

FROM THE DESK OF JOSHUA REESE '95



A stormy New England Spring and record rainfall could not dampen the spirits of a talented group of NWC athletes determined to succeed in Spring 2009.

First things first...

It goes without saying that being first in the world of athletics is a big deal. In Spring 2009, "first" was the watchword for the entire Northwest Catholic athletics program.

First on their own...

Tom Bourdon '10 – who has verbally committed to playing baseball for the Boston College Eagles – was the first Junior in school history to be named to the Connecticut High School Coaches Association All-State first team. He was also selected to the All-Conference team for the third straight year – another school first. **Brendan Lemp '10** was the medalist – i.e., he came in first – in the final Northwest Conference Golf Championship en route to securing his spot in the New England Championships, after firing a scorching 75 in the CIAC Division IV Golf Championship. **Mary Frailey '10** and **Devon Soucier '10** were tapped as first team members of the Girls' Lacrosse All-State team. Two Boys' Outdoor Track relay teams – the 4x800 (**John Whiting '09**, **Brian Poirier '12**, **Dan Huehner '10**, and **Nico Greco '10**) and the 4x100 (**Alden Jasper '10**, **Trenton Jackson '10**, **Ryan Siegel '10**, and **Eric Kennedy '10**) – set school records for their events. Also first in the record books is the Girls' 4x800 relay team (**Meghan Feeney '10**, **Elizabeth Allen '12**, **Christine Smith '10**, and **Andrea Dombek '09**), who set a school record, as well.

First as a team...

The Girls' Tennis team hung its first banner ever in the Johnson Gymnasium, securing the last conference championship in Northwest Conference Girls' Tennis history with a 13-3 record, and advanced to the Quarterfinals of the CIAC Girls' Tennis State Tournament. The Softball program became the first team since 1998 to qualify for the CIAC Girls' Softball Tournament.

The first Girls' Golf team in school history had a very respectable second-place finish in the Northwest Conference, with an 8-7 record.

Northwest Catholic became the first Catholic school in Connecticut to launch a Unified Sports program, by partnering with the Intensive Education Academy (IEA), a high school for special-needs teenagers on N. Main St. in West Hartford. Each Wednesday afternoon, a group of athletes from IEA traveled here to the Johnson Gym to play volleyball with a team of NWC volunteer athletes.

With the end of the Spring season came the end of the Northwest Conference, which has now dissolved – but the first year of the new CCC is right around the corner. I will be first in line watching our young people compete.

BOYS' GOLF

Coach Scott Fletcher's **Boys' Golf** squad remained one of the best in the State, finishing the year with a 20-3-2 record. **Captain Matt Collins '09** (MVP) and **Brendan Lemp '10** (Coaches Award; New England Championship Qualifier; Northwest Conference Tournament Medalist) made First Team All-State. Next year seems equally promising with the return of **Chris Sherer '11**, **Patrick Nista '11**, **Brian Butler '12**, **Tyler Huffman '12**, **Alex Phibbs '12**, and **Ryan Strid '12**.

GIRLS' GOLF

In its inaugural season, under the direction of Moderator **Matthew Martorelli '03** and paced by **Captain Mary Beckerman '10** (MVP), the **Girls' Golf** team finished the season with an 8-7 record, second in the Northwest Conference. With the starting five – Beckerman, plus **Caroline Connal '12**, **Caroline Davenport '12**, **Samantha Russon '12**, and **Hannah Shea '12** (Coaches Award) – returning next year, the future looks very bright.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Under the leadership of Head Coach **Jeff Przech '92**, the **Boys' and Girls' Track** team



Brendan Lemp '10

completed the final season of the Northwest Conference with a 9-7 record, highlighted by several remarkable performances. On the Boys' side, school records were established in the 4x800 (Tri-Captain **John Whiting '09**, **Brian Poirier '12**, **Dan Huehner '10**, and **Nico Greco '10**, who was All-Conference in the 3200m and 1600m), as well as the 4x100 (**Alden Jasper '10** – Coaches Award, All-Conference in 300 Hurdles; Tri-Captain **Trenton Jackson '10** – MVP, All-Conference in 100m and 200m; **Ryan Siegel '10**; and Tri-Captain **Eric Kennedy '10** – All-



Mary Beckerman '10

Conference in 200m and Long Jump). After his record-breaking performance in the 4x800, Greco was an All-State finisher in the 3200m.

