Macalester is committed to rebuilding the women’s basketball program and returning to competition in 2005–06. President Brian Rosenberg and Athletic Director Irv Cross have made that pledge after finding it necessary to suspend the rest of the season in mid-December because the roster was small and growing smaller.

The decision “was in no way a reflection on the team members, who deserve only our admiration for their commitment, devotion, and passion,” Cross and Rosenberg said in a joint statement. Rather, they said, the decision was “an acknowledgement that we would be unable to send enough players onto the court to guarantee our obligations to our scheduled opponents.” The team had already forfeited one game because it had insufficient players.

The team will play half a conference schedule supplemented with non-conference games in 2005–06 and will resume a full conference schedule in 2006–07.

In this Issue

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Our soccer All-Americans, p. 3
Mac’s spring sport outlook p. 4
Irv’s Corner, p. 7
Fall Highlights

Mac athletes put up some impressive numbers during the fall and winter seasons.

1,555 Yards run in 9 games (869 rushing, 686 passing) by football’s Nate Vernon, placing him 14th in the nation in total yards per game in Division III. Nate also received Academic All-District Five Honors. Teammate Tim Burns was eighth nationally in total tackles (12.5) and third in solo tackles (8.6) per game.

5,913 Career passing yards by quarterback Adam Denny, who became Mac’s all-time leader in that category and in touchdown passes (33).

3 Goals surrendered by the women’s soccer team in five post-season matches as they won the MIAC playoffs and two Division III post-season matches before falling in the national quarter-finals on a penalty kick shootout loss. Macalester won the MIAC regular season 10-0-1.

18 Consecutive winning seasons by the men’s soccer team, which took third in the MIAC with a 6-3-1 mark and reached the conference playoff finals but came up short in their bid for a fourth straight league title.

18 Teams in the St. Olaf Invitational, won by the women’s cross country team, which then spent much of the season nationally ranked. Koby Hagen and Francie Streich earned all-conference honors.

4 The men’s cross country team’s placement at conference championships for the second year in a row. Bo Rydze and Roscoe Sopiwnik picked up All-MIAC certificates.

2,000+ Career digs by volleyballer May Lin Kessenich, MIAC Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight season. She was an all-region and honorable mention All-America selection.

4 Cager Erik Jackson’s rank on the Macalester career scoring list with over 1,300 points. He is currently among the national leaders in three-point baskets made and is averaging 18.3 points a game. Tom Conboy is the MIAC’s top-scoring first-year player.

6-2 The women’s swimming and diving team’s best-ever dual meet record, matched this season. Heather Lendway continues to establish herself as one of the best in the conference in distance freestyle and individual medley events.

Mac Club Upcoming Events

Thur., April 28, 6:30 p.m.
Board of Directors meeting

Sat., April 30
Spring Sports Day
Noon Women’s Track Invitational
1 p.m. Baseball vs. St. John’s

Fri.-Sat., May 13-14
M Club “We’ll Be There”
MIAC Track and Field Championships at Macalester College

Sat., June 4, 8 a.m.
Reunion Weekend Fun Run (meet at the Alumni House)

Sat. June 4, 4:30 p.m.
Reunion Weekend Alumni Awards Convocation (recognition includes 2004 Hall of Fame inductees)

Mon. June 6
Mac Hac Golf Tournament

‘Meet the coach’ luncheon

Enjoy a complimentary lunch and hear baseball coach Matt Parrington and softball coach Tom Cross talk about their respective teams. They will each bring a student-athlete as well. You’ll have a chance to ask questions, too. Enjoy this chance to get to know some of our talented coaches and student-athletes.

WHEN: Friday, April 7, noon to 1 p.m.
WHERE: Weyerhaeuser Board Room, Weyerhaeuser Building, 62 Macalester Street (the Old Library)

Please RSVP to Eric Solberg in the Development Office by April 1. E-mail: solberge@macalester.edu, or call (651) 696-6476.

Hope to see you there!
53 schools of all NCAA divisions to have both its women’s and men’s programs earn this award.

**Erik Jackson Named Finalist for Cousy Award**

Macalester’s Erik Jackson (Sr., Evergreen, Colo.) has been named one of 18 finalists for the 2005 Bob Cousy Collegiate Point Guard of the Year Award, presented by the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Jackson is one of just three Division III players among the 18 finalists, which include Travis Diener of Marquette, Raymond Felton of North Carolina, Deron Williams of Illinois and Chris Thomas of Notre Dame. The other Division III finalists are J.D. Byers of Lebanon Valley (Pa.) and Tom Harrington of Baldwin-Wallace (Ohio).

