BUZZ BEAT The Official Newsletter of the



The Official Newsletter of the MSU-Billings Yellowjacket Soccer Teams



Yellowjackets moving to the GNAC

Montana State University - Billings will join the Great Northwest Athletic Conference effective July 1, 2007.

The official announcement of the addition of Montana State University - Billings to the conference was made at a news conference in Billings on Friday.

The Yellowjackets will join Central Washington University, Western Washington University, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, Saint Martin's University, Northwest Nazarene University, Western Oregon University, the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks bringing membership in the conference to 10 institutions.

"I am excited and extremely pleased to accept the invitation from the Great Northwest Athletic Conference," said Montana State University-Billings Chancellor Dr. Ronald Sexton. "We look forward to working with Commissioner Hannon and the universities of the GNAC to ensure the GNAC continues to be one of the best NCAA Division II conferences in the nation."

MSU-Billings is currently a member of the Heartland Conference and will continue to compete in that conference during the 2006-07 season before joining the GNAC as a member for the 2007-08 sports season.

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"The presidents of the GNAC institutions are united in their invitation to MSU-Billings to become a member of conference pleased that our conversations have confirmed their alignment with our philosophy and strategic initiatives," Dr. Richard A. Hagood, president of Northwest Nazarene University, said.

Dr. Jerilyn McIntyre, president of Central Washington, who guided the conference as the chair of the CEO Board during the expansion process, said the current presidents set the importance of main-

taining high academic quality along with athletic competitiveness as their highest priority in seeking new members.

"We are impressed by the commitment Montana State University - Billings has shown to these high standards, and to the balance between academic and athletic excellence. We are pleased to welcome them as members of the conference."

The GNAC currently sponsors 13 sports and the Yellowjackets field teams in nine of those - men's and women's cross country, volleyball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball. The only conference sports in which MSU-Billings does not currently sponsor are men's and women's indoor track-and-field and men's and women's outdoor track-and-field. They also sponsor four sports which are not sponsored by the GNAC - men's and women's tennis and men's and women's golf.

The GNAC is completing its fifth season of competition and in that short time has established itself as one of the top NCAA Division II conferences in the country.

"While we value the competitive experiences the Heartland Conference has provided our student-athletes, we are excited about the opportunity to renew relationships with the excellent schools in the GNAC," said MSU-Billings Athletics Director Dr. Gary Gray. "We have some long-standing, traditional rivalries with many of the GNAC schools, and I'm sure our fans will be as excited as we are to watch those same teams compete in Billings once again. Our student-athletes have always appreciated the great competition in the NCAA West Region, and I believe our fans and supporters will quickly identify with the GNAC teams with which we have such a long history."

The addition of MSU-Billings will renew a conference rivalry between it and the rest of the GNAC. The nine current members were all members of the PacWest Conference along with MSU-Billings for three seasons (1998-99 to 2000-01) before forming the GNAC. MSUB, Seattle Pacific, Alaska Anchorage and Alaska Fairbanks were charter members of the PacWest, which was created in May, 1992.

"Montana State - Billings has a strong tradition of excellence in athletics," Richard Hannan, GNAC Commissioner said, "We look forward to a long and positive relationship and are confident that their programs will be a strong addition to our conference."

Yellowjacket Soccer News

Yellowjacket Dinner Auction

For the second straight year the annual Dinner Auction had a Halloween theme and proved to be a huge success for the MSU-Billings Athletic Department. The entire athletic staff, all teams, and many generous donors helped to raise over \$17,800 for the MSU-Billings Scholarship fund. The men's and women's soccer program raised \$2,128 for the scholarship fund. A special thanks to all of the players and soccer boosters who played a part in the dinner auction.

Indoor Tournaments and Leagues

This winter we hosted an indoor tournament —5th Annual Boy's and Girl's Yellowjacket Indoor Classic. The tournament was a huge success with a total of 15 teams participating over the weekend; 8 men's teams and 7 women's teams. Teams were represented from Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

We also added a youth indoor soccer league from November through the middle of December. The league was a big success. The ages groups ranged from under-12 teams to under 14 teams, the league was very competitive. Six participated in the inaugural youth indoor soccer league, a league that we believe will continue to grow.

