Yellow Jacket Sports

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Koch Smashes 17-Year Record, Beats Olympic Trials Qualifying Time

Carsyn Koch ’18 met the U.S. Women’s Olympic Trials 800-meter qualifying standard with a 2:02.39 in the Payton Jordan Invitational at Stanford University on May 1. The top 32 runners in the event are invited to compete in the Olympic Trials on July 1–10 in Eugene, Oregon. The qualifying mark is 2:03.0.

Koch’s time at Stanford is the fastest in NCAA Division II history, according to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). The previous DII record was 2:02.48 set in 1999.

The Washburn, Maine, native previously had the No. 3 effort on the DII list of 2:03.58, which she established on April 16 at the Mt. SAC Relays in California. This spring, Koch was twice selected the USTFCCCA Division II Track & Field Athlete of the Week.

"[Carsyn] has a special God-given talent and the work ethic and focus to compete at a very high level," said Head Coach Jeff Bolender ’91. “She is humble, but at the same time is confident. This is so important as she has been thrown into such competitive races this early in her running experiences.”

Koch admitted feeling a little shaky before the Stanford race. "I knew I could run with these girls,” she said. “No one had told me I was seeded last so, as far as I knew, the race wouldn’t be easy, but it was definitely possible to finish well in my heat.” She moved up from last place in the race by running the fastest final 400 meters in 1:02.81.

"I went out with the mindset of doing my best and racing smart splits,” Koch said. “I was proud of all the hard workout days and discipline with my training paying off.”

Cedarville Women’s Soccer and Basketball Welcome New Coaches

Two historically successful athletic programs at Cedarville will have new leadership next season.

Women’s Basketball Coach

Last November, Cedarville University women’s basketball Head Coach Kirk Martin ’76 announced he would step down after 15 years at the helm of Lady Jackets basketball. One of Martin’s former players and current assistant coach, Kari (Flunker) Hoffman ’05, assumes the role of head coach effective July 1, 2016.

“Our alumni will be thrilled with the selection of Kari as the next head coach,” noted Martin. “It’s important that our recruiting class is aware, and I’m confident she will do a great job in the future.”

Hoffman was a freshman on Martin’s first team at Cedarville and helped turn the Lady Jackets into a perennial powerhouse during her career from 2001–05. She was the school’s first three-time All-American and a two-time conference Player of the Year.

Hoffman has been an assistant coach with the Lady Jackets since 2010, leading up to what will be her first head coaching position. Prior to returning to Cedarville, she was the Director of Women’s Basketball Operations for two seasons at NCAA Division I Green Bay.

“I have been so blessed to be under the leadership of Kirk Martin for 11 years as both a player and a coach,” Hoffman said. “He has taught me a lot about how to run a program in the right way and to promote something that we all believe in. I’m excited about the challenge.”

Women’s Soccer Coach

Veteran women’s collegiate soccer coach Jonathan Meade is the new head coach of the Lady Jackets.

"His desire to serve Christ and see his student-athletes achieve success in all areas of life is very evident,” Cedarville University Athletic Director Alan Geist ’83 stated. “His understanding of other NCAA DII programs and what it takes to win in the Midwest Region will help build on the success that we have already had.”

Meade comes to the campus with 16 years of head coaching experience, including the last eight at NCAA Division II Ohio Dominican University (ODU) in Columbus where he guided the Panthers to a 78-37-16 record.

“I’m really honored and humbled to be given this opportunity,” said Meade, who becomes Cedarville’s third head coach in the 19-year history of the women’s soccer program. “It’s a wonderful place and I’m really impressed. It’s a growing and thriving campus that’s very alive.”
Meade added, "I'm especially humbled to come in after a Cedarville legend and icon, John McGillivray '70, who's someone I've looked up to for many years. He really impacted me as a young coach and even when I played in college."

Meade led ODU to a record-setting 15-5-1 record in 2014. The Panthers won the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season title and achieved a bid in the NCAA Tournament.

Meade is a 1995 graduate of Mount Vernon Nazarene University where he was a four-year letter winner on the