A four-year starter with 1,089 career points, Jackson is a two-time All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection. Through the season’s first 13 games he averaged 15.9 points, 4.7 assists and 3.6 rebounds per game. He’s made 40 three-pointers as a 43% shooter behind the arc and is an 85% free throw shooter. The award will be presented April 4th in St. Louis.

**Two from Women’s Soccer Team Earn All-America Honors**

Macalester’s Erin Hoople (Sr., Rockford, Ill. / Auburn) and Annie Borton (So., Berkeley, Calif.) have been named to the Adidas / NSCAA Division III Women’s Soccer All-America team, selected by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Both are second team selections and two of just 33 players selected nationally.

The two standouts led Macalester to an 18-3-2 season and Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship. They were the only two MIAC players selected to the All-America team. Borton netted 20 goals to become just the second player in the history of the program to reach that milestone in a single season. She also assisted on 10 goals. Hoople always marked the other team’s top goal-scorer and rarely was beaten for goals. She led a defense which posted 14 shutouts and allowed just one goal in five post-season games.

This is the 13th straight year Macalester has landed a player on the Adidas / NSCAA All-America team and over the past 19 years the Scots have had at least one selection 18 times.


**VISIT M Club’s Web site**

http://www.macalester.edu/athletics/m_club/

Soccer All-Americans, *from left:* Jennie Haire, Lisa Bauer, Erin Hoople, Karen Moen, Annie Borton, Kate Ryan Reiling. See spring *Macalester Today.*
MEN’S TRACK & FIELD

Eleventh-year head track & field coach Martin Peper and the Macalester Scots have most of their top performers back from a year ago and are eager to move up in the MIAC in 2005. Last year the Scots placed ninth at the MIAC indoor championships and eighth at the outdoor meet.

Some key Macalester veterans will be called on for high placements at the big meets, including distance standout Bo Rydze (Sr., Iowa City, Ia.), pole vaulter Alex Wise (So., Knoxville, Tenn.) and triple jumper Ssebaale Sseremba (Sr., Tutume, Botswana).

Rydze has won multiple all-conference certificates in cross country and track and last year’s Macalester Junior Scholar-Athlete of the Year would like to end his career with a standout senior campaign in events from 1500 meters and up. He took third in last year’s indoor 3000 meters. Wise and Sseremba registered Macalester’s best MIAC outdoor finishes last year with second-place performances—Wise in the pole vault and Sseremba in the triple jump.

Coach Peper will rely heavily on a veteran group of distance runners which placed fourth at the MIAC cross country championships the past two years. In addition to Rydze, the Scots will look for big seasons from Eric Olson (Sr., Faribault, Minn. / Burnsville), Dylan Keith (So., Soldiers Grove, Wis. / North Crawford) and David Auguston (So., Sheboygen, Wis. / North).

Brendan Viede (Sr., Arden Hills, Minn.) is a former all-conference long jumper and was fourth at last year’s MIAC indoor meet. He joins Sseremba and long-jumper / sprinter Tim Burns (Jr., McFarland, Wis.) to give the Scots a talented horizontal jumping contingent.

WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD

Macalester placed ninth indoors and sixth outdoors last year in the MIAC and is looking to improve its position this season as nearly everyone is back in ’05.

The Scots have some good depth this season under fourth-year head coach Martin Peper and are led by a pair of MIAC outdoor champions from a year ago. Kirsten Fristad (Sr., Rochester, Mich.) goes into her final collegiate campaign as a two-time MIAC 400-meter intermediate hurdle champ. She was also second in her junior outdoor season in the 100-meter high hurdles. Koby Hagen (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.) is the defending conference champ in the outdoor 1500 meters and last winter was second in the MIAC in the 1000 meters. She won the conference cross country championship as a sophomore.

In addition to Fristad, the Scots feature another of the MIAC’s best hurdlers in Colleen Schramm (So., St. Paul, Minn.). In last year’s outdoor campaign Schramm placed fourth in the conference in both the 100-meter high hurdles and triple jump, and at the indoor championships she was third in the triple jump and fourth in the 55 hurdles. Susan Brown (So., Kingston, Jamaica) joins Schramm to give Mac a very young and talented triple-jumping crew, while Brown is also one of the league’s top high jumpers. She placed second in the triple jump at both the MIAC indoor and outdoor meets. In the weights, Macalester is led by javelin thrower Lisa Ostenson (Jr., Wright, Wyo.).

