

South side story

Grinnell needs conference victories in the South Division race and hopes to get them when they face North Division foes at the Midwest Crossover Tourney

by Joe Geni

When Grinnell softball heads to Janesville, Wis. for the Midwest Crossover Tournament this year, they might as well replace the team's Honor G logo with a bullseye.

That's because the Pioneers beat all five teams in the Midwest Conference North Division at last season's Crossover Tourney, and faces them all again this time.

"Last year we won all five games," explained second baseman Lorraine Gaynor '04. "But the year before we lost all five games, so last year was a big surprise. So I think we'll be a target this year."

In the Crossover Tournament, each team in the South Division faces each team from the North Division. The Pioneers, a South Division team, will face Northern foes Lawrence, Ripon, St. Norbert, Beloit and Carroll in a two-day span on Saturday and Sunday. Grinnell needs conference wins of any kind after losing its first four of the season earlier in the month.

"The games are pretty important but not as important as the South Division games," said centerfielder Karyn Wieland '06. "We still go into it looking to win all of them. Last year we won all of them and

that kind of shocked a lot of people, so this year people will be coming after us."

Grinnell's opposition may be smelling blood after Grinnell extended its losing streak to eight after being swept by Simpson and William Penn at its own Hy-Vee Invitational this past weekend. The Pioneers lost 6-3 to William Penn and 7-0 to Simpson on Apr. 10, then 4-1 to Simpson and 3-1 to Penn the next day. Still, the numbers may be deceiving.

"They're going to be good teams," said Gaynor of this weekend's opponents, "but I think that we're ready. William Penn and Simpson are both really good programs, and maybe better than the teams we're facing this weekend."

"I think we may have a bit of an advantage because the teams we've been playing the last couple weeks have been pretty tough," said Wieland, "so coming into this weekend we have a lot of experience with good pitching and we should do pretty well."

Grinnell hasn't won a game in the month of April, but with only a pair of doubleheaders under their belts in conference play thus far, there's still plenty left on the schedule. After this weekend's action, the Pioneers host William Penn again on

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—Karyn Wieland '06

A win and they're in; Tennis aims for playoffs

A victory over Knox gives tennis a South Division sweep and a top spot in the playoff brackets

by Emanuel Andras

With one more victory, the Grinnell men's tennis team will claim its fourth consecutive Midwest Conference South Division title.

On Saturday, the team faces a tough doubleheader against Knox College and Luther College. If the Pioneers manage to defeat Knox, they will sweep the South Division and clinch the number one seed for the team tournament.

"The Knox match will be a big one this weekend for two reasons," said team captain Jim Finnessy '04. "In beating Knox, we will sweep the South Division and we'll be guaranteed to be number one seed out of the south for the team tournament. Also, a victory over Knox would be our 20th win of the season."

The competition promises to be intense though. Head coach Andy Hamilton claims "the most important match on Saturday [will be against] Knox." However, the Pioneers do not expect the Prairie Fire to be as strong as the competition that they have faced over the last several weeks. Indeed, Finnessy boasted, "I'm pretty confident that we'll stick it to them on Saturday."

The Prairie Fire currently hold a 2-1 record in the South Division, having recently lost to Lake Forest. Grinnell, at 3-0, is a game ahead of them. Neither team has clinched a playoff berth, but Grinnell can clinch the top spot with a win.

"Even if we lose we have a chance to advance," said Hamilton, but Grinnell would prefer to have its playoff fate in its own hands. "We will be focused. We beat Knox twice last season, 4-3, and this year

they are weaker and we are stronger."

Hamilton is also wary of Luther, describing it as "a very good team," and "talent wise, the second best in the Iowa Conference." Both matches will be played at home on the new tennis courts on Saturday at 12:00 and 3:30 pm, respectively.

Grinnell may be facing tough competition, but it has momentum in its favor. After two victories this weekend, the Pioneers have achieved a school-record 19 victories against only five defeats (the previous mark was 15 wins), and have won six straight. Last Friday, the Pioneers beat Ripon 5-2 and on the next day demolished Lawrence 7-0, for a pair of critical conference wins.

