



Justin Wallace '05 practices in Obermiller Pool in preparation for this weekend's meet against Morningside College today, at 7 p.m. The swimmers will then swim in the alumni meet on Saturday. photo by Lara Janson

# Super swimmers

For Grinnell's swimming and diving teams, the road to another MWC title is already underway with two home meets this weekend

by Josh Cooley

Grinnell is known more for its cornfields than for its large bodies of water, but this hasn't stopped the swimming and diving teams from dominating the Midwest Conference.

The women's team is looking to win its sixth consecutive conference title while the men's team is looking to three-peat as conference champs. Though neither team will get to face off against conference opponents this weekend, both teams will stay busy. The Pioneers will host a duel meet against Morningside College today at 7 p.m. and will be back in the pool on Saturday at noon for the Alumni Meet. As Morningside is an NAIA scholarship school that just inaugurated its first competitive swimming and diving team this year, it has yet to establish a strong program, especially on the men's side where its numbers are low. This will allow the men's team to experiment with its lineup, though they still hope to sweep the meet.

"We want to get off on the proper winning foot," said men's team co-captain Dan Karney '04.

Hurley expects some of the women's races to be more competitive than the men's races, but Grinnell is still amply confident.

"I expect that we'll win the meet," said Rachel Sellon '04.

"It's really more of a warm-up meet than anything else," added co-captain Martha Makowski '04.

While the alumni meet will not have the competitive atmosphere of intercollegiate competition, it will still be an important learning experience for the team. It will allow people to swim in events they wouldn't normally enter, give divers the opportunity to enter swimming races and provide an outlet for alumni to share their memories and lore of Grinnell swimming and diving.

Team bonding at the alumni meet will be important given the increased size of the team. This year's team has 87 members, (51 on the women's side, 36 on the men's team) 15 more than last year, with the additional numbers bolstering both teams. It is the largest team ever coached by Hurley, but women's co-captain Patty Heinz '04 welcomes the increased size of the team.

"The first-year class' ability seems to be on a much higher level than that of last year's incoming class," she said. "They also seem to be a lot more focused. The dynamic of the team hasn't changed. Everyone [still] wants to win conference."

This year's team is looking stronger than ever, as seen by their performances at the intersquad meet. Though some of the veteran swimmers and divers missed the meet because they were taking practice standardized tests, both teams posted impressive results, especially from their younger members. Kevin Wood '07 proved he will have an immediate impact on the team, posting victories in the 100m individual medley, the 100 breast and the 100 fly, along with a second-place finish in the 100 free, and a third-place finish in the 100 back. His times of 49.78 s in the 100 free and 56.42 in the 100 fly cracked the all-time top twenty lists and his time in the 100 fly was the fastest ever posted in that event in the eight-year history of the intersquad meet. Peter Brown '06 also had a great swim,

winning the 100 freestyle in 48.07, a time within 6/10 of a second of his personal and less than two seconds off the school record.

On the women's side, Emma Samuels '04 had several fast swims, posted victories in the 100 free (58.05) and 100 breaststroke (106.06). Julia McHugh '07 took second in the 100 free in 59.29, and won the 100 backstroke in 105.70, the fastest time in intersquad meet history. Lucy McCormick '06 won the 100 breast in 1:17.11 and was second in the 100 butterfly in 1:07.23.

"I was really pleased with how the team started out the season," said Hurley. "We have a lot of people swimming faster than they did at last year's intersquad. A few even swam faster than they did all last year. This is a very good starting point."

Given the Pioneers strong showing at the intersquad meet, Hurley is already looking down the road to competitive meets.

"We will run into a great University of Chicago team next weekend," she said "and then some outstanding talent from some Division II and III schools in Omaha in December. The toughest meet for the teams heading into the conference championship will be our invitational in January. We host 10 teams and will really be put to the test. It is very good preparation going into the MWC Championships."

