

athletics

UPDATE ON YOUR YELLOW JACKETS

New sports coming, winter season highlights, and more



The Lady Jackets made their second consecutive appearance in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Tournament, thanks to a deep and talented senior class as well as a promising group of newcomers.

Defiance picked up its first home victory of the season by knocking off a nationally-ranked Brescia University squad in DC's annual Pro Rehab – Hubbard Co. Tournament, and used the momentum to post a 10-7 record down the stretch, including a 6-2 mark in the Karl H. Weaner Center. Senior guard Molly Bateman was selected to the all-tournament team after averaging 18.5 points during the tournament and scoring a career-high 23 points in DC's win over Brescia.

Courtney Schmersal (*pictured inset with parents*) became the program's all-time three-point field goal leader on February 9, when she knocked down the 143rd three-pointer of her career in DC's win

over Earlham. Tasha Stucke ended her career on a high note as well, posting a career-high 10 points per game during the season as she extended her consecutive starts streak to 102 and moved into sixth place on the Jackets' all-time assists list.

During a season in which Defiance celebrated the career achievements of its seniors, a freshman gave fans reason to look forward with optimism, as Erica King (*pictured left*) established herself as one of the premier guards in the HCAC. King led the Jackets with 10.8 points per game, placed among the top three in the conference in three-point shooting, and showed no hesitation to do the dirty work, placing third on the team with 3.9 rebounds per game.

Defiance was ousted in the HCAC Tournament Quarterfinals by the Manchester College Spartans, who avenged their quarterfinals loss to the Yellow Jackets one year ago.

A young and talented Defiance College men's basketball team rebounded from a six-game losing streak late in the season to win three of its last four contests and salvage the fifth winning season on the planks for the Yellow Jackets in the past five years. Despite the 13-12 overall clip, DC failed to qualify for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament. Defiance ended 8-10 in league play and tied for sixth place in the 10-team league with rival Bluffton University, missing out on the final tournament berth due to a tie-breaker.

Despite the disappointment of not making the HCAC Tournament, there were several bright spots provided by strong individual performances. No Yellow Jacket shone brighter than sophomore point guard, Logan Wolfrum (*pictured inset*), who was named All-HCAC, after leading the league in scoring and assists. The Defiance, Ohio native ended his second collegiate campaign with 540 points, 133 assists and 126 rebounds and was the first player in the program's NCAA Division III era to log 500 points, 100 assists and 100 boards in a single season.

Defiance also saw junior Anthony Brown selected as an All-HCAC performer, after taking Honorable Mention honors for the second straight year. Brown set career highs with 371 points and 58 rebounds, while hitting 36.6 percent of his attempts from beyond the arc and ranking among the nation's finest free throw shooters with a 92.5-percent rate from the line.

While Wolfrum and Brown will be expected to lead the way on the perimeter once again in 2011-2012, Ryan Hicks should continue his emergence as the Jackets' top scoring threat in the post. Hicks ended his standout rookie campaign third on the team with 8.3 points per game and second with 5.4 rebounds per night.



Defiance women placed fourth at the HCAC Indoor Track & Field Championships, and set several individual school records in DC's first official indoor track and field season. Sophomore, Katie Heitkamp (*pictured above*), had a breakout season for the Yellow Jackets, tying DC's indoor pole vaulting record before going on to break the record at the All-Ohio Championships, and improving upon it one week later at the HCAC Indoor Championships.

DC's Ashlyn Howell was honored as an HCAC Honorable Mention selection after placing in four separate events at the conference championships. Howell placed second in the triple jump, third in the long jump, sixth in the 55-meter dash, and seventh as a member of DC's 4x200-meter relay team.

The Jackets saw two athletes receive Indoor All-Ohio honors, as junior hurdler, Marlea Rolander, was tagged as an All-Ohio performer in the 55-meter hurdles for the second time in three seasons, while freshman, Addie Henricks, earned the distinction as a high jumper in her first season with the Jackets.



