

2010 Hall of Fame Class Features National Champion



From launch to landing, Debby Volkert Gleason is an icon. She's known as, hands down, the best female high jumper in Augustana history.

Gleason, the first female in Augustana track and field history to win a national championship, heads the College's Hall of Fame class for 2010.

Gleason, originally from Primghar, Iowa, pushed the school record to new heights from the moment she arrived on campus. As a sophomore she joined the elite Division II jumpers with consecutive wins at the University

of South Dakota Open, the Bill Hillerbrand Invitational, and the Flagstaff Invitational hosted by Northern Arizona University.

On March 7, 1997, she wrote a new chapter in school track history by clearing 5-10½ at the NCAA Division II indoor track championships to become the Vikings' first female track athlete to win an event at the national level.

She was named the North Central Conference female track athlete of the week after setting school, meet, and South Dakota collegiate records with a winning jump of 6-feet, ½ inch at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays.

She was a two-time NCAA indoor champion and was the outdoor champion in 1997. She was ranked second nationally in 1996 and first in 1997.

Debby, along with her husband, Joey, lives in Owatonna, Minn.

Warren Kersten

At the conclusion of the 1975 football season, Coach Ralph Starenko lauded the Vikings' offensive line as the best group he had ever assembled. A key member of that unit was guard Warren Kersten, who was chosen to the All-North Central Conference team. The 1975 team posted a 7-3 record, the best finish for the Vikings since 1942. Augustana was 5-2 in conference play to claim third-place in the final standings. During the regular season the Vikings defeated the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, and North Dakota State University.



Kersten played a pivotal role in protecting quarterback Dee Jay Donlin, who was the top passer in the NCC with 1,194 yards. In addition, Kersten helped see to it that Frank Penza and Tom Rogers had room to run as the duo racked up 1,766 yards rushing.

Warren and his wife, Kate, live in Batavia, Ill.

Jeanne Tostenson

Her considerable skills as a softball player served Jeanne Tostenson well when she entered the coaching ranks.

As an outfielder, she was chosen to the All-North Central Conference team each of her four years at Augustana. In addition, she was twice selected to the North Central Region team. Now, after 11 years as head coach at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, she's the Mavericks' all-time wins leader. With Tostenson in the lineup, Augustana won conference championships in 1992 and 1993. The Vikings claimed the North Central Region title in 1993 and went on to capture runner-up honors at the NCAA Division II championships. In 1993, she set the school record for most-at-bats (252). She hit .337 her freshman year and .378 in each her junior and senior years. She hit .476 and scored the winning run as Augustana won two of three games with Morningside to win the 1993 NCC crown.



She and her husband, Tom, live in Omaha, Neb.

Jeff Fisher

Augustana's 1973 football team came within 17 points of an undefeated season due in part to a defense that yielded just 147 points. The defense featured an experienced backfield led by two-time All-North Central Conference linebacker Jeff Fisher.

Fisher, who was named to the All-Lutheran Team, served as a tri-captain on a defensive unit that intercepted 18 passes. The Vikings set 21 team and individual records and matched four others.

Jeff lives in Vermuda Dunes, Calif.



Stephanie Kjorness Pat Flaherty

At all times, Augustana volleyball opponents had to be aware of where Stephanie Kjorness was positioned on the court. She was an adept defender, but also had a reputation for “killer” serves. For example, in 1993 she led the North Central Conference in service aces per game. On the other side of the net, her career statistics include 87 blocks. When it comes to service aces, no one in Augustana history has more than Kjorness’ 264. She also ranks first in most service aces for a single season (104). She appeared in 434 matches for the Vikings and is fourth on the career list for kills (1,311). Relentless at the net, she is credited with 3,344 attacks, the fourth highest total in the program’s history. She has a career hitting percentage of .243. She was selected to the all-conference team in 1994, and twice was selected conference player of the week. She lives with her husband, Scott, in Verona, Wis.



No matter the weight class he was assigned, Pat Flaherty registered wins in record fashion for the Vikings’ wrestling team. He was a two-time All-America at 142 and 150 pounds, and posted third- and fourth-place finishes in NCAA Division II national competition. In 1976 he set a school record for wins in a season, compiling a 29-7 record.



