

athletics

UPDATE FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

Updates on all of your favorite Fall sports teams

By Seth Mikel, Sports Information Director and John Sunde, Assistant Sports Information Director

FOOTBALL

The 2009 season for the Defiance College football team was full of ups and downs, as a thrilling season-opening victory against Muskingum was followed by four-straight setbacks. The Jackets then rebounded to win three of their last five contests, including a 35-0 throttling of Bluffton to end the season. Along with scoring its highest margin of victory against Bluffton on the gridiron since joining the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference in 2000, other season highlights included placing nine student-athletes on the All-HCAC Team, earning five HCAC Player-of-the-Week honors, receiving a pair of D3football.com weekly awards and seeing head coach Rob Taylor move into second place on the program's all-time wins list. With a 4-6 clip in 2009, Taylor now has 31



Nick Wiedenhoft (82)

career victories in his seven years at the helm of the Jackets and is just five back of Malen Luke's (1988-1993) school record of 36 coaching wins on the sidelines for the Purple and Gold.

The Jackets placed two athletes on All-HCAC First Team, with Austin Hedderly and Anthony Sierra earning the award, while Rick Powell, Nick Nicol, Joel Billings, Andre Osby, Kyle Longsdorf and Tom Foes were named Second-Team All-HCAC. Mike Szuma rounded out the list of award winners with an Honorable Mention All-HCAC honor.

VOLLEYBALL

The Defiance College volleyball team piled up 22 victories in 2009 for its second-straight winning season and its most wins in a single-season since 2003. The Yellow Jackets won eight of their last nine matches overall and climbed to a fourth-place finish in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference standings with a 4-4 clip in league play. DC entered the HCAC Tournament as the No. 4 seed and advanced into the HCAC Semifinals with a five-set win against No. 5 Rose-Hulman in the opening round. The Jackets eventually fell to the top-seeded Bluffton team, to end the year at 22-11.

The strong team success was fueled by the steady play of All-HCAC selections Danyel Lipps, Marlea Rolander and Sara Porter. Lipps ended her outstanding four-year career with DC as a three-time All-HCAC player and as the program's all-time leader with 1,320 kills. Rolander earned her first All-HCAC award after being the only player in the league to rank third or higher in hitting percentage (.287) and blocks per set (1.04) and Porter garnered Honorable Mention All-HCAC honors by leading DC with 337 digs and adding 213 kills.



Tara Miller

WOMEN'S GOLF

The young DC women's golf squad, which consisted of three freshmen and two sophomores, took a major step forward as a program in 2009, scoring a pair of top-five finishes and closing the gap with the rest of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference. One of the season's bright spots came on September 7, when the Yellow Jackets carded a 379 on the second day of the Anderson Invitational. That score put DC at 781 for its two-day total, marking its best two-round score since the program was reinstated for the 2006 season.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team showed grit and determination throughout the season, as it battled through numerous injuries before qualifying for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships in Indianapolis.

Freshman Kaitlyn Sandercock gives the program something to be excited about, as she went 2-6 in singles competition and won half of her HCAC singles contests. Junior

Katie Carunchia was another bright spot for the Jackets, as she played competitively throughout the season and pulled out a win against Sinclair Community College in singles action.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

DC's women's cross country team had an outstanding season highlighted by a team title in the Bluffton Invitational Meet. The team gained significant improvements over years past and had several girls capture personal records on their way to a sixth place finish at the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

Junior Kaitlin Switzer paced the Jackets throughout the season and set a personal record by finishing the 6k in 20:42 at the DC Invitational, leading Defiance to a third place finish. Switzer finished 18th overall in the HCAC Championships, earning All-HCAC Honorable Mention recognition. Freshman Kaye Bockbrader made an immediate impact for the Yellow Jackets, consistently finishing in the top five and running a personal best 20:54 in the Friendship Invitational. Freshmen Erika DeBos and Mindy DeLong showed the ability to be successful contributors at the collegiate level, while the team's lone senior, Kelly Neff, had an excellent senior year highlighted by a third place individual finish at the Bluffton Meet.



Troy Secrest

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Defiance College men's cross country team had a successful season marked by significant overall improvements over last year's times. A roster full of gifted underclassmen helped the Yellow Jackets

place fifth in the 2009 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

The season was highlighted by a third place team finish in the annual DC Invitational and a team title in the Bluffton Meet, in which Justin Perkins registered a first place individual finish. Perkins led the way for the Jackets for most of the season and freshman Hayden Krick came on strong towards the end to place first on the team in the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championships. HCAC Preseason Runner-to-Watch Seth Bidlack continued to place among the top runners in the conference, while sophomores Logan Alvarez, Aaron Fraley and Tyler Reese consistently placed among the top five runners for the Yellow Jackets.

MEN'S SOCCER

The 2009 men's soccer team showed great promise for the future of the program with several young players stepping in and proving they could excel at the collegiate level. The team, which featured only one senior, went 5-12 and 2-6 in conference play, while ranking second in the HCAC in goals per game in what was the program's best season since 2006.

Senior Greg Vogt proved why he was selected as a team captain, as he came through with a team-high six assists on the season, placing him second in the conference in that category. Vogt was honored by the conference as an All-HCAC performer and was chosen as a DC Classic All-Tournament selection and voted Team-MVP. Sophomore midfielder Joseph Loftis had another strong season, scoring two goals and an assist, with his real value coming on the defensive end, where he was constantly causing trouble for the opposition. Loftis was a DC Classic All-Tournament selection and was an All-HCAC Second-Team selection. Freshman forward Joshua Fullen registered five goals and one assist in just seven games. The Pickerington, Ohio, native led the team with 11 points and made over 55 percent of his shots. Junior forward Chris Kessler collected eight points with three goals and two assists and was named the HCAC Player of the Week, after recording a goal and an assist in DC's victory over the previously undefeated College of Wooster.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

DC's women's soccer team finished their 2009 campaign at 5-11-1 with a 2-5-1 conference record. The young team collected numerous accomplishments and honors on



Hanna Firchau (4), Trisha Denniston (5) and Cherilyn Borkholder (21),

their way to a sixth place ranking in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

The Jackets got off to a quick start by winning the DC Classic championship just three games into the season. Cherilyn Borkholder, Alexandra Johnson and Lauren Ranalli were each selected to the all-tournament team for their efforts. Ranalli capped an outstanding career at Defiance by collecting a team-high 16 points with seven goals and two assists. The senior forward ranked second in the conference in game-winning goals and leaves the Jackets after posting 17 goals and 39 points in her career. Freshman defender Katie Heitkamp made an immediate impact for DC with her consistent defensive prowess helping the team secure three shutouts on the season. The St. Mary's, Ohio, native started all 17 games for the Jackets and was given All-HCAC Second-Team honors. Goalkeeper Kelly Coble was the backbone of the Yellow Jackets defense and finished the year ranked second in both saves (143) and saves per game (8.41). The junior from Cloverdale, Ohio, exceeded 150 saves in her career, registered two shutouts on the season and was given All-HCAC Second-Team honors for her efforts. ♦

Yellow Jacket fans ... get full results and stats of your favorite Yellow Jacket teams by going to [www.DefianceAthletics.com!](http://www.DefianceAthletics.com)

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