The Girls performed equally well. The dominant 4x800 relay team (**Meghan Feeney '10**, **Elizabeth Allen '12** (Coaches Award), **Christine Smith '10**, and Quad-Captain **Andi Dombek '09**) crushed the



Alden Jasper '10

school record en route to their respective All-State selections.

This group was also named All-Conference in the 4x400m relay. Quad-Captain **Kelsey Marakovits '10** (MVP) is the latest in a long line of talented throwers, while Quad-Captain **Nia Harris '10**, Quad-Captain **Kylie Steadman '09** and **Codie Landsman '09** added much-needed experience.

LACROSSE

Head Coach **Bill Mullady '66** took the helm of this program from his daughter **Jill Mullady** (Girls' Lacrosse Head Coach – Post University). Despite losing a number of talented seniors last year, First Team All-State Selections **Mary Frailey '10** (MVP) and **Devon Soucier '10** led this year's crew to a 10-5-1 record, making it to the Quarterfinals of the Division II CIAC **Girls' Lacrosse** State Tournament. Seniors who made their mark on the program included **Tory Mansolillo '09** (Co-Captain; Second Team All-State), **Lizzie Winland '09**, and goal-scoring machine

Kayleigh Donnelly '09. Coach Mullady cited the strength and composure of first-time goalie **Dana Crory '11** (Coaches Award), who filled in nicely when longtime goalkeeper **Bridget Daly '10** was injured early in the preseason. Returning players **Erika Duenas '10**, **Haley Heslin '10**, **Chelsea Mencio '10**, **Maureen Mitsch '10**, **Julia Mansolillo '11**, **Haley Massie '11**, and **Grace Hallinan '12** promise a bright future in the years to come.

Head Coach **Chris Gallagher's** young and inexperienced group missed the State playoffs by just one game – no small feat, considering that most of the **Boys' Lacrosse** regular-season opponents qualified for their respective State Tournaments, and most of NWC's games were lost by just one goal. Leading a group of talented athletes were Co-Captains **Kevin Boya '09** and **Sean Murphy '09** (Second Team All-State; MVP), joined by **Will Grady '09**, **Jack Heslin '09**, **Jack Olson '09**, and **Jake Spignesi '09**. Coach Gallagher will rely heavily on the efforts of returning stars **Jack Hayes '10** (Coaches Award), **James Hallinan '10**, **Drew Orsini '10**, **Kevin O'Toole '10**, **Ben Van Schaack '10**, **Matthew Visintainer '10**, **Timothy Waltman '10**, **Michael Laffin '11**, **Taylor Waybright '11**, and **Tanner Vaughn '12**.

BASEBALL

Consistency has been the theme since Head Coach **Cory Carlson** took over the baseball program in 2004; for instance, the NWC team has qualified for the State Tournament every year since this year's Seniors were Freshmen. Leading the way: **Tom Bourdon '10**, the first Junior in school history to make First Team All-State, ushered the club to its 14-8 finish. All-Conference selections **Andy Beaulé '10** (most pitching wins) and Tri-Captain and MVP **Patrick Tanguay '09** were vital contributors as the team made it to the



Andi Dombek '09

Quarterfinals of the Class S CIAC State Tournament. Tri-Captains **Garrett Hickey '09** (Coaches Award) and **Dillon Desiderato '09** led a successful group of Seniors, rounded out by **Ryan Dowd '09**, **Ryan Foster '09**, and **Lester Primus '09**. The solid returning nucleus of **Zack Boorman '10**, **Nick Calitri '10**, **Patrick Dornfried '10**, **Jason Moore '10**, **Jon Moore '10**, **Fanol Prevalla '10**, **Ryan Thompson '10**, and **Matt D'Orsi '11** could have the "local nine" making noise for years to come.

