September 2014 – January 2015
Newsletter

Dear CMS Athletics Community,

Greetings from Claremont! Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athletics is once again having a successful year with regards to team performances and team development.

Reflecting back on 2014-15 so far, we can be extremely proud of how CMS’ teams and student-athletes have competed each and every day. Department highlights so far this school year have ranged from welcoming 115 freshmen to our program back in the fall, to the “feel good” Hall of Fame Banquet in November and the Roberts Pavilion Topping Out Ceremony in January.

During the fall season, five of our seven teams earned spots in postseason competition and five of our coaches earned Coach of the Year recognition from their peers in their respective sports. Those successes helped put CMS in the lead in the SCIAC All-Sports Competition, as well as in the top-20 nationally in the NCAA Division III Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup.

Our winter sports teams are in their home stretch, with conference championships and tournaments looming near the end of February. The swimming & diving teams just concluded another perfect SCIAC dual-meet season – the fourth-consecutive for both teams, a first in conference history! On the hardwood, both basketball teams are also in the mix for the conference championship.

CMS added three new faculty members to its head coaching ranks this year; David Schwarz (women’s tennis), Lauren Uhr (women’s lacrosse) and Matt Edwards (men’s soccer). In addition, former Stags Kelly Beck (HMC ’90 - track & field) and Morgan Cummins (CMC ’07 – baseball) were each named interim head coaches of their respective sports. Also, long-time baseball coach Randy Town has stepped away from coaching and has assumed administrative responsibilities in the department.

The first five-plus months of 2014-15 have been action-packed, and we look forward to the rest of the school year which should be much of the same. I am grateful for the incredible amount of support CMS Athletics receives from our institutions, alumni and families, we are so fortunate. The CMS coaches, athletes, staff, faculty and I want to thank you.

I also would like to thank the faculty and staff who comprise CMS Athletics for the tremendous work they produce each and every day.

As we go forward, please stay in contact with CMS Athletics through your favorite medium and hold a good thought for our CMS program as we continue the athletic year.

Sincerely,

Michael Sutton ’76
CMS Director of Athletics & Physical Education
William B. Arce Professor and George R. Roberts Fellow
Claremont McKenna - Harvey Mudd - Scripps Colleges

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Five of seven fall sports teams participate in SCIAC or NCAA postseason play

CMS had another successful fall season as a whole in 2014 with five of its seven fall teams participating in either the SCIAC Postseason Tournaments or SCIAC Championships and three teams advancing to the NCAA Championships. Volleyball advanced all the way to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III Championships while men’s cross country (15th) and women’s cross country (10th) also advanced to their respective NCAA Championships and placed. The women’s soccer team earned a bid to the SCIAC Postseason Tournament and lost in the semifinals, while the men’s water polo team lost in the finals of the SCIAC Championships.

Athena Volleyball has best season in program history

In 2013, the Athenas had their best season since 1985, winning 25 matches and advancing to the second round of the NCAA Division III Championships. With the vast majority of its key players from 2013 returning in 2014, the Athenas had their best season in school history. The Athenas finished the season at 27-7 (a team record) and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championships for the first time. Other highlights during the season included winning the Thousand Oaks Regional of the NCAA Championships, pulling off an upset over then-No. 2 Cal Lutheran back in October, and Morgan Coberly being named AVCA D-III National Assistant Volleyball Coach of the Year.

Roberts Pavilion construction update

During the month of January and into February, crews were working on completing construction of the building’s structural steel. Before the holiday break at the end of December at an offsite location, members of the construction team conducted performance testing on a mock-up wall of Roberts Pavilion. The mock-up was made of the same type of material that will be used on Roberts Pavilion itself. During performance testing, the mock-up wall was blasted with water and 60-miles-per-hour winds to test the wall for leaks and to see how the wall would hold up to high winds. Most recently, on Jan. 27, members of the CMC and CMS Athletics community gathered for the Topping Out celebration, where the final beam of structural steel was put into place.
CMS Athletics No. 19 in final fall Directors’ Cup standings

In the final fall NCAA Division III Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup standings released on Dec. 24, CMS finished in 19th overall with a total of 200.50 points. CMS’ top-20 fall ranking is tops among D-III programs on the West Coast and in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC). Women’s cross country, men’s cross country and women’s volleyball were the fall teams that placed at their respective NCAA Championships and earned points for CMS. Volleyball placed fifth in Division III, while women’s cross country and men’s cross country placed 10th and 15th, respectively. The final fall Directors’ Cup standings included results from the following fall sports: women’s cross country, men’s cross country, women’s field hockey, football, women’s soccer, men’s soccer, men’s water polo and women’s volleyball. Updated Directors’ Cup standings will be released four more times over the remainder of the 2014-15 school year. The final winter standings will be released on April 2 while the final standings for the entire 2014-15 school year are scheduled to be released on June 4.

