

athletics

UPDATE FROM THE FIELD HOUSE

*Men's and women's basketball previews,
plus standout fall sports performers*



by Seth Mikel, Sports Information Director

Men's Basketball

The Defiance College men's basketball team has been tabbed as the preseason favorite to win its second-straight HCAC regular season title. Defiance was the only team to pick up more than two first-place votes and also placed four players on the HCAC Players-to-Watch list.

The Yellow Jackets are coming off their most successful season in 15 years after posting a 19-8 record and winning the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship by three games one year ago. DC led the conference race from start to finish and ended the year ranked first or second in the league in 12 statistical categories.

Defiance hopes to pick up where it left off and will return three starters and 11

letterwinners from the squad that won the program's first outright league championship since 1993-94 and posted its highest win total since the 1992-93 campaign.

Leading the way for DC will be probable starters and HCAC Preseason Players to Watch Anthony Pettaway, Anthony Jackson, Mike Floyd and Nick Sales. The Jackets will also be bolstered by returning key reserves Eric Stolly, Heath Armstrong, Nate Conley and Josh Stuckey, along with a very talented six-man freshmen class.

Defiance will turn to a new face on the sidelines in 2008-09, as Head Coach Kyle Brumett takes over the program which has 36 wins and a pair of appearances in the championship game of the HCAC Tournament over the past two seasons. Brumett began his tenure at DC on May 19 after leading his Lakeland squad to a 17-11 mark and the Northern Athletics Conference

Tournament Championship in 2007-08.

Defiance will officially take the lid off of its 2008-09 season when it plays Albion at 7:30 pm on Nov. 21 in the first day of the Albion College Tip-Off Tournament.

Women's Basketball

Senior Katie McNamara, junior Mandie White and sophomore Holly Stein were each named to the HCAC Player-to-Watch list, following the release of the 2008-09 HCAC Preseason Poll. Defiance was picked to finish seventh, tallying 27 points in the poll. Anderson was selected to repeat as conference champions with six first-place votes, while Manchester and Hanover rounded out the top three.

DC went 10-14 overall and 5-11 in the HCAC in 2007-08 and is now seven wins shy of the program's 600th victory. The Jackets finished 9-6 at the Karl H. Weaner



Center, defeating its opponents by nearly 17 points per contest in those victories. Defiance used that home-court advantage to cap off its season with home wins over HCAC Tournament qualifiers Franklin and Rose-Hulman.

DC will look to carry that late-season success over to the 2008-09 campaign, while making a push for its first HCAC Tournament appearance under head coach Dic Doumanian. The tools to do so are in place, as the Jackets return four starters and nine letterwinners from last year's squad.

2007-08 starters, Amber Bailey and Tasha Stucke also return for Doumanian. Defiance will be helped by a talented group of reserves that will keep DC's high-scoring offense running throughout the game. Guards Molly Bateman and Courtney Schmursal, and Katie Carunchia in the frontcourt positions; and newcomers Jenna Deskins, Makayla Graves and Shavonda Price should make an impact for DC.

The Jackets open up their 2008-09 campaign on November 15, when they travel to Olivet, Mich. for a matchup with the Comets of Olivet College. ◆



FALL SPORTS STANDOUTS

by Jordon Bruner, Assistant Sports Information Director

Keith Snyder was named HCAC Defensive Player of the Week and selected to the D3Football.com National Team of the Week, following his outstanding performance in Defiance's 21-13 win over Anderson on October 25. The senior safety recorded 12 tackles, as his four assisted tackles helped him set a DC career record with 169 in his four years with the Jackets. The Martin, Mich., native also had one interception, five pass breakups and a quarterback hurry in the victory.

Tom Foos earned HCAC Special Teams Player-of-the-Week honors following the Jackets', 31-28, victory over Hanover on November 1. The Helena, Ohio, native drilled a career-best 38-yard field goal to win the game in overtime, while averaging 55.6 yards per kickoff and sticking two punts inside the 20-yard line.

Kyle Longsdorf also earned player-of-the-week honors in DC's victory over Hanover. The sophomore strong safety was named HCAC Defensive Player of the Week, after recording a career-high eight solo tackles and returning an interception for a touchdown. Longsdorf, who capped off the Jackets' 21-0 run with the return, ranked third on the team with 53 tackles through eight games, while leading Defiance with two picks.

Kristen Nicely garnered HCAC Player-of-the-Week honors twice this season. The freshman right-side hitter first claimed the award after being named as the Defiance Invitational Most Valuable Player and recording double-digit kills in all five of her matches that week. The Ayersville High product had a 19-kill, 11-dig, four-block outburst in DC's win over defending HCAC champion Hanover, while helping the Jackets to a 3-0 sweep of Franklin with 14 kills and three blocks to earn her second HCAC prize.

Danyl Lipps had 29 kills, 26 digs and five aces in a two-match span against HCAC opponents, Transylvania and Rose-Hulman, to earn HCAC Player-of-the-Week honors. The junior outside hitter had a flawless effort against the Pioneers, hitting .467 with no miscues to help the Jackets clinch a berth in the HCAC Tournament. Lipps was second on the team with 281 kills and enters the HCAC tourney just 19 shy of reaching the 300-kill plateau for the second-consecutive season. ◆