SOFTBALL

Often the "forgotten group" of NWC athletes, Head Coach **Liz Sankar's** Softball squad committed themselves to excellence and began preparing last Fall for their Spring 2009 season. Captain and Coaches Award winner **Caroline Leuenberger '09** and **Nina Varney '09** (MVP; All-Conference) led the dedicated team to its first appearance in the



Sean Murphy '09



Garrett Hickey '09



Kayleigh Donnelly '09



Class of '09 Members of Boys' Tennis Team

CIAC Class M State Tournament since 1998. Pitching sensation **Lauren Backhaus '11** (All-Conference) kept the team within reach of every contest. Returning players include standouts **Sharon Grimshaw '11** and **Melissa Martucci '11**, and expectations for the 2010 season are high.



Nina Varney '09

TENNIS

An extremely competitive schedule against the talent-loaded Northwest Conference, combined with several key injuries, was the story of the **Boys' Tennis** team in the Spring of '09. Head Coach **Tim Crowley's** squad featured a gifted group led by Co-Captain **Richard Jakiel '09** and Co-Captain **Joseph McAndrews '10**, who was injured most of the season after advancing far into the State Tournament in 2008. **Jimmy Williams '09** (MVP) and **Connor Deneen '10** (Coaches Award) had tremendous individual success. Coach Crowley remains optimistic for the future, with returning standouts **Ameet Katkar '10** and **Lucas Tyler '10** bouncing back to lead next year's team.

The **Girls' Tennis** team joined the Johnson Gym "Banner Party" this year: Head Coach **Stan Piorkowski's** talented team captured the first team league championship in school history. The team posted a 13-3 record, advancing to the Quarterfinals of the CIAC Class S Tournament while winning the final Girls' Tennis regular-season title of the Northwest Conference. Leading the group were Co-Captains **Maura Eagan '09** and **Emily Schwartz '09**, along with **Kathleen Baldassarre '09** (State Tournament Doubles Qualifier; All-Conference), **Caitlin Erickson '09**, and **Mikka Tracey '09** (Coaches Award; State Tournament Doubles Qualifier). **Emily Olszewski '10** (Team MVP; All-Conference; State Tournament Individual Qualifier) and her sister **Lizzie Olszewski '11** (State Tournament Doubles Qualifier) provided a talented attack. **Gabby Marandino '10** (State Tournament Doubles Qualifier) and **Emily McDonough '10** are among the standouts from this talented group who will be returning next season.



Emily Schwartz '09

NWC ALUMNI ATHLETES: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

After completing a stellar career on the Albertus Magnus Women's Basketball team (during which she reached the 1,000-point plateau), **Candace Young '03** now works as a social worker at Capitol Prep High School in Hartford. She is also the Assistant Athletic Director and Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach at the school.

Keith Kwasnik '08 – the Gatorade Player of the Year in 2008, the first NWC golfer to earn that distinction – won the New Britain City Golf Championship at the Stanley Golf Course in June 2009, shooting a combined score of 149 in a highly competitive field.

Devin Walsh '06, a neuroscience/chemistry pre-med major at Bowdoin College, was named to the NESCAC Conference All-Academic Football team for Fall 2008. He played for the Polar Bears as a defensive lineman again this Fall.

Kevin Eagan '08 – who helped the Indians to three consecutive Nutmeg Conference championships, the first in school history – has taken his talents to Endicott College. As a freshman, Eagan led the team in tackles (99), including 12.5 for a loss. The 245-pound rookie finished the year sixth in tackles in the New England Football Conference and was named All-Conference.

A two-sport standout at NWC, **Greg Peterson '08** is now playing lacrosse at the College of the Holy Cross. The Crusaders freshman was named to the Patriot League's Academic Honor Roll for 2009, which requires a 3.2 grade-point average during the semester in which the sport is played.

Shannon Morales '08, a standout player on the NWC Girls' Soccer team, is now playing for the Chargers at the University of New Haven. Here at NWC, she was named All-Conference three times, and All-State as a senior. She was also an All-Conference selection in indoor track during her freshman year at NWC.