Hagen heads a veteran group of middle and long distance runners from a cross country team which was nationally ranked for much of last fall. Caroline Barnes (Jr., Cleveland Heights, Ohio) and Amanda Brown (Jr., Concordia, Minn.) are from Eric Olson (Sr., Faribault, Minn. / Burnsville), Dylan Keith (So., Soldiers Grove, Wis. / North Crawford) and David Auguston (So., Sheboygen, Wis. / North),

Hagen heads a veteran group of middle and long distance runners from a cross country team which was nationally ranked for much of last fall. Caroline Barnes (Jr., Cleveland Heights, Ohio) and Anna Shamey (So., Leverett, Mass.) all registered top-seven finishes at the ’04 MIAC outdoor championships.

BASEBALL

The direction of the Scots baseball program has much more clarity and fewer unknowns than it had a year ago. This sense of optimism comes from the confidence of a solid 2004 campaign, a season in which the win total was more than doubled from the year before. With improvements in virtually all aspects of the team, the Scots eagerly await the start of the ’05 season with ambitions of taking another step forward.

The pitching staff led the way last season and will be looked upon for further improvements this season. By having the ability to work ahead in the count and having much better command of the strike zone, the staff was able to lower the team ERA by more than two runs per game in addition to lowering the opponent’s batting average by 26 points. The core of that staff returns, led by Cormac Seely (Sr., Stockton, Calif.), Liam Bowen (Jr., Silver Spring, Md.) and Ted Kimble (So., Pine Island, Minn.).

Seely lead the team in appearances (15) for the second consecutive season and his impact, both as a starter and reliever, set the tone for a major improvement in the pitching staff. Bowen had a breakout year, established himself as a go-to guy, and led the team in several categories, including complete games (4), innings pitched (58), wins (3) and strikeouts (49). Kimble, overcoming a pre-season ankle injury, led the staff with a .226 opponent batting average and ranked second in strikeouts (36). The returning infield shows great promise for the upcoming season, led by Andrew Percival (Jr., Seattle, Wash.), Chris Papalia (So., Pickering, Ontario / Notre Dame) and Adam Wedwick (So., Coon Rapids, Minn.). These three keyed a defensive one-eighty that included 31 double plays on the season. Percival, who will see action at all four infield positions and in the outfield, hit .311.

Josh Ortiz (Sr., LaJunta, Colo.) is coming off an injury-shortened campaign in which he still managed to hit .277, and the versatile Kier Palmer-Klein (Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.), who can play both corners, should round out the infield. Marc Rodwogin (Sr., Marlboro, N.J.), who is coming off career highs in batting average (.280) and RBI (16), will anchor the team behind the plate with his strong defensive skills and leadership.

Mike Merrill (Sr., Lititz, Pa.) earned honorable mention all-conference honors for the second straight season as leadoff man. He led the Scots in runs scored (30) and ranked second in batting average (.366). The competition in the outfield surrounding Merrill will be fierce.
SOFTBALL

Despite the loss of six important seniors to graduation, second-year head coach Tom Cross and the Macalester softball team are quietly optimistic about the 2005 season as the Scots hope to continue their climb in the MIAC.

The Scots can put quality players in most positions this year, with the hope of developing young players early. Macalester’s hitting must improve for the Scots to take the next step. Overall, it could be a fun and exciting season.

Macalester returns key seniors in pitcher Alisha Seifert (Mahtomedi, Minn.) and outfielder Kat Sprole (Des Moines, Ia.). Seifert pitched in 29 of the team’s 35 games and posted a 4.49 ERA. She ranked fifth in the MIAC in innings pitched. Sprole led the Scots with a .308 batting average in ’04 and was second on the team in runs scored (11) from her leadoff spot in the order.

Also returning to the lineup are veterans like pitcher / third base Kristin Mainz (So., Farmington, Minn.), outfielder Laura Meinke (Jr., Stillwater, Okla.), infielder Sarah Lambert (So., Freeport, Ill.), outfielder Nyalleng Moorosi (Sr., Hlotse, Lesotho), and catcher Erinn Duvall (So., Moses Lake, Wash.). Mainz should see extensive playing time both on the mound and at third base. Meinke and Lambert developed into quality hitters last year and hope to do even better in ’05.

