

BASKETBALL

A tale of two teams

By Seth Humeniuk
Staff Writer

Long road trips either bring people closer together or create tension and drive those same people apart. Both the men and women's basketball teams took long trips over the weekend, and both seem to have undergone the former, rather than the latter.

The women took a long trip out west to California over the weekend and scored two impressive victories. They took a 77-61 win at Chapman University on Friday and added a convincing 88-50 victory at Pomona-Pitzer on Saturday. Senior guard Ellie Zeller scored 13 points at Chapman and 14 at Pomona-Pitzer to give her a to-

tal of 27 on the weekend, helping her earn CCIW Women's Basketball Player of the Week. The Thunder improved to 5-1 on the season.

The men's team had a far shorter distance to go as they traveled to Holland, Mich. to take part in the annual Midwest Challenge. On Friday, the Thunder took on host Hope College in a raucous De Vos Fieldhouse, which seats 3,500 people and is widely to be considered one of the best venues in Division III. Unfortunately, the team lost to #5 nationally-ranked Hope 88-83 in double overtime.

"To have gone to double overtime with them, really a game we should have won was

a positive in a lot of ways" head coach Mike Schaeur said after the game. "(I'm) so brutally disappointed that we lost that game, but not disappointed necessarily with how our team played."

On Saturday, the Thunder fell to Calvin by a score of 79-66. Sophomore guard Ricky Samuelson was the Thunder's unofficial MVP for the weekend, as he dropped a career high 23 points against Hope and led the team with 18 against Calvin. After the tournament ended, the team returned home for two days before heading on the road to UW-Whitewater where they lost another tough game by a final score of 80-72. This result

dropped the team's record to 3-4 on the season.

"Traveling with the team is nothing extravagant or special,"



Andrew Graber

said freshman guard Troy Morrison. "But memories are always made, and the relationships with these guys are very important."



Andrew Graber

SWIMMING

Historic start for Thunder swimmers

By Jordan Wear
Staff Writer

It is not rare to see a group of men dressed in speedos or tiger costumes around campus, nor to see a group of women wearing floaties or cowgirl outfits while going about their day. Even at football games, the swim team can be seen wearing all sorts of bizarre outfits as a group. This close-knit community tends to form when team members spend most of their waking time together either in or out of the pool. They strengthen this bond in many different kinds of creative ways.

Wheaton's well-decorated swim team boasts numerous traditions and fun rituals that help foster their tight-knit community. One example of this is the women's team celebrated "muffin-fest" before the 35th annual Wheaton Invitational

this past weekend.

"I love muffin-fest. It's a special time when the upperclassmen make us muffins on the night before a big meet," freshman Kristen Garner explained. "Then we eat them together, and it is just really fun."

The team is always looking for ways to further build up their community and have fun together. This past Monday, the team canceled practice and spent the afternoon playing laser tag and bonding together after a successful weekend here on campus at Wheaton's Chrouser Natatorium.

This past weekend, the swim team hosted Hope College, Washington University, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and UW-Wisconsin Whitewater for Wheaton's invitational meet. All day Friday and Saturday, the

Wheaton swim team smashed personal, team and conference records as the women finished second overall and the men finished fourth.

The Thunder placed first in the women's 400-yard medley relay and the men's 200-yard medley relay while speeding past invitational, pool, team and conference records. Ten individuals also made

NCAA cut times in their respective events. Junior Will McCauley and senior Kirsty Nitz also both set new school records in the men's 500-yard freestyle and women's 100-yard freestyle, respectively. Perhaps most impressively, sophomore Chris Dingfield broke a 25-year-old school record in the men's 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:52.11.



Sarah Holcomb



Wrestling

The wrestling team competed in the MSOE Invite in Milwaukee, Wisc. last weekend.

The wrestling team placed ninth out of eleven teams in the MSOE invite last Saturday. Stephen Aiello won in the 174-pound weight class.

Upcoming Home Events:

12/12 7 p.m.
Thunder Alma

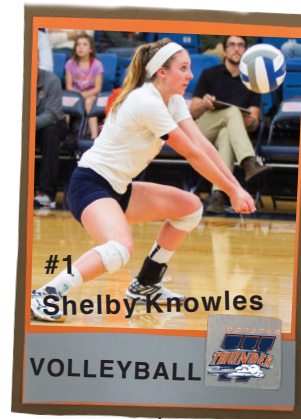
FALL SPORTS RECAP



CROSS COUNTRY



TENNIS



#1 Shelby Knowles VOLLEYBALL

To begin the Wheaton men and women's cross country seasons, the teams underwent a minor coaching switch as David Walford was promoted from assistant coach to head coach. Neither team missed a beat, though, as both squads experienced numerous successes throughout their seasons.

The men's team gathered 91 points to finish in third place as senior Alex Holle finished in fifth place with a time of 25:45.8, Wheaton's highest finisher. Junior Derek Woodcock finished in 13th place as the second-highest male Thunder runner. The women's team finished in third place, too, with a score of 63 points. Senior Jordan Tuin finished in fifth place, the highest Thunder finisher, with a time of 22:45.8. Senior Rachel Jagrowski completed the race in 10th place as the Thunder's second-highest placing runner.

In the NCAA DIII Midwest Regionals, Holle finished in 13th place as the men's team earned an 11th place finish. He then was the lone Thunder runner to compete in the NCAA DIII Men's Cross Country Championships and finished in 44th place out of 278 with a time of 25:08.0. For the women's team, Tuin again led the Thunder to an 11th place finish in their Regional race. Tuin finished in 36th place with a time of 22:56.9.