And Grinnell will need this preparation if they want to go unbeaten in duel meets this year (they went 4-1 last year) or win conference again. The latter goal will be contested by Lake Forest and Lawrence, who are looking to strip the men's and women's teams of their conference titles. Last year, Lake Forest was the runner-up

on both the men's and women's side. The Pioneer women captured the conference title by over 200 points last year, but Lake Forest is returning most of its top competitors. At last year's conference meet, Lake Forest's first-year swimmers scored 57.5 percent of the Foresters' points and secured all four of the team's individual championships. In addition, 12 of Lake Forest's 14 top-three finishes were claimed by first or second-year swimmers.

Grinnell's edge over both Lake Forest and Lawrence on the women's side, according to Makowski, lies in the fact that the Pioneers have more depth than either of their conference rivals. Though the Pioneer men had a narrower margin of victory at Conference than did the Pioneer women, Lake Forest's men's team is only returning one conference champion and four of the nine men who had top three finishes for the team at last year's conference meet. Grinnell's team will feel the loss of Brett McMillian '05, last year's top male swimmer, who is studying abroad during the spring semester and will not be competing. However, with Wood bolstering the squad's lineup, the men's team is hungry to defend their conference title.

"It makes for an exciting year," said Hurley, "because we don't directly compete against either school until the conference championship."

But Hurley also noted that the other schools in the MWC pose potential threats, and she's training both the men's and women's teams to be mentally prepped for any surprises at conference. "I am expecting the entire conference to be after us," she said.

## Relay madness

The alumni meet is an important and lasting, though unorthodox, tradition for the Grinnell swimmers.

According to Dan Karney '04, the goals of the meet are "to build team unity, not only within the present team, but with past teams" and "[to] show new swimmers what the Mad Dog and Mad Duck traditions are all about."

A record 35 alums are expected to attend this year's event. Head coach Erin Hurley explained the format of the meet.

"We divide up the alums and our team into odd and even years of graduation or intended graduation," she said "and then go head to head in relays. Each relay has to have a least one alum in it."

The diving team, according to Stayer, expects "to pull together a silly routine." Stayer hopes fans will come to watch the pop can relay, in which all team members, including divers, participate on one of six relay teams. Each swimmer must transport a can of pop one length of the pool (25 meters), without using their hands or their swimsuits, though only after the entire team dances the hokey pokey in advance. Once the team anchor completes his/her lap, he/she must chug the entire can of pop to claim victory. According to Stayer, the race is filled with madness and rampant cheating, but everyone enjoys the sight of a teammate swimming across the pool with a pop can clenched between his teeth.

To cap it off, there's a game of odd-year vs. even-year water polo, and the Grinnell masters meet featuring community swimmers 18 and up on Sunday at 9 a.m.

## The schedule

Nov. 14	MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE	7 p.m.
Nov. 15	ALUMNI MEET	noon
Nov. 21	LORAS	6 p.m.
Nov. 22	University of Chicago	2 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	Omaha Invite	TBA
Jan. 2-14	Naples, Fla.	
Jan. 9	Connecticut College	TBA
Jan. 16-7	GRINNELL INVITATIONAL	All day
Jan. 24	Coe	1 p.m.
Jan 31	AUGUSTANA COLLEGE	1 p.m.
Feb. 13-5	Midwest Conference Championships	
Feb. 20-1	Midwest Classic	
Mar. 18-20	Women's Division III National Championships	

# Football hosts final game

Saturday is senior day at Rosenbloom as Grinnell tries to salvage a difficult season vs. Beloit

by Kevin Byrne

"If I run two picks to the house, we'll win by 24," were the confident words of defensive back Ted Stafford '05.

If anyone on the Pioneer defense can take two interceptions back for touchdowns, it should be a very good Saturday and a very satisfying senior day for all of the Grinnell football players. The Beloit Buccaneers come to town for the final game of the season on Saturday, a game that the Pioneers desperately need to win to salvage the year for their team, the fans, and especially, all the seniors who have worn the uniform for the past four seasons.

