

Blue Devil Report

Hall of Fame celebrates 25th year

By Layne Pitt, Sports Information Director

Five athletes from the past 40 years were inducted into the UW-Stout Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 27, 2003.

Lisa Blume, who played basketball in the late 1980s, was joined by Dick Fredrickson, who played football and ran track in the early 1960s, Paul Bons, an All-American cross country and track performer in the mid-1980s, punter Andy Cafilisch, who played football in the early 1990s, and Carol (Hughes) Sanders, a prime mover in starting the women's tennis program at Stout in the mid-1970s.

The ceremony also marked the 25th anniversary of the UW-Stout Hall of Fame, and many past inductees returned for the day's festivities.

Lisa Blume

The numbers weren't fancy, but Lisa Blume was one of the cornerstones that helped the UW-Stout women's basketball program go from the conference doormat to one of the top 25 teams in Division III. A four year letterwinner from 1985-89, Blume was the team captain her junior and senior years. She was the team's most valuable player her senior year, and was named to the all-WWIAC team. Along with being named all-conference, Blume said one of her biggest thrills "was being part of a close team of athletes and the camaraderie that went with it." Statistically, her first two seasons were nothing to write home about, but she said the team continued to work hard. "During my final two seasons, we really emerged as a quality team in the conference," Blume said. "We all put in a tremendous effort and our perseverance paid off. It was thrilling to be a part of the transition to go from the bottom of the conference to becoming a contender and moving up." Upon graduation, Blume went on to a career in law enforcement in Florida and Georgia. She returned to her native Minnesota to pursue a master's degree in social work and is currently in Florida working in corporate loss prevention.



Blume

Paul Bons

From his freshman year to his senior year, Paul Bons was very cozy with all-conference awards. The distance runner from Little Chute, who still shares the top Stout eight-kilometer cross country time (24:38), earned 11 all-conference awards — four in cross country, seven in track. Bons finished 16th at the 1983 WSUC Cross Country Championships to earn second team honors, then snagged three first team finishes the rest of his career, placing fifth in 1984 as a sophomore, seventh in 1986 as a red-shirted junior and fifth in 1987 as a senior, the same year he advanced to the NAIA national championships to earn All-America status with a 14th place finish. Bons also garnered WSUC runner of the week awards in 1986 and 1987. On the track, Bons specialized in the one-mile, two-mile and 5000-meter distances. Bons took second place finishes in the 1986



Bons

two-mile indoor championships and the 1986 1500-meter outdoor meet. In one of the most exciting races in WSUC outdoor history, Bons was edged during the 1987 season in the 1500-meter (3:51.38) by Arnie Schraeder of UW-Stevens Point, who went on to run in the 1988 Olympic Games. Bons also recorded all-conference honors with a sixth place finish in the one-mile at the 1984 outdoor, a fourth in the 1500 at the 1985 outdoor, a third in the 5000-meter at the 1986 outdoor and a fourth in the 5000 at the 1987 outdoor. Bons is a member of the 4x800-meter relay team that still holds the school record.

Andy Cafilisch

Andy Cafilisch's right leg gave him the opportunity to live many a young boy's dream — participating in the National Football League. An All-America pick as a senior and a four-time all-conference punter from 1990-93, Cafilisch had tryouts with five different NFL squads throughout the mid- to late-1990s. Cafilisch earned third team All-America honors in 1993, was a second team all-conference pick in 1990 and '91 and first team in 1992 and '93. Cafilisch set a school record for punting average, 41.0 yards per punt in 1993, a record that was just recently matched. After graduation, Cafilisch, a native of River Falls, taught technology education and coached football, nordic skiing and golf at Farmington and Hastings, Minn., schools. Cafilisch was an assistant principal for two years at Stillwater, Minn., schools, and is presently the assistant principal at Woodbury High School, Woodbury, Minn.



Cafilisch

Dick Fredrickson

Called the best all-around end he ever coached by his Stout football coach Bob Bostwick, Dick Fredrickson was an outstanding two-sport athlete who went on to a long and successful career as a high school coach and educator at Arcadia High School. Fredrickson was a four year starter in football for the Blue Devils from 1959-62, and earned three track letters during that span. He set and held a school record in the 220-yard hurdles that stood for five years. Fredrickson took over as starting tight end his freshman year when the starter was injured and did not relinquish the spot for four years, earning all-conference recognition in 1960 and 1961. Fredrickson also was the starting defensive end for two years. After a year as an assistant football coach at Stout, Fredrickson began his career at Arcadia in 1964, beginning as the industrial education instructor, head boys track coach and assistant football coach. Fredrickson became the head football coach in 1971, and went on to win nine conference championships. His 1973 team was undefeated. Fredrickson's track career reads like a highlight reel. Still an active coach, Fredrickson has been at the head of the Arcadia boy's track program for 34 seasons, winning state titles in 1991, '92, '94, '95, '98 and '99, seven conference titles, 18 regional titles and



Fredrickson

has won 14 consecutive regional and sectional titles from 1990-2003. Six times Fredrickson was named the Division 6 Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Wisconsin Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2003. Fredrickson also served stints as Arcadia's baseball and boy's basketball coach. Including his years as an assistant and head coach, Fredrickson has coached 102 seasons. Fredrickson's son, Scott, is a member of the UW-Stout Athletic Hall of Fame and the pair are the first father-son combination enshrined.