"Going into the season, we figured that Lawrence would be our toughest competition for a conference championship," said Finnessy, "but they are currently missing three of their top six starters. With the loss of those three players, our traditional rival Ripon will most likely be our toughest challenge in the conference tournament."

Playing on Friday against a Ripon Red Hawks team that had bested them for the past nine years in the regular season, Eli Best '07, Rick Fenbert '06, Brij Patnaik '05 and Julian West '06 provided solid play, winning their respective singles matches. Grinnell's doubles wins came from the duo of Patnaik/Shihan Abeygunawarda '05, and Kushal Shah '06/Eric Ohrn '07. The next day, team captain Jim Finnessy '04, Best, Fenbert, Patnaik, West and Shah continued the winning streak at singles, while Patnaik/Abeygunawarda and Shah/Ohrn defeated their Lawrence doubles opponents.



Shortstop Lindsey LaPointe '04 dives for a catch during a drill at practice on Tuesday. Her first year at Grinnell she was the softball team's Rookie of the Year and Co-Best-Offense, and this year she is second on the team in RBIs and third in hits. photo by Jillian Caly

Schedule

April	
10 WILLIAM PENN	L 6-3
SIMPSON	L 7-0
11 SIMPSON	L 4-1
WILLIA M PENN	L 3-1
17-18 MIDWEST CROSSOVER TOURNAMENT	
17 Lawrence	11 a.m.
Ripon	2 p.m.
St. Norbert	4 p.m.
18 Beloit	11 a.m.
Carroll	1 p.m.
20 William Penn	3:30 p.m.

April 20 before travelling to play critical conference games at Monmouth and Illinois College next weekend. Grinnell currently stands at 5-12, 0-4 Midwest Conference.

The team also feels upbeat about its offensive situation, a concern heading into last weekend. Despite scoring just five runs in four games, the players feel that their hitting game is improving.

"I think we saw a lot of improvement also last weekend but there's definitely room

for more," said Wieland. "We weren't hitting as consistently as we all hoped, but we did have some clutch hits, and we've all been making better contact with the ball." Wieland also described the pitching rotation the Pioneers ran into over the weekend as "probably some of the best we'll see all season."

"I think the hitting started to come around this past weekend," Gaynor concurred, "and hopefully it will even more this weekend."

Track hosts Dick Young

The 14th Dick Young Classic will feature 11 schools, a pair of conference contending Pioneer track teams and Dick Young himself

by Kevin Byrne

"Our team loves the Dick. It's big, and many come for it. Although it can be long and hard, it's a great chance to perform for the student body."

This statement, made by sophomore distance runner Dave Honig '06, is of course referring to Grinnell's home track meet, the Dick Young Classic. Named after the very successful former Grinnell track coach, Dick Young, the annual meet is in its 14th year. Coach Young, who is now 80 years old, will be in attendance and at approximately 1:15, will be honored in a short presentation at the finish line.

The meet will take place on Grinnell's state-of-the-art track and field facilities located just north of the football field. The events will commence at 9 a.m. with the 10k race, and will continue throughout the day until approximately 4:30 p.m. Grinnell will host and compete against teams such as Clarke, Colorado College, Coe, Cornell, Iowa Wesleyan, Knox, Midland Lutheran, Mt. Mercy, Simpson and William Penn.

Coaches and players alike understand the importance of the season's home meet.

"[The Dick Young] is usually our only meet at home unless we are hosting conference and there's something to be said for a 'home court advantage,'" said women's coach Evelyn Freeman. "We do back off the training a bit during the week before the meet so we can perform well at home."

Both the men's and women's teams will have some numbers from last week to try to improve upon. Grinnell traveled to Wartburg, for the school's invitational track meet, and had some good performances that can be used as a measuring stick for this upcoming weekend of competition. Yaw Nti-Addae '04 won the men's long jump with a

distance of 20'11.75", and Chad Rapp '07 threw 132'3" in the discus, which ended up being one of the best throws in the conference this season. Adam Booth '04 and Justin Riley '06 put up respectable times in the 5k (15:01.31 and 15:13.55), and Honig ran only three seconds behind Josh Moen of Wartburg in the 1500m race. Moen was last year's Division III champion in the race.

