

SPORTS

A year in Chaparral sports

A look back at all the athletic programs throughout the 2008/2009 season

By **Eli Rodriguez**
Sports Editor

The 2008/2009 athletic season has been filled with excitement, triumph and disappointment. Yet through it all it has been a successful year for COD athletics. Starting in the hot days of August through the below zero temperatures of

winter it seems as the Chaparrals had an impressive team for every changing season.

And although the year has come to an end for the student athletes it's a year round job for the coaches who put together these competitive teams.

Whether it's scouting, recruiting and spring and summer training the job never stops for the COD coaches.

But let's not forget the athletes that competed in

the various sports throughout the year. Their marks whether they be records set or championships won or even just the memories they left on the field, court, track or pool will still be rememberer.

These athletes wore the green and gold with pride and represented COD at the different sporting events but whether they played soccer, football, baseball, softball or ran track in the end they were all Chaparrals.



Photo by Dan Bowers

FOOTBALL

Fred Fimbres brought back a winning attitude to DuPage football and had a successful and a bit odd season. The Chaps won every away game yet came up short in every home game.

They did however beat Grand Rapids at home to reach the in the first round of the playoffs to reach the Regional Championship game. The Chaps lost to Harper but were invited to play in the Graphic Edge Bowl against Ellsworth CC.



Photo by Eli Rodriguez

MEN'S SOCCER

The Chaps men's soccer team with a winning record and was helped by a pool of international players this season.

Under Coach Kelly and Coach Fajkus the Chaps picked up important wins over conference teams Harper, Joliet and Triton. In the Region IV playoff the Chaps hosted Lake County and lost 2-0.



Photo by Eli Rodriguez

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Head coach Jason Hunter and the DuPage women's soccer team had an impressive season finishing with a 15-3-5 record and defeated Joliet 2-1 to capture the Region IV Championship.

The team had three players with ten or more goals in the season. Maricela Ballines scored 13 goals and Kelsey Muruato scored 15 goals. Freshman Ashley Collins led the nation in scoring with 30 goals in 21 games.

Muruato and Collins were also named All-Americans. With a drop in temperature it was time for the winter sports to have their turn.

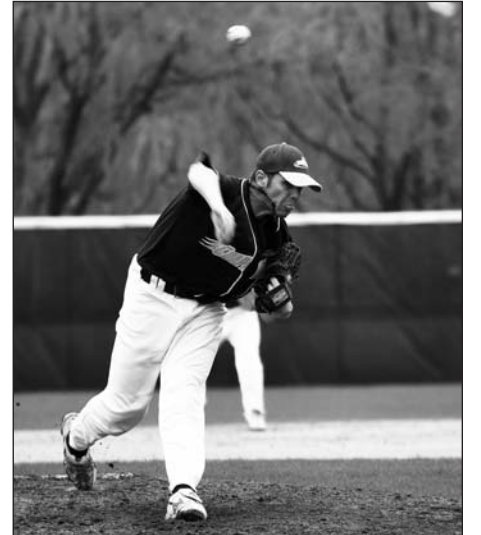


Photo by Amanda Kellermann

BASEBALL

After a rough start the Chaparral baseball team fell into a comfortable groove finishing the season with a 31-21 record. Dan Kusinski has been the head coach for the Chaps since 1999 and ran into a problem early with the depth of the team with only 17 players on the team Kusinski knew he was an injury or two from real trouble. Despite the lack of depth on the team the Chaps finished of with a winning record and look forward to the Region IV Tournament this weekend.



Photo by Amanda Kellermann

SOFTBALL

Coach Connelly and the women's softball team had a dominating season finishing with a 28-10 record. The Lady Chaps defeated Harper, Triton, Joliet and Rock Valley in every conference match up throughout the season.

The team also dominated the Region IV Tournament defeating Harper 13-2 in the first game then Joliet 6-2 in the second and finally Rock Valley 14-2. There were five players named to the All Tournament Team, Erin Stankus, Lauren Schramm, Katie Thomas, Mary Jones and Lyndsey Payne.



Photo by Amanda Kral

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The team started out with a few injury problems but that didn't stop them from stepping up when needed and play some good basketball.

It was an exciting basketball season filled with last second shots, blowouts and some dominating performances. The Chaps ended the regular season with a 19-11 record and took on Truman College in the semi finals of the Region IV tournament.

Then the Chaps moved to the final to face off against Joliet, a team that beat them during the regular season. The Chaps got the win and the Championship title and placed seventh at Nationals.