Coach Cross will look for key production from several newcomers, including shortstop Katie Grudnowski (Fy., Minneapolis, Minn.), outfielder Marisa Raether (Fy., San Marino, Calif.), and utility players: Laura Conway (Fy., Chicago, Ill.) and Alexis Gunderson (Fy., Casper, Wyo.).

WOMEN’S WATER POLO

In just the third year as a varsity program the Scots earned a seventh-place finish at the Collegiate III National Championships. Macalester is optimistic about a return trip to the nationals as five of seven starting players return from a year ago.

Offensively the team will be led by all-conference players Jackie DeLuca (So., New Preston, Conn.) and Kate Larson (Sr., Rockford, Ill.). DeLuca tallied 51 goals last season to go along with 65 ejections drawn and 35 assists helping her to earn Honorable Mention All-America status. Larson tallied 38 goals and 33 assists, while stealing the ball 54 times. The speed of junior Heather Lendway (Jr., St. Paul, Minn.) gives opponents fits. In just two seasons Lendway already holds the school record for goals won in a career with 147. She also added 16 goals and 18 assists last season.

On the defensive side the Scots will rely on their most-improved player in goalkeeper Elena Bulat (So., Madison, Wis.). Bulat had not played water polo until arriving on the Macalester campus and set a team record with 218 blocks last season. Her expertise in the net will anchor the Scots’ always stingy defense.

Cassie Hartbly (Jr., Amherst, Mass.) is one of the best defensive players ever at Macalester and stole the ball from opponents 71 times while still contributing to the offense with 20 goals.

MEN’S TENNIS

New head coach Jason Muhl and the Macalester Scots are eager to put the team’s disappointing 3-16 season behind them and begin building for the future. Macalester loses three of its top four players to graduation, including No. 1 singles player from opponents fits. In just two seasons Lendway already holds the school record for goals won in a career with 147. She also added 16 goals and 18 assists last season.

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Leading the way for the 2005 Scots is veteran Nick Werth (Jr., Bloomington, Ind. / North). Werth went 6-9 last season to post the team’s best winning percentage, playing most of his matches at No. 2. He went 6-2 at third and fourth singles.

The Scots also return veterans such as Eric Brandt (Sr., Menlo Park, Calif.), Tobin Kaufman-Osborn (So., Walla Walla, Wash.) and Spencer Edelman (Jr., Tucson, Ariz. / University). Brandt led the team with seven wins last season, going 7-12 on the year, mostly at No. 4. Kaufman-Osborn returns after playing mostly at fifth singles. Edelman missed most of last year but as a frosh led the team in wins while going 11-15 near the bottom of the singles lineup.

Other with extensive varsity experience include Jeremy Cover (Jr., Palestine, Tex.) and Andrew Kessel (So., Hinesburg, Vt. / Champlain Valley).

Mac’s season gets underway Feb. 11 at St. John’s. The Scots play five matches over Spring Break March 19-23 at Hilton Head, S.C.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

With most of the team’s top players back from a year ago, optimism runs high for a much-improved season over last year’s 1-21 rebuilding season. Mac loses No. 1 singles player Sarah Crangle to graduation, but nearly everyone else is back.

Christina Hagstrum (Sr., North Oaks, Minn. / Mounds View) and Erin Case (Sr., Ann Arbor, Mich. / Pioneer) return to the top of the singles lineup to lead the way for the ’05 Scots. Hagstrum went 8-14 on the season, mostly at No. 2, where she went 6-8. Case led the team in wins a year ago when she went 10-12 at both second and third singles.

May Lin Kessenich (Sr., Milford, Conn. / Foran) went 5-12 as a sophomore but missed last season while studying abroad. She returns to the lineup, as well as experienced veterans like Sayoko Nakamura (Jr., Osaka, Japan / Osaka International), Chelsea Stinson (So., Maple Plain, Minn. / Orono) and Alexis Gerber (So., San Francisco, Calif. / International).

The Scots open their season Feb. 5 at home against Southwest Minnesota State. They play five matches over Spring Break March 19-23 at Hilton Head, S.C.
Greetings M Clubbers,

I hope this edition of the Megaphone finds you enjoying the onset of spring. This has been a busy time for local M Club members who have made it a point to cheer on Macalester’s winter sports teams. The efforts of athletes and coaches have brought us many achievements to be proud of.