"It was exciting to finish close to a fast runner like Moen," said Honig. "My season is starting to come around."

On the women's side, Renata Heberton '06 had personal bests in the pole vault (8'6") and discus (100'0"), while Liz Jarvis '04 ran the 800m in 2:30.86, good for fifth in the conference. Maria Stanislav '04 performed well for the Pioneers, posting her top numbers of the season in all of her events: the long jump (14'11.5"), triple jump (33'1"), and pole vault (9'6.25"). Hurdler Anna Veit '05 is now ranked fifth in the conference in the 400 IM hurdles with her time of 72.7.

All of these performances are a good sign for the Pioneers as they head into one of their most important meets of the season. The team hopes that the home crowd should give the athletes the boost they need to perform at a high level.

"We get terrific support from the student body as close to 80 students volunteer to work as officials at the meet and support their friends on the track team," said Evelyn Freeman. "We go into most meets attempting to improve our performances from meet to meet. Competing at home in front of the campus community is a rare occurrence for us during the season and does make it more special than when competing out of town."

"[The Dick Young] is usually our only meet at home ... and there's something to be said for a 'home court advantage.'"

—Evelyn Freeman



**Cueno wins
St. Louis
Marathon**

Over the weekend, former NCAA Division III National Champion and Grinnell track star Nicole Cueno '02 took first place in the women's division of the St. Louis Marathon. As a junior at Grinnell, she was the outdoor 1500m National Champion. As a senior, she was runner-up at the championships in both the 5000m and 10,000m races.

The marathon marked her third since graduating and her first overall win. She completed the course in 2:55:50, improving upon her previous best finish of 2:57:57.

Cueno joins John Aerni '01 and Noah Lawrence '02 as recent graduates and Pioneer track team members who have been the overall winners in either their first or first of three marathons. Aerni won Cincinnati's Flying Pig Marathon (2:27:42) last May, while Lawrence won Madison's Mad City Marathon (2:37:57) in May, 2002.

On the same Saturday as Cueno's win, Grinnellian Heather May '92 competed in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Team Trials in St. Louis and finished 43rd overall (2:46:37). May did not compete in cross-country or track while a Grinnell student. In fact, she did not begin running until she was 28 years old and with a Masters degree in hand.

—Sports Information

Going the distance

For Alvin Irby '07, years of training culminated in a qualification for Monday's Boston Marathon

by Sara Millhouse

Today, Alvin Irby '07 is leaving to run the Boston Marathon.

Irby will join thousands of other runners on Monday in the country's largest and most prestigious long-distance race.

"All of it wouldn't have been possible without God," said Irby.

Irby began training for his first marathon, the Little Rock Marathon, after he began observing the Sabbath his senior year of high school, which includes, for him, not competing on Saturdays, when almost all of his high school track meets were scheduled. After running track since his first year of high school, he had to find something else toward which to direct his training.

There's lot of strategy involved in marathon training, and Irby learned it on his own. He looked for training tips on the internet, and began running about seven miles every day, with a longer run on the weekend.

"I'd only known one person who'd ever run a marathon," he said. "I'm on a do-what-you-feel program, but when I go out there, I work hard."

Compared to running with his high school track or cross-country teams, training for the Little Rock marathon was "lonely," he said, he had the opportunity to run with Eric Gross, Arkansas state record-holder for the mile.

"He was one of my motivators in high school," said Irby. "My goal was not getting lapped by him."

At the Little Rock Marathon, Irby ran his 26 miles and 385 yards in three hours and eight minutes, just under the 3:10

qualifying time for Boston. "I'm hoping to do it in under three at Boston," he said.

Running around Little Rock was a little different than training in the Grinnell area.

