

2015

Megaphone Winter/Spring 2015

Macalester College

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MAC

MACALESTER ATHLETICS

WINTER/SPRING 2015

MEGAPHONE

A Newsletter of M CLUB Activities & Macalester College Athletics



See team photo on inside spread

FOOTBALL

Best Season in a Century

Any way you measure it, Macalester football has had a season for the record books. First conference title since 1947. First NCAA playoff appearance. Best season in 121 years. For players, coaches, and alumni, it's been a long time coming, but that has made it all the sweeter.

It wasn't so long ago—the 1970s—when Macalester had the longest streak of losses in the NCAA. In 2001, there was a serious proposal to drop football, but in what some describe as a compromise move, the college left the MIAC and played an independent schedule until joining the Midwest Conference this year.

Marshall Mullenbach '03, assistant coach and defensive and recruiting coordinator, lived through that tumult as a player and remembers strategizing sessions intent on saving football. "If you need people to rally around a cause, Macalester is the place! Alumni, students and team members really rallied in support of us." He specifically recalls that graduating team members "could easily have said, 'I'm out of here,' but they didn't. They stuck it out and really helped out us underclassmen."

Lee Nystrom '73, a college trustee and part-time defensive line coach, was a player during another trying time, but it didn't keep him from going on to play three seasons for the Green Bay Packers. "Improving the football program has been a baby steps process, but this year proved it can be done if it's done the right way, with proper leadership from the president, the head coach and all the way along the line."

From the time he assumed the role of head football coach, Tony Jennison has been committed, not just to a winning football team, but to a successful football program in which players succeed in all aspects of their college lives. In December, he was named NCAA Division III, Region 5 Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

"We have had tremendous leadership from the upperclassmen on the team who have been working toward this point for four years," says Jennison. "People from all walks of life have invested in our football program—everyone from alumni mentors to professors who meet with our recruits to the people at Café Mac who opened early, so the team could eat before leaving for a game. So many people contribute to our success."

Former football player and current Associate Director of Alumni Relations Daymond Dean '91 says, "Tony has brought alumni in as mentors and honorary captains, engaging them with students. He not only understands football, he understands what Mac is all about."



Often cited is the support of President Brian Rosenberg, who committed to a \$45 million athletic and wellness facility and the goal of a student athletic experience commensurate with their academics. Athletic Director Kim Chandler credits Rosenberg and VP of Student Affairs Laurie Hamre with providing the institutional support necessary to improve the football program.

"As an alum and a former player, I couldn't be more excited about what Mac football has accomplished this year," says Dean. "There's every indication of a bright future ahead and I'm one of many already looking forward to next season."

SAVE THE DATE:

Mac Hac Golf, Monday, June 1

The 26th annual Mac Hac golf tournament will be held at the Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights, one of the premier private courses in the Twin Cities. Mark the date: Monday, June 1, shotgun start at noon. Watch for registration information on macalester.edu/athletics.



HALL OF FAME

Induction

Four new members were inducted into the M Club Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 27 in ceremonies held in the Alexander G. Hill Ballroom of Kagin Commons.

Liz Connors '00 (cross country, track and field) was a four-year letter-winner at Macalester with nine All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference awards. She was a member of the distance medley relay squad that claimed a conference title in 2000. Captain of both teams as a senior, she earned all-conference honors three times each in cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field.

Jennie Haire Johnson '96 (soccer) earned four letters and was team captain as a senior in addition to being a three-time All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honoree. Macalester's M Club Athlete of the Year her senior year, Johnson was



Liz Connors '00



Tim Hultquist '72

an all-conference, all-region and All-American selection in 1995 in addition to being named the conference player of the year.

Tim Hultquist '72 (golf) was a four-year letter-winner. He was the team's number one golfer in all four of his seasons, as well as the team's most valuable player after finishing second at the 1968 MIAC championship as a freshman. He served as a team captain in both 1970 and 1972, leading the Scots to a pair of championships.

Blaine Kunze '87 (football, baseball, track and field) was a three-time All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection and the league's defensive player of the year as a junior in 1984. He was a two-time football team captain and a three-year starter in baseball. As a senior, he was a finalist in the indoor 300-meter dash and outdoor 100-meter dash at the MIAC Championships. During the record-setting 2014 football season, he served as defensive backs coach.



Jennie Haire Johnson '96



Blaine Kunze '87

THINKING AHEAD

Nominations for next year's M Club Hall of Fame are due March 15, 2015. Visit macalester.edu/athletics to nominate those you would like to see honored at the next Hall of Fame banquet.