In addition to the tournaments and youth indoor league, we also hosted a men's and women's indoor league for players in the community. The league consisted of ten men's teams and ten women's teams, with the teams ranging from high school through over 40's.

Both the tournaments and the leagues turned out to be an excellent fundraiser for the soccer programs, raising close to \$8,200!

Changes in the **Quest for Excellence** Soccer Academy

The Yellowjacket summer soccer camps have become very popular here in Billings. Due to the success in the summer, we have created a soccer experience for the local youth players - the *Quest for Excellence* Soccer Academy.

Recently we have made some changes to improve the QFE Academy. Rather than running the academy year-round, we will now be running the academy at different times throughout the year (winter, spring and summer). The academy will be focusing on the following aspects of the game: technical training and goal-keeper training (spring only). Due to the success of QFE Academy this winter we are extending the winter sessions through mid-March.

The mission of the *Quest for Excellence* Soccer Academy will remain the same — to create an environment that enables players in Billings an opportunity to achieve maximum technical, tactical, physical, and psychological soccer attributes that will help each team and player to grow and prosper to their utmost potential as soccer players.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Striker/Keeper Camp: *March 10th*
- ♦ 7v7 MSU-Billings Outdoor Tournament: March 24th-25th
 - Goalkeeper Academy:

Wednesdays, March 21st - May 23rd

- ♦ 2007 Coca-Cola Yellowjacket Golf Classic: June 7th
 - ◆ Quest for Excellence Soccer Academy: Runs through Mid-March for grades 6-12

- ♦ Red Lodge Camp:
- June 11th 15th in Red Lodge, MT
- Billings Overnight and Youth Camp: June 24th - 29th in Billings
 - Whitefish Camp:

July 9th-13th in Whitefish, MT

Green River Camp:

July 23rd-27th in Green River, WY

Lady Jackets Season Wrap-Up

The talk following women's soccer seasons at Montana State-Billings used to center around "next year." But that has all changed in the past three seasons. Now when the Lady Yellowjackets wrap up a season, they have plenty of wins and records to talk about.

For the third-straight year, the Montana State-Billings women's soccer team posted the best season in the program's history. Of the 59 school records tracked annually, 49 of them fell this season. The most important school record, of course, was the 13-6-1 mark posted by the Jackets in 2006. The 13 wins were the most in school history.

The road to those 13 wins started with another school record: a 10-game winning streak. The streak began in the heat of August with a 1-0 victory at Colorado School of Mines. On the same season-opening trip, the Jackets downed Fort Lewis 1-0 in overtime and blew past Eastern New Mexico 3-1. The three-game trip to open the season was important for several reasons. The Jackets wracked up three regional wins before the calendar turned to September. The MSUB defense established itself as a force. And a newcomer asserted her presence.

"A 10-0 start in college soccer is impressive," said Yellowjacket head coach Don Trentham. "I knew we were a good team coming into the year, but I think the players overachieved in a good way. They won the first 10 games and set the bar higher than what we had thought at the beginning of the year. Going 10-0 was quite an accomplishment that maybe got lost a little bit with what our record was the last 10 games."

The three regional wins eventually helped propel the Jackets to the top of the NCAA regional rankings a few weeks later. The defense, which allowed just one goal that opening weekend, gave up only four goals during the first 10 games of the year. In the overtime win against Fort Lewis, freshman Jelisa Guy scored the game winner, serving notice that the 2005 Montana Gatorade Player of the Year from Flathead High School was going to be an impact player at the college level. She went on to score nine goals and notch eight assists.

"That opening road trip was very important," said Trentham. "We wanted to come out of there 2-1. We had never played a three game road trip where we came out with two wins. To come out 3-0 really raised expectations of what our season should be."

Following the 3-1 win at Eastern New Mexico on August 27, the Yellowjackets didn't allow another goal until September 16. During that span they posted shutouts of Texas-Permain Basin, University of Mary, St. Mary's, Texas A&M-International, and defending

Heartland Conference champion Incarnate Word. The shutout streak ended in an 18-1 romp over Texas A&M-International at home.

