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## The Sting: Summer 2000

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# STING

The Sports Information Publication of Cedarville College

Summer 2000

Vol 20, No. 1

## Petersen, Reynolds voted Athletes of the Year

**W**omen's softball standout Megan Petersen and men's track & field star Cliff Reynolds have been named the Cedarville College Athletes of the Year for the 1999-2000 season. The two were selected in voting by the Yellow Jacket coaching staff.

Petersen, a junior from Northridge, CA who transferred from the University of Iowa, helped lead the softball program to a 24-15 record for their first winning season in ten years. The 5-foot-9 righthander posted a 20-7 record on the mound with a 0.77 earned run average. She struck out 181 batters and walked just 17 in 180 2/3 innings. She was also the team's leading hitter with a .421 batting average.

Petersen was tabbed NAIA All-America honorable mention, was named to the NCCAA All-America Team, the All-NAIA Region IX squad, and to the American Midwest Conference First Team. She was the NCCAA Midwest Region Tournament MVP and was voted to the NAIA Region IX All-Tournament Team.

Reynolds, a junior from Tuckerton, NJ, was an NAIA Indoor All-American in the 600 meters and an NAIA Outdoor All-American in the 400 meter hurdles. He was presented the NCCAA's Wheeler Award as the Outstanding Male Track & Field Athlete of the Year after winning the 400 meter dash and running on the victorious 4 x 400 relay team at the NCCAA Nationals.

Reynolds was voted the Outstanding Performer of the Meet at the American Midwest Conference Championships. For the third straight year, he won the 400 meter hurdles and ran on the winning 4 x 400



(left to right) Dr. Don Callan, Dean of School of Health and Human Performance; Cliff Reynolds, Megan Petersen, and athletic director Pete Reese.

meter relay team. He also won the 400 meter dash and earlier in the season broke a 25-year old school record in the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 52.04 seconds. Reynolds is an NAIA and NCCAA All-America Scholar-Athlete.

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- Donald E. Callan Awards
- Ray Slagle Named Men's Basketball Coach



The Apostle Paul in his writing to the early church challenged them to be examples to the believer in word and deed. He said, "as you see in me, do" (Philippians 4:9). He in essence was saying, we should all be role models, so that men will know by watching us that God is one worthy to be followed. Paul challenged the believers to be an example, or a human illustration or reflection of Christ.



*Dr. Don Callan*

In 1st Timothy chapter 1, Paul references his life before he chose to follow Jesus Christ. He said of himself that he was a persecutor and injurious, but that he had received the grace and mercy that only faith in Christ can give. He challenged Timothy through keeping the Word to fight a good warfare.

In 1 Timothy 1:12, Paul preceded his testimony of what God saved him out of with a statement that captured my attention. He said, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." Has God put you into the ministry? If not, you may be in the wrong place, doing the wrong thing. If we feel God has directed us to where we are, then we should be constantly seeking to accomplish the task He has given us.

God's Word tells us that He has enabled us and that he has counted us faithful, and then He has given us a ministry. I recently heard it stated this way, "practicing his presents and presence, without losing sight of the goal." That goal according to God's word is to, "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:2).

I think the word we use, among those who work with young people or new converts, is discipleship. We in athletics are in the discipleship business. As coaches, our discipleship is not to tie performance in athletics to spiritual growth, or necessarily to motivate the athlete toward a better performance athletically; but rather we are to encourage them to find

their identity in Christ alone. In doing so, I truly believe they will perform better athletically, but we need to be concerned with our motivation and why we are doing what we do.

We should model in our lives what we feel would best represent Christ. It's lifestyle, not program, we should really be concerned with. Christ's ministry of discipleship was first of all solely motivated by love. He valued the person, not their ability. His approach to each was based on their personality, needs, and ability to understand. He provided servant leadership. We must also.

Paul, in 1 Timothy 6, forecasted that the future was sobering: things will go from bad to worse! But for the man of God, there is strength to "fight the good fight of faith" (6:12) and emerge victorious, despite the ever-present inner adversaries of pride, greed, and indifference.

