

Blue Devil Report

Five inducted into hall of fame

Four athletes and one coach from late 1980s were inducted into the UW-Stout Athletic Hall of Fame last October.

Inductees were golfer Steve Dahlby, swimmer Wendy Heineke, baseball pitcher Dan Larson, wide receiver Mark Rothwell, and coach Sten Pierce.

Steve Dahlby

After returning to Menomonie and his hometown college, Steve Dahlby led a very talented UW-Stout golf team that captured back-to-back conference and NAIA District 14 championships in 1987 and 1988.

Dahlby returned to Menomonie after two years at NCAA Division I Northern Illinois and helped Stout advance to their first ever national team competition. Dahlby was a two-time medalist at both the WSUC and NAIA District 14 championships. During the 1988 WSUC championships, Dahlby fired a blistering 69 in the first round, and finished with a 54-hole score of 222. During his two years, Dahlby was the medalist at eight meets.

When the Blue Devils were at the national meet, Dahlby remembers Stout was the only nonscholarship school to make the top 15.

After graduating with honors, Dahlby played on the Florida professional golf tour for two years, then became a golf instructor, eventually leading him to Troon North Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he is responsible for all instruction activity.

Wendy Heineke

Wendy Heineke was perhaps the most dominant swimmer in UW-Stout history. During her four year career from 1986-89, Heineke captured four NAIA national titles, was a 23-time All-America recipient, won 14 WWIAC

titles, held conference records in three events, set 14 UW-Stout records and was the NAIA District 14 swimmer of the year in 1989.

Heineke, a native of Madison, won national titles in 1988 in the 50-freestyle and 100-backstroke and in 1989 repeated in the 50-freestyle and took the 100-freestyle.

Upon induction into the Stout Hall of Fame, her 100-freestyle conference record still stands and the 100-butterfly record was just broken during the 1998-99 WIAC swimming championships.

Heineke, a hospitality and tourism graduate, currently resides in San Diego, where she is the general manager of a Marriott Residence Inn, a facility she assisted in opening. Heineke has been employed by Sunstone Hotel Properties for seven years, quickly moving through the ranks, and has been the general manager at three properties.

Dan Larson

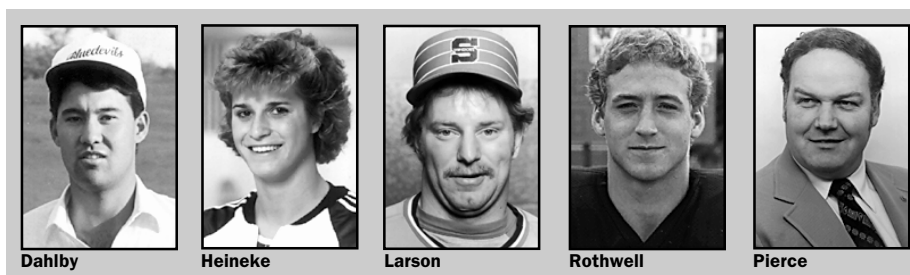
Dan Larson made his name known with two stints on the diamond at UW-Stout.

An all-conference pitcher in 1982 and 1983, and again in 1988 and 1989, Larson, a Boyceville native, was a dominant left-handed pitcher who still holds school records for most victories pitched (24), most strikeouts (147), most games pitched (46), and is second in most innings pitched (203).

A three time All-District player, Larson was named the District IV player of the year in 1989, as he helped Stout to the NAIA World Series where the team placed seventh.

Larson currently resides in Menomonie, where he coaches the local American Legion baseball team and works with numerous youth recreation programs.

He is a business education instructor at



Wabasha-Kellogg (Minn.) High School, where he has coached baseball and football. Larson was also an assistant baseball and football coach at Stout in 1993.

Mark Rothwell

In just two seasons (1987 and 1988) with the Blue Devils, wide receiver Mark Rothwell set school records that stood for 10 years. His marks of most touchdown receptions in a season (9) and most touchdown receptions in a game (3) were just erased from the top spot last season. Rothwell still holds the mark for most receiving yards in a single game (213).

A 1988 GTE Academic All-America and an NAIA Scholar-Athlete, Rothwell was named second team All-America in 1987 and was team MVP in 1988.

Rothwell signed professional free agent contracts with the Cincinnati Bengals and the Green Bay Packers. He played professionally with Aquile Ferrara in the Federation of Italian American Football (FIAF), where he was three times named the team MVP and set six league records in a three-year career.

Rothwell currently resides in Dunwoody, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, where he is employed by Coca-Cola as the manager of brand development for the Sprite product line.

Sten Pierce

Sten Pierce came to Stout in 1965 as the head wrestling coach and an assistant football coach. During his tenure as wrestling coach from 1965-72, the Blue Devils won two conference championships — in 1966 and 1970 — produced 10 conference champions, five national qualifiers and five All-Americans.

Pierce was named the WSUC and NAIA District 14 wrestling coach of the year in 1966 and 1970. Pierce also helped in the development of John Peterson, who went on to win Olympic gold and silver medals.

Pierce took over as head football coach in 1970, coaching the Blue Devils until 1976 where he produced two All-Americans and five first team all-conference picks.

