

sports

Six athletes join AU hall of fame

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This Saturday (Sept. 22) will mark the 34th induction ceremony for six decorated former student athletes into the Ashland University Athletics Hall of Fame.

The inductees include: Vince Cashdollar (football- '08), Brandon Cornell (baseball- '05), Mary Kate Glowe (volleyball- '08), Casey Jirsa (baseball- '07), Jackie Mason (women's basketball- '05) and Chris Peretti (wrestling- '03).

It is all apart of homecoming weekend on the campus of AU; it will begin with this induction ceremony in upper convocation and will continue with the football game against Northwood at 1 p.m.

Dusty Sloan, AU's Director of Athletic Communications is in his first year as the chairman of the hall of fame committee, but has been on the board the past four years.

"It's interesting for me because now we are inducting hall of famers who I covered and who I went to school with," Sloan said. "It's a great thing that we do because this athletic department is so rich in tradition."

These six very talented and special athletes will make their return to AU to receive one of the biggest honors of their athletic careers that will move the number of AU hall of famers to 204. They will be enshrined into the hall of fame of the school that meant so much to them 10-plus years ago.

From a number of different teams, these six individuals represent a class that got the ball rolling for AU athletics once again and really set the bar high for their programs and teammates.

"This year's class all having come

from the decade of the 2000s, it's unique, but it also shows the start of our athletic success with all of the top finishes in the Learfield Cup and the NCAA tournament appearances," Sloan said. "It is filled with a lot of student athletes who could be considered among the top within their programs at AU."

Breaking down these athletes by their accomplishments, Cashdollar was a center from 2003-07 for the AU football team and is arguably one of the best at his position to play at AU. He was selected to play in the Cactus Bowl which is the NCAA Division II all-star game, following his senior year.

Now a high school football coach for local Manchester high school, Cashdollar's team had a game the day of the induction. Knowing this, the opposing team agreed to move the time of the game to later in the day so that Cashdollar could attend this important induction.

Next on the list is Cornell who was an outfielder for AU baseball from 2001-04, was named GLIAC Player of the Year as a senior and was a three-time All-GLIAC winner. Statistically, Cornell controls a number of the hitting records in AU baseball history.

While still holding the spot tied for third all-time in batting average at Ashland (.392), Cornell holds the record for most career triples (22) and total bases (434) and is second all-time in career hits (255) and runs scored (213) in Ashland history.

Arguably one of the best players in program history, Glowe dominated the volleyball court from 2004-07 as an Eagle. She was the first Ashland volleyball player to record both 1,000 career kills and digs and continues to hold the

all-time record in both categories (2,136 kills, 1,969 digs).

Glowe was a three-time national All-American who was a starter on four NCAA Division II postseason teams and was also a three-time winner of All-Region and All-GLIAC honors.

The second baseball player that joins the hall of fame in this class is Jirsa who followed directly in the footsteps after Cornell by playing as an Eagle from 2004-07 as a versatile infielder/outfielder.

"I'm very humbled to even be nominated and be apart of this," Jirsa said. "It's good recognition with all that we accomplished, one as an individual but two as a team."

Jirsa has been working for the J.M. Smucker Company in Orville, Oh. since graduation in 2008 from AU and is on the commercialization team which falls under marketing and development.

With too many All-American honors to mention over the time of his career, Jirsa is first all-time in doubles (59) and drove in the most runs in a game (nine) vs. Mercyhurst on April 17, 2007.

From a program that will soon begin to have many more members inducted into the AU Hall of Fame in a number of years, comes Mason who was one of the starting blocks for the AU women's basketball team during her time as an Eagle from 2000-05.

"I purposely chose a school that was smaller because I wanted that relationship with professors, coaches and teammates," Mason said. "You make those life long friends that are family to you."

As the center, she led her squad to the program's first NCAA Division II postseason her junior season. Mason is now a teacher for Bruns-

wick local schools and has been since her graduation from AU.

Wrapping up this year's class is the oldest inductee, Peretti, who wrestled for the Eagles from 1998-2002 and was a dominant force in the 125 and 133 pound weight class. During his Eagle career Peretti posted a record of 101-16 (.863) and qualified for NCAA Division II nationals all four years finishing sixth as a freshman and was national runner-up as a sophomore.

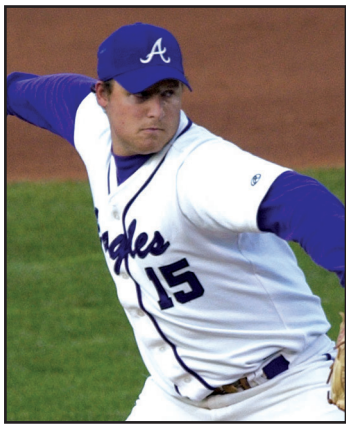
"You kind of take a step back and you look at things and you realize that you worked hard for your accomplishments and it makes you feel proud of what you did and how hard you worked," Peretti said.

