Wall of Fame

No one could possibly know how much intercollegiate athletics would enrich the lives of the campus community when the football team played what is believed to be the school's first athletic contest in 1899, just 11 years after the founding of The University of Scranton as St. Thomas College.

The men who played in that first game will never know the impact they would have on the development of intercollegiate athletics at the University, which today sponsors 19 sports for more than 350 student-athletes on an annual basis.

The Wall of Fame was founded in 1970 to honor student-athletes, coaches, athletic administrators and others who were instrumental in the overall development of the University's intercollegiate athletics program. On February 7, the University proudly inducted the eight members of the Class of 2003.

In 1976 Joe Conley was a member of the men's basketball team that carved out a season Scranton fans will never forget, one in which the Royals won its first NCAA championship in any sport under legendary head coach Bob Bessoir.

Conley did the things that were often overlooked and underappreciated, yet crucial to success: he set picks to free up scorers, he was an incredible rebounder for his size, and his passing and decision-making abilities were flawless.

Jason Hoppy continued Scranton's tradition of excellence in basketball during his four-year career, which he capped off by earning second-team all-America honors in 1993.

Judging his career solely on his scoring ability, which produced more than 1700 career points, would be short-sighted. He is ranked in six other Royal all-time statistical categories. More importantly, he was instrumental, along with all-America center Matt Cusano, in leading the Royals to two Middle Atlantic Conference North titles and three NCAA tournament appearances.

Lynne Kempski-Halligan's contributions to the women's basketball program are equally impressive. An all-American in 1993, she led the team in scoring three times and finished in the top 10 in four other Lady Royal all-time statistical categories. It's no surprise that Scranton went 96-20, won two MAC overall championships and advanced to the NCAA Division III tournament three times, including a third-place finish in 1993, with her in the lineup.

Tim DiMarco became the first male swimmer in Royals history to win an M Idle Atlantic Conference title, having captured three individual titles. He was also a member of the 200 medley relay that won the 1989 M AC title in a Scranton record-breaking time of 1:42.04, a mark that still stands today. DiMarco still holds the Royal records in the 100 and 200 freestyle and 200 individual medley.

DiMarco's efforts would not have been possible without Dave Hair, who led the men's and women's swim teams to a combined overall record of 151-77 (.662) during a remarkable 11-year coaching career. Just eight years after starting the women's program, he led the Royals to undefeated seasons in 1995 (8-0) and 1996 (11-0), which culminated in capturing team titles at the M Idle Atlantic Conference championships. He continues to serve the community as assistant professor of Exercise Science and Sport.

Steve Michel's efforts in lacrosse helped develop the program's popularity on campus. He overcame a serious shoulder injury his freshman year to lead the Royals in scoring twice in his career. In 1990 he joined teammate Dennis Hyatt as the first Scranton inductee Mike Capasso on the 1987 NSCAA all-America team.

Renee (Zizza) Weikel was a two-time all-M Idle Atlantic Conference selection in women's soccer.

Like Ojert, she overcame a serious off-season knee injury to have a memorable senior year. She scored seven goals as the Royals put the wraps on a 15-6-1 campaign by winning their...
fourth straight MAC title and advancing to the NCAA tournament in 1992. She became the fourth player in Royals history to earn all-America honors by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). A consistent scoring threat, she finished her career with 18 goals and 18 assists. In three seasons, she was instrumental in leading the Royals to a 43-17-5 record (.700), which included three MAC titles and three NCAA tournament appearances.

Swimming
The women’s swim team captured its first Middle Atlantic Conference championship since 1996 and its third overall in February at the Catholic Youth Center (CYC) in Wilkes-Barre. Tomm Evans was selected the MAC women’s coach of the year, an award he also received in 2002.

Sophomore Erin Williams won the 100-yard butterfly in a new Middle Atlantic Conference and University of Scranton record-breaking time of :59.16. The previous Royal record was held by all-American and Wall of Fame inductee Marilyn Bogusch Pryle ‘91.

Freshman Jill Palmiotto captured the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 1:01.74.

Junior Brendan Connors broke his own University of Scranton record in winning the 200-yard butterfly in a time of 1:59.58. His previous best time in the 200 butterfly was 2:02.30.

The quartet of (l-r) sophomore Michelle Kline, senior Kristen Best, freshman Rosie Moran and senior Jayme Smith won the 800 freestyle relay at the MAC swim championships in a time of 8:03.35.

Basketball
Junior Brian O’Donnell earned first-team all-conference honors after leading the men’s basketball team in scoring (18.9), rebounding (10.5), field goal percentage (.530) and blocked shots (0.8). He was a second-team all-Freedom Conference selection in 2003 and the league’s rookie of the year in 2002.

The Women’s Swim Team
First row, from left: Katie Tatczewski (manager), Allyson Jengo, Jayme Smith, Kristen Best, Head Coach Tomm Evans, Kim Towle, Christina Giannetti, Megan Niedbala, and Assistant Coach Kate Sidden. Second row, from left: Lindsey Appel, Angela Buren, Shana Keeler, Rosie Moran, Erin Williams, Jill Palmiotto, Katie McKenna, Jen Pisani, Lauren Liberatore and Annie Bostwick. Third row, from left: Amanda Tryon, Katie Martino, Ashley Ferguson, Kristin Donohue, Jessica Ranson (manager), Kim Leinker, Michelle Kline and PerinAnn Matthews. Missing when photo was taken: Assistant Coach Paul DeAngelo.
The women's basketball team won the Freedom Conference championship and advanced to the NCAA Division III tournament for the 19th time in school history. The Lady Royals finished the season with a 27-3 overall record and a fifth-place national ranking by D3hoops.com. Senior Kate Pierangeli (below) earned numerous awards this past year, including honorable mention all-American by DIII News and first-team all-Freedom Conference honors for the third consecutive season. Along with second-team all-Freedom Conference selections Katie Dougherty and Tara Gemmel, the Lady Royals capped off the season by advancing to the 'Elite Eight' of the NCAA Division III championships.

Hockey

Junior goalie Curt Butcher and senior forward Kyle Eaton (pictured below) were named honorable mention all-Eastern Collegiate Hockey Association (ECH A) this past year. Butcher established Scranton single-season records for best save percentage (.908), lowest goals against average (3.36) and fewest goals allowed (67). Eaton ended his brilliant career as the Ice Royals' all-time leader in goals (64), assists (101) and total points (165).

Student-Athletes Honored at Banquet

Six seniors received the top awards at the Senior Student-Athlete Banquet held May 14. From left: John Barlow - men's cross-country, male recipient of the Carlesimo Award for outstanding academic and athletic achievement; Krista Hylinski - volleyball, female recipient of the Carlesimo Award; Judy Flounders - women's basketball, female recipient of the Ron Willensky Award for contributions to improve the human condition; Katie Szczepanski - field hockey, recipient of the Father Fitzpatrick Award for community service within The University of Scranton community and to society in general; Kate Pierangeli - women's basketball and women's lacrosse, female recipient of the Frank O'Hara Award for the outstanding senior athlete; and Kyle Eaton - ice hockey, male recipient of the O'Hara Award.