Beloit comes into the game placing fifth in the Midwest Conference, with a 3-5 conference record and a 4-5 record overall. The Pioneers look to elevate from the cellar of the conference, coming in with a 1-7 conference record and a 2-7 record overall. Kickoff is at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Rosenbloom Field.

"It is always important to win your last game as a senior," head coach Greg Wallace said, "and we will do everything we can to get that accomplished."

We have lost at Beloit the last two years to end the season, and now it's our turn to return the favor."

The Pioneers will look to senior tailback Adam Wallace, Grinnell's all-time leading rusher, for leadership and production, along with the team's other seniors Isom Winton, Derrick Chandler, Mike Herbin, Daniel Olsen, Jake Peterson, Zac Lipovac, Marcus Ramirez, Josh Pedersen, Shane Steele, Brian Stoffel and Nate Jacobson.

"It is extremely important that we go out with a win," Charles Blake '05 said, "for all the seniors, for ourselves to have something to build on for the off season, and for our fans. We haven't won a game at home this year, and it would be big to win one on senior day to end the season."

Winning at home has been a struggle for the Pioneers. Grinnell lost to the visiting Carroll Pioneers last Saturday 27-20, and hasn't won at home since Oct. 26 of last season against Lawrence. The offense put up points and the defense forced four turnovers, but special teams play and five turnovers of their own cost the Pioneers their second conference victory.

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**"It is extremely important that we go out with a win."**  
 —Charles Blake '05

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## 28 hours later

A weekend's worth of wild sports, six of them in little over a day

Sports weekends don't get much more jam-packed than this one. Seven events are taking place on campus before Monday. So, for the astute sports fan, the *S&B* presents a viewer's guide to a hectic weekend, in order.

**Tonight, 7 p.m.:** Swimming vs. Morningside College. Grinnell's defending conference champion men's and women's swim teams have their first official meet of the year in Obermiller Pool. More coverage on p. 16.

**Tonight, 10 p.m.:** Soccer Ball VIII. Grinnell soccer caps off another successful campaign in style at Harris.

**Saturday, 11 a.m.:** Cross country hosts Regionals. Grinnell runs at Oakland Acres, where the men won their first Les Duke in four decades earlier this year. Both the women's and the men's teams will send their top runners to face stiff competition. The first run is at 11 a.m.

**Saturday, noon:** Swimming Alumni meet. A wet-and-wild event showcasing Grinnell's 81 swimmers and an expected 35 alumni or so is given full coverage on p. 16 ("Relay Madness").

**Saturday, 1 p.m.:** Football vs. Beloit: The Grinnell football team will be looking for some fan support when they kick off their 1 p.m. season-capper with the visiting Bucs. The Pioneers much desire to put and end to their Rosenbloom jinx, which dates back to last October.

**Saturday, 8 p.m.:** Men's Basketball Alumni game. If you think the men's basketball team scores a lot of points ordinarily, wait 'til you see The System vs. The System, when former players take on the current crop in a full-length 40-minute 3-point shootout. The Pioneers are hoping for a turnout of about 500 fans. "We might score 200 points," said point guard Ken Heiser '04. "That's the goal."

**Sunday, 1:30 p.m.:** Women's Basketball Alumni game. The first such game in some time will pit the women's team against nine former Pioneer standouts, including former Division III All-America Missy Sharer '91, and feature an intriguing Veit vs. Veit matchup (sisters Sara '01 and Anna '05). "This is the first time in the last few years that we've had enough alumni interested in coming back," said the younger Veit. "I think they are returning because it is the last season in Darby and because they are excited to see the rising program." —Joe Geni

**CORRECTION:** In the Nov. 7 issue of the *S&B*, it was implied that Adam Beals '06 is running at Regionals. In fact, he is Grinnell's alternate and is not scheduled to run. Hence the self-described training regimen of White Russians and bowling.

