



sports



SUBMITTED BY EAGLE EYE PHOTOGRAPHY

President Campo stands in the student section during the second quarter of every Eagle football game at Jack Miller Stadium.

Campo in the crowd

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The sun is finally beginning to set as friends, family and fans walk through the giant purple gates to make their way to the student-run Talons concession stands for some fresh Tuffy Chow before finding a seat to watch the Ashland University football team.

The Saturday night lights are on and the students are packed into their chosen section closest to the opening gates on the far left of the home stands. Energy is running high and the crowd explodes to their feet at the sight of shining purple helmets emerging through the locker room doors.

Flash forward to the second quarter and the game is tied. The crowd is on their toes and as the pig skin flies through the air a roar erupts from the crowd of purple and yellow painted faces.

The ball is snatched by an Eagle

and taken into the end zone for a touchdown.

Among the screaming crowd of college students, a familiar face emerges: President Carlos Campo.

During the second quarter of every home football game, Campo joins the student section to help cheer on his favorite football team and show some Eagle pride, he said.

Freshman Cody Tripp said he was very surprised to hear a university president takes the time to come and support the students in doing what they love – playing sports and cheering each other on.

“I think it really shows how much he cares about the university and is interested in the lives of our students,” Tripp said.

At first, Tripp said he did not understand why Campo would want to sit through an entire quarter while surrounded by obnoxious and screaming college students who were covered in paint and

sweat. He realized Campo just loves AU and wants to show support.

Senior cornerback Dale Irby has been playing football since his freshmen year and said he does not remember past presidents interacting with the students in quite the same way.

“It means a lot to have the president come watch us play, the support is unreal here and we all appreciate the faculty and staff and student coming out,” Irby said. “I think he sits with them to show them that he is still a person just like them. ... It allows him to experience what being a student at AU is about.”

Campo explains how he tries his very best to support the students in all that they do.

“I enjoy their music and theater performances, art exhibitions and participation in sporting events,” Campo said.

“The students are the heart and

soul of the university, and we want them to know how much we appreciate them,” he said.

When Campo started attending the football games he would sit in the president’s lounge, but he said it did not feel right to him.

“I often felt a little isolated from the student body, so getting out there in the student section – rain or shine – brings an immediacy you don’t get in a glass-enclosed, climate-controlled environment,” he said.

He said the students really get excited to see him at the games and their reactions are priceless.

“We know they are grateful to see us, and because it is a sporting event, it is more relaxed than in a classroom situation. We really have a great time together,” he said. “Thanks to the students, faculty, staff, alums, and community fans for supporting Ashland athletics. You are keeping our tradition of excellence going strong.”

THE WEEK AHEAD

Women’s Soccer

Sept. 24 @ Tiffin

Sept. 26 vs. Notre Dame

Sept. 29 @ Davenport

Men’s Soccer

Sept. 24 vs. Northwood

Sept. 29 @ Saginaw

Valley State

Volleyball

Sept. 23 @ Saginaw

Valley State

Sept. 29 vs. Davenport

Sept. 30 vs. Purdue NW

Football

Sept. 23 vs. Ferris State

Sept. 23 @ Davenport

Cross Country

Sept. 29 @ All-Ohio

Championships

Women’s Golf

Sept. 23 -24 @ Saginaw

Valley State

Sept. 30 @ Gildas Fall Inv.

Men’s Golf

Sept. 24 -25 @ Findlay

Sept. 30 @ Kyle Ryman

Memorial

Tennis

Sept. 23 vs. Capital

Sept. 29 vs. Tiffin

Sept. 30 @ Wayne St.

New coach, new goals for golf team

BREE GANNON
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A new school year can come with many things. New classes, new friends, new athletic players and new coaches. Many new coaches from long lines of experience in the coaching world but for some, coaching is a something that is new to them as well.

Andrew Bolinger was named the Ashland University women’s head golf coach over the summer. Before coming to AU, Bolinger has had many years of experience in the golfing world.

Before accepting the position here, Bolinger was the assistant golf professional at Travis Pointe Country Club in Michigan for the past two years.

Transitioning from an assistant golf pro to a head coach is a very different change, but there are still some similarities.

One similarity is that Bolinger is still helping teach people how to perfect or improve their golf game. The difference is the audience he is tailoring too he is going from members who he has known for years, to a team he doesn’t know at all.

Even though this is Bolinger’s first season as head golf coach, the GLIAC is very familiar to him.

He played for Tiffin University and four top 10 placements in just nine starts during his 2012-2013 season. The goals for the upcoming season are simple: Improve themselves from previous seasons.

“My goals for this season are to have a team GPA of 3.5 and make it to Regionals,” Bolinger said. Last season the women’s golf team had a few girls that helped pull the team together including former player, Kaitlin Neumann. Neumann was the frontrunner for the and carried the team to first place in the Eagle Invitational while, also finishing in 13th place or better in all 10 events she played in. This year Bolinger, has to get to know the how the team plays individually and each of their strengths and weaknesses.

Along with that, he also has to bond with the team and let each girl get to know him as he gets to know them.

“By watching them play and practice as much as I can before the season starts is how I will get to know how each individual plays the game,” Bolinger said. Players welcomed Bolinger and his new coaching ideas to the team with open arms.

Despite having a coach they loved previously, some of the girls on the team think the change is beneficial

to the team as a whole.

“Everything before it happens is unknown and everything after it happens is just right and Kory was a great coach but [Andrew] is also very good,” Sophomore Women’s Golf team member, Krystal Hu said. “We appreciated Kory so much as our coach and he got us two freshmen who are great. Everyone is never not wanting to play well and coach Andrew has helped us with that and helped us get there.”

The start of September brought the start of the season with back-to-back- tournaments. The first tournament was the Michael Corbett Fall Classic in Erie, Pa. The first day of the two day tournament brought a team score of 319, which qualified for a second place tie with Franklin Pierce.

Freshman Hannah Lemons led the team in her first collegiate match with a score of 76 while, Hu followed closely behind with a score of 79.

The Eagles were able to pull out of the tie for a first place finish out of 23 teams, giving Bolinger his first victory and one of the best team rounds in program history. Hu took fourth place individually while Lemons tied for seventh.

Another road trip came along the next weekend as the Eagles headed



AU ATHLETICS

Andrew Bollinger is entering his first year as an Eagle coach and has helped the team accomplish program records.

to Michigan for the Bulldog Fall Preview in Big Rapids.

The first day brought scores from Lemons who went into Day 2 tied for eighth place individually.

The team finished in third place out of 11 teams. It was junior Monica Torda who had a top 10 finish with a score of 152 for both days.

With the new found determination that Bolinger has brought to the team, they have been able to win their first tournament since 2015 in its own invitational.

To the team it’s no secret that they had a great coach from the start but having Bolinger come in has helped them tremendously. His goals for the season

“No matter who our coach is, all of us are still doing our best,” Hu said. “Coach Bolinger is trying to help us as much as he can. We are lucky to always have such a good coach with us.”

The Eagles will play again Sept. 23-24 at the Saginaw Valley Invitational.