MSUB seemed poised to suffer its first loss of the season on September 20 in a historic game in Billings. The Jackets faced cross-town rival Rocky Mountain at Daylis Stadium in the first college soccer night game in Montana. The Bears broke from a scoreless halftime tie to take a 2-0 lead, which they held until the 81st minute.

With only 8:05 to play in regulation, the Yellow-jackets came to life when Ally Stroup's through ball fed Sara Gress for the Jackets' first goal of the game. With less than a minute on the clock, Guy sent a through ball to Stroup, who in turn beat the Rocky keeper one-on-one to tie the game. Then, just 2:55 into the overtime period, Abby Bennett placed a perfect pass to Amy Stephens, who became an instant hero by hitting the game-winner.

The dramatic overtime win against their cross-town rivals kept the Yellowjackets' record unblemished at 10-0. They were rewarded with the No. 1 ranking in the NCAA Midwest Region. It was the first time in school history that the Yellowjackets had reached the top of the NCAA's regional rankings. They were also ranked first in the regional coaches' poll and eighth in the national coaches' poll.

"The Rocky game was one of the best games I've been involved with at the college level," Trentham said. "I think our players, their players, and their coaches would say the same thing. It was an exciting game. Rocky Mountain and MSUB is always going to be a tough game. Four of the nine games we've played have gone into overtime. To be down 2-0 and maybe play our best 15 minutes of soccer at the end was exciting. It's just going to add to the series rivalry and make it better for next year. It will definitely add to the excitement of the Rimrock Cup series."

Just two days after the win against Rocky, the Yellowjackets put their unbeaten record on the line at University of Montana. It was the first-ever regular season meeting between the two schools, and it didn't disappoint. The Jackets' defense and goalkeeper Megan Plank gave the Division I Grizzlies all they could handle through a scoreless regulation and scoreless first overtime. Montana finally escaped the upset bid with a goal early in the second overtime.

The heartbreaking loss to the Grizzlies started a second half slide that would eventually knock the Yellowjackets out of the NCAA Tournament picture. Following a home win against Dallas Baptist, MSUB dropped two critical regional games at Metro State and Regis to start October. A home draw with St. Mary's and a home loss to Incarnate Word then put

Lady Jackets Season Wrap-Up Cont'd

left the Yellowjackets at home.

Despite the 3-6-1 stretch that kept the Jackets out of the NCAA's postseason, the 2006 season has to be considered a great success for the women's soccer program at MSU-Billings. Seniors Ally Stroup, Megan Plank, and Jenny Moellendorf finished their careers as the winningest senior class in school history with a four-year record of 42-25-7. That's a significant accomplishment considering the program had never had a winning season when those three seniors were recruited out of high school.

"Every senior class that we've had here has left a positive mark," said Trentham. "The one thing that this senior class did was establish a winning tradition. They had winning seasons in three of the four years they were here. Now it's expected that we win in this program. It's expected that we work hard. It's expected that every game we go into we not only go in to compete, but we go in to win. Jenny, Ally, and Megan are a big part of that. They certainly took a chance in coming into a program that had never won, and they made sure that when they left it was a good program."

Along with the abundance of school records (listed below), Yellowjacket players garnered their share of individual awards in 2006. Five different Yellowjackets were named to the All-Heartland Conference First Team. League champion St. Edward's and the runner-up Yellowjackets accounted for 10 of the 15 spots on the all-conference team. MSUB was represented on the HLC All-Conference team by forward Ally Stroup, midfielder Brittney Sandau, defenders Abby Bennett and Samantha Boehm, and goalkeeper Megan Plank. Stroup, Sandau and Plank were repeat selections from 2005.

Stroup finished her career at MSU-Billings as the best offensive player in school history. She holds career school records for goals, assists, and points. This season Stroup scored 16 goals and had seven assists to lead the Heartland Conference in points, points per game, goals, and goals per game. She was also second in the league for game winning goals and fourth for assists and assists per game.

