

## 2008-09 ATHLETICS RECAP

- Park University has had six All-Americans in the 2008-09 school year, with four sports still yet to be awarded for the 2009 spring season.
- Park finished the year with 25 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete designations earned by 24 student-athletes. The award is the NAIA's equivalent of Academic All-America
- In all, 69 Park student-athletes were named to All-Conference teams and 35 were named MCAC Scholar Athletes.
- Park has had three coaches named Coach of the Year in 2008-09.
- In 2008-09, seven Park University programs were represented in NAIA national post-season competition.
- Park University captured the Townsend Trophy over William Jewell in 2008-09, winning 19.5-to-13.5.
- Park ended the year with a school-record seven NAIA Scholar Teams, including the nation's Scholar Team of the Year, Women's Golf, which had the NAIA's highest team GPA of 837 teams with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher. Women's soccer, women's cross country, men's cross country, men's outdoor track & field, men's indoor track & field and women's softball were also on the NAIA's scholar team list.

## CROSS COUNTRY

- Brian Renshaw Named MCAC Cross Country Coach of the Year
- Men's Cross Country was the 2008 MCAC champion
- Micah Conkling (MCAC Men's Runner of the Year) one of five All-MCAC runners, including Eric Zorn, Will Zibers, Tyler Kranz and Trey Crawford
- Women's Cross Country won the 2008 MCAC championship
- Romona Nicholls (MCAC Women's Runner of the Year) one of five All-MCAC runners, including Maria Tutu, Erycka Fisher, Melinda Jansen and Keyon Harrison
- Melinda Jansen also named to the 2008 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete team
- Women's Cross Country team finished 25th at national championship in Kenosha, Wisc.

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- Finished with a 7-7 record in the MCAC, tying for fourth place
- Team had five All-MCAC performers, including first-team member Carolina Faria, second teamer Gabriela Garcia, and honorable mention performers Allison Block, Alison Joens and Daniella Martins
- Allison Block and Sydney Rennack named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes
- Carolina Faria named AVCA West-Central All-Region Libero

## MEN'S SOCCER

- Finished with an overall record of 11-4-3, including a 3-1 record in the MCAC. The Pirates finished second in the league
- Season ended with a 1-0 overtime loss to Baker University in the NAIA Tournament First Round
- Sean Kosednar and Adam Tayani named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes
- Efrem Shimlis named MCAC Coach of the Year
- Nine players named to the All-Conference team with six on the first team, including MCAC Defensive Player of the Year and first-team member Michael Eade. Other first team members include Oscar Juma, MCAC Newcomer of the Year Robert Palmer, Raad Qumseih, James Katajwa and MCAC Freshman of the Year Ramone Palmer.
- MCAC second-team included Tazou Ali Tagba, Kiefer Mergen and Simon Senfuka
- Tazou Ali Tagba, James Katajwa and Ramone Palmer named Honorable Mention All-Americans
- Team was ranked as high as No. 6 during the NAIA regular season

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

- Finished 14-2-3 overall, including a 5-0 MCAC record which earned the Pirates their third-straight MCAC championship
- Park advanced past Dordt in the NAIA Tournament's first round, tying 1-1 in the game but advancing 5-3 on penalty kicks
- Nine players named to All-MCAC teams, including six on the first team. Ashley Maxwell was the MCAC Offensive Player of the Year and Dena Pires the MCAC Defensive Player of the Year. Other first-team members were Sophie Chapman and Megan Newland.
- Ivy Chapin, Lisa Buzzotta, Kitti Katona

and Nori Gedei were named to the MCAC Second Team

- Ken Hefner was the MCAC Coach of the Year
- Five players were named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes, including Melissa Gardner, Gabriela Sa Teles, Angelica Tovar, Dena Pires and Ivy Chapin
- Ashley Maxwell was placed on the NAIA Third-Team All-America squad, while Sophie Chapman was honorable mention All-American in the NAIA
- The Pirates reached a No. 9 ranking in the NAIA regular season

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Park finished the year at 16-14 and reached the semifinals of the 2008-09 A.I.I. Tournament in Orangeburg, S.C.
- Of the team's 16 wins, 10 came against teams who were either NCAA Division II opponents or who were ranked NAIA opponents. Park also had seven wins over teams who made either an NCAA or NAIA national tournament.
- The Pirates also two academic All-Americans, Deron Cherry II and Michael Zimmerman.
- Park also had four all-independent team members (Jon Meriweather, Deron Cherry II, Michael Zimmerman and Herschel Rodgers).
- Park had six all-academic independent team members – Deron Cherry II, Michael Zimmerman, Philip Garnett, Eduardo Quintero, Jeremy Voorhees and Milan Susnjar.
- Jon Meriweather was named a second-team All-American after scoring his 1,000th career point and grabbing his 700th career rebound earlier in the season. Meriweather is a two-time All-American and was named to the preseason first-team by Basketball Times to begin the season. Meriweather was in the nation's top 10 for blocked shots, points and rebounds during the season.
- Head coach Jason Kline got his 200th career victory against Missouri Baptist University in January.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Women's Basketball reached the quarterfinals of the 2008-09 A.I.I. Tournament in Orangeburg, S.C.

- Brianne Edwards was named to the 2008-09 All-A.I.I. Team.

