

# Athletics

## BASEBALL

The University of Wisconsin-Parkside baseball team capped an amazing 2004 season with a bid to the NCAA Division II baseball tournament, the first such bid in school history. Along the way, the Rangers picked up their first Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) tournament victory and won the GLVC regular-season championship.

The team set a season record for victories with 40, making it the best season in the history of the Ranger baseball program.

Five Rangers earned all-GLVC honors. Casey Garms (Arlington Heights, Ill.) was selected as the league's Freshman of the Year and was a first-team selection in the outfield. Garms played right field for the Rangers and had hitting streaks of 13 and 19 games. Junior first baseman Adam Brechtel (Waterford, Wis.) and senior pitcher Brandon Kellbach (Wausau, Wis.) also made the GLVC first team. Jason Wenzel (Wauwatosa, Wis.), a senior outfielder, and Donny Leicht (Zion, Ill.), a senior relief pitcher, earned second-team honors.

Head coach Tracy Archuleta was named the league's Coach of the Year. "This is not an award for me, it is a staff award," said Archuleta. "My assistants Matt Torrez, Joel Weaver, Steve Kargus and Frank Jaramillo do an outstanding job. Plus, nothing positive happens unless the players on the field perform."

## SOFTBALL

UW-Parkside's Meloney Strohbusch was one of 45 student athletes named to three 2004 Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association NCAA Division II All-America softball teams. The Rangers' third baseman was an at-large selection to the All-America second team.

Strohbusch (Fort Atkinson, Wis.) led the GLVC in home runs with 10. She was the only Ranger to start all 52 games and posted a .344 batting average and a .973 fielding percentage at third base.

Strohbusch also earned first team all-region honors. Jennene Fields (Norridge, Ill.), Emma Strohbusch (twin sister of Meloney) and Michele Pickering (Portage, Ind.) were selected second team all-

region. Emma Strohbusch notched a .993 fielding percentage at first base and led the Rangers in hitting with a .368 batting average.

Emma and Meloney Strohbusch, and Jamie Bliemeister (Germantown, Wis.) were named to the GLVC all-conference first team. Fields earned second-team honors. Bliemeister, a catcher, hit .306 and had a .411 slugging percentage.

The Rangers finished the season with a 32-20 overall record, 12-8 in GLVC play.

## RADIO BROADCASTS

Radio broadcasts of the 2004-2005 men's basketball games will move to WRJN-AM 1400.

## SCHEDULES

For complete schedules of all Ranger fall and winter sports, visit the UW-Parkside website at [www.uwp.edu](http://www.uwp.edu) Keyword: *Athletics*. Or call the Athletics Department at 262-595-2245.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sammy Kromm (West Brooklyn, Ill.) earned first team all-GLVC honors for the second consecutive season. Kromm set the all-time UW-Parkside scoring record with 1,354 points, surpassing Laurie Pope, who held the mark for 21 years with 1,342 career points. Kromm was also named to the 2004 Daktronics, Inc., All-Great Lakes Region first team

Kromm averaged 16.2 points per game and she is the first NCAA Division II all-region player in UW-Parkside history.

The Rangers finished 15-12 overall, 12-8 in the GLVC and qualified for the GLVC tournament.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The University of Wisconsin-Parkside men's basketball team will take on the University of Wisconsin in an exhibition game at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 10, at the Kohl Center in Madison.

The following is an excerpt from the June press conference during which the University of Wisconsin announced exhibition games with UW-Parkside and UW-Platteville.

*What are the reactions of players at UW-Platteville and UW-Parkside?*

**Luke Reigel, UW-Parkside men's basketball coach (after response from Paul Combs, UW-Platteville men's basketball coach):** We're in a very similar boat, except that Parkside is a little bit of an unknown throughout the state. Not being in the WIAC, being the only Division II program, we don't get around the state to play as many opponents. So this is a great opportunity for people around the Madison area and particularly north of Madison to get a look at the type of program we're trying to put together down in Kenosha ... about 80 percent of our roster is Wisconsin kids, so they're ecstatic and the people that are supporting our program, they can't wait to come in here in November and just get a chance to play against one of the best programs in the country.

