Five elected into UW-Stout Hall of Fame

By Leader-Telegram staff

Five former athletes will be inducted in the UW-Stout Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, Oct. 13 in Menomonie.

Entering the Hall will be volleyball player Stacy (Stoddard) Lenz, softball player Angie (Pinnow) Johnson, baseball player Brad O’Connell, swimmer Steve Kostrova and administrator John Wesolek.

Football player Tony Beckham, who was selected to the Hall last year but couldn’t attend the ceremony due to a family emergency, also will be honored.

O’Connell, an Elk Mound native, was a two-time first-team All-WIAC and all-region selection. He was a first-team All-American in 2001 — the only UW-Stout player to earn the honor — when he led the country in batting average (.524). The 2001 WIAC player of the year had a 37-game hit streak from 2000-01 and owns school records in batting average (.422), slugging percentage (.810) and home runs (30).

Kostrova set individual swimming records in the 100 butterfly, 200 butterfly, 200 individual medley, 400 IM and 100 backstroke between 1984-88. He was a 12-time NAIA All-American and qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships as a freshman.

Lenz holds the single-season school record for kills (541) and is second on the career list (1,365). Her 185 career solo blocks are the most in program history. She was a two-time all-conference selection and a second-team All-American in 1998.

Johnson, a Bruce native, was the 2001 West Division softball player of the year as a senior, when she led the WIAC in batting average, slugging percentage, on-base percentage, hits, home runs, total bases and plate appearances. A three-time All-WIAC first-team pick, she holds school records in at-bats (508), runs (139), hits (193), triples (13) and walks (49).

Wesolek, a former Blue Devils athlete and the director of the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute, was the men’s faculty athletic representative to the WIAC from 1994-99 and then oversaw the athletic program when he became dean of the College of Human Development from 2001-09. During his tenure, the school added men’s hockey and men’s and women’s golf.

The class will be honored at halftime of the Blue Devils’ game against UW-Whitewater before a banquet at the UW-Stout Memorial Student Center begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. with the ceremony beginning at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets for the banquet at $15 for adults and $10 for kids 12-and-under. To purchase tickets or for more information, call the UW-Stout athletic office at 715-232-2224.