Peretti is now an eighth grade history teacher at Loudonville local schools and has been the head wrestling coach for the high school team since 2010. He has also been inducted into his high school's athletic hall of fame at Boardman high school in the Youngstown, Oh. area.

This class of highly decorated and honored athletes include four student athletes of the year, two men (Cashdollar and Jirsa) and two women (Glowe and Mason).

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will also honor AU's 2017-18 Student-Athletes of the Year: Andi Daugherty (women's basketball) and Dominic Giunta and Matthew Wilcox (football) as well as the 2018 Eagle Forever Award recipients, Bob Potter and Tony Daniel.

"When you look at this group as a whole, when you look at their accolades and their accomplishments and what they did on the court, field and wrestling mat, it is a very deserving group," Sloan said.



**Casey Jirsa- Baseball
Class of 2007**



**Jackie Mason- Women's basketball
Class of 2005**



**Brandon Cornell- Baseball
Class of 2005**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AU ATHLETICS



**Vince Cashdollar- Football
Class of 2008**



**Mary Kate Glowe- Volleyball
Class of 2008**



**Chris Peretti- Wrestling
Class of 2003**

AU swimming and diving gets underway

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Ashland University's swimming and diving teams, though in the middle of preseason, are ready to start their season.

Ron Allen, who is in his third season as the head men's and women's swimming and diving coach, said that he is looking forward to improving this season.

"Performance wise, we're looking to try to move up a spot in conference," Allen said. "The men's side, they're trying to beat Saginaw Valley and it's honestly a pretty good goal on the women's side as well."

Allen is very confident in the transfers and the recruiting class. This year marks the largest number of international students that are on Allen's team with two different Brazilian transfers, one male and one female, a young man who is currently on the international team for Albania as a freshman and a male who has a dual citizenship from Greece.

"Transfers and those international kids are going to make a big difference right now, but we have several true freshmen coming in that are going to be high-impact people too," Allen said.

Unlike a lot of programs, Allen's approach to swimming techniques revolves around science. He uses a

blood lactate analyzer and a velocity meter, both found in the Olympic Training Center.

The analyzer takes a sample of the swimmer's blood to determine their aerobic and anaerobic speeds. This helps Allen know if he is under or over-training his team.

The velocity meter measures the swimmer's speed while underwater. A graph shows how fast that swimmer is going, so fixing small hand changes to improve a score is easier for Allen to do.

"I've had a lot of good experiences with this. A lot of people, especially with the velocity meter have a lot of 'a - ha' moments," Allen said. "I wasn't sure if I felt it, but now I can see it."

Another tactic Allen uses to get his team ready for conference and national meets is not resting his swimmers before meets, like most schools do.

"I would say at least 70 percent of college teams rest at some time in the season," Allen said. "A good example is when we go to the three day Kenyon Invite, a lot of the teams there will have some kind of a rest going into that meet. We'll be training pretty well through that."

This season's captains for the men are: Keegan Goeke, Matthew Bernsdorf, Grant Stahl and Aaron Bradfield, and for the women: Sophie Brightman, Julia Grady and

Erin Staley.

The Eagles diving program is trying to make a name for themselves by rebuilding their program this season and want people to know that any students who are interested and have a gymnastics or diving background should contact the president of swim club, Jared Deeds.

Olivia Olesiak is in her second year as the graduate assistant for the swim team and is also the diving coach for the Eagles. She is going for her master's degree in exercise science during her time at AU.

"We are restarting our diving program," Olesiak said. "I'm getting the word out there that we have a program: contacting coaches, talking to recruits, trying to get people on campus to come and see our pool and facilities."

The AU diving team has two athletes, freshman Byron Mayo and junior Madeline Cronin, but anyone who can join will immediately make an impact.

"Our goal is getting six to eight divers in the next couple years so we're working up to those numbers, but it takes connections and networking to get the word out there that we have a program," Olesiak said.

Ashland high school's diving coach volunteered at AU as the dive coach, but had to leave due to

the lack of pay and the fact that she had a busy life.

"We used to have a dive team, I want to say it was around ten years ago; we had four or five divers," Olesiak said. "Since then, they haven't been able to keep a coach, just because it wasn't a paid position. When Ron took over the swim team, one of his first steps was to make diving a priority and we're going to get that back up and running."

Students interested in joining the diving team should contact Olesiak at oolesiak@ashland.edu.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JESSICA ZAPER
Senior swimmer Keegan Goeke gets set for a race last season.