- Meghan Cummings was named an academic all-independent member. She also scored her 1,000th career point and 700th career rebound during the season.

## **MEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

- The Park men's volleyball team was the preseason No. 1 in the NAIA and finished with an overall record of 22-9.

- The Pirates finished the year in the NAIA tournament, falling twice in pool play.

- Park started the season on a seven-match winning streak and the Pirates enjoyed an 11-match streak during the regular season.

## **WOMEN'S GOLF**

- Freshman Plern Promboobpa had five top 10 finishes on the season, taking over as the team's No. 1 player after current assistant coach Ashley Nicks concluded her career for the Pirates in 2008.

- Park earned its only win of the season in the 2008-09 opener at Claycrest Golf Club in Liberty, winning the 2008 William Jewell Fall Invite.

- The Pirates were also third at Northwest Missouri, fourth at Maryville-St. Louis, sixth at Southwestern College, fourth at the Park Invitational and third in the RRAC/MCAC Conference meet.

- Allison Vaughn, Roxanne Chadwell, Nicole Ainsworth and Nicole Wiehe were named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes.

## **BASEBALL**

- Park established a new school record for wins, going 34-12 on the season. The Pirates tied the record against Peru State and broke it in the regular season finale doubleheader against Ottawa University.

- Head coach Cary Lundy got his 200th career win in the MCAC tournament, moving the Pirates into the championship game with a 17-4 win over Peru State.

- Park had 12 all conference players, including MCAC Pitcher of the Year Josh Hake. Jesse Kearns, Pete Peters, Adam Shupe and Matt Lackner were also first-team performers with Hake, while Nick Kouratou was the conference's Gold Glove shortstop. Dustin Laird, Darian Sandford, Brett Gordon, Ryan Weedin, Kiki Fuentes and Joe Chris-

tiano were honorable mention selections.

- Junior Jeff Hall and senior Nick Kouratou were named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes.

- The Pirates were ranked as high as No. 22 during the regular season and were inside the NAIA Top 40 throughout the season.

- Park was No. 36 to begin the season and during the regular season, the Pirates were No. 34 or better until the final rating of the season, when the Pirates were No. 38.

- Jesse Kearns and Adam Shupe became No. 1 and No. 2 all-time for Park in RBIs, with Kearns leading the way with 60 RBIs, while Shupe drove in 56.

- Darian Sandford led the NAIA in stolen bases per game, swiping 43 bags in 53 tries, playing in 45 of the team's 46 games.

- Josh Hake became the school's all-time leader in pitching wins, going 17-2 in his two-year career with the Pirates.

## **SOFTBALL**

- The Pirates finished the season with a stellar 27-13 record and qualified for their first NAIA Softball National Championship Tournament in the history of the program.

- Park went 1-2 in the National Championship tournament, defeating Hastings College, 6-1, losing to the No. 1 ranked team in the nation, California Baptist, 2-0, and losing to No. 22 ranked Friends University, 6-5.

- Park softball ended the year with two Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes - Jamie Garman and Ashley Scates.

- Park's Amy Reif became the all-time winningest coach in the history of the program with her overall record of 86-83.

- The Pirates posted 10 All-Conference Selections on the year, highlighted by Justine Riner's Freshman of the Year selection.

- Park had one honorable mention selection, as pitcher Brittany Johnson got the nod and four Pirates earned second team honors including first baseman Jennifer Cordell, second baseman Lisa Luettinger, third baseman Alicia Wedel and center fielder Kristen Hansen.

- Five players were named to the first team including Justine Riner, catcher Emily Calder, short stop Ashley Scates, right fielder Abby Welker and designated player Jamie Garman.

- Park finished the MCAC regular season with a second-place finish and a record of 8-2. Despite losing to Bellevue University twice in the regular season, Park went up to Bellevue, Neb. for the MCAC Tournament and defeated the Bruins twice on their home field to win their first ever MCAC Tournament and first ever bid to the NAIA National Championship tournament.

## **TRACK & FIELD**

- Junior sprinter Sadiki James ran past the competition in many races this season including a first-place finish in the 55-meter dash at the Highland Invitational back on January 31.

- James also ran the fastest time of any Pirate in the 60-meter dash in the indoor season and ran the second fastest time of any Pirate in the 200-meter dash.

- Erycka Fisher and James qualified for the 2009 NAIA Indoor National Championships back in March. Fisher ran a time of 1:38.72 in the 600-meter preliminary race and James ran in the 60-meter preliminary race and finished fourth in his heat with a time of 6.99.

- Three Pirates qualified for the NAIA Outdoor National Championships in St. Louis, Mo., including Sadiki James, Erycka Fisher and Romona Nicolls.

- James qualified in the 100-meter race, while Nicolls qualified in the 800-meter run and Fisher earned her spot in the 400-meter hurdles.

- Luke Wolkers ran the fourth fastest time in the history of the Track and Field program in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 57.74 in the Mule Relays back on April 17.

- Park's Tina Gaines also ran one of the fastest times in the history of the Track and Field program in the 100-meter race with a time of 12.34, good for the seventh fastest time in Park history.

- Sophomore Micah Conkling, senior Devin Haddix, junior Luke Wolkers, senior Rachel Fessenden and senior Melinda Jansen were all named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes. The award also made Jansen Park's only two-time Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athlete in 2008-09.