage, No. 11 all-time in blocks and No. 12 in scoring average.

- **2000 Softball Team**—Became only the second team in program history to advance to the NCAA Women’s College World Series (WCWS) as one of the eight top teams in the nation, finishing with a 40-22 record and the No. 8 ranking in the final National Fastpitch Coaches Association/USA Today Top 25 Poll.

- **Yvette Healy (CMN ’99, MED ’08), Softball (1996-99)**—First freshman to be named All-American in program history and the second in school history to earn All-American honors in multiple seasons. A three-time Academic All-American and No. 12 in the nation in batting average (.424) as a junior. Helped lead the Blue Demons to a school record of 54 wins and a berth in the WCWS as a senior. All-time school leader in stolen bases.

- **Nicole Terpstra Wondaal (EDU ’99), Softball (1996-99)**—A second-team All-American in 1999 who helped lead DePaul to the WCWS. Only pitcher in school history to win 20 games or more in each of her four seasons and among a handful to post 500 strikeouts in a season. Four-time conference Pitcher of the Year and fourth in the nation in ERA as a senior.

- **Karen Stewart Kanupke (EDU ’00), Softball (1996-99)**—Two-time Academic All-American shortstop with the second-highest career marks in RBIs and doubles. No. 3 all-time in total bases and starts, No. 4 in at-bats, No. 5 in home runs and No. 6 in slugging percentage.

- **Nives Milosevic Horacek (BUS ’99), Women’s Tennis (1994-98)**—Until 2016, was all-time leader in singles victories (105). Compiled a 33-9 record in 1997-98 and teamed with Klara Salopek to form the most successful doubles team in school history.

- **Jevgenij Cariov (BUS ’03), Men’s Tennis (2000-03)**—Only Blue Demon in program history to compete in the NCAA tournament, advancing to the second round of the 2001 tournament as a junior. Postcollege career includes winning the Broomfield (Colo.) men’s open title in 2015.

- **Henry Radcliffe, Boxing (1947-49)**—Radcliffe competed in two of the three seasons DePaul fielded a boxing program and won six consecutive bouts to advance to the final four in the 1949 NCAA Championships. Named an All-American.

- **Dan Ustian (BUS ’73), Dr. Robert Hamilton Special Service Award**—A longtime university benefactor, he leads the Wintrust Arena at McCormick Square fundraising committee and serves on DePaul’s Board of Trustees.