A look back at the 2014 Hall of Fame inductees

Five CMS greats were inducted into the CMS Athletics Hall of Fame in November at the Hall of Fame Banquet. The 2014 class included four Claremont McKenna College graduates: Mike Dawe ’89 – Men’s Basketball; Amy Cleveland ’95 – Women’s Basketball; Quang Leba ’97 – Men’s Track/Water Polo; Margaret Wang Rattay ’97 – Women’s Swimming/Water Polo along with one inductee from Harvey Mudd College: Tony Gnecco ’89 – Men’s Track & Field.

Battle of Sixth Street Trophy stays with Stags

The CMS football team capped off its 2014 season in mid-November with a resounding 41-21 win at rival Pomona-Pitzer to retain the Battle of Sixth Street Trophy. The Stags ended the season on a three-game winning streak and finished the season with a 5-4 record, which included victories over Lewis & Clark, La Verne, Cal Lutheran, Whittier and Pomona-Pitzer.

Coaches of the Year

CMS had five coaches honored at the conference, regional or national levels this fall. Volleyball head coach Kurt Vlasich was selected as the conference’s Coach of the Year while assistant Morgan Coberly was chosen as the AVCA National Assistant Coach of the Year after the two led the Athenas to the volleyball team’s best season ever. The men’s cross country team won the 2014 NCAA Regionals, earning head coach John Goldhammer the USTFCCCA West Region Coach of the Year award. Women’s soccer head coach Keri Sanchez and men’s water polo head coach Greg Lonzo were chosen as the SCIAC Coach of the Year in their respective sports. Sanchez led the Athena soccer team to a conference regular-season title and 13 wins while the Stag men’s water polo team advanced to the finals of the SCIAC Championships under Lonzo’s guidance.
Fall Sports Recap

**Women’s Cross Country**
SCIAC Dual Meet Record: 8-0
SCIAC Championships: 1st, 35 pts.
SCIAC Finish: 1st
NCAA West Regionals: 2nd, 54 pts.
SCIAC Championships: 1st, 35 pts.
SCIAC Finish: 1st
NCAA West Regionals: 2nd, 54 pts.
All-SCIAC 1st Team: Sara Mostatabi (CMC SR) 4th, Carmen Mejia (SCR SO) 5th, Caroline Willian (CMC SO) 6th, Jen Lehr (SCR SO) 9th
All-SCIAC 2nd Team: Bryn McKillop (SCR FR) 11th, Taia Wu (SCR SR) 13th, Kaitlyn Spees (SCR SR) 15th, Roselynn Cantu (CMC FR) 17th, Anna Shepard (CMC SO) 18th, Rachel Mow (HMC SO) 19th
All-West Region: Bryn McKillop 6th, Sara Mostatabi 7th, Caroline Willian 10th, Carmen Mejia 16th, Jen Lehr 17th, Taia Wu 19th, Kaitlyn Spees 22nd
USTFCCCA All-Academic Team: CMS
USTFCCCA All-Academic Individuals: Sara Mostatabi, Carmen Mejia, Jen Lehr, Taia Wu, Kaitlyn Spees

**Men’s Cross Country Continued**
USTFCCCA All-Academic Team: CMS
USTFCCCA All-Academic Individuals: Zorg Loustalet, Alex Lombardo, Alex Mauro, Jack Wilson, Sam Pitcavage

**Football**
Overall Record: 5-4
SCIAC Record: 4-3 (3rd)
SCIAC Defensive Athlete of the Year: Max Winsberg (CMC SR)
All-SCIAC 1st Team Defense: Paul Sluats (HMC SO) DL, Nick Nasse (CMC JR) Special Teams
All-SCIAC 2nd Team Defense: Tyler Stanek (CMC SR) WR, Peter Clancy (CMC SR) OL
All-SCIAC 2nd Team Offense: Alex Chang (CMC SR) DL, Griffin Lazarus (CMC SO) DB, Tyler Stanek P
D3football.com All-West Region 2nd Team: Nick Nasse, Special Teams