An accurate phrase for the fall women's tennis season is that "all good things must come to an end." After winning 10 consecutive conference championships, the Thunder were upset by Augustana during the 2015 CCIW Women's Tennis Championships. Wheaton tallied 60 points during the three-day event to finish in second place behind Augustana's 69 points.

As the number one singles, senior Julie Buursma won the conference championship, followed by sophomore Miranda Kay who won the number five singles championship. Freshman Sara Magnuson, playing as the number six singles, also won the title for her division.

Buursma, junior Emily Jones and sophomore Katie Park were all named to the All-CCIW team, too. After her 12-1 record over the course of the season, including a 7-0 record in the CCIW, Buursma was honored as the CCIW Player of the Year.

After a 12-21 record and .364-win percentage in 2014, the volleyball team worked hard all offseason to improve their fortunes in 2015. Although the Thunder were unable to increase their win total over the course of this season, they did improve their win percentage to .414 with a record of 12-17.

The season began with many members of the team on a missions trip to Israel and Palestine to share the gospel with women living in these countries through volleyball. This experience created strong bonds between teammates before the first game even began. The team remained strongly connected throughout the season despite some early obstacles. After starting the season 4-9, the team regrouped and rounded out their season with a much improved 8-8 record.

Junior outside hitter Shelby Knowles was named to the 2015 American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Midwest Region Team and the First Team All-CCIW team after leading the Thunder with 4.37 kills per set this season, a mark that ranks first in school history. Knowles also tallied 454 kills, which ranks as the 13th most in DIII this year. Senior libero Kelli Manning was selected to the Third Team All-CCIW team due to her play, as well. She averaged 4.72 digs per set this year to lead the team. This average also brought Manning's career average to 4.50 digs per set, good for sixth in school history.



FALL — SPORTS — RECAP

By Anders Rotto | Sports Editor



MEN'S SOCCER

The only way for Wheaton's men's soccer team to improve on their 2014 season was to win the national championship, the one feat they were unable to accomplish last year. Does that mean that this season was not a success since a national championship was not obtained? Of course not. The team continued to build on last season's accomplishments as they won the CCIW regular season championship, qualified for the Quarterfinals of the NCAA DIII Men's Soccer Tournament and finished the season as the nationally ranked seventh team in the final NSCAA Coaches' Poll of the season.

Following an uncharacteristically slow start and 3-2-1 record, which saw the team drop out of the national rankings after starting the season as the second best team in the country, the Thunder began to bounce back. The team played its best soccer of the year towards the end of the season and went

undefeated during a seven game streak. As senior forward Marshall Hollingsworth found his stride, the team discovered its offensive and defensive identity and on-field chemistry between players became evident.

Despite struggling early in the year with new head coach Jake DeClute's new formation and defensive strategies, the Thunder finally began to apply these principles to their team play towards the end of the season and was able to finish the season with a 15-4-3 record. Unfortunately, their season ended with a tough loss on the road at Loras College in overtime by a score of 2-1.

Hollingsworth was also named as an All-American for the third time in his career after leading the team with 18 goals. He is the fifth Wheaton soccer player ever to be named an All-American three times. Joining Hollingsworth on the All-Central Region team this year is senior midfielder Elliot Borge and senior defender Jon Clark.



FOOTBALL

Is there any way to improve on an undefeated 2014 regular season? The Thunder football team answered this question this year with a resounding "yes." The team again achieved an undefeated regular season, but did it in an even more commanding fashion in 2015, statistically speaking, than 2014.

The team scored 38.17 points per game, up from 29.50 last season, and only allowed 11.83 points per game, better than the 13.75 points per game allowed in 2014. Overall, the team also gained 470 yards per game, an increase of more than 50 yards over their 2014 average. The improvements on both offense and defense propelled the Thunder to their second consecutive outright CCIW Championship. The team was also able to host the first two rounds of the 2015 NCAA DIII Football Playoffs where they lost to the winner

by a score of 2-0.

The team finished with a 16-7 record, good for a .696-win percentage, topping Felske's conservative preseason prediction by a good amount. Due to the determination and leadership of many of the team's players, the Thunder were able to overcome the sizable amount of injuries the team was forced to endure over the course of the season.

Senior midfielder Sydney Sharkey, senior forward Ally Witt and sophomore midfielder Sarah Van Wingerden were all named to the 2015 NSCAA All-Central Region team because of their exceptional on-field accomplishments. All three were also named to the All-CCIW team, along with junior midfielder Annie Wooldridge, senior forward Kristin Rauh, senior defender Samantha Frank and freshman midfielder Madison Peebles. After leading the CCIW with seven goals in conference play, Witt was named the CCIW Co-Player of the Year.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

of the past two national championships, UW-Whitewater.

Due to his role in the team's play this year, head coach Mike Swider was named the CCIW Bob Reade Coach of the Year and the AFCA Region Four Coach of the Year for the second year in a row. 14 Thunder players were named to the 2015 All-CCIW Team. Nine members of the team were also selected to the 2015 All-North Region Team. Among those players selected were senior tackle Matt Snebold and senior linebacker Adam Dansdill.

Snebold was chosen as one of the ten finalists for the 2015 Gagliardi Trophy, given to the most outstanding football player in DIII. Dansdill was named as the CCIW's Don Larson Defensive Player of the Year and nominated for the 2015 Cliff Harris Award, presented to the nation's top small college defensive player.