

Royals Athletics

University Inducts Wall of Fame Class of 2007

The University welcomed the seven newest members into the Wall of Fame in December at the Long Center.

The Class of 2007 included **Gary "Brooks" Bernabe '78**, a four-year letterman and captain of the wrestling team; the late **James Michael Eagen**, a standout on the football and basketball teams (1920-1922) when the University was known as St. Thomas College; **Christine (Lubrano) Benson '97**, a dominating swimmer on two conference championship teams; **Jennifer (Nish) DelGrosso '97**, a three-time

All-American in basketball; **Diane (Pierdomenico) Bragg '87**, the leader of the pitching staff on two conference championship softball teams; **John Richter '85**, a three-time all-conference selection in baseball; and **Joseph Schmidt '94**, an all-American in soccer.

The Wall of Fame was founded in 1970 to honor former student-athletes, coaches, administrators and those in the community who have been instrumental in the overall development of the University's athletics program. This year's class brings the wall's membership to 196.



Jim O'Connor for nspics.com

Wall of Fame, Class of 2007

Members of the Class of 2007 Wall of Fame were inducted in December. Front row, from left: Christine (Lubrano) Benson, Jennifer (Nish) DelGrosso and Diane (Pierdomenico) Bragg. Back row, from left: Gary "Brooks" Bernabe, Mark Eagen (accepting on behalf of the late James Michael Eagen), John Richter and Joseph Schmidt.

Hinkley, Vogel Selected Landmark Conference Senior Scholar-Athletes in Volleyball & Soccer

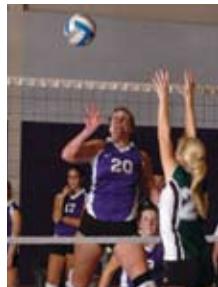
Brooke Hinkley (Hallstead/Blue Ridge) and Mary Beth Vogel (Havertown/ Cardinal O'Hara) were named the Landmark Conference Senior Scholar Athletes in their respective sports of volleyball and soccer.

Hinkley has earned a number of accolades for her accomplishments on the court and in the classroom over the past four seasons. This year, she was named first-team all-Landmark Conference after leading the team in hitting percentage and total blocks as Scranton finished with a 25-11 overall record and a berth in the championship match of the Landmark Conference tournament.

What made her performances even more special was her return to the lineup after suffering a broken back in an automobile accident in October 2006.

Despite missing the final eight matches of the season, she was still named the player of the year in the Royals' final season as a member of the Freedom Conference of the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate Athletic Corporation. She was a key member of four Scranton teams that posted an overall record of 100-47 (.681) and captured a Freedom Conference title and advanced to the NCAA Division III championships in 2005. She finished her career ranked in the top 15 in five Royal statistical categories.

Hinkley's success in the classroom far outweighs her athletic achievements.



Brooke Hinkley



Mary Beth Vogel

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She holds a 3.98 cumulative grade point average, majoring in management with a minor in finance. A 2006 *ESPN The Magazine* District II All-Academic selection, she has also been named to the Landmark (2007) and Middle Atlantic Conference academic honor rolls (2005, 2006). Hinkley is also a member of the University's Business Leadership Program, Beta Gamma Sigma (Business Honor Society), and Omega Beta Sigma (Women's Business Honor Society).

Vogel has also excelled on the field, in the classroom and in numerous leadership roles on campus. She is president of the University's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), representative on the President's Student Council, and a member of the Student Nurses Association. In the classroom, she holds a 3.68 cumulative grade point average in nursing.

Athletically, Vogel was named first-team all-Landmark Conference in the fall after earning first (2006) and second-team (2005) all-conference honors in Scranton's previous affiliation with the Freedom Conference. She was a key member of the 2007 team that won the Landmark Conference championship under the direction of interim head coach Toby Lovecchio.

Vogel also played a major role on the 2004 and 2006 teams that captured Freedom Conference titles and advanced to the NCAA tournament under the late Joe Bochicchio. She appeared in 64 matches and was a member of a defensive unit that posted 30 shutouts en route to leading the Royals to a four-year record of 39-33-9 (.537).

Tom Bicknell is making a strong argument for globalization.

A native of Melbourne, Australia, he joined the Royals' men's basketball program after spending his freshman year at Adams State College in Colorado, where the coaching staff there discovered him at a tournament in Canada during his high school days.

After deciding to transfer, he visited six schools during the 2005 spring semester and felt most at ease with Scranton head coach Carl Danzig, a relationship that has turned out to be beneficial to both parties.

Since joining the Royals, he has been an integral part of a successful program that won two conference titles and made an appearance in the NCAA Division III

tournament in 2006 and 2008. Bicknell has been named all-conference three times and will leave the program ranked in the top 15 all-time in Scranton history in field goal percentage and rebounding.

Off the court, he maintains a 3.57 grade point average in biochemistry. He has been twice named District II all-academic by *ESPN The Magazine* (2007, 2008).

His laid-back personality and easy-going demeanor have made him more popular than Crocodile Dundee with Royal basketball fans.

Marisa Healy, a senior forward on the women's basketball team, is back where she belongs.

On a basketball court, that is. It was somewhat doubtful, however, when she suffered a serious knee injury in a game against Widener

University in January 2005 at the Long Center during her freshman season. She spent the next year and a half recuperating and finally returned to the lineup last season, where she played sparingly on a multi-talented team that finished with 27 wins and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament.

Now that she is one of five seniors on the roster, Healy is taking full advantage of her increased playing time. She was inserted into the starting lineup in January and has made a number of contributions towards the Lady Royals' winning the Landmark Conference title and advancing to the NCAA Division III championships for the 23rd time in school history.

Welcome back, Marisa. It's good to see you on the court again!

Harry Lawall left quite a mark on the men's ice hockey program. He finished his career third in total points, tied for third in goals, and sixth in assists all-time in Scranton history. The Ice Royals completed their first season as a member of the Eastern States Collegiate Hockey League, whose membership includes the University of Delaware, Drexel University, The Pennsylvania State University, the University of Rhode Island

and the United States Naval Academy.

Senior wrestler and co-captain **Rich Russell** ended his career with 59 victories, which is the seventh most in Scranton history. Among his accomplishments are the 125-pound weight class championship at the 2005 Washington & Lee Invitational and a runner-up finish there in the 141-pound weight class earlier this year.

Record-setting juniors **Erin O'Connor** and **Lauren Hosko** led the women's swim team to the Landmark Conference Swimming and Diving championship in February. O'Connor, the Royal record-holder in the 400 individual medley, won three individual events along with being a member of the first-place 800 freestyle relay team and was named the Landmark Conference female

swimmer of the year. Hosko, the Scranton record-holder in the 200 individual medley, took home first-place honors in the 200 individual medley and the 100 butterfly, along with being a member of two first-place finishing relay teams. Junior **Joseph Veselovsky** paced the

men's team to a fourth-place finish.

He was named the Landmark Conference male swimmer of the year, an award he shared with Susquehanna University's **Jeff Fornadley**, after

breaking two of his own Scranton records in winning three individual events. He established new Royal marks in the 200 individual medley and the 200 butterfly and also emerged victorious in the 400 individual medley. He currently holds four Scranton individual records and is a member of two record-breaking relay teams.



Tom Bicknell



Rich Russell



Erin O'Connor



Lauren Hosko



Joe Veselovsky