**Women’s Soccer**
Overall Record: 13-7-1
SCIAC Record: 10-4, 30 pts. (1st)
SCIAC Tournament: Finalists
SCIAC Coach of the Year: Keri Sanchez
All-SCIAC 1st Team: Isabel Lester (CSC MR), Makella Brems (CMC SO) MID, Darrah Shields (CMC JR) MID, Samantha Kunz (CMC SR) DEF
All-SCIAC 2nd Team: Sara Tweedy (HMC SR) DEF
NSCAA All-West Region 2nd Team: Makella Brems MID, Samantha Kunz DEF
NSCAA All-West Region 3rd Team: Darrah Shields FWD, Sara Tweedy DEF
NSCAA Scholar All-West Region 1st Team: Sara Tweedy, Samantha Kunz
NSCAA Scholar All-West Region Honorable Mention: Molly Freed (SCR SR) GK, Claire Shum (SCR SR) DEF, Laura Hayward (CMC JR) DEF

**Men’s Soccer**
Overall Record: 9-7-1
SCIAC Record: 8-7-1, 25 pts. (5th)
All-SCIAC 1st Team: Taylor Lemmon (CMC JR) MID, Jaison Kimura (CMC SR) DEF
All-SCIAC 2nd Team: Elijah Lichtenberg (CMC SO) DEF
NSCAA All-West Region 3rd Team: Taylor Lemmon MID

**Men’s Water Polo**
Overall Record: 13-14
SCIAC Record: 9-2 (2nd)
SCIAC Coach of the Year: Greg Lonzo
All-SCIAC 1st Team: Tanner Cullen (CMC JR), James Kelly (CMC SR), Mark Nietzel (CMC SR)
ACWPC All-American 1st Team: Awards have not yet been announced
ACWPC All-American 2nd Team: Awards have not yet been announced
ACWPC All-American Honorable Mention: Awards have not yet been announced
ACWPC All-Academic Team: Awards have not yet been announced
ACWPC All-Academic Individuals: Awards have not yet been announced

**Volleyball**
Overall Record: 27-7
SCIAC Record: 14-2 (2nd)
SCIAC Tournament: Finalists
NCAA Championships: Beat Mary Hardin-Baylor (Texas) 3-2 in the first round, Colorado College 3-2 in the second round and Trinity (Texas) 3-1 in the third round to win the Thousand Oaks Regional. Lost to Wisconsin-Stevens Point 3-2 in the quarterfinals
NCAA Thousand Oaks Regional Most Outstanding Player: Megan Coleman (CMC SR)
NCAA Atlanta Regional All-Tournament Team: Audrey Breitwieser (CMC JR), Regina

**USTFCCCA All-Academic Team:**
CMS
USTFCCCA All-Academic Individuals: Zorg Loustalet, Alex Lombardo, Alex Mauro, Jack Wilson, Sam Pitcavage
Volleyball Continued
Mullen (CMC SR)
SCIAC Coach of the Year: Kurt Vlasich
SCIAC Newcomer of the Year: Mariah Rigg (CMC FR)
All-SCIAC 1st Team: Audrey Breitwieser OH, Megan Coleman L
All-SCIAC 2nd Team: Margaux Arnston (CMC FR) OH, Tanner Hoke (CMC JR) S, Nicole Kerkhof (CMC SO) OH, Mariah Rigg MB
AVCA All-West Region 1st Team: Megan Coleman L, Audrey Breitwieser RS
AVCA West Region Freshman of the Year: Mariah Rigg MB
AVCA Honorable Mention All-American: Megan Coleman L, Audrey Breitwieser RS
Capital One Academic All-District: Tanner Hoke
AVCA National Assistant Coach of the Year: Morgan Coberly

Other News

Winter and Spring Sports Update (Updated through 2/5)

Three of CMS’ four winter sports are at the top of the conference standings: women’s basketball, women’s swimming & diving and men’s swimming & diving. The CMS men’s basketball team is near the top of the conference standings. All four winter sports are on pace to make the SCIAC Postseason Tournament (basketball) or SCIAC Championships (Swim & Dive). The SCIAC Championships for swim & dive are Feb. 19-22 in Commerce, Calif. The SCIAC Postseason Tournament for basketball is on Feb. 27-28 for the men and Feb. 26 and Feb. 28 for the women. By mid-to-late February, all 10 of CMS’ spring sports will have played its first contest of the 2015 spring season. February is the busiest time of the year for CMS Athletics with 14 sports (four winter and 10 spring) all in action at the same time.

Matt Edwards chosen as next men’s soccer head coach at CMS

Matt Edwards has been selected as the sixth head coach in the 46-season history of the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps men’s soccer program. Edwards comes to CMS after spending three seasons at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., where he transformed the men’s soccer program from a one-win team in the season prior to his arrival, to conference champions in 2014. Under Edwards’ guidance, Knox won 65 percent of its matches including a 15-4 record during the 2014 conference championship season. After the 2014 season, Edwards earned Midwest Conference Coach of the Year honors.