Carol Hughes Sanders

When Carol Sanders arrived on campus in 1976, there was no women's varsity tennis program, so she helped pull the pieces together and assemble a team. She sought the assistance of men's tennis coach Bob Smith who told Sanders, along with Sue Scarseth, Mary Guberud, and Deb Weyers, if they could find enough interested players to make up a team, he would coach them. The rest, as they say, is history. Smith used bits and pieces of his men's tennis and swim team budgets to fund a bare-bones women's tennis program. Smith coached the team in its first year, followed by Donna Roe for two years. Smith resumed the helm in Sander's senior year. Sanders, a native of Libertyville, Ill, was the team's No. 1 singles player her sophomore, junior and senior years. During her senior year, Sanders was named the team's most valuable player. The teams established a strong bond. Six members of the 1978 team — four from the original 1976 team — still get together annually. Sanders married Gordon Hughes in 1985, — their first date was on the tennis court. The couple have three children, Amy, Jeff and Sam, and reside in Glen Ellyn, Ill. In addition to volunteering at her children's schools, Sanders still dabbles in tennis, playing in local leagues, and playing tennis with her children.



Sanders

Dobrunz receives Athletic Distinguished Service Award

"Ready, willing and able" would be a good way to describe Carol Dobrunz and her relationship to the UW-Stout athletic program.

Since arriving at Stout in 1965, Dobrunz has been a fixture at Blue Devil activities, even though she had no official title with the athletic program. An instructor in the physical education department, the physical education chair and associate dean of liberal studies, Dobrunz has added the unofficial titles of scorekeeper, announcer, chief cheerer and all-around helper where needed.

For her dedication to the program, Dobrunz has been awarded the UW-Stout Athletic Distinguished Service Award. "I never really did anything specifically with athletics," Dobrunz said. "I just helped where I could. I was raised where we didn't have to be paid for everything we did. We just went out and did it."

"Carol was always someone you could count on," said Rita Slinden, who relied on Dobrunz's help both as a coach and as the one-time athletic director. Dobrunz recalls that her first year at Stout the football team won the conference title, calling that one of the high-lights during her tenure here.

What she has really experienced has been the growth in women's athletics. "From the start to where they (*women's athletics*) are now is just unbelievable growth," Dobrunz said. "We can just shake our heads. It's like watching a 15-year-old compared to a two-year-old. The growth in numbers and talents of kids today is fantastic." Dobrunz, who said she enjoys all sports, has been retired since the mid-90s and enjoys playing golf and gardening.



Dobrunz

Strop is new gridiron coach

UW-Stout went only as far as their own coaching staff to find their next head football coach.

Todd Strop, the team's defensive coordinator for the past six seasons, has been named to replace Ed Meierkort, who accepted the head coaching position at NCAA Division II University of South Dakota. Strop is the 18th head football coach at UW-Stout.

As the defensive coordinator, Strop has been the main architect of the defense that has ranked at the top of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) three of the last four years and has been nationally ranked twice. The 2002 Blue Devil defense allowed a NCAA Division III low 500 rushing yards, and was ranked 13th in overall defense.

"The head coaching position is a wide encompassing job," the 35-year-old Strop said. "The challenge will be having my handprint on all aspects of the program, not just on defense."

Meierkort coached the Blue Devils for 11 years, finishing with a 55-55 overall record. But the Blue Devils were 29-11 over the last four years, including a conference title in 2000

and had no lower than a fourth place finish in the WIAC any of those seasons.

"Ed did a great job turning this program around," Strop said. "I look forward to turning a good program into a great program. We have many things in place here at Stout — the facilities, high academics, top recruiting classes — to challenge at the national level."

Strop, who was the WIAC assistant coach of the year in 2000, worked specifically with the defensive backs and has been the team's recruiting coordinator the last five seasons.

Over Strop's tenure, the Blue Devil defense has had five All-America picks and two players that went on to play in the NFL, Jeff Hazuga with the Minnesota Vikings and Tony Beckham, who is currently playing with the Tennessee Titans.

Strop played at the University of Wisconsin from 1987-92 for present coach Barry Alvarez as a defensive back and special teams player.



Strop