

Athletics Hall of Fame

FOUR STUDENT ATHLETES AND A TEAM JOIN RANKS OF HONOREES



Four more athletes and a team became members of the Athletics Hall of Fame.

Inducted in an Oct. 7 ceremony on campus were:

Mike Gundersdorf '97, football;

Al Scharer '75, wrestling;

Ellen Van Riper '83, volleyball, basketball and softball;

Angela Polny Vivian '95, field hockey;

1975 men's lacrosse team.

The Athletics Hall of Fame was established in 1993 to honor players, coaches and others who have made outstanding contributions to athletics at Bucknell Junior College, Wilkes College and Wilkes University.

Receiving their awards during Homecoming 2007 were, left to right, Mike Gundersdorf, Ellen Van Riper, Al Scharer, Don Mock (captain of the 1975 lacrosse team) and Angela Polny Vivian.

Mike Gundersdorf

Gundersdorf is one of the most heralded players to ever play for the Wilkes football team. He helped Wilkes post an overall record of 32 wins and 11 losses. During that span, the Colonels claimed the 1993 Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) championship and earned a berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs. They also garnered Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference playoff berths in 1994 and 1996.

Now a special education teacher at West Morris High School, Chester, N.J., the Hackettstown, N.J., resident also runs a private painting company. He and wife Lauren have two sons, Michael, 5, and Luke, 3.

Gundersdorf majored in communications at Wilkes. He credits his Wilkes experience, both on the field and in the classroom, with teaching him to focus on a task and prepare to meet goals. "I always kind of set goals for myself and what I expect of myself, and it's carried over into my professional and personal life."



STATS - MIKE GUNDERSDORF

- Ranks first on career receiving list for receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns
- 205 catches for 3,603 yards and 34 touchdowns
- Set single-season records, with 79 receptions and 1,269 receiving yards in 1995
- Established new standard with 15 touchdown catches in 1996
- Holds records for 14 catches in a game, 271 receiving yards in a game and four touchdown receptions in a game
- Second-team All-American, 1995
- Honorable mention All-American honors, 1996
- First-team All-MAC honoree, 1994, 1995, 1996
- ECAC Player of the Year, 1996
- First-team All-ECAC honors, 1995
- Wilkes Male Athlete of the Year, 1997

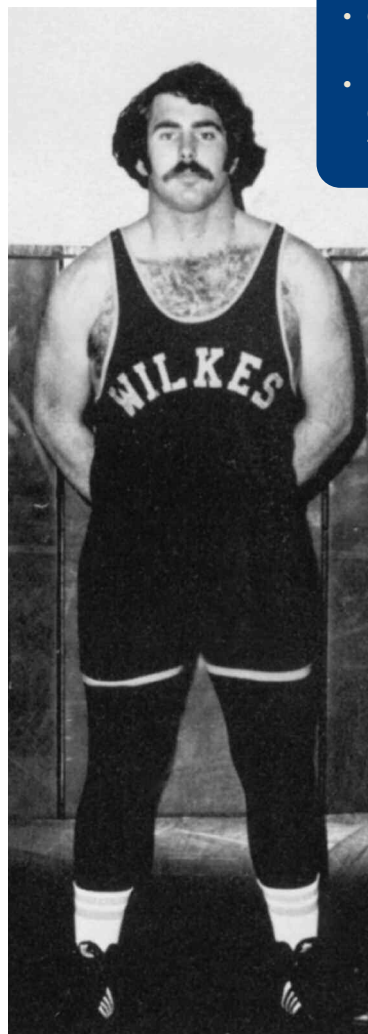
Al Scharer

Scharer was a standout performer on the wrestling mat for the Colonels during his three and one-half years at Wilkes. A transfer from Columbia University, the heavyweight compiled a career dual match record of 27-13-2 during his time at Wilkes.

The economics major is president and founder of Filigree Consulting, a marketing and economic research firm. He credits his athletic experience at Wilkes with teaching him the relationship between hard work and success. "Wrestling is an interesting combination of individual and team

STATS - AL SCHARER

- Overall record 25-7, eight victories by pin, 1974
- 13-5 dual match record, three wins by fall, 1974
- Second at NCAA Division III Championships to help Colonels claim team national championship, 1974
- Team dual match record of 13-5, MAC championship, 1974
- Team posted 12-2-1 dual match record and seventh consecutive MAC crown, 1975
- Overall record 18-12-1, 10 wins by fall, 1975
- Fourth at NCAA Division III Championships, Colonels earned fourth-place team finish, 1975



pursuits. How to maintain a balance of focus on individual success and team success is an important life lesson. Business is very much like that. You are responsible for individual performance and your contribution to the 'team.'"

