

SPORTS UPDATE

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Rangers earn fourth straight conference title

Four in a row, seven of the last eight, and eight total. That's how many Great Lakes Valley Conference championships the UW-Parkside women's cross country team has racked up in recent times. Even more impressive, the Rangers have only been a part of the GLVC since 1995 and their eight crowns are the most in league history.

The Rangers won the 2007 event on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis. Parkside notched a low team score of 46, well ahead of second place Southern Indiana at 75.

"We talked about the tradition we have built," said UW-Parkside head coach Mike DeWitt. "We wanted to be patient; after a mile into the race, you still have plenty of time."

It appeared as if Southern Indiana was winning throughout the first half, but the Rangers gradually ran them down.

"Southern's girls went out hard, that's their style," noted DeWitt.

UW-Parkside boasted the top two finishers and three of the top five. Jessica Lamp (Powers Lake, Wis.) was the league's individual champion, finishing the 6K course in 21 minutes, 38 seconds. Her time was the third fastest in GLVC meet history. Teammate Naomi Fulton (Hartland, Wis.) was next in 21:48. Valerie Hubbard (Norwalk, Wis.) was fifth in 22:32.

"Our three veteran runners at the top took control at the halfway point and that's what won the race for us," DeWitt said.

Other Rangers who figured in the scoring were Christie Hope (Somers, Wis.) 13th, 23:35, and Courtney Zimmerman (Union Grove, Wis.), 25th, 23:55.

Parkside swept the post-race honors with Lamp winning the GLVC's Runner of the Year award; Hope taking the Freshman of the Year award; and DeWitt repeating for the fourth straight season as coach of the year. Fulton and Hubbard each earned all-conference honors.

Following the conference meet, the team finished second at the NCAA Midwest



All American,
GLVC Scholar
Athlete of the Year and
2007 GLVC champion
Jessica Lamp

regional and placed 12th at the NCAA nationals. Lamp earned All-American status by finishing 14th at the national meet. She covered the 6K course in 21:07. It was the second consecutive season Lamp earned All-American honors.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Mike DeWitt, the long-time head coach of the UW-Parkside women's cross country and track teams, added the men's head coaching duties to his plate in fall 2007. With a team of virtually all freshmen, the Ranger men's cross country team finished 10th at the GLVC meet. Chris Orvold was Parkside's top finisher covering the 8K course in 26 minutes, 59 seconds, good for 40th place.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

It was an extremely young team that took the field for UW-Parkside in fall 2007. The Ranger women's soccer squad had no seniors on its roster and only four juniors. Despite its youth, Parkside posted an 11-6-1 overall record and was unbeaten at home with a 7-0-1 mark. The Rangers finished fifth in the 14-team Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC). In the league's post-season tournament, the Rangers fell to the eventual league champion, Drury, 3-2, in overtime in a quarterfinal match.

Sophomore defender Brittany Kaim was selected first team all-GLVC. Sophomore midfielder Meredith Novak was a third team selection. Novak led the Rangers in

scoring with five goals and eight assists for 18 total points.

MEN'S SOCCER

The UW-Parkside men's soccer team enjoyed its 24th consecutive winning season under head coach Rick Kilps and the program's 28th straight winning season overall. The team was ranked as high as No. 12 in the country early in the 2007 campaign, making it 23 of the last 24 seasons UW-Parkside has been nationally ranked.

The Rangers finished with an 11-7-1 overall record and came up with an eighth place finish in the GLVC. The team was eliminated in the quarterfinal round of the league tournament.

Senior Bojan Jovicic wrapped up an outstanding career earning second team all-GLVC and all-region honors.

VOLLEYBALL

The Ranger women's volleyball squad showed tremendous improvement in 2007. Parkside posted a 14-13 season, more than doubling its win total from the previous year. The squad finished fourth in the Eastern Division of the GLVC.

Senior Jackie Nehls was selected to the all-GLVC second team. She leaves UW-Parkside with 1,553 career digs, which ranks No. 2 on the school's all-time list behind Stacy Esme's 1,878. Nehls ranked first in the GLVC this season with 5.96 digs per game.