*How much will it mean to the programs at UW-Parkside and UW-Platteville to get statewide attention, as well as nationally?*

**Reigel:** For us, it's a situation where it's just a great place to start. We're trying to build a national-championship caliber program. I think it will be invaluable for our players to come up here and see how things are done right all the time. If you haven't seen enough of coach Ryan's teams, it's not done right 80 percent of the time, it's done right all the time. To take that experience as one of the first games of the year, or an exhibition game and be able to build on that, not only for this year, but for the future of our program, it's invaluable.

**Bo Ryan, University of Wisconsin men's basketball coach:** And meanwhile they are going to try to kick our rear ends. You know all that sounds good from those two guys and meanwhile, can you see them in the locker room before the game starts, 'Who are these guys? We can beat these guys.' They're going to try to kick our butts!

The Rangers will play three other NCAA Division I opponents: Loyola at 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 6 in Chicago; UW-Milwaukee at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 23 in Milwaukee; and University of Illinois-Chicago at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21 in Chicago.

The UW-Parkside men's basketball program added a pair of Division I transfers, one from Michigan State and the other from UW-Milwaukee. Tyrone Deacon, a redshirt freshman, averaged 24 points per game, four assists and three steals at Bay Port (Wis.) High School. He was an all-state player and led his team to three consecutive conference titles. Joe Czechowicz, a sophomore, played for coach Bruce Pearl at UWM last season. In high school, he was the Parkland Conference Player of the Year as a senior for Pewaukee (Wis.) High School.

## WRESTLING

Brad Russell (141 lbs., Delafield, Wis.), Dan Dempsey (157 lbs., Green Bay, Wis.), John Goral (197 lbs., Denmark, Wis.) and Matt Meyer (285 lbs., Sheboygan, Wis.) represented UW-Parkside at the NCAA Division II national wrestling tournament in March. UW-Parkside finished 20th in the nation as a team.

Dempsey earned All-American status by winning his seventh-place match with a pin in 23 seconds, the fastest pin of the tourna-

ment. He leaves UW-Parkside as the all-time career pin leader with 59. The All-American award was the third of his collegiate career.

Meyer picked up All-American honors by winning his seventh-place match with a pin in 34 seconds. Meyer won the Gorgarian Award, given to the wrestler with the most pins at nationals.

"Overall, the season was pretty good," said Ranger head coach Jim Koch. "There were many bright spots in the season and having two All-Americans is a highlight. Plus, we were ranked as high as eighth in the nation at one point."

## MEN'S TRACK

Quinn Newton (Marshall, Wis.) won the GLVC outdoor 10,000-meter run in 32 minutes, 6.64 seconds and followed up with a second-place finish in the 5,000-meter run to pace the UW-Parkside men's track team to a fourth-place team finish.

While Newton was racking up over nine miles of racing, Cal Kromm (Omro, Wis.) was battling for the 1,500-meter title. Kromm was clocked in 3:53.37, breaking the old conference meet mark by just over one second. Unfortunately, he was defeated by .02 seconds by John Roach of Indianapolis. T.C. Dewitt (Kenosha, Wis.) and Jon Chasse (Readfield, Maine) finished one-two in the 3,000-meter race walk in 13:56.4 and 13:58.7, respectively.

"This year's team has been one of the best all-around groups I have had at UW-Parkside," said men's track coach Lucian Rosa. "It has been a very good year, being able to finish in the top half of the conference meet both indoors and outdoors."

## WOMEN'S TRACK

Sophomore Tiff Belongia (Gillett, Wis.) set a UW-Parkside record in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the North Central "Last Chance" Invite in 11:04. Erin Enright ('02) held the previous mark at 11:18.4. Belongia owns three UW-Parkside records after shattering marks in the 400-meter hurdles and heptathlon last year.

## UW-P RACE WALKERS IN ATHENS

Former UW-Parkside race walkers John Nunn and Tim Seaman competed for the United States at the Olympics in Athens. Both men competed in the 20-kilometer walk.

## PARK RENAMED IN RATHKE'S HONOR

Quarry View Park in Franklin, Wis., was renamed Christine Rathke Park on Aug. 7 to honor the former UW-Parkside women's basketball player. Rathke, a standout at Franklin High School, was killed in a car accident near her home in the spring of 2002.



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