One group of athletes has not had the chance to receive the full applause that they deserve: the women’s basketball team, whose season was suspended in mid-December due to an administration decision based on low numbers of players. The dedicated athletes from this team, along with Coach Jean-nine Ruh, deserve praise and applause for the hard work and dedication they demonstrated despite the low numbers they were coping with.

The Board of Directors has created a Women’s Basketball Task Force with two missions: (1) Make sure athletes from the current team receive the recognition they deserve and (2) Assist the coach in finding ten signed recruits for next year. Having the season cut short was a major loss to Mac’s athletic program and we all must work to get a team for next year. If you know of potential recruits, please visit the Women’s Varsity Basketball website and contact Coach Ruh with the names and their schools, along with any other contact information. You can make a real difference.

On a brighter note, the campaign for the new fieldhouse continues to grow in popularity. I am encouraging the M Club to rally behind this effort to bring our campus a state-of-the-art complex which meets the athletic and recreational needs of our athletes, students, staff and community. Once again, I thank Lee Nystrom ’73 for chairing the committee to make this happen. As alumni who love Macalester for the experiences we gained as students and athletes, M Clubbers have much to be proud of. Let us continue in our successes with an outpouring of support for this endeavor.

Please also support this year’s M Club Fund drive, which helps with team travel, supplemental equipment such as the scorers’ table for basketball and volleyball games, and the ceremonies and banquets where we honor athletes and teams of today and yesteryear.

In a recent card I received, Swimming and Diving Coach Bob Pearson wrote, “Your support not only allows our team to train more productively but makes our kids feel special, allows them to realize what a great place Mac is and how great our alumni are.” This is the kind of impact we have. Let’s keep up our contributions to the M Club Fund and continue to enhance the experiences of our athletes.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this great college and the M Club. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and athletic competitions in the spring as we cheer our athletes on to victory.

Let’s go Mac!

Steve Cox ’76
As I write this, we are fighting to recover from the sharp disappointment of having to cancel the women’s varsity basketball season because of an insufficient roster.

Our goal, as a department and as a college, is to have a successful, competitive, healthy athletic program. In several sports we are achieving that goal, but in others we have a lot more to do.

It is my great hope that we will be able to raise the level of our overall athletic performance to the same level of excellence the college has earned academically. We are fortunate to be part of an outstanding college that attracts a large base of qualified students. For our programs to be successful, we simply need more of these great incoming students to be interested not only in academics but also in varsity athletics. In fact, we need to enroll about 100 top-quality student-athletes each year, and we are working with the Admissions Office to develop stronger recruiting strategies to help us meet this goal. Recruiting is a gradual process and it will take some time to get there, but I am optimistic that we will.

Obviously, women’s basketball needs immediate attention: we need 10 new players for next season. That is a very aggressive goal, and we’ll need a lot of help and good fortune to achieve it. We are lucky that our staff now includes Jean-nine Ruh, our new basketball coach, who is a talented and committed professional and a veteran of turning programs around. I thank the M Club for establishing a task force to assist her with recruiting.

We need your help, too. If you know high school students (especially juniors or uncommitted seniors) who play, please contact coach Ruh.

“It is my great hope that we will be able to raise the level of our overall athletic performance to the same level of excellence the college has earned academically.”

Whenever things aren’t going as well as I’d like, I always remind myself of Macalester’s mission and of its core values. Macalester takes in very special students, and gives them a very special education. Think about your most cherished times at Macalester—they probably include favorite professors, favorite classes, coaches, teammates and competitions. We are committed to giving students a complete, well balanced college experience that includes success both in the classroom and on the athletic fields.

M Club members have been generous supporters of the athletic program. Annual fund raising has reached record levels, and support for the new athletic facility is on schedule. Efforts like this will be the foundation for improving the quality of our programs long-term. And with your help, we can start by focusing on women’s basketball. Thanks for being there!

GO MAC!!

Irv Cross
Athletic Director
SWEATSHIRTS • FLEECE JACKETS

Wear an M Club sweatshirt or fleece and show your support for Mac athletics! Order today through the Athletic Department.

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Photos Wanted!

Are you an ardent photographer? Bring your camera to M Club and athletic events and snap away. Then send us your best one or two photos for possible use in future issues of Megaphone. Send them to Vanessa Seljeskog at the Athletic Department. If you take digital photos, we need a high-resolution file.