Pierce picked up the golf clubs in the mid-1980s, coaching the Blue Devils to three consecutive conference titles in 1987, 88, and 89, and NAIA District 14 titles in 1988 and 89.

Pierce retired as a full-time professor in the UW-Stout physical education department in 1995, but continued to teach on a part-time basis until his death in February 1999.

Pierce was an active member of the Menomonie Lions Club since 1970. An avid outdoorsman, he was a member of Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

Fall 1999 Season Review

Excitement is always in evidence when UW-Stout athletic teams take the field or court, and the 1999 fall season was no different.

Soccer

A new coach and a new way of looking at the sport for the Blue Devil soccer team, as the Blue Devils finished with a 6-12 overall record under first year coach Dave Morris.

It took a few games for the Blue Devils to get in full gear, but once they did, it was off to the races as Stout won four of their last eight games and kept a couple of pretty impressive teams in check before that.

Stout had their biggest offensive explosion ever in a 12-0 rout of UW-Superior, Oct. 2. Becky Howard (So., Wauwatosa) was named the conference player of the week after dishing off five assists — a 1999 NCAA Division III season high — and scoring two goals. Nellie Sivertsen (Fr., River Falls) and Jessica Unterweger (So., Nashotah) both scored hat tricks.

Sivertsen finished the season with 14 goals, tying the school season record, and Howard recorded a school record 11 assists. Both were named to the all-conference team.

Football

Frustrating was the only way to look at the Blue Devils' 2-8 season, a season where with a play here, a play there, and it could have been at least a .500 season.

The Blue Devils started off the season with a bruising ground attack in a 48-27 win over U-Morris as Stout racked up a school record 622 total yards. But that was followed up with an overtime four-point loss to UW-Stevens Point in the conference opener.

The Blue Devils did pick up a win over arch-rival UW-Eau Claire when kicker Kevin McCulley (Jr., Fond du Lac) booted a 33-yard field goal with 15 seconds remaining for a 22-20 win at Eau Claire, and Stout could maintain bragging rights for another year.

McCulley, the team's leading scorer, was an all-conference first team pick, as was offensive lineman Jason Nesbitt (Sr., Burlington).

Named to the second team were center Jeff Hutter (Jr., Beldenville), wide receiver Jesse Diaz (Sr., Cottage Grove), nose guard Mike Purfeerst (Sr., River Falls), linebacker Jamie Spielman (So., Menomonie), and free safety Eric Lund (Jr., Ashland).

Named as honorable mention were fullback Ryan Patt (Sr., North Fond du Lac), linebacker Steve Miller (Jr., Lodi), cornerback Tony Beckham (So., Ocala, Fla.) and strong safety Jeff Opichka (Sr., Hartford).

Volleyball

The Blue Devils leaned on its defense to finish with a 17-13 overall record, their third consecutive winning record, and a fourth place conference finish.

Stout logged 214 total blocks on the season and 1,665 digs.

Jenny Kraczek (Sr., Blaine, Minn.) and Brooke Palmer (So., Mantorville, Minn.) were named to the all-conference honorable mention team. Kraczek wrapped up her career with a school record 4,464 career assists. Palmer, a transfer from Southwest State, had 270 kills and 96 total blocks.

Tori Feit (Sr., Rushmore, Minn.) put the finishing touches on her career with a team-high 370 kills and 94 total blocks.

Men's Cross Country

When UW-Stout's Tim Hamill (Sr., Brookfield) decided to redshirt last year's cross country season, his goal was to give himself an extra year to compete at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships — and Hamill achieved that goal. Hamill placed 153rd at the national meet in his second best time of the season. Hamill was the Blue Devils' top finisher at the conference meet, placing 20th. Eric Hanson (Sr., Winona, Minn.) was 37th (26:00.41), Dave Huber (Fr., Mendota Heights, Minn.) 38th (26:00.64) and Clint Latz (So., Lublin) 43rd (26:06.15). Stout was seventh at the conference meet and 10th at the regional meet.

Women's Cross Country

Following the loss of two All-America runners, the Blue Devils needed to change their philosophy somewhat for the 1999 season, and coach Carlene Hochhalter liked what she saw in her charges.

Seniors Katie Kuffel (Minneapolis, Minn.) and

Jen Bahr (Forest Lake, Minn.), sophomore Amy Arndt (Lakeville) and freshman Lisa Sorvala (New Brighton, Minn.) juggled their positions all season as the Blue Devils' top runners. Sorvala placed ninth at the conference meet, and Arndt was Stout's top finisher at the regional meet.

Stout finished sixth at the conference meet and 13th at the regional meet.

Tennis

When first year coach Keri Rocha took over the Blue Devil tennis program as the third head coach in three seasons only a few weeks before the season began, she knew she would need to work to rebuild the team concept.

By the end of the season, Rocha believes the team concept was evident in her team.

After the upcoming spring season, Rocha will need to continue to build up the team with the loss to graduation of senior Lauren Mader (Neeah). Mader finished her career with a 43-19 overall singles record and was the teams' No. 1 player for the last three seasons.

To follow the Blue Devils in more detail, visit the UW-Stout athletic web page often. Up-to-date statistics, game stories, photos and much more are available at

<http://www.uwstout.edu/athletics/>