

Yellow Jacket Sports Experience Another Year of Excellence

EDITORIAL NOTE: This story will appear in an expanded version in the coming days. Stay tuned to this Web site for the updated version.

BEREA, OHIO — Baldwin-Wallace College had another strong year of athletic competition in 2005-2006. The success this school year by the 21 Yellow Jacket teams of student-athletes is nothing new. The women's teams have now won 13 Ohio Athletic Conference All-Sports trophies since its inception in 1984-85, including an OAC-record eight straight titles. The men's athletic teams have earned the All-Sports Trophy five times.

The women's athletic teams won their eighth consecutive award with a total of 75.75 points and won OAC crowns in indoor and outdoor track and basketball. In addition, the soccer, volleyball, swimming and golf squads each placed second.

Each year, the College honors one male and one female athlete as the winners of the "Outstanding Senior Athlete Award." The "Outstanding Senior Male Athlete" was football All-American and pre-med major Joe George (Canton). The "Outstanding Senior Female Athlete Award" went to women's basketball All-American and mathematics major Nikki Altenweg (Perry).

Both George and Altenweg excelled in the classroom and both on and off the field as exceptional leaders.

George carried a 3.7 grade point average and will attend anesthesiology school at Ohio University. He set the school-record for career tackles with 334 as a four-year starter at middle linebacker. The 2005 team captain was a three-time All-OAC and Academic All-OAC selection who culminated his career as an All-American this fall.

Altenweg carried a 3.65 grade average in mathematics and intends to teach and coach. The two-year team captain led B-W to two straight OAC titles and NCAA Division III national playoff berths. She also was three-times All-OAC and Academic All-OAC and culminated her career this winter as an All-American.

Each spring at Honors Day, two student-athletes, a male and a female from each OAC institution receives a Clyde Lamb Award. This year, George and track standout Liz Redd (Canton) were the Yellow Jacket choices.

Redd, the 2006 OAC Outdoor Track Championship Meet Co-Most Valuable Track Athlete Award winner, led the Jacket track teams to indoor and outdoor OAC and All-Ohio titles while maintaining a 3.8 grade average and intends on teaching and coaching. At this year's OAC Outdoor Championship Meet, Redd culminated her career by winning the 100-meter dash in an OAC Championship Meet-record 12.16 seconds, won the 200-meter dash and ran on the winning 400 and 1600-meter relay teams. She culminated an outstanding career on Memorial Day weekend when she competed at the Division III National Championship Meet.

Overall in 2005-2006, the College had a total of 114 All-OAC and 52 Academic All-OAC selections. The 52 Academic All-OAC student-athletes represented 19.4 percent of all student-athletes selected in the 10-school league.

During the fall, the men's and women's soccer and volleyball teams were among the best in the OAC and NCAA Division III Great Lakes Region. The women's soccer squad placed second at the OAC Tournament and the men were third. The men's soccer team tied the school-record for wins in a season with 14, were nationally-ranked, won the OAC versus Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Shootout and were third at the OAC tourney. The volleyball team

During the winter, both basketball teams captured the OAC regular season title and advanced to the NCAA Division III Tournament. The Yellow Jacket men won a school-record 25 games, finished 25-5 overall, won three tournament titles, including the school's fifth OAC tourney crown and advanced to the second round of the OAC Tournament. Junior Tori Davis (Elyria) highlighted the success by being named as a consensus All-American and the Division III Player of the Year by DIIINews.com The women won 27 games, two tourney titles and for the third time in school history advanced to the Elite Eight of the Div. III National Tournament. They were 27-5 overall.

In addition to the hoops teams, the women's indoor track team won the All-Ohio and OAC titles, the women's swimmers and men's wrestlers each placed second and the men's swimmers were third. The indoor track crown marked the 17th time in the last 19 years that B-W has won the women's crown. In addition, two wrestlers, senior Devin Carman (Ashtabula) and junior Bryan Kmetz (Brunswick), and one swimmer, junior D.J. Mosiniak (Toledo), all qualified for Division III national competition.

Overall, B-W had another very successful year of athletic competition by its teams and with some of the most outstanding student-athletes in small college athletics.