



YELLOW JACKETS

ATHLETICS UPDATE

THE 2014-15 WINTER SEASON was a huge success for the Defiance College men's basketball team. The Yellow Jackets finished with a 19-6 overall record and captured both the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships. It marked the second-straight regular season title for DC and the program's third tournament championship since joining the HCAC. The Jackets advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament, knocking out returning national champion Wisconsin/Whitewater.

Four members of the team were selected to the All-HCAC teams and highlighting the list of postseason accolades was senior Bernard Edwards. Edwards ended his career as a National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-American and All-District player. He was also tabbed D3hoops.com All-Region, first-team All-HCAC, was the HCAC Most Valuable Player and the HCAC Tournament MVP. Edwards became the 47th player in program history to score 1,000 career points and had 1,224 total points placing him 25th on the all-time scoring list.

Edwards was not the only player to reach the 1,000-point plateau this season. Senior guard Mason Roth also accomplished the feat by scoring 25 points in a 97-58 win against Transylvania (Ky.) University on Valentine's Day to become the 48th player to join the elite list. Roth helped make up the Yellow Jacket "Big Three" scoring in double figures in 18 games, including five games of 20 or more points. Roth capped his season garnering second-team All-HCAC accolades.

Rounding out DC's "Big Three" was senior Travis Schomaeker. Schomaeker's success not only came on the basketball court this season, but also in the classroom as he was named a Capital One Academic All-American and first-team Academic All-District. On the court, he was a D3hoops.com All-Region player in addition to being a first-team All-HCAC selection. All of these accomplishments on and off the court translated to him becoming a finalist for the prestigious Josten's Trophy which is a national award created by the Rotary Club of Salem, Va., to honor the most outstanding men's and women's NCAA Division III basketball players of the year. The award takes into account three vital parts: basketball ability, academic prowess and community service.

On the women's side, sophomore forward Kelsey Tietje (Deshler/Patrick Henry) continued her standout play earning first-team All-HCAC honors for the second-straight season. She was first in rebounds per game (12.8), total rebounds (320), defensive rebounds (240), and free-throws made (176), second in points per game (19.4), blocks (54), and offensive rebounds (80), third in field goals made (155), fifth in field goal percentage (49.1%), and ninth in free-throw percentage (79.3%). Tietje secured a double-double in 20 games this season and scored in double figures in all but one game on the year.

The winter sport success by Defiance also spilled over on to the track as Yellow Jacket freshman Darius Spinks showcased his talent during the indoor season. Spinks set several school records during the season and went on to win the HCAC title in the 60-meter dash. He was named All-HCAC and the Most Outstanding Freshman Athlete. Spinks qualified for the NCAA Division III National Meet in two events, the 60-meter dash and the long jump. He finished fourth in the long jump to earn USTFCCCA All-American honors becoming the first Defiance athlete to earn the honor as a freshman during the indoor season.



SPINKS



TIETJE



EDWARDS

THE 2015 SPRING ATHLETIC SEASON saw its share of HCAC Champions and all-conference performers. Highlighting the season was the individual efforts of freshman Hannah Williams (Swanton), junior Eme Miler (Portland, Ind./Jay County) and freshman Darius Spinks. Williams capped off her first season by winning the women's discus at the HCAC Outdoor Championships. She posted a distance of 125' 6.00" on her final attempt to take home the title. Miller captured the conference title in the 3,000-meter steeple chase for the second consecutive year after recording a time of 11:44.86. Spinks took top honors in the 200-meter dash at the conference outdoor championships with a time of 21.92 seconds and finished as runner-up in the 100-meter dash with a mark of 10.96 seconds. He continued his impressive performance with a third-place showing in the long jump with a leap of 21' 10.75".

The Yellow Jacket outdoor track and field teams had a total of six athletes named All-HCAC, including Williams, Miller and Spinks. Spinks was also named the HCAC Freshman of the Year for the outdoor season adding to his "Freshman of the Year" honor during the indoor season. Sophomore Jacob Rindler (St. Henry), freshman Aaron Schwarzbek (Sherwood/Fairview) and senior Jacob Rodriguez (Ligonier, Ind./West Noble) were tabbed second-team All-HCAC. In addition, junior Jessie Bell (West Salem/Northwestern) and freshman Diego Sanchez (Kissimmee, Fla./Celebration) were selected to the HCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

The men's tennis team reached the HCAC Tournament for the third straight season after posting a 10-8 overall record and 5-3 against conference opponents, including a 5-4 win against Transylvania (Ky.) University which was the team's first victory against the Pioneers since joining the HCAC. The Yellow Jackets had four players end the season with 10 or more victories in seniors Ryan Nelson (Oregon/Clay), Justin Walker (Wilson, N.C./Hunt), sophomore James Demeo (Oregon/Clay) and freshman Adam Swisher (Bedford, Mich./Bedford). Also playing a big role in the team's success was senior Mike Ross (Bryan) and sophomore Tory Savage (Bryan). Five players went on to be recognized by the HCAC as all-conference award winners. Ross and Demeo were named All-HCAC, while Nelson and Walker were selected honorable mention. In addition, Swisher was named to the HCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Taking a step forward this spring was the Yellow Jacket baseball team who finished the season with a 15 victories, compared to nine victories in 2014, and had seven players named All-HCAC. Sophomore pitcher Dave Blanch (Alliston, Ont./Banting Memorial) and junior outfielder Ben Weber (Troy/Lehman Catholic) led the team as second-team All-HCAC selections. Blanch ranked second amongst HCAC pitchers in earned run average (2.50) and Weber was one of the top offensive players for the team with a .310 batting average. Joining Blanch and Weber on the All-HCAC squad were seniors Chris Donese (Kettering/Fairmont), Joel Musser (Center Line, Mich./Center Line) and juniors Garys Levengood (Beverly Hills, Fla./Lecanto) and Ryan Kohlhofer (Walbridge/Lake) as honorable mention picks. Junior Chris Douglas (Wixom, Mich./Walled Lake Western) was acknowledged as a selection to the HCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Also making strides this season were the men's and women's lacrosse teams as well as the softball and men's golf teams. The Yellow Jacket men's and women's lacrosse teams completed their first seasons in the newly formed Ohio River Lacrosse Conference. The women had one player named to the All-ORLC Team in Jackie Burns (Rossford/Notre Dame Academy) as a second-team selection and the men also had a lone representative on the All-ORLC team as freshman Baily Weatherwax (Chelsea, Mich./Chelsea) garnered honorable mention accolades. Two members of the DC softball team capped their seasons with All-HCAC honors in sophomore Megan Warren (Mason) and freshman Sarah Kaya (Lorain/Clearview). Warren earned second-team accolades, while Kaya was a honorable mention pick.