"It's been awesome being in nature, and seeing cows and dogs, and having dogs chase you, and jumping over a fence, and cutting your hand, and having the dog chase you for a mile and a half... until the owner comes up and starts yelling, 'Daisy, get in the truck!'" he said. "The people are nice, having people on tractors wave at you, but it's so different from the city, where there's lots of traffic, and people you know going by in cars and waving at you."

Still, training in Grinnell hasn't been too lonely. Irby has spent lots of time running the ropes with the Grinnell track and cross country teams.

"They've been awesome," he said. "In the winter, it's important to run with people. The lowest it ever gets in Little Rock is in the single digits. Here, you come in after a couple-hour run and people look at you crazy. You don't even

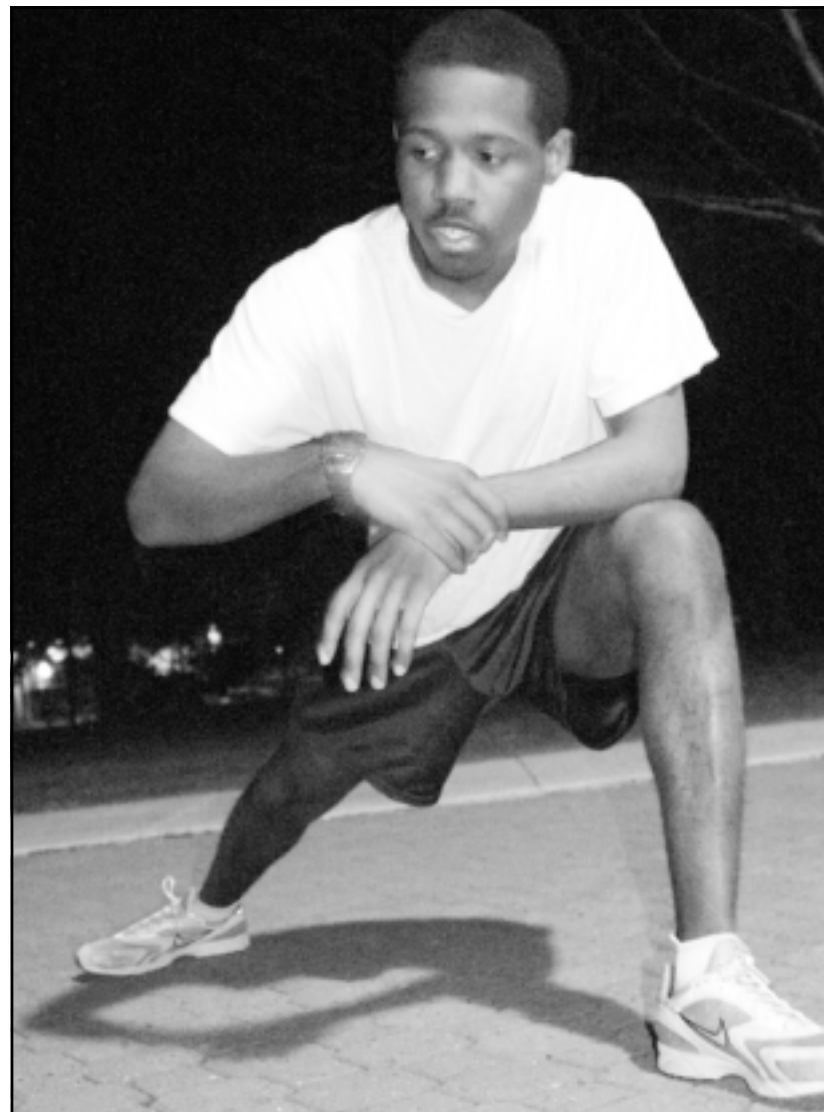
realize you have icicles hanging off your face."

In order to help pay for his trip, Irby fundraised some in Little Rock, and a Grinnell sponsor donated the price of his plane ticket.

After working up to two and a half mile runs, he's been "tapering" for the last three weeks, running less mileage in order to re-energize his body. "I'll start drinking lots of fluids, and carbo-loading," he said. "That's to get glucose in your muscles, and wire weight. The last time I ran a marathon I lost four pounds."