Sat., Feb. 7
Winter Sports Day
 1 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Hamline
 3 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Hamline

Wed., Apr. 22
M Club Appreciation Day
 4:30 p.m. Softball vs. St. Mary's
 Scot Dogs and lemonade



Thurs., Apr. 23
 5 p.m. Bolstorff Men's Twilight Track and Field Meet

Sat., Apr. 25
Spring Sports Day
 10 a.m. Janis Rider Women's Track and Field event
 2:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Gustavus



STADIUM CELEBRATES

50 Years

In October, Macalester stadium celebrated its 50th birthday. When dedicated, it featured a football field, quarter-mile “Tartan” running track, seating for 4,000, and a heated, two-story press box. A *Mac Weekly* article quoted the cost of the stadium construction at \$400,000 with another \$140,000 spent to install the track. It was widely praised for its spacious and state-of-the-art amenities.

A unique and beautiful element of the stadium is the mosaic granite Macalester shield, which hangs above the Snelling entrance. It measures 12 by 14 feet, weighs three tons, and was a gift from the granite company, the stadium architects, and the general contractors.

Designed by 3M, the green, eight-lane track was one of the first artificial tracks installed in the country. In 1992, the

green surface was replaced as the track and football field underwent a major renovation. The length of the track was changed from 440 yards to 400 meters, a ninth lane was added, and the oval widened to create field space for a regulation-width soccer pitch. Since then, the track has been resurfaced twice—in 2002 and 2014. In 2006, the grass infield of the stadium was upgraded to a turf field. In the past six years, the stadium has received new

lighting, a sound system and a video scoreboard.

For 50 years Macalester stadium has served the Scots well. “It’s a fabulous stadium venue for our outdoor sports,” says Associate Athletics Director Vanessa Seljeskog. “For Division III, it’s probably one of the best in the nation in terms of the seating capacity, the lights, and the visual angles to see the action. They’re all really top notch.”



GET THE NEWS

Fast

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COMMUNITY

Connections

Macalester’s Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) worked on several projects during fall semester. Volleyball and women’s soccer hosted Dig Pink/Kick Cancer events. SAAC also raised funds and collected non-perishable donations for the local food pantry and hosted a play day and lunch for kids from ACES, which helps middle school students succeed. WCCO-TV featured the football team as they drafted brothers Caleb and Elijah Maaske as part of Team IMPACT, which brings college teams together with children dealing with serious illnesses.



PRESIDENT'S Message

Greetings M Clubbers!

Welcome to the spring edition of the 2015 M Club’s Megaphone!

I would like to kick off this column with special thanks to a longtime friend of M Club, Macalester athletics, and the Macalester Community—Vice President of Student Affairs Laurie Hamre, who will retire at the end of this academic year.

For 23 years Laurie has been a committed fan of Macalester intercollegiate athletics and a great friend of the M Club. I commend Laurie for her active role in overseeing athletics at our college, for her understanding of what the athletics program contributes to the Macalester community, and for doing what it takes to ensure that relationship.

Laurie has supported M Club in everything we do—hosting events, honoring outstanding athletes of today and yesteryear, bringing the Macalester community together via athletics and wellness and, of course, distributing “Scot Dogs” at seasonal M Club sports days. Laurie has been a super fan of Macalester athletics and I hope that in this next chapter of her adventure she finds time to continue cheering on our teams to do their very best. Good luck to you, Laurie, and special thanks from the M Club Board of Directors and our membership for everything you have done to support M Club and Macalester athletics!

Once again, I am honored to serve as your president as together we cheer on our teams, honor our athletes, promote health and wellness, and unite the Macalester community via athletics.

We ARE the M Club!

LET’S GO MAC!

Steve Cox, M Club President

MACALESTER
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KIMBER MEYER

Four-Time All-America Honors

Kimber Meyer '17 finished seventh at the NCAA Division III Women's Cross Country Championships completing the 6,000-meter course in 21:49.4 to earn All-America honors for the second consecutive year. Meyer is now four for four as she previously earned All-America honors in cross country, indoor and outdoor track during her freshman year. Meyer is the only sophomore in NCAA Division III to earn All-America honors in distance events (cross country, indoor track 3,000- and outdoor track 5,000-meter runs).

Macalester head coach Betsy Emerson praised Meyer's mental preparation: "The bigger the race gets, the better she performs," Emerson said. "She is confident in her ability to compete with the very best in the nation. Once she sets her mind on a goal and truly believes she can accomplish it, nothing can stand in her way."

At the Central Regional, Meyer placed third, running an all-time personal best of 21:30 and receiving All-Region honors. Her finish was a big reason the Scots finished in sixth place overall,



their best team finish since 2005, when the squad last qualified for nationals.

This fall, she reset her own school record in the 6,000-meter cross-country race. As a first-year in track, Meyer set the Macalester indoor mile record running 4:59.83. She will take aim at the record board again as she seeks to defend her MIAC titles in the indoor 3,000-meter run and the outdoor 5,000.



Meyer's impressive finish at Nationals places her alongside Linda Zeman '84 and Julia Kirtland '87 in Macalester cross-country history as the only recipients of multiple All-America honors.



ALUMNI EVENTS

This fall, a number of Scot teams hosted alumni events, bringing back former team members to share good times and good memories. Among the teams hosting events were baseball, softball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's swimming and diving, and men's soccer.

