



Craig Fobbe



MUSTANG FOOTBALL TEAM ONE OF NATION'S ELITE

Morningside's football team emerged as a legitimate contender for the 2005 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Championship with an impressive break from the starting blocks. The Mustangs were 9-0 for the first time in school history and ranked third in the nation at press time.

Included among the Mustangs' victories was a 27-26 triumph against the University of Sioux Falls, a victory that gave the Mustangs sole possession of first place in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) and ended the Cougars' streak of 40 consecutive victories in GPAC play. The game, which featured the third and fourth ranked teams in the nation at the time, was attended by 6,400 fans.

The Mustangs have certainly been entertaining with one of the most explosive offensive attacks in the nation. Morningside is the second highest scoring team in the nation with an average of 41.7 points per game and is the NAIA national leader in passing offense and total offense with averages of 364.9 yards and 527.1 yards

M-CLUB HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Morningside honored two of its best female athletes in school history when **Meredith Davis 2002** and **Theresa Kathman-Trees 1997** were inducted into the M-Club Hall of Fame during the Homecoming 2005 celebration.

In addition, **Dr. Sharon Ocker**, Morningside's 1994-95 men's basketball team, and the Mustangs' 2003-04 and 2004-05 NAIA Division II National Championship women's basketball teams were also inducted into the M-Club Hall of Fame.

Davis is the most decorated athlete in Morningside history as a two-time national champion, a 13-time All-

American, and a 14-time conference champion in track & field. She was a qualifier for the 2004 U.S. Olympic Trials.

Davis was named the NCAA Division II Female National Outdoor Track & Field Athlete of the Year in 2001 and 2002 after she won national championships in the heptathlon both years at the NCAA II Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Aside from her two national titles, Davis was a four-time outdoor All-American in the long jump, a three-time indoor All-American in the 55-meter hurdles, and a two-time All-American in the outdoor 100-meter hurdles and the indoor long jump.

She won a North Central Conference (NCC) record 14 combined individual titles at the NCC's indoor and outdoor championship meets and graduated from Morningside as the holder of 12 school records in individual events and as a school record holder in five relays.

Kathman-Trees is the only volleyball player in Morningside history to ever be selected to the NCAA II All-Region team, and she did it both in 1994 and 1995. She finished her career as Morningside's only three-time All-NCC performer and with school-record totals of 1,831 career kills and 1,563 career digs. She helped lead Morningside to a 27-9 record and the

MUSTANG MINUTES

By David Rebstock

per game, respectively. The Mustangs also rank among the national leaders with a defensive scoring average of only 11.0 points per game.

Senior quarterback **Craig Fobbe** put up school-record totals of 471 yards passing and 477 yards total offense and threw four touchdown passes when the Mustangs opened the season with a 48-18 win at Midland Lutheran. Fobbe was named the NAIA National Player of the Week for the second time in his career after he passed for 401 yards and tied a school record with 30 completions in the win against Sioux Falls. Fobbe leads the nation in passing and total offense. His favorite pass-catching target has been newcomer **Trae Johnson**, the NAIA national leader with an average of 130.4 pass reception yards per game.

The Mustangs hope for an extended run in the NAIA National Playoffs.

SOCCER

Football wasn't the only sport where the Mustangs contended for a conference championship. Both the men's and women's soccer teams ranked among the elite in the GPAC, and the

Mustang women led the GPAC up until the final day of the regular season. The Mustang men qualified for the NAIA Region III Tournament.

Both teams began the season with only one victory in their first six games largely due to a demanding pre-conference schedule. All five of the early season defeats for the Mustang men came against nationally ranked teams. But the Mustangs were off and running once the GPAC season began, and each opened their league slates with six consecutive victories.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Mustangs pulled a shocker in 2004 when they opened the season by winning the men's team title at the Dordt Invitational. Morningside pulled another stunner this fall when it returned to Dordt to open the season again. But this time it wasn't just the men who reigned but the women as well, as both teams captured team championships.

The cross country program has continued to make great strides under second-year head coach **Dave Nash 1990**, as the numbers have grown from a nearly

barren roster to a combined 28 runners on the men's and women's teams.

GOLF

A highly successful fall season has the Mustang men's golf team anxiously awaiting the GPAC Championship meet to be held later this spring.

The Mustangs won team championships at the Northwest Iowa Intercollegiate Golf Classic and the Dakota Wesleyan Palace City Classic and were the runner-ups at the Dordt and Morningside Invitationals. Freshman **Chris Rager** was the individual medalist at the Dordt Invitational with a 71 for the Mustangs' top score of the season.

VOLLEYBALL

The Mustangs finished the 2005 season with a 19-15 record under first-year head coach Aaron Nelson. It was the Mustangs' fourth consecutive winning season. Aside from winning this year, the Mustangs are building for the future with a young team that has three freshmen and four sophomores among the top 10 players.

college's first-ever NCAA region tournament appearance in 1995.

Kathman-Trees made an immediate impact at Morningside when she led the team with 409 kills as a freshman. As a sophomore, she averaged a school-record 3.94 digs per game and became the college's first player to be named to the all-region team. Although left off the all-region team as a senior, the 1996 campaign may have been Kathman-Trees' best as she pounded a school-record 552 kills for an average of 4.25 per game.

Ocker, professor emeritus of education at Morningside, was inducted for his longtime service to the college's athletic department. He was Morn-

ingside's faculty athletic representative for 24 years and served as the college's official scorer in basketball for 29 years. He is the author of a book detailing the history of Morningside College men's basketball and author of the M-Club Messenger article that appears regularly in *The Morningsider*.

He was recognized for his longtime service to the North Central Conference in 1998 when he received the NCC Honor Award, the league's highest honor.

The 1994-95 men's basketball team, coached by **Jerry Schmutte**, posted a 24-8 record for the second highest victory total in school history and reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA

II Tournament after it defeated Fort Hays State 85-82 in the championship game of the North Central Regional Tournament.

The 2003-04 and 2004-05 women's basketball teams, coached by **Jamie Sale**, had a combined record of 69-7 for a .908 winning percentage. They captured the 2004 NAIA Division II National Championship with an 87-74 victory against Cedarville, then repeated in 2005 with a 75-65 win against Cedarville in the national championship game.