"The lowest [temperature] it ever gets in Little Rock is in the single digits. Here, you come in after a couple-hour run and ... don't even realize you have icicles hanging off your face."

—Alvin Irby '07



Alvin Irby '07 stretches in preparation for the Boston Marathon on Monday. Irby, who qualified with a time of three hours and eight minutes, hopes to break the three hour mark at Boston.
photo by Jillian Caly

In Boston, Irby will visit a friend, who is running on the Naval Academy marathon team, as well as see the town and look for a church to attend for Saturday services. "When I ran at Little Rock, I couldn't get to bed until after one," he said. "So I'm going to get lots of sleep the night before."

Irby will return to campus on Tuesday, after staying with a "friend of a friend" for the weekend. "They tell me that I have to get on the 'T' to get to her place, which is some kind of subway," he said. "I've never been on a subway in my life, but I get in at 4:30, and she doesn't get home 'til 7:30, so I've got three hours to figure it out."

Irby first got into running in high school as a way of getting into shape for football.

"Nobody believes I was an obese little kid," he said. "Getting into shape was awful. My lungs burned and everywhere was sore."

But after his first year of high school and a summer running track with the Amateur Athletic Union in Little Rock, he started to enjoy it. "I could run track, or I could get hit by guys twice my size," he said, moving his hands as a hypothetical scale. Irby chose running.

Irby plans to run in next year's August Enemy, scheduled for a Friday at Grinnell, as well as possibly running the Chicago Marathon. But before he thinks too much about that, he's got another 26 miles and 385 yards to go.



John Beach '04 puts out Knox batter Neil Macgruder at first base in Saturday's doubleheader. Beach went one for three in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader, where the Pioneers rallied from a 5-0 deficit to win 9-8. Beach also had a hit, a walk, and a run scored in the second game, but the Pioneers lost by an 11-5 margin, leaving them with a 1-3 conference record heading into this weekend's action.
photo by Margaret Toomey

Baseball splits with Knox

Pioneers play Prairie Fire again on Apr. 22, in the heat of the playoff race

by Josh Cooley

It was only the bottom of the second and the Pioneers were down 0-5 to the Prairie Fire.

But after an inning where Kevin Byrne '06, Chris Villa '05 and Lenny Gomez '07 hit back-to-back-to-back doubles, and Gomez stole home, the Pioneers posted the biggest comeback of any team this season in the MWC, reeling off eight unanswered runs before holding on for a 9-8 victory. Grinnell had nine runs on 12 hits and only one error.

But the Pioneers let the second game of the doubleheader get away from them. Grinnell was leading 1-0 after two innings, but Knox took a two run lead in the third inning and never looked back. The Pioneer pitchers struggled, walking eight batters. The Prairie Fire ended up winning 11-5.

"We just didn't come out and play sharp baseball the entire game," said co-captain Matt Teeters '05.

In their doubleheader this past Tuesday against Central, the Pioneers dropped two non-conference games, leaving their record at 9-13, 1-3 Midwest Conference. In the first game, after scoring three runs in the top of the fifth,

Grinnell was up 4-3. But they couldn't hold their lead, and Central pulled out a 5-4 win in the bottom of the sixth. In the second game, Central defeated Grinnell 11-3.

"We just beat ourselves," said head coach Tim Hollibaugh of Grinnell's performance in the second game against Central. "It's key that you get that first game, so you can get some momentum going," he added. On Saturday, the Pioneers will face conference rival Illinois College, in a doubleheader, which according to Teeters will "make or break the season." On Sunday, the Pioneers square off against Macalester at home. The following Thursday they will play a rematch against conference-rival Knox. The Prairie Fire split their last series with the Pioneers, but the Pioneers, currently ranked 1-3 in the MWC South Division, need to win both games to move up in the conference standings.

"As long as we start rolling along in the conference then we'll be okay," said Andrew Pyle '07. "It's just a matter of us getting things together and playing to our ability. We know we can play with and beat all the teams in the conference. If we just get a little winning streak going we'll be all right."