

Lacrosse Team Sticking It to Opponents

By Jon Spencer
Sports Editor

Student eyebrows are raising and opposing coaches are praising, because the lacrosse team here at AC has been

Creates New Sports Honor Society

In recognition of the late Robert Brownson, Ashland College has created the Robert Brownson Student Athlete Honor Society.

The prestigious award will represent the Ashland College athletes who best depict the student-athlete. It also recognizes the years of faithful service rendered by Brownson to Ashland College as a teacher, coach and administrator.

The criteria for the award are senior status; demonstration of a high level of campus citizenship; a 3.0 scholastic grade average or placement in the upper 30 per cent of the class; and demonstration of high athletic performance in one of the intercollegiate sports.

Upon the death of Brownson, characterized as one of the most successful football coaches ever in the state of Ohio, money was contributed for the purpose of establishing a memorial. The earnings from the fund, presently totaling \$2,000, will support the program.

The student-athlete will qualify for the award upon recommendation by intercollegiate coaches. Nominations will be screened by the athletic director and presented to the Alumni-Community Selection Committee.

Final selections will be made by the seven-member committee. The number selected will not exceed 25 per year.

impressive.

Muhammed Ali at his poetical best would be pressed to better describe the aura enshrouding this Eastern sport on campus. America's favorite pastime, baseball, and a game understood by mostly all, has taken a backseat at AC to a "foreign" game, one only a smattering of fans here understand completely.

Why? "People come back because there is continuous action," said the youthful, first year coach of the Eagles, Jeff Dunning. "There's skill, finesse, contact. You take the best skills out of the other sports and you get lacrosse."

There is no truth to the rumor that Course No. 111 - Learning Lacrosse Made Easy was offered by the physical education department last week at registration, and closed out after five minutes, but an abundant number of students have been taking regular "field" trips to a site on Broad Street to learn about the game. And they keep going back because it has not been boring.

Excusing Monday's 16-5 zapping of Hillsdale (apparently a neophyte to the sport itself) there was a 12-11 squeaker over Ohio State and a 5-2 snubbing of Kenyon, both last week. It's not enough that the Eagles had earlier accomplished their first win ever over Notre Dame. They caused similar commotion for Kenyon and Ohio State.

Things are changing. No longer are the Eagles seen after games using their sticks for crutches, or for tails to stick between their legs.

"Bill Heiser, Kenyon's coach, said he was very impressed with our team," exclaimed Dunning, a former star himself at AC not too long ago. "I guarantee we're the talk of the league now and no one will ever think of us lightly again."

The league Dunning touched down on was the Midwest Lacrosse League, comprised of eight teams, including the current undefeated leaders, Dennison, the only school to mar Ashland's ledger, and Ohio Wesleyan, an opponent in the very near future.

AC is lurking in the shadows at third with a 2-1 mark in loop confrontations and a jiffy 6-1 record, overall.

One remnant is left from Dunning's playing days here, in the person of Paul Brezovsky, who, incidentally, led the Midwest league in scoring with 24 points (19 goals, 9 assists) preceding the Hillsdale lacing.

Having fled AC after setting an individual record of 31 goals as a freshman in 1974, Paul set out to get a job. Realizing life can be miserable without a degree, he's back after the two-year

sabbatical to get his diploma, meanwhile making life miserable for opponents on the 110-yards long battlefield.

As an attack man, his main objective is to put the ball in the goal, which he has done with irrepressible vigor. "Paul had a great freshman year," recalls Dunning. "He's matured a little bit more, and has made up his mind that he's the best there is. Paul is using his head more, I guess."

Not that Paul is going to sacrifice his body for the sake of scoring a goal. A football player turned lacrosse player he is not, relying more on getting around his defensive man and beating him.

"I'm using a little more knowledge instead of just footwork," explained the gregarious "Chimp," a nickname earned in part because of his large hands and small features. "But I do have to rely on speed because of my size. A few years of experience helps. A freshman going against older guys has to use his physical attributes more."

If Dunning was somewhat apprehensive about coaching a group of guys not so many years his junior, the team has wiped the worry away.

"If we were crappy, and just playing for fun, it (coaching) would be hard," admitted Dunning. "Since we're playing hard, it's less of a problem. This is a tight-knit group."

"I'm not surprised by the success so far; we have good personnel," said Brezovsky, in regards to the 6-1 showing. "I'm glad we decided to play instead of monkeying around. No one likes to practice but we make it fun."

"Dunning is doing a hell of a job. He disciplines well and knows a lot about the game. He throws hints out to us that we can't see on the field. He has a lot of responsibilities as a coach, but we look at him not as a coach, but a friend. He says something, people listen."

Listen. "For people who haven't heard that much about lacrosse, it's a matter of getting used to," said Dunning. "The sport hasn't caught on yet, but when it does it will snowball."

Fine, we heard you, but after the winter we experienced here in Ohio, couldn't you have chosen a better word to describe the effect lacrosse might soon have on us?



Photo by Steve Stokes
Paul "Chimp" Brezovsky (front) is on the attack against Ohio State.

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