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The Yellow Jacket men finished second at the inaugural Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships, and saw Austin Trivett (*pictured right*) honored as the HCAC's Most Outstanding Field Athlete of the Year. Trivett earned individual titles in both the pole vault and high jump at the championship meet, and placed sixth in the long jump, giving him 23 of the Yellow Jackets' 100 points.

Seven members of DC's squad were tabbed as Indoor All-Ohio performers, as Trivett, Tyler Anderson, Aaron Demecs, Joe Davis, Justin Perkins, Madison Murphy and Aaron Fraley each earned the distinction at the Div. III Indoor All-Ohio Championships at Kenyon College. Trivett and Anderson earned the distinction for their performances in the pole vault, while Demecs claimed the honor after posting the fourth-fastest 400-meter dash at the meet. Davis, Perkins, Murphy and Fraley earned the distinction as members of DC's distance medley relay team, which broke the school record by nearly five seconds at the meet.

Defiance also saw school records broken in the 4x200-meter relay, 500-meter dash, 1,000-meter run and 3,000-meter run, as they established themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the conference's inaugural indoor track and field season.



NEW SPORTS ARRIVE ON CAMPUS

Swimming arrives Winter 2011

The Defiance College athletics department has announced that it will add men's and women's swimming and diving programs in the upcoming year. Tyler Dixon has been hired as the head coach and will be responsible for getting the teams ready to compete in a full varsity schedule during the winter of 2011-2012.

"I am thrilled that we will now be able to offer swimming and diving for our students at Defiance College," said DC President Mark Gordon. "We very much want to expand opportunities for all DC students, and this is just one of the many ways in which we are doing just that."

Dixon comes to DC from Ball State University, where he was a four-year letterman on the swim team while earning a bachelor's degree in sports administration in the spring of 2009 and a master's degree in information communication sciences in the summer of 2010. During his time with the Cardinals, Dixon excelled in the pool as well as in the classroom. The Jeffersonville, Ind., native was a two-time Mid-American Conference All-Academic selection and placed among the top 16 at the MAC Championships in 2007 and 2010.

Dixon envisions a similar level of success for future Yellow Jacket swimmers during his tenure with the Purple and Gold. "I am looking forward to this opportunity at Defiance College to build a team from the ground up. It is a unique and exciting challenge and my goal is to build these programs to start competing at a high level right away. There are some quality NCAA Division III teams in Ohio and I want to be able to compete and win against them."

The DC swimming and diving teams will use the Defiance Area Y for practices and all home competitions.

Lacrosse begins with club play

The athletics department has also announced that it will add men's lacrosse in 2011-2012, with a full varsity season slated to begin in 2012-2013. Marc Graham has been hired to start the team, which will bring the number of varsity athletic programs offered at DC to 21.

"We look forward to building a strong and successful program. I am personally looking forward to attending the team's home games and welcoming the new lacrosse student-athletes to our DC family," said Defiance College President Mark Gordon.

The DC men's lacrosse program will compete as a club sport throughout the 2011-2012 season, before joining the rest of Defiance's 20 NCAA Division III sponsored programs for a full varsity schedule during the 2012-2013 year. The inaugural varsity season will be in the spring of 2013.

Graham will be charged with building the program at Defiance College, after spending over one decade as the head men's lacrosse coach at South Windsor High School in Connecticut and the past five years working as the defensive coordinator and recruiting director for the men's lacrosse program at Trinity College.

Graham coached five All-New England Small College Athletic Conference players during his time with Trinity and highlighted his tenure as the defensive coordinator by leading the Bantams to the top-ranked scoring defense in the NESCAC during the 2010 campaign.

For Graham, this is the challenge that he has been seeking. "I will immediately begin seeking out student-athletes of high character, who are equally committed to achieving in the classroom and on the lacrosse field. I am focused on building a competitive program here at DC and can not wait to get started."