Augustana’s 1976 team finished sixth at the national tournament and was 11-4 in duals. Flaherty won his weight class at the Augsburg Takedown Tournament, the Southwest Missouri Invitational, and was the runner-up at the North Central Conference meet. In 1977, Flaherty broke his own wins record with 32, had the most pins (12), the most near falls (26), the best dual record (12-0) and the most team points (52).

Pat and his wife, Karen, live in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Scott Beckstrand

From the field and the free-throw line, Scott Beckstrand was a prolific scorer for the Vikings’ basketball team. He remains among the top five in Augustana career scoring with 1,680 points. He was the Vikings’ leading scorer for the 1991-92 season with 555 points. He is second in most points for a single game, putting up 42 against Saint Cloud State in 1991.



He holds the school record for most free-throws made in a season with 196 in 1991-92. He was a perfect 16-for-16 from the stripe against Minnesota State Mankato in 1991. He is in the top 15 in career rebounds (684). He was named to the All-North Central Conference team in 1992 and is a three-time selection to the academic All-NCC team.

Scott and his wife, Haley, live in Sioux Falls.

Harvey, Ole Odney and Lefty Olson Award Winners Announced

Bill Hinks has received the 2010 Milt & Clara Harvey Award. Hinks is a successful businessman who is also well known for his philanthropy. Bill and his wife, Carolyn, established the Hinks Family Endowment for Children in need at Sanford Children’s Hospital. They have generously supported the Children’s Inn, South Dakota Make A Wish, McCrossan’s Boys Ranch, Sioux Empire United Way, the Susan G. Komen Foundation and City of Hope. The Hinks Family Scholarship was established at Augustana in 2006. Bill is the founder of Furniture Outlets USA. He began in 1976 with a single location in Sioux Falls. The company now has 28 retail stores in South Dakota, Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa. Through the years he has developed many friendships with the Augustana staff and teams through his interest and generous support of Viking athletics.



In 2008, Bill and Carolyn received the Tuve Award, Augustana’s highest form of donor recognition.

Mike Ricke has received the 2010 Ole Odney Award. Ricke, ‘96, guided Madison High School to the state Class A boys basketball championship in 2009. The title march ended a 64-year draught for the Bulldogs. Despite graduating much of the firepower from that unit, Ricke and the Bulldogs repeated in 2010. The 2010 team won 25 times and lost just once, pinning the only loss on Sioux Falls Christian’s outstanding team.



Ricke was nominated for boys basketball Coach of the Year by the South Dakota High School Coaches Association, and twice was named Region 2 Coach of the Year by the South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association.

Danny Olson has received the 2010 Lefty Olson Award. For 28 years, Olson provided play-by-play radio coverage for Augustana athletics. He graduated from Luther College in 1949 and came to Sioux Falls three years later as sports director of KIHO-AM radio.

He was the sports voice for KSOO radio from 1956 to 1983, worked full-time for KELO radio from 1984 to 1994, and part-time from 1995-2003. He broadcast state high school basketball tournaments for 50 years and covered the state amateur baseball tournament for 40 years. He was elected South Dakota Sportscaster of the Year eight times, and was inducted into the North Central Conference, the South Dakota High School Basketball Coaches Association, the Sioux Falls YMCA, the State Amateur Baseball Association, the South Dakota Sports, and the Sioux Falls Public Schools Appreciation halls of fame. In 1977, he was the recipient of the first Sportscaster of the Year award by the South Dakota High School Coaches Association. In 1982, he received the Conservation Communicator of the Year award by the National Wildlife Federation and the South Dakota Wildlife Federation. In 1999, he was voted Male Athlete of the Year by the South Dakota Senior Games Association.



The Middleman

Senior Dan Schoen is smack-dab in the middle of Viking football's best start since 1942.

As centers go, Schoen is smallish at 6-foot-1 and 267 pounds. But the Vikings have been on a roll since he earned a starting role at the beginning of the 2009 season.

"I'm undersized, but I do what I can," said Schoen. "It's a fun position and I enjoy having the responsibility of making the line calls."

Schoen could make the calls in Spanish, French, or Arabic. A history and philosophy major, he will graduate in December and is planning to pursue graduate work in Middle Eastern Studies. In preparation, he took an intense course in Arabic at the University of Minnesota in the summer of 2009.

To keep his listening and reading skills sharp, Schoen scanned the Internet for language teachers and found Suzan Muhammad in Cairo, Egypt. Since June, Schoen and Muhammad, have conducted one-on-one language sessions through Skype, a software application for voice and visual contact.

"She is an amazing teacher," Schoen said. "I hope to spend some time in Egypt after December working with her. I want to get to know more about the region and I'll need to know the language."

Schoen's interest in the Middle East intensified as the region became a focus of world attention. "I sure didn't know much about it, but the more I learned the more interested I became."

A career choice isn't solidified; options include teaching and foreign service.

His pursuit of excellence extends to the gridiron, where his battles in the trenches are key to Augustana's success. He doesn't overwhelm opponents with size, but his technique, intensity and heart are off the charts.

"Dan has been an absolute joy to coach. He is as dedicated on the field as he is in the classroom. He accepts nothing but excellence from himself and demands the same from his teammates," said offensive line coach Joe Evenson.

Schoen is a Dean's List student and was chosen to the All-Academic Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference team in 2009. He is the recipient of a Trustees Scholarship and last spring was named winner of the Augustana Covenant Award for Excellence.

Senior Volleyball Player Digs Deep

From locker room pep talks to mission trips to Peru, middle blocker Brianna Erickson is committed to helping others — on and off the court.

Augustana middle blocker Brianna Erickson could be the poster child for what it means to be a student-athlete. She is academic, articulate, and athletic.

The senior from Gurnee, Ill., completed work on her nursing degree in May. In December she will add a Spanish major to her resume. She has twice been named to the All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Academic Team. She was an Augustana Dean's List student for all but one of eight undergraduate semesters.

The double major provides a solid foundation for her career path.

"I've always loved the Spanish language ever since I started taking it in high school," she says. The language served her well on mission trips to Peru and then to Pass Christian, Miss., to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina.

It was on a medical mission to the Dominican Republic that Erickson's future was confirmed.

"We traveled to rural villages where the people had no access to medical care. We saw more than 200 patients a day. The experience fueled my passion to reach out to people who do not have access to what we have."

Before entering the work force, Erickson has another mission. As the only senior on the Augustana volleyball team, she wants to

help her younger teammates to a high finish in the most demanding volleyball conference in NCAA Division II.

"I've never been around a group so passionate about getting better," she says. "There are so many lessons to be learned in such a tough conference and this team comes to practice every day hungry to improve."

Erickson plays a key role from her middle blocker position. Her 14 kills led the team in its first encounter with then No. 1 Minnesota Duluth. The Vikings, who start as many as three freshmen, extended the Bulldogs to five games.

"We have a bunch of fighters," says Erickson, who didn't start playing competitive volleyball until her freshman year in high school. "The girls want to get better. Taking the No. 1 team to five games is not good enough."



Wrestling Team to Continue Last Season's Momentum

Augustana came within an escape of winning the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference championship a year ago. Augustana quickly overcame the disappointment by winning the Super Region 3 crown and battling to runner-up honors at the NCAA Division II National Championships.

In 2010-11, the Vikings have the personnel in place to maintain the momentum generated by last season's strong finish. It starts with Jason Reitmeier, who in 2009-10 was named NSIC and Super Region 3 Coach of the Year.

Now in his eighth season, Reitmeier

has assembled a solid team led by senior Jay Sherer, a two-time All-America who is the reigning Division II national champion at 141 pounds. Seniors Ty Copsey (197) and Gavin Nelson (165), along with sophomores Nate Herda (149) and Marcus Edgington (157) also earned All-America recognition a year ago.

Herda was named NSIC Rookie of the Year, posted a 28-8 record and was 7-0 against conference competition. Edgington was 32-6, and Copsey 21-4. Herda, Edgington, and Copsey were All-NSIC first choices last season, while Sherer (29-9) and Nelson were named to the second team.

Herda, Edgington, and Copsey won their weight classes in the Super Region 3 competition. Copsey was the runner-up at nationals, Herda and Edgington each finished fourth, and Nelson (19-2) was eighth.

In the mix for spots in the lineup are sophomore Austin Carmichael, who posted a 12-9 record a year ago at 149 pounds; senior Chism Fink, 6-6 at 149; junior Jason Jeremiason, 18-6 at 141; junior Cody Lensing, 4-1 at 133; senior Al Meger, 21-11 at 125; junior Matthew Morris, 18-7 at 165; senior Lance Peters, 18-14 at heavyweight; junior Carl Serck, 21-11 at 174; and junior Kyle Svendsen, 9-9 at 157.

Four Starters Return for Women in 2010-2011

"They're back" is a famous line from the movie *Poltergeist* that can be applied to Augustana's 2010-11 women's basketball team.

Four starters and a total of seven players who appeared in all 31 games a year ago return for the 2010-11 campaign. The Vikings posted a 24-7 record last season, finished in a tie for second place in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, and advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Division II Central Region Tournament before losing to No. 1 seed Fort Lewis College.

Krauth enters his 22nd campaign at the Viking helm. His 424-192 won-loss record is unmatched in school history.

Megan Doyle,
5-foot-8
senior

from Alexandria, S.D., and Molly Hayes, 5-6 junior from Sioux Falls, are one of the top guard combinations in Division II. Doyle was an All-NSIC first team selection a year ago, while Hayes, who missed the entire 2008-09 campaign following knee surgery, was chosen to the second team.

Doyle led the Vikings in scoring (14.6 points a game). She was second in rebounds (165), first in assists (164), and shared the top spot for steals with Hayes (60). Hayes averaged 11.2 points a game to go along with 156 assists and 120 rebounds.

At one forward Augustana returns the 2009-10 NSIC Freshman of the Year in 6-foot sophomore Alex Feeny (Bismarck, N.D.), who was also selected to the Division II Bulletin All-Freshman Team. She averaged 10.3 points a game, led the team in rebounds (174) and blocked 29 shots.

Faith Tinklenberg, 5-11 junior from Pipestone, Minn., averaged nine points a game and collared 150 rebounds.

Tessa Wilka (Sioux Falls), a 5-11 senior guard, Liz Helsper (Brookings, S.D.), 5-10 senior forward, and Katie VanDuynhoven (Mankato, Minn.), 6-0 junior center, played in all 31 games.

Men's Hoopsters Poised for Breakthrough Campaign

Anything is possible with Cody Schilling in the lineup.

Tom Billeter's 2010-11 Augustana Vikings are billed as a "possible breakthrough" team in *Sporting News'* NCAA Division II Preseason Top-10 Poll. Schilling, a preseason All-America honorable mention, is one reason the Vikings are attracting national attention.

Another is Cameron McCaffrey. Last season the 6-foot-2 sophomore from Hillsboro, Ore., stirred Viking followers with some late-game heroics that earned *YouTube* exposure. His season-long performance resulted in Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Freshman of the Year laurels and a spot on the All-Conference second team.

Schilling, a 6-5 junior from Ellsworth, Minn., is the only returning Viking to have started all 31 games a year ago. Named to the All-NSIC first team, he led Augustana in scoring (15.3) and rebounds (5.4). His play was key to the Vikings' 24-7 finish – a school record for wins – and a 15-5 conference mark

good for third place. His efforts resulted in first-team selection to the NABC All-Central District team, as well as Division II Bulletin All-America honorable mention.

As a true freshman, McCaffrey started one game last year but appeared in 30. He averaged 12.9 points a game, registered 57 assists, and shot 43.5 percent from 3-point range. This year he is slated to step in at point guard for the graduated Jordan Dalton.

Both Schilling and McCaffrey were selected to the 2009-10 All-NCAA Central Region Tournament team. The Vikings advanced to the championship game before losing to St. Cloud State.

Augustana also returns experienced "biggs" in 6-7 juniors Nate Truex (Sioux Falls) and Derrick De Zeeuw (Brandon, S.D.). Also returning are defensive specialist Chad Hetterman, 6-4 senior from Johnsbury, Ill., and Leif Nomeland, 6-7 sophomore from Osakis, Minn.