And even 20 years later, he finds himself asking, "What would (Coach) John (Reese) do?" when presented with a complex or ethical decision. "I learned about leadership and the importance of personal integrity and its role in establishing trusting relationships."

Scharer lives in Big Elk Meadow, Colo., with wife Karen. Daughter Vanessa is mother of Ethan and Emma.

Ellen Van Riper

Van Riper was a four-year performer in volleyball, plus played three years of basketball and one season of softball. She earned four varsity letters in volleyball and served as a team captain during her senior season, in 1982.

As a senior, she played an integral role in helping Wilkes finish with an overall record of 16-6. That same year, the Lady Colonels won both the Northeastern Pennsylvania Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association and the MAC Northeast championships.

During her junior season, Van Riper cracked 130 kills, including a then school-record 21 in a match against FDU-Florham. She also contributed 48 service aces.



She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in English literature and earned her law degree from The Rutgers-Newark School of Law. She now serves as assistant city attorney for Peoria, Ariz. Van Riper and husband Allen Malanowski reside in Phoenix and have a son, Eric, 6.

“In addition to the cliches like learning the values of teamwork, commitment and good sportsmanship, (athletics) also taught me to set high standards and goals for myself in every area of my life and that almost anything can be achieved through hard work, skill and perseverance,” Van Riper says. “Professionally, these lessons have served me very well as an attorney practicing civil litigation.”

STATS - ELLEN VAN RIPER

- 106 kills and 61 service aces as senior, 1982
- MAC and NPWIAA All-Conference teams, 1982
- NPWIAA first-team honors, 1982
- Lady Colonels Offensive Most Valuable Player, 1982
- Letterwomen's Club
- First female sports editor of *The Beacon*
- Managing editor of *The Beacon*

Angela Polny Vivian

During her three years on the field hockey team, Vivian helped the Lady Colonels post an overall record of 34 wins, 23 losses and two ties. A defender, she finished her career with six goals and helped Wilkes limit the opposition to 1.47 goals per contest.

Vivian arrived at Wilkes in 1992, after spending her freshman year at University of Connecticut. She played in all 18 games her sophomore year with the Lady Colonels, who posted a 10-8 record. She scored one goal from her defensive position.

STATS - ANGELA POLNY VIVIAN

- College Field Hockey Coaches Association North Region second-team All-American, 1993
- All-Freedom League first team, 1993
- CFHCA North-Atlantic All-Region first team, 1994
- All-Freedom League first unit, 1994

During her junior campaign, Vivian helped Wilkes equal its total from 1992, with five wins by shutout as the Lady Colonels posted an 11-8-1 record. Her play, which included four goals, helped the squad win both the Freedom League and ECAC Mid-Atlantic championships.

As a senior, Vivian scored one goal and played in all 21 contests in leading Wilkes to both the Freedom League and ECAC Mid-Atlantic titles. The Lady Colonels also set a new record by winning 13 games on their way to a 13-7-1 mark.

Vivian appreciated the understanding she received from professors as a student-athlete. “When I had to tell professors that I’d be missing a class or a test to play field hockey, they told me, ‘That’s OK, Angie.’ They knew my name, not my Social Security number,” she recalls. “I was able to play field hockey, get my engineering degree and have a life.”

Vivian, a quality assurance manager for a company that manufactures metal closures, lives in Slocum, Pa., and is engaged to be married.



1975 Men's Lacrosse Team

The 1975 men's lacrosse team goes down as the finest to ever play at the school.

After dropping their first game of the season to MAC rival Franklin & Marshall College, the Colonels responded with eight consecutive wins. Six of those came in conference play, as the squad claimed its first MAC title, with a 6-1 record and an 8-2 mark overall.

Midfielders Vince Krill and Craig Austin led a Wilkes attack that averaged 14.3 goals per contest. Krill had 21 goals and 21 assists, while Austin finished with 19 goals and 21 assists. Gary Gieschen, who played attack, finished second on the team in goals, tallying 25 and handing out nine assists. Bruce Davis was the team's leader in goals from his midfield position, with 26; he

also contributed six assists. Bill Winter, who played attack, was next on the scoring list for the Colonels, with 14 goals and 14 assists.

Don Mock came up with 117 saves. Bill Harris had 15 saves to help the Colonels limit the opposition to a mere 7.7 goals per game. Six players were named to the MAC All-Star Team; that includes Krill and Davis, both named to the first team. Winter, Gieschen, Austin and Mock garnered berths on the second unit.