Sandau had 10 assists to rank second in the Heartland Conference for assists and assists per game. After three seasons her 17 career assists rank second in school history. Sandau also scored eight goals this year, tied for seventh in the confer-

ence, to total 26 points. She ranked fourth in the league for points and will enter her senior season fourth in school history for career points with 57. Plank holds every goalkeeping record at MSU-Billings, including career wins, shutouts, saves, and goals against average. This season she led the Heartland Conference in shutouts and ranked second for goals against average, save percentage, and saves. Plank set school single season records this year for wins, shutouts, and goals against average. Bennett and Boehm anchored the Jackets' back line that was statistically the best defense in school history. The Jacket defense was second in the league behind St. Edward's for goals allowed and goals against average. They led the conference in shutouts. MSUB set single season school records this season for goals allowed, goals against average, shutouts, and consecutive shutouts.

In addition to all-conference honors, Stroup was named to two all-region teams. She was selected to the Daktronics Midwest Region First team by the region's sports information directors. She was also selected to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Midwest Region Second Team. In addition to performing at the top of her game on the field, Stroup also excelled in the classroom. For her efforts she was named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic District VII second team.

"Next year is kind of a transitional year for us," concluded Trentham. "The fact that we're joining a new region again, and we're joining the Great Northwest Athletics Conference, we're not sure what to expect. We know it's a tough region and a tough conference. It's a year when we're transitioning with a very experienced team. We have 17 players coming back, including eight or nine starters. I don't want to say we'll be in the top half or bottom half of the conference. We're just going to go out there and compete and try to win every game. That's the tradition that has been established here over the last couple years."



Lady Jackets Soccer Record Book Update

2006 Team Records

- ♦ 1st Season Shutouts: 10 games
- ♦ 1st Wins in a Season: 13
- ♦ 1st Team Defense: 0.77 GAA
- ◆ 1st Fewest Goals Allowed in a Season: 16
- ♦ 1st Largest margin of Victory: 17
- ▶ 1st Consecutive Shutout Minutes: 525:53
- ◆ 1st Consecutive Wins: 10 games (8/24 9/20)
- 1st Consecutive Unbeaten Streak on the Road: 7 games
- ♦ 1st Points in a game: 50 vs. TAMIU
- ♦ 1st Points in a season: 153
- ♦ 1st Goals in a game: 18 vs. TAMIU
- 1st Goals in a season: 54
- 1st Assists in a game: 14 vs. TAMIU
- ◆ 1st Assists in a season: 45
- ♦ 1st Scoring Offense: 2.60 54 goals/20 games
- ♦ 1st Consecutive shutouts: 5
- 1st Least time elapsed between goals scored by same player: 30 seconds vs. UTPB
- 1st Consecutive winning seasons: 3 seasons (2004present)
- ▶ 1st NCAA Highest National Ranking: #8
- 1st NSCAA Highest Regional Ranking: #1
- ◆ 1st High Home Game Attendance: 423 vs. Rocky Mountain College
- ♦ 1st Highest Season Average Attendance: 146 8 games
- ◆ 1st Highest Season Total Attendance: 1171 8 games

Career Scoring Leader List

- ♦ 1st Ally Stroup (40 goals; 29 assists; 109 points)
- ♦ 4th Brittney Sandau (20 goals; 17 assists; 59 points)
- ♦ 6th Jelisa Guy (9 goals; 8 assists; 26 points)
- 8th Mandy Plostkonka (6 goals; 9 assists; 21 points)
- ◆ 13th Amy Stephens (5 goals; 5 assists; 15 points)
- ♦ 14th Jenny Moellendorf (5 goals; 4 assists; 14 points)
- ♦ 15th Melissa Carlson (4 goals; 5 assists; 13 points)