Photo by Amanda Kral

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball season was an interesting one. The team picked up several important wins but also lost some equally important games.

Head Coach Christopher Cotton and the Lady Chaps finished with a 13-16 record but that didn't stop the team from showing determination in the Region IV tournament.

The Lady Chaps lost to Rock Valley in a close contest by only ten points in the semi finals.

RVC went on to defeat Harper in the final by a score of 83-57 win the tournament.



Photo by Dan Bowers

WOMEN'S TENNIS

After two back-to-back national championships Coach Bowers and the women's tennis team were looking for another successful year when their season opened up in September.

The Lady Chaps set a tone for the rest of their season in the first match against McHenry winning 9-0. After three wins in a row the Lady Chaps lost their first and only game to Elgin.

But the team kept on picking wins ending the season 7-1 winning the Region IV Tournament against Rock Valley 9-0. In Tucson, AZ the DuPage women's tennis team will look to make it three national championships in a row.



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2009 Spring Sports Schedule

SOFTBALL

MAY
Sat., 2 Region IV Tournament at Rock Valley vs. Harper W 13-2, 26-10 vs. Joliet W 6-4, 27-10
Sun., 3 vs. Rock Valley W 14-2, 28-10
Thu., 14 NJCAA Division III Nationals @ Rochester, MN
Fri., 15 NJCAA Division III Nationals @ Rochester, MN
Sat., 16 NJCAA Division III Nationals @ Rochester, MN

Thu., 7 -
Sat. 9 NJCAA Division III National Championship @ Alfred State College (Alfred, NY) 9:00 a.m.

BASEBALL

MAY
Sat., 2 at Kankakee L 0-10, L 0-17
Sun., 3 at MATC-Milwaukee, WI W 4-1, W 13-4
Mon., 4 at MATC-MILWAUKEE, WI W 12-2, W10-0

Tue., 5 NORTH CENTRAL JV 3:00 pm
Fri., 8 Region IV Tournament at Rock Valley vs. Waubonsee 3:00 pm
Sat., 9 tbd tbd
Sun., 10 tbd tbd
Thu., 16 -
Wed., 22 NJCAA Division III World Series at Tyler, TX tbd

WOMEN'S TENNIS

MAY
Sat., 2 -
Thu., 7 NJCAA Division III Nationals at Tucson, AZ

MEN'S TENNIS

MAY
Sun., 10 -
Fri., 15 NJCAA Division III National Tournament at Plano, TX

TRACK & FIELD

APRIL
Sat., 25 Regional Championship Loras College (Dubuque, IA) 10:00 am
MAY
Sat., 2 Badger Open University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI) 12:00 pm

* = Conference Games
Home games in ALL CAPS

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Photo by Eli Rodriguez

MEN'S TENNIS

Coach Bowers coming off an impressive season with the women's side looked to bring that type of winning attitude to the men's team. The team had three returning sophomores Slobodan Jevtovic, Jamon Malan and Carlo Victuelles.

The Chaps opened the season against last year's conference champions Elgin. After a victory against Elgin the team headed to Florida to compete during spring break.

The Chaps finished with a winning record of 4-3 and defeated Rock Valley 7-2 in the Region IV Championship held at COD.

The next test for Bowers and his team is Nationals on May 10-15 in Plano, Texas.



Photo by Amanda Kral

TRACK & FIELD

With the weather being a bit more bearable the track & field team started practicing for what would be an amazing season. The team did well and placed high in the indoor meets but head coach Jane Vatchev saw this as warm ups for the outdoor season and national championships.

Both women's side and men's side had its share of impressive performers. Bethany Ester was one of the standouts in Vatchev's women's side constantly performing well and outdoing herself to get better and better each week. DuPage's track & field team were also fortunate to have some of the best athletes to ever compete here.

Freshman Troy Doris and sophomore Dan Benton were two athletes that never seemed to be outmatched. Doris competes in the triple jump broke several records throughout the season and competed against some tough athletes. Benton who competed in the 200 and 400 races "Ran like a champion" according to Vatchev seemed to always be getting PRs at every new meet.

