Union Soccer Wins Values Award

Men’s Soccer was awarded the Buffalo Funds Five Star Award this season for exemplary demonstration of five key character traits. The national recognition is accorded to one team in each of the 25 sports represented in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

In the areas of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship, the program was judged to be a top example of those attributes in action.

In the area of sportsmanship, for example, the team reduced its number of yellow penalty cards by 72%, and head coach Darin White received numerous communications from game officials praising the graciousness, class and positive attitudes of his players.

“We put a high premium on being leaders on our campus and in our community,” says White, who just completed his 12th season as head coach. “This translates into success in a number of ways. Union soccer received the prestigious National Soccer Coaches Association of America National Team Academic Award, signifying an overall team grade-point average in the top 3% of all men’s soccer teams across all divisions in the United States.

On the field, the 2005 squad advanced further in intercollegiate play than any other Bulldog soccer team, meeting the defending region champions and six-time national champion Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) in the Region XI Title Game. The team earned runner-up finishes in the TranSouth regular season, TranSouth Tournament and NAIA Region XI Tournament.

Union Men Finish Memorable Season atop TranSouth

For a second straight year, the Union University Bulldogs won the TranSouth Conference Tournament championship, their fifth such title in nine years.

Union, which finished 28-6, clinched the tournament title with a 92-79 victory over Trevecca Nazarene in Nashville, and finished the regular season No. 5 in the NAIA men’s basketball rankings.

For much of the season, Mountain State (W.Va.) University was the top-ranked team. The Cougars lost only two regular season games, and Union accounted for both of those defeats. The first victory over MSU put Union atop the men’s national poll for the first time in school history.

In addition to Mountain State, Union defeated several other top non-conference opponents, picking up wins over NCAA powers Houston Baptist, Oklahoma City and Lindsey Wilson.

The Bulldogs even threw a scare into NCAA Division I Middle Tennessee State, leading the Blue Raiders by as much as 14 in the first half and trailing by only a point with three minutes remaining. MTSU went on to a 95-82 exhibition win.

The season ended with a first-round loss to eventual national champion Texas Wesleyan at the NAIA tournament in Kansas City, Mo. It was the second consecutive year that an unseeded team started a Cinderella-style run to the national championship with a win over Union.

But as they remember the 2005-06 season, Bulldog fans will savor all those big wins, and some outstanding individual performances.

Junior Sells, Casey Brunke and Ben Frederick were first-team selections for the TranSouth All-Conference squad. Dewayne Lee made second-team, and Sells was named Newcomer of the Year.

Bulldog Head Coach Ralph Turner took Control of the Year honors in the conference.

Union Men Take TranSouth Golf Title

C ool Floyd took first place individual honors in the 2006 NAIA Region XI golf championship, leading Union to a third place team finish just days after the Bulldogs captured the TranSouth conference title.

Floyd, a sophomore from Milan, earned an automatic bid to the NAIA National Golf Tournament in Kansas as an individual qualifier. In the regional tournament, Floyd led after two rounds and then fired a 70 for a three-day total of 211. That was four strokes better than the second place finisher.

In the conference tournament, sophomore William Boyd took third place overall to lead Union to its ninth TranSouth title.

Several post-season honors came home with Union, including Head Coach Don Morris being named the TranSouth Coach of the Year. Boyd, Floyd and sophomore Drew Cannon were each named to the TranSouth All-Conference team.

Union Moves to November Homecoming

O ne key reason for moving Union University’s annual homecoming celebrations from February to November is the unrelenting weather that is possible during a west Tennessee winter.

The point was illustrated dramatically during the final February event.

Forecasts of ice and snow on Friday, Feb. 17 forced the University to cancel scores of homecoming events.

“We did get in all the Friday activities,” says Gary Williams, associate vice president for student activities. “But almost everything on Saturday had to be cancelled.”

The men’s basketball game set for Feb. 18 was played, but Homecoming Queen Kari Bachman of Louisville, Ky. and her court were not introduced until the following weekend.

The switch to November means there will be a second homecoming weekend in the calendar year 2006. It has been scheduled for Nov. 3-4.

The alumni awards luncheon canceled on Feb. 18 has been rescheduled as a dinner on Nov. 3.

Among the accolades to be awarded that night:
• Distinguished Faculty/Staff Award
• Distinguished Service Award
• Distinguished Alumnus Award
• Distinguished Alumnus Award
• Distinguished Alumnus Award
• Distinguished Alumnus Award

The alumni awards luncheon canceled on Friday, Feb. 17 will be a second homecoming weekend in the calendar year 2006. It has been rescheduled as a dinner on Nov. 3.

Among those actively involved in the planning are students in Ashley Blair’s public relations class. They will study strategies for increasing student participation and attracting alumni to campus.

Join us in November and help us make the move!