2006 Individual Records

- ◆ 1st Season Wins by Goalkeeper: 13, Megan Plank
- 1st Season Goalkeeper Minutes Played: 1868:15, Megan Plank
- ♦ 1st Season Shutouts by Goalkeeper: 10, Megan Plank
- ♦ 1st Season Goals Against Average: .77, Megan Plank
- ◆ 1st Career Wins by Goalkeeper: 41, Megan Plank
- ♦ 1st Career Saves: 336, Megan Plank
- ◆ 1st Career Shutouts: 23, Megan Plank
- ◆ 1st Career Goals Against Average: .95, Megan Plank
- 1st Career Goalkeeper Minutes Played: 6376:53, Megan Plank
- ◆ 1st Career Points: 109, Ally Stroup (40 goals, 29 assists)
- 1st Season Points: 39, Ally Stroup (16 goals, 7 assists)
- ◆ 1st Season Game Winning Goals: 4, Ally Stroup
- ♦ 1st Career Assist: 29, Ally Stroup
- ♦ 1st Goals in a Season: 16, Ally Stroup
- ♦ 1st Career Goals: 40, Ally Stroup
- 1st Consecutive games with at least one point: 1, Ally Stroup
- ◆ 1st Career Game Winning Goals: 12, Ally Stroup
- ◆ 1st Most Games Played: 74, Ally Stroup
- ◆ 1st Most Games Started: 74, Ally Stoup
- ♦ 1st Points in a Game: 14, Jelisa Guy
- ♦ 1st Goals in a game: 5, Jelisa Guy
- ♦ 1st Assists in a game: 4, Jelisa Guy
- 1st Assists in a season: 10, Brittney Sandau
- 1st Least time elapsed between goals scored by same player: 30 seconds vs. UTPB, Brittney Sandau

Conference and National Awards

- ♦ NSCAA Team Academic Award
- ♦ Seven Heartland Players of the Week
- ♦ Heartland All-Conference Selections: Abby Bennett, Samantha Boehm, Plank, Sandau, and Stroup
- ◆ CoSIDA ESPN Academic All-District (2nd Team): Stroup
- ♦ 1 Darktronics Midwest All Region Player, Stroup
- ♦ 1 NSCAA Midwest All Region Player, Stroup
- 2 NSCAA Scholar All West Region Team Players, Stroup and Plank
- 1 NSCAA Scholar All America First Team Player, Stroup

Team Awards



Quest for Excellence Jenny Moellendorf



Co-MVP Megan Plank



Co-MVP Scholar Athlete Award Ally Stroup



Newcomer of the Year Samantha Boehm

^{*} The 2006 MSUB women's soccer team broke 49 of 59 school records (individual and team) that are recorded on a year to year basis.

2006 Men's Soccer Season Review

Second year Montana State-Billings men's soccer coach Dan McNally led his young team to a 5-11-2 finish for the season and although the team struggled to find its offensive stride, the Yellowjackets continued its tradition of being a strong team defensively. "The program made significant progress this season," said Yellowjackets head men's soccer coach Dan McNally. "We developed strong leadership within the squad and our performances on the field were very encouraging. Unfortunately our overall record reflects the fact that we lost several close games." The Yellowjackets started the season with a threegame road trip to Colorado playing games against Colorado State-Pueblo, Colorado Christian, and Regis University. The games against CSU-Pueblo and Colorado Christian resulted in double overtime ties. The final game of the trip against Regis University saw the Jackets fall 2-0. The Yellowjackets returned home for the first part of

The Yellowjackets returned home for the first part of September to host four games, three of which were against Heartland Conference foe. University of the Incarnate Word, who would go on to become the HLC Champions, dominated the field overtaking the Jackets 4-0. Bouncing back from the loss just two days later, the Yellowjackets picked up their first win of the season against St. Mary's to stand at 1-2-2 overall. "The 2006 program had no senior student-athletes and as a result we lacked experience in critical positions and situations," said McNally. "This definitely contributed to the team losing a number of close games on the road."

The Yellowjackets would drop their next four games, including two on the road in Texas before rebounding with three straight wins at the midpoint of the season. The Jackets won by a convincing 5-1 score in a neutral game against College of the Southwest in Odessa, Texas. Four days later in Billings, the Jackets scored four goals in a shutout win over Colorado Christian. Those two games against College of the Southwest and Colorado Christian would count for half of the team's total goals for the season. In the game against University of Mary the Jackets edged the Marauders 1-0 for the teams' third consecutive win, a feat that had not been accomplished since September of 2003. "One of our best performances of the season cam in the defeat against Metro State in overtime," added McNally. "Although we lost the game 2-1, we performed very well against a team that made the National Tournament. This shows our improvement and our ability to compete against the best teams in the country. In our 4-0 win against Colorado Christian we played some great soccer. It was our best attacking display of the season and an important regional win." A heart breaking 2-1 overtime loss to Metro State College in early October started what would become a

