

MUSTANG MINUTES

By David Rebstock

Quarterback Craig Fobbe.



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MUSTANG FOOTBALL TEAM HEADS TO NATIONAL PLAYOFFS

The Mustang football team enjoyed a remarkable turnaround season in 2004, posting an 8-2 regular season record, after a 3-7 finish the year before. They tied a school record for wins in a season previously set in 1912 when the team went 8-1-1.

The Mustangs, ranked 12th nationally in the final National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) poll, were one of 16 teams selected for the NAIA National Playoffs. Morningside, which earned its first football playoff berth in school history, traveled to Fort Wayne, Ind., for an opening round playoff game against the University of Saint Francis on Nov. 20.

The Mustangs charged out of the starting blocks with consecutive wins against perennial NAIA powers Hastings College and Northwestern College.

Another highlight was a 26-0 whitewashing of cross-town rival Briar Cliff University for the Mustangs' first shutout since 1998. The only setbacks were a 16-7 loss at No. 1-ranked University of Sioux Falls and a 26-24 loss against Midland Lutheran College, when the Warriors kicked a 51-yard field goal as time expired.

Morningside finished second in the final Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) standings. Morningside's **Steve Ryan** was named GPAC Coach of the Year and quarterback **Craig Fobbe** was named GPAC Co-Player of the Year.

Fobbe set Morningside records for yards passing, touchdown passes, and total offense in a season and also became the school's all-time career leader in the same categories. Returning NAIA All-America wide receiver **Kyle Ortegren** also figured prominently in the Mustangs' success and finished the

regular season on the verge of breaking the school's career pass receiving records established by **Mitch Allner 2001**.

MEN'S SOCCER TEAM WINS GPAC

Experience paid huge dividends for Morningside's men's soccer team this fall. The Mustangs, who returned all but one starter from the year before, established a school record for victories with a 15-8 record. In the process, the Mustangs shared the GPAC regular season championship with Northwestern and Hastings and came within one victory of a national tournament berth when they advanced to the NAIA Region IV Championship Game.

Tom Maxon was named the GPAC Men's Soccer Coach of the Year.

While the Morningside men reaped the rewards of experience, the women's soccer team suffered some growing



pains after a heavy graduation toll deprived the Mustangs of many of the mainstays who helped build the program over the previous four years. The Mustangs finished 6-10-3 but flashed their future potential by going 3-1-1 over their final five games.

VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS 20 AGAIN

Morningside posted a 23-13 record during the 2004 volleyball season for a school-record third consecutive 20-win season.

Senior **Lindsie Honsbruch** set a school record for career digs and became one of only five players in Morningside history to amass over 1,000 career kills, 1,000 career digs, and 100 career ace serves.

CROSS COUNTRY REVIVAL

For the first time in many years, Morningside was able to field a complete cross country team for both genders, thanks to the banner recruiting effort of new coach **Dave Nash 1990**.

The men captured the team championship at the Dordt Invitational in their first meet of the season. The Mustangs didn't just win but dominated with seven of the top 15 finishers. Freshman **Jeremiah Danga** earned All-GPAC honors to become Morningside's first cross country runner to receive all-conference recognition since **Bret Taber** in 1993.

BACK ON THE MAT

Morningside returned to the wrestling mat with a bang when it pinned Briar Cliff 37-12 to open the season on Nov. 5 and mark the return of varsity wrestling at Morningside after a 35-year hiatus.

Head coach **Tim Jager** has high hopes for his first-year program with a squad of 27 athletes, all but three of whom are freshman.

M-CLUB RECOGNIZES ALUMNI DURING HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

Lyle "Dutch" Bryan 1957, Paula (Hunter) Olsen 1989, and Jay Rehnstrom 1981 were inducted into the M-Club Hall of Fame, and **Curt Bladt 1968** was honored as the M-Club's Coach of the Year during the Homecoming 2004 festivities.

Bryan was a first-team all-conference running back in 1956 for a Morningside football team that posted a 6-1-1 record for one of the best marks in school history and won an outright North Central Conference (NCC) championship. He was also named to the third team of *Together* magazine's All-America team. Bryan, who was a four-year letterwinner, also played for Morningside's 1954 NCC championship team.

After his graduation from Morningside, Bryan had a long career in the education field as a teacher and coach. He coached from 1957 to 1970 in various capacities in the Centerville, S.D., Crestland of Early, Paullina, and Sioux City East school systems.

Olsen was a four-year starter for Morningside's volleyball and women's basketball teams. She was a two-time NAIA All-District 15 and All-Io-Kota Conference performer in volleyball and helped lead Morningside to Io-Kota Conference championships in 1987 and 1989. As a freshman, Olsen helped lead Morningside to its first-ever NAIA District 15 Playoff appearance.

Olsen was even more successful in basketball and graduated as the college's all-time leading rebounder and second leading all-time scorer with 1,248 career rebounds and 1,603 career points. She averaged 13.8 points and 10.8 rebounds per game during her career and was a four-time all-conference performer. As a freshman, she helped lead Morningside to a 20-11 record and the school's first-ever NAIA National Tournament appearance. Morningside had a 76-45 record and won three Io-Kota Conference championships during Olsen's basketball career.

Rehnstrom was a three-time All-NCC catcher as a standout for Morningside's baseball team. He also excelled in the classroom and twice made the NCC All-Academic team. He was Morningside's recipient of the NCC Honor Athlete Award as a senior.

On the diamond, Rehnstrom helped lead Morningside to NCC championships in 1978 and 1980 and to NCAA Region Playoff appearances both years. He was the catcher when the ace of the Morningside pitching staff was **Mike King 1982**, the future first round Major League Baseball draft choice of the Oakland Athletics.

Rehnstrom's greatest season came as a senior when he batted .330 with a team-high nine home runs and 25 RBIs and was named the 1981 NCC Co-Most Valuable Player. He batted .319 in league play and topped the NCC with six doubles. Rehnstrom was also tabbed to that year's All-NCAA District IV team.

Bladt, the head football coach at Harlan Community High School, received the M-Club's Coach of the Year Award for guiding Harlan to Iowa's 2003 Class 3A state championship with a 38-35 win against Mount Vernon in the title game. The M-Club honored Bladt for the second time after he first won the award in 1980.

Bladt is a coaching icon in Iowa. He has led Harlan to seven state championships and his teams have been the state runner-ups eight times. Bladt entered the current season with a career record of 275-31 for a .899 winning percentage in 26 years as Harlan's head coach. He has guided Harlan to 23 appearances in the state playoffs, including each of the last nine years.