## Impressive end for volleyball at conference

Pioneers avenge loss to Knox in first round and scare St. Norbert and Monmouth, before falling

by Joe Geni

With the game and the season on the line, there was no deep, moving motivational speech, no 'Win One For the Gipper.' Just more volleyball.

Knox had just tied their first-round playoff matchup at two sets apiece, and, facing a fifth and deciding set against a team that had beaten them just a week earlier, the Pioneers didn't need anyone to tell them what to do.

"We knew that we could do it, and we just had to go out and execute, and we did," said outside hitter Leslie Turner '07. "It wasn't anything profound said, we knew we had a job to do, and we knew we could do it, so we did."

Grinnell squeezed out an 18-16 win in the final set, eliminated the Prairie Fire and advanced to the next round, where it gave top-seeded St. Norbert a scare before falling in four sets and playing tough against Monmouth before succumbing in three.

"As a whole, we accomplished the goals we set to accomplish," said Turner of Grinnell's showing. "No one hung their heads and we finished on a positive note."

After beating Knox, Grinnell took the first set from St. Norbert 30-26, before dropping the next three 26-30, 21-30 and 20-30. Co-captain and

opposite hitter Claire Matheny '03.5 called the initial triumph over the Green Knights "the highlight of the tournament for us."

The next day against third-seeded Monmouth, Grinnell was swept but lost its sets by four, three and three points.

"I was actually satisfied with the way we played at conference," said middle hitter Betsey Blanche '05. "I think we were all a little worried going into it, but we knew we could beat Knox because we'd played them close the weekend before. And St. Norbert we just all hate, so we wanted to play well [against them]."

The Pioneers can rest assured that at the very least they wore the Green Knights out, as St. Norbert fell in the ensuing round and failed to repeat as conference champ on its home turf. Instead, that honor went to Lake Forest in an upset-filled tournament that featured a championship round between the fifth-seeded Foresters and seventh-seeded Carroll.

What this week's results mean for upcoming seasons is unclear, but Grinnell at least is looking to move up next year, returning key players such as Turner, Blanche, outside hitter Tamrah Collins '07, and setter Lara Janson '05.

Carroll's tailback Tony Salvage racked up the yards, with 195 on 41 carries and three touchdowns, and helped Carroll earn a 10-minute edge in time of possession. Grinnell's secondary recorded four interceptions in the game, one each by Winton (the team leader in that category with five), Stafford, Pedersen, and Antonio Harrison '05. Grinnell turned two of their turnovers into touchdowns, while Carroll turned two of Grinnell's five turnovers into touchdowns of its own.

"I think this has been one of the toughest seasons we have had to deal with mentally," Greg Wallace said. "So many games have hinged on one or two plays."

Grinnell may have lost seven of its nine games this season, but has been outscored by an average of only 5.9 points per game this season. In Saturday's contest, Grinnell led 14-7 at the break but lost the second half battle 20-6. As is the case with many of Grinnell's games, consistency between halves was an issue.

"Carroll was just executing," Blake said, "and in the second half, unlike the first, we as a total defense just stopped coming off the ball, which has been a strong point for us all year."

"That's a good core that we're going to have," said Turner of the team's returning players. "Coach is going to bring in a lot of talent. I think we're going to be pretty good. We can only improve, so I'm excited."

"I think we do have a good team dynamic overall," said Blanche, "and of course it will hurt to lose our seniors. But we have a pretty solid team, we're young and inexperienced, but hopefully we can pull it together next year and have a winning season."

Grinnell finished 7-27 overall and 2-7 in the Midwest Conference.

"It was a lot of up-and-down play throughout the season, and looking back it would have been better if we had had more consistency," said Matheny. "But I think that we all learned a lot and the team is relatively young and has a lot of potential for the future."

"I know the seniors are grateful for having gotten to play volleyball for Grinnell. We would have liked to have had more in the win column, but we recognize that we had a lot of close games, and we were always able to finish. We know we were at the level of most of the teams we played, and we know that when we were on our game, we were really good."