five-game losing streak. The Jackets would manage just two goals in the following four-games. With one game remaining in the season, the Yellowjackets prevailed against University of Texas - Permian Basin, winning 1-0 to finish the season on a positive note. Through the first nine games of the season the Jackets were 1-6-2 for .170. Finding their stride, the Jackets rallied the final nine games to finish just under .500. Was the second half of the season a preview of what the Jackets can do in the 2007 season? "All the returning student-athletes will benefit from their experience in 2006 and we are returning a strong group of players for 2007," said McNally. "In 2006 we built the foundations of a strong program. Sam Charles had an outstanding freshman season, said Coach McNally. He led the team in goals and points and most coaches in our region would love to have a player of Sam's ability. Another freshman, Tom Milroy had a very consistent season in numerous positions. He is a very strong player and he has the potential to be on the best players in our region in the future." "Co-team captain Greg McKeever had a strong season at left back. He will be a very important player in his senior year," added McNally. "Sander Tollefson did a good job in goal during his freshman year. He established several goalkeeping records. If he continues to improve, he will have an outstanding collegiate career. Chris Cornish, the Yellowjackets other cocaptain, established himself as a leader this season. He will have a very important role in 2007." Five of the teams 11 starters were freshman, but combined for 12 of the teams 18 goals. In fact, before August, only six of the 20 players on the roster who saw playing time had ever seen each other before the first day of training camp. With additional experience and team coherence, the Yellowjackets are en route to turning around a program that has had just one winning season dating back to 2001 when that team went 7-7-2. "I believe 2007 will be a great season for the men's soccer program," said McNally. "We are returning a group of student-athletes that has proved they can compete with the best programs in the region. We will work hard in the off-season to recruit the two or three players that will help take the program to the next level. Next season we will have experience, leadership, and talent. The 2007 season will be an exciting one for the men's soccer program at MSUB."

The Yellowjackets placed three players on the 27-member All-Conference team. Charles and Milroy were named to the Heartland All-Conference first team with Charles picking up Co-Freshman of the Year honors. Teammate Cornish was named to the All-Conference second team.

Men's Soccer Record Book Update

2006 Team Records

- 1st 1.40 goals against average
- ◆ 1st .22 Shutout percentage
- 1st 4 shutouts in 18 games

2006 Team Game Records

- 2nd 4 assists vs. College of the Southwest
- 3rd 5 goals vs. College of the Southwest
- 4th 14 points vs. College of the Southwest
- 5th 3 assists vs. Colorado Christian
- 7th 4 goals vs. Colorado Christian
- 7th 11 points vs. Colorado Christian

2006 Individual Game Records

- 1st 2 assists vs. College of the Southwest, Jay Doogan
- 2nd 248:08 consecutive shutout minutes,
 Sander Tollefson
- 5th Fastest goal to start a game vs. College of Southwest, Jurell Linford
- 5th 5 points vs. Colorado Christian, Sam Charles
- 7th 149:59 consecutive shutout minutes, Sander Tollefson

2006 Individual Season Records

- 1st 4 shutouts, Sander Tollefson
- 1st .24 shutout percentage, Sander Tollefson
- 1st 1.43 goals against average, Sander Tollefson
- 6th 3 assists, Jay Doogan
- ↑ 7th 64 saves, Sander Tollefson
- ♦ 7th 7 goals, Sam Charles
- 8th .89 points per game, Sam Charles
- 8th .39goals goals per game, Sam Charles

2006 Conference and National Awards

- ◆ 5 Heartland Conference Player of the Week Awards: Sander Tollefson, Greg McKeever, Erik Andrews, Sam Charles, Jarred Weisen
- 3 Heartland All Conference Sections: Sam Charles, Tom Milroy, Chris Cornish
- Heartland Conference Freshmen of the Year: Sam Charles
- 1 NSCAA All Mid-West Region Team: Sam Charles
- 1 Darktronics Midwest All Region Player, Greg McKeever

2006 Team Awards



Conference Freshmen of the Year Sam Charles



Team Freshmen of the Year Jeremy DeHerrera



Team Most Valuable
Player
Tom Milroy



Midwest All Region Performer Greg McKeever







itone Soccer Association

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