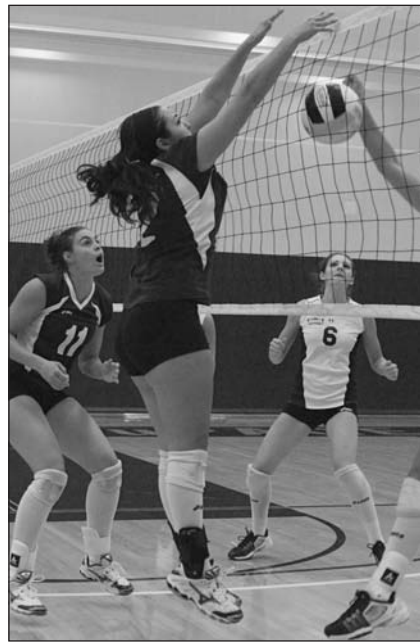


Photo by Dan Bowers

VOLLEYBALL

In the fall of 2008 John Pangan started his fourth year as head coach of the women's volleyball team. It was a young inexperienced team with 11 of the 13 athletes being freshman.

The DuPage volleyball team had its share of struggles competing in a tough conference. The Lady Chaps placed second in the 20 Annual DuPage Invitational. The team was lost to Rock Valley in the Region IV Playoffs.

CROSS COUNTRY

Michael Lucchesi started his first year as head coach of the men and women's cross country team.

To go along with the new coach was a group of new athletes with the majority of them being freshman.

A few of the athletes that competed in cross country also competed in track & field.



Photo by Eli Rodriguez

SWIMMING

The swim team under the coaching of Marc Gamble had their hands full throughout the season. In every meet the team was competing against four-year universities and colleges.

But the swim team showed determination this year and had impressive finishes at meets despite being freshman and sophomore swimmers.

GOLF

Jason Hyatt began his sixth year as the head coach of the golf team.

With a strong core of sophomores including Joe Hraback, Conor Langan, Chris Mortimer, Tim Oates, Jake Saiz and Jeff Wuestenfelf the golf team look to make a name for themselves during the regular season.



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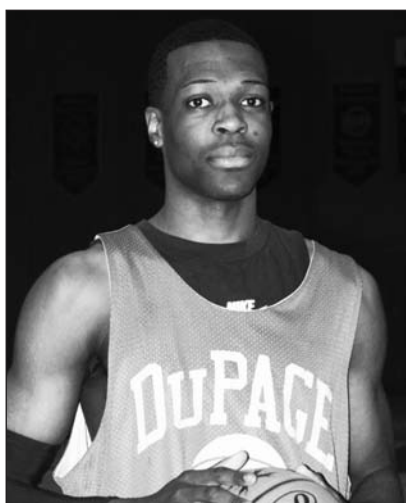
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Athlete of the Year



Name: John Shodipo
Sport: Basketball
Year: Sophomore
School: Lisle

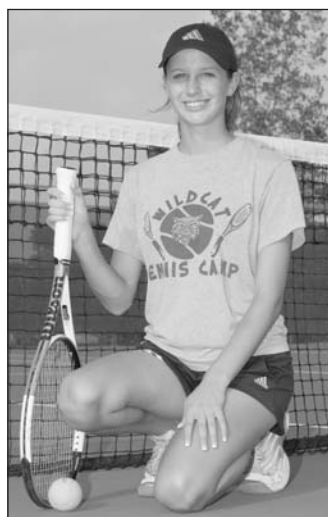


Photos by Amanda Kral

John Shodipo was the basketball team's leading scorer this season with 523 points in 35 games played. Shodipo helped lead the basketball team to a Region IV Championship win over Joliet, the team that won it last season. He has been playing basketball for about five years and the competitiveness that comes with playing basketball. Shodipo's favorite player is Tracy McGrady and plans on transferring to a four year school to continue playing bas-

ketball. He hopes to one day play professionally. "One of the reasons John and the rest of the team was so successful this year was because they worked hard on and off the court. Not only did they perform well in practice but also in the classroom and that's what's really important," head coach Don Klaas said. Shodipo won the co-athlete of the year by an online voting poll on the Courier homepage.

Athlete of the Year



Name: Jenny Green
Sport: Tennis
Year: Sophomore
School: West Chicago



Photos by Dan Bowers

Jenny Green helped the COD women's tennis team to another Region IV Final win against Rock Valley. Green was one of two returning sophomore's from last year's national winning team. She was also the number two singles player on the team. "There were a lot of talented athletes on the team this year and I think the team really benefited from her experience and leadership," head coach Jim Bowers said. Green graduated from West Chicago High School. She has been playing tennis since she was

four. The reason she started in tennis was because of her grandmother. One of the challenging parts about the sport of tennis for Green is the patience it requires when it comes to improving your skill. She likes tennis because it is a life long sport, no matter what age you are, you can still play. After leaving COD Green plans on transfer to a four year university to become a teacher. Green won the co-Athlete of the Year by an online voting poll on the Courier homepage.

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