As Timothy had Paul and God's Word to fortify him when he faced opposition and opportunity, let us be the kind of leaders who can say with Paul, "as you see in me, do." Then we will be able, like Paul, to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day – and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

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## Ray Slagle named men's basketball coach

**R**ay Slagle, who developed Worthington Christian into an Ohio high school basketball powerhouse, is the new men's basketball coach at Cedarville College. He replaces Jeff Reep, who resigned the position at the end of the season to accept an administrative position on campus.



*Ray Slagle*

Slagle, 51, comes to Cedarville following an impressive ten-year run at Worthington Christian in which the Warriors became one of the elite Division IV programs in the state. He posted a 194-50 career record at the school for a .795 winning percentage with a state championship in 1999, a state runner-up finish in 1994, and six straight Mid-Buckeye Conference titles.

Slagle is a two-time Ohio Division IV Coach of the Year selection including this past season when he was one of three coaches to earn the honor after leading Worthington Christian to a 26-1 record and another berth in the state finals. The Warriors completed the year ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press poll which is a finish they also achieved in 1995.

"I believe that when you consider everything that Cedarville College has to offer, from the spiritual perspective to the outstanding academics, it is the best institution in America," said Slagle in explaining his reason for the move. "I greatly enjoyed my time at Worthington Christian, but I don't feel there is anything more I can accomplish here. I am looking forward to a new challenge of coaching basketball at a different level and the opportunity to recruit players to a college that I feel comfortable with."

Slagle is a 29-year coaching veteran including four years at Christian Heritage College near San Diego from 1986 through 1990. He was the assistant coach for two years and then became co-head coach his final two years along with former UCLA standout and NBA player Swen Nater. The tandem led the Hawks to a 52-14 record and the National Christian College Athletic Association title in 1990 which culminated, ironically, with a title game victory over Cedarville.

"We are excited to have Ray joining our athletic staff," remarked Cedarville athletic director Pete Reese. "Philosophically, he is exactly where we are as an institution. He possesses an extensive basketball background and he has an excellent reputation among his players, parents, and fellow coaches."

Slagle will serve as an assistant professor in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science. Ray and his wife, Matsi, have three grown children.



## New Athletic Complex Among the Best in the State

Cedarville's new soccer/baseball/softball complex was met with rave reviews by Yellow Jacket fans and opponents alike. The facilities were designed and built by athletic director Pete Reese. All three sites include their own irrigation systems, electronic scoreboard, and press box.

# Womack Honored with National Award from NAIA-Sports Information Directors

written by Doug Mosley, NAIA Sports Information

Mark Womack, Sports Information Director at Cedarville College, has been named the 2000 recipient of the NAIA-Sports Information Directors Association's Clarence "Ike" Pearson Award. The honor is named for the former statistical crew chief for the NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship and 2000 marks the 22nd year the award has been given to an outstanding NAIA sports information director. The award was presented Saturday, June 24, at the NAIA-SIDA Annual Awards Luncheon, hosted by McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill.



Mark Womack

Womack, 40, completed his 17th year as Cedarville's first and only full-time SID. He has also served as the Information Director/Administrative Assistant for the American Midwest Conference (previously Mid-Ohio Conference) since 1990. During that time, he has won nine NAIA-SIDA publications contests awards and four NAIA-SIDA web site contests awards. In addition to his sports information duties for the school and conference, he writes and edits "The Sting," the college's quarterly sports publication, is in his 18th year as producer/writer of the Yellow Jacket Sports Update on CDR radio and is the announcer for Cedarville's men's basketball games on CDR. He was formerly director of the Cedarville College Golf Open and a member of the Yellow Jacket Club Committee. In 1993, he received the college's Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

At the national level, Womack is a member of the NAIA Hall of Fame & Awards Committee. He served as the NAIA District 22 Information Director from 1988-94 and NAIA Great Lakes Region Information Director from 1994-95. He held the offices of secretary, vice president and chair of the NAIA District Information Directors committee. In 1997, he was his region's honoree for the NAIA Male Athletics Administrator of the Year. Womack is also a member of College Sports Information Directors of America.

In addition to his professional honors, Womack and his family - wife Amy (also a Cedarville grad) and daughters Amber, 15, Aubrey, 12, and Alison, 9 - were honored as the "Ohio Family of the Year" by the Ohio Family & Community Educators in October 1999. Among his other activities, he has served as a Sunday School teacher, Senior High Youth Leader and choir member at Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville for the past 10 years. Last summer, he and his wife helped lead 20 teenagers from their church on a two-week missions trip to the Philippines.

Womack is a 1983 graduate of Cedarville. As a student-athlete, he was a member of the Cedarville men's basketball team that made NAIA national championship tournament appearances in 1981 and 1982 and the men's golf team that competed in the 1979 and 1981 NAIA national championship tournaments.

"In my 35 years of being involved with NAIA athletic administration, I cannot think of a more qualified individual that has been or could be nominated for this prestigious award," wrote Cedarville athletic director Pete Reese in a letter supporting Womack's nomination. "We here at Cedarville feel very blessed to have Mark as our SID.

"Mark has proved to have a very deep loyalty and dedication to his job during these past 17 years. In spite of the long hours he has spent in producing a quality sports information department, he has also found time to be an outstanding husband and father."

NAIA-SIDA is the professional association for sports information directors with the NAIA. The Clarence "Ike" Pearson Award is the association's highest honor and recognizes its honoree for accomplishments and service performed over a career. Criteria for nomination include at least five years as a member of NAIA-SIDA and outstanding service to the profession at the conference, regional and national levels.



A total of 26 seniors were recognized at the first-ever Honors and Appreciation Dinner at Cedarville College in the spring. Wrapping up their Yellow Jacket careers were (Row 1, left to right) Kelly Reitz, cross country and track & field; Becky Summers, softball; Charity Cole, basketball; Tara Swaney, basketball; Elizabeth Wolfe, tennis; and Angela Mast, tennis. (Row 2) Mike Moran, soccer; Sandy Swales, track & field; Katie Mummau, soccer; Jodi Quint, track & field; Pam Huls, volleyball; Casey Ruffin, tennis; Ginger Butler, tennis. (Row 3) Chris Brock, soccer; James Metsger, tennis; Eric McVey, tennis; Nathan Verwys, baseball; Pete Bednarek, track & field; Shawn Graves, track & field; Scott Ruhlman, cross country and track & field; Nate Jenkins, track & field.

## Butler, Graves receive first-ever Callan Awards



(left to right) Ginger Butler, Dr. Don Callan, Shawn Graves.

**W**omen's tennis player Ginger Butler and men's track & field athlete Shawn Graves are the first-ever recipients of the Donald E. Callan Award. The award is given in the name of Dr. Don Callan, who is the Dean of the School of Health and Human Performance at the school.

Dr. Callan has served in various capacities in athletics during his 40 years at Cedarville. The awards recognize student-athletes who have participated all four years at the school with an emphasis on Christian service, academics, leadership, and athletic accomplishment.

Butler, a graduate student at Cedarville from Wausau, WI, graduated from the college in 1999 by earning her Organizational Communications degree in just three years. She was a four-year member of the women's tennis team with a 42-9 career singles record and was an NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete. Butler has been active in various ministries both on and off campus during her stay at Cedarville.

Graves, a senior from Toledo, OH, graduated with a degree in Philosophy and English. He was a four-year member of the track & field squad and served as a team captain. Graves was an NAIA Indoor All-American in the 35-pound weight throw, was the NCCAA national champion in the hammer throw, and was the American Midwest Conference champion in the hammer with a meet record heave of 164-feet 5-inches. An NAIA and NCCAA All-America Scholar-Athlete, Graves intends on entering graduate school at Ohio University.



*Shaun Power, center, a junior from Xenia, Ohio is joined by Dr. and Mrs. Donald Callan upon receiving the first-ever Callan Sports Ministry Award. The award recognizes a male or female student for his/her evangelism in and through sports activities while at Cedarville College. An emphasis on outstanding leadership, desire, and support for sports missions is required. Power has made two trips to the Philippines with the Athletes for Christ basketball team.*

## 1999-2000 Season Highlights

- Cedarville College continues to make a mark nationally in NAIA cross country and track & field. The Yellow Jackets had seven All-America performances and nine All-America Scholar-Athletes in those sports alone. In cross country, the Lady Jackets were ranked as high as 12th in the national poll and the Yellow Jacket men climbed as high as 14th.
- The three newest members to the Cedarville College Athletic Hall of Fame are former women's basketball and softball athlete Diane Rank Smith '92, men's golf standout Bill Boulet '82, and men's cross country and track distance runner John Oswald '88.
- The Yellow Jacket athletic program is recognized as a leader in the National Christian College Athletic Association. Cedarville will host NCCAA national championship events in 2000-01 in men's and women's cross country, women's volleyball, as well as men's and women's track & field. This past year, the Jackets possessed two NCCAA Athletes of the Year, 18 All-Americans, and 21 All-America Scholar-Athletes. Cedarville was represented at seven NCCAA national tournaments.
- Cedarville had 20 NAIA All-America Scholar-Athletes during the 1999-2000 school year. The program recognizes juniors and seniors who maintain a minimum 3.50 cumulative grade point average.

# STING PROFILE



## Petersen brings Big Ten talent to Lady Jacket softball

It appeared on the surface that Megan Petersen had a lot to lose in bringing her softball skills to Cedarville College. For why would a native of the softball talent-rich state of California transfer from the University of Iowa to a Lady Jacket program that had not had a winning season in ten years? Good question.

This is a player who was 7-3 on the mound for the Hawkeyes in 1999 including a victory over then No. 6 Arizona State. She could have been a member of the 2000 Big Ten championship squad.

One would be tempted to think she missed out. Not so, says Petersen. To listen to the 5-foot-9 junior explain the move, she had everything to gain and for all the right reasons.

"I love to play softball, but it's not the number one priority in my life," said Megan, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Petersen of Northridge, CA. "I wanted to put more of a focus on my relationship with God. I am where He wants me to be and I have no regrets. I enjoy Cedarville immensely and love everything the school has to offer."

Petersen traded life at the NCAA Division I level to lead the Lady Jackets to a 24-15 record which surpassed their win total of the last three seasons combined. Cedarville won their first-ever NCCAA Midwest Region title, appeared in the NCCAA Nationals, and qualified for the NAIA Region IX Tournament.

Her individual numbers were more than impressive. The hard throwing righthander posted a 20-7 record on the mound with a 0.77 earned run average.

Petersen struck out 181 batters and walked just 17 in 180 2/3 innings. Her 20 wins is a school record and she led the American Midwest Conference in ERA and strikeouts. She was also the team's leading hitter with a .421 batting average which rated third in the league.

Petersen was tabbed NAIA All-America honorable mention, was named to the NCCAA All-America Team, the All-NAIA Region IX squad, and to the All-AMC First Team. She was the NCCAA Midwest Region Tournament MVP and was voted to the NAIA Region IX All-Tournament Team.

There always seemed to be an urgency to win at the Division I level. But, even though she quickly surfaced as the Lady Jackets' best player, she never sensed any external pressure to produce.

"The only pressure I ever felt was what I placed on myself," she said. "I accepted some leadership responsibility and I realized the team went up and down with my attitude. I enjoy the game more from the mound because I feel like I'm more in control."

More often than not Petersen was in command. She hurled four victories in one day at the NCCAA Midwest Regional. She fanned ten batters in a one-hit, 1-0 victory over

AMC champion Walsh. She was the winning pitcher in back-to-back doubleheader sweeps of AMC foes Geneva and Urbana to end the season which propelled the team into the NAIA regional.

Great stuff! Fortunately for the Lady Jackets, she is already looking forward to her senior season on the diamond at Cedarville with no regrets.

