



Seniors close careers with a win



Pioneer offensive players (in black) block downfield for senior running back Adam Wallace, Grinnell's all-time leading rusher. Needing 155 yards to pass the 1,000 yard mark for the season, Wallace got 173 on 44 carries, and two second-half touchdowns in a 21-11 win over Beloit. photo by Kat Pickens

Grinnell's all-time leading rusher goes over 1000 yards for the year and Grinnell ends a frustrating season with a 21-11 triumph over Beloit

by Kevin Byrne

The Grinnell Pioneer football team had a chance to end their season on a positive note, and unlike some tight Midwest Conference games this season, they did not let this one slip away.

On a cold, drizzly Senior Day, the Pioneers downed the Beloit Buccaneers 21-11 to gain their second conference win of the season.

The story of the day was the seniors, in particular Adam Wallace, who needed only 155 rushing yards to reach the 1,000-yard mark for the year.

"The win was obviously the most important thing for me and for the team," Wallace said. "The 1,000 yards was a goal for me and for the whole offense, so to get that was important also."

Wallace ended up with 173 yards on 44 carries, and rushed for two touchdowns behind a rejuvenated offensive line that did not allow a sack

all day and helped Grinnell hold the ball for nearly 38 minutes.

"The 1,000 yards was really a team accomplishment," Wallace continued. "There is no way I could have ever reached that mark without the rest of the offense and the defense. It was an accomplishment that I am very proud of and I know my teammates are very proud of it too, because they played a large role in getting those yards."

Neither team put up any points in the first quarter of play, as the teams traded punts. Grinnell went into the half with a 7-3 lead, thanks to a great read on a botched field goal attempt. Quarterback Trey Raney '05 could not field the low snap, but picked up the ball, and looked toward the end zone. Kicker Bud Baumgartner '07, despite wearing a cast on one hand, alertly ran to the goal line and received the five yard pass from Raney for the score. This bizarre play capped off

the Pioneer's longest drive of the season, a 22-play, 95-yard march that ate up nine and a half minutes of the clock. The touchdown reception, coupled with the conversion of all three extra points earned Baumgartner the award of Midwest Conference special teams Player of the Week.

"Trey and I both had to make a heads-up play," Baumgartner said, "and he threw a nice easy lob to me for the touchdown. I turned around and saw I was in the end zone and it felt great. It was pretty exciting, to say the least. It felt even better to be helping my senior teammates collect a win in their last football game."

The unorthodox score gave the Pioneers some momentum, and scarcely five minutes into the third period Wallace's 3-yard score made it 14-3.

The defense chipped in as well, holding the visitors to under 300 yards of total offense, and allowed the fewest points by a Pioneer opponent since Sept. 27. The Pioneers were led by senior linebacker Mike Herbin, who had 10 tackles, including a sack. Herbin and the rest of the defensive unit held Beloit's vaunted rushing attack in check.

"It was a huge defensive challenge," Herbin said. "They have one of the best rushing offenses in the

conference. They line-up in these beast running formations and try to just ram it down your throat. My main focus is trying to stop their running game. So going up against this team in particular was a great opportunity to end my career just the way I wanted. It was awesome."

Grinnell scored again on another Wallace touchdown run to put them ahead 21-3. The defense held Beloit to eight points in the final quarter, and kept them out of the end zone until the final two minutes of the contest, thanks to 11 tackles in the game by Antonio Harrison '05, and interceptions by senior Josh Peterson and sophomore Leo Martin.

The victory came in front of 570 boisterous parent and student supporters, and the scene after the game was an emotional one.

"The fans were as good as they get," Adam Wallace said. "In my career here at Grinnell there has never been a crowd quite as large and loud as there was this past Saturday. They really played a large part in our victory and I'm proud, and I know the rest of the seniors are also proud, to be a part of a college that supports their team like they did on Saturday."

"Going up against this team in particular was a great opportunity to end my career just the way I wanted. It was awesome."

—Mike Herbin '03

Swimming's laid-back opening week only a precursor for harder meets to come

Swimming has had its fun and now it's done; Loras and Chicago are on deck after a weekend of Morningside and Alumni

by Josh Cooley

Peter Brown '06 has the third-fastest 100 meter freestyle in the history of Grinnell men's swimming, but swimming the 100m freestyle as anchor leg of 400 yard medley relay, Brown cost his teammates the race.

That's because Brown was swimming for the other team. Morningside's men's team only had three members, not enough to field a complete relay squad, so Brown swam as their fourth member.

This lack of competition in last Friday's duel meet was evident on both the men's and women's sides. The women won 161-66, while the men secured a 155-45 victory, winning all but two events. Both Grinnell teams had many of their swimmers compete as "exhibition entries," so as not to pile up the score on Morningside.

"The team did really well considering there was no competition to push us," said Sarah Stayer '06.

Several members posted times which put them on Grinnell's all-time top twenty list for their event. Kevin Wood's time of 54.18 in the 100 fly moved him into the No. 6 spot. For the women, Julia McHugh's ('07) win in the 100 backstroke gave her the No. 10 spot

on that list. On the boards, Grinnell was successful despite competing against themselves on both the men's and women's sides, as Morningside did not field any divers. Stayer provisionally qualified for nationals on both the 1m and 3m boards and believes her fellow first-year divers also performed well.

"I'm really proud of our freshmen," she said. "They had a really good showing for their first college meet."

Both teams celebrated their victories over Morningside during Alumni Weekend. The festivities were highlighted by the diving teams' combined dancing-diving-synchronized swimming performance to Madonna's "Like a Prayer."

Another highlight was the all-sibling relay composed of Joanne and Julie Perino ('06 and '06), Rachel and Alicia Sellon ('04 and '07), Darryl and Jeremy Neufeld ('05 and '02) and Nate and Todd Kimball ('07 and '02). Nate Kimball's invention of the "backward dolphin kick" was a riot and the 200 Free relay between the current swimmers and the alums was also a hit.

"Our guys were winning," said Miller, "so one of the alums jumped in the water at the far end of the pool and grabbed Peter Brown's

('06) leg so as to slow him down. Peter simply shook himself free and won the race with the alum chasing after him in his own lane."

The Pioneers now begin an intense weekend of back-to-back meets. Tonight, at 7 p.m. at home, they face Loras, whose squads both the men's and women's sides have defeated the past two years. The following day they travel to Chicago to compete against the University of Chicago.

"We are looking forward to the competition that Loras and University of Chicago have to offer," said co-captain Mike Miller '04. "This is the weekend when people start to come into their own, and as a team we start to plant guys on the conference leader boards," he said.

"Our conference meet in February is a three-day meet, so it is important to have some back-to-back competitions," said Hurley, explaining her motivations for having her swimmers compete with physical fatigue. "Hopefully we will be really tough in February because of this preparation."

The divers will feel the mental fatigue and the repetition of the two meets, but Stayer is excited about the additional opportunity to practice her routine.

"I want to improve and competing is one of the best ways to do that," she said.

"Hopefully we will be really tough in February because of this preparation."

—Erin Hurley, coach



Sibling power not enough for cross country at Regionals

Record-setting day for Adam ('07) and Erin Booth ('04), but neither team qualifies for Nationals

by Kevin Byrne

It wasn't the best day to be a Grinnell runner, but it was a good day to have the last name Booth.

Adam Booth '04 and younger sister Erin Booth '07 set new Grinnell records in the 8k and 6k, respectively, when Grinnell hosted the NCAA Regionals on Nov. 15 at Oakland Acres. Neither team qualified for Nationals, however, with the men finishing seventh of 22 teams, and the women finishing 12th of 23 teams.

On the men's side, Booth was the only member of the team to qualify for the NCAA Championships in Hanover, Ind., on Nov. 23. Booth finished second in the race, with a time of 24:29, only 19 seconds behind the winner of the event, Josh Moen, a junior from Wartburg.

"I didn't get to spike anyone in the face or punch anyone in the kidney because I got out of the pack earlier than I expected," Booth commented, "but that lack of wholesome fun set aside, it was an alright race. It got the job done."

Other members of the men's team also got the job done, posting good times. David Honig '06 was the second Pioneer to finish for the men, with a time of 25:24, good for 16th place overall. Omondi Kasidhi '05 placed 43rd, with a career best time of 26:17, and Mitch Herz placed 47th. The Grinnell men did not get the team scoring they were hoping for, and did not qualify for Nationals as a group. However, the seventh-place finish did cap off a successful year for the team.

"We might not always achieve our official goals," Honig said, "but considering the type of people I run with and the nature of the program, each season is more than

worth the work."

The women also put in their fair share of work this season, running to 12th place finish behind the record setting feet of Erin Booth. Grinnell's new all-time fastest 6k runner raced to a 19th place finish with a time of 22:57. She was presented with an All-Region award for her race. Booth was followed by Stephanie Meleady '03 (23:29), who finished 39th, and Paige Wheeler '07 (24:16), who finished 72nd.

"I think the women's team had an amazing season," Erin Booth said. "Some races were better than others, but the team dynamic more than made up for the not so good races. We have terrific runners, and a lot of team support."

Women's head coach Evelyn Freeman was happy about the way her runners performed and competed Saturday and the entire season.

"We were very pleased with the meet on Saturday," Coach Freeman said. "The women ran an aggressive race and finished with fast times. We finished five places ahead of last year in the team standings. It was a great way to finish off what has been a thoroughly enjoyable season with a group of 38 dedicated and hard working women."

Adam Booth will head out to Hanover, Indiana in hopes of putting up another fast time at Nationals. For the rest of the men and women cross-country runners, next year is now the focus, with both teams returning a lot of talent.

"We return a strong team for next year," Evelyn Freeman said, "and they are already excited and looking forward to the 2004 season."

"The tournament field will be extremely competitive. The tournament is always a series of three hard-fought games."

—coach Heather Benning

On Deck

Grinnell Tipoff Tournament

Grinnell women's basketball opens up their 2003-04 campaign with the Grinnell Tipoff Tournament today and tomorrow in Darby Gym. Also featured at the tournament are Upper Iowa, Westminster, and Minnesota-Morris. Grinnell will get the latter of those teams in the first round at 8 p.m. tonight. A win propels them into a 4 p.m. date with the winner of the other game on Saturday; a loss puts them in the consolation bracket at 2 p.m.

Nov. 21

6 p.m. Upper Iowa vs. Westminster

8 p.m. GRINNELL vs. Minnesota-Morris

Nov. 22

2 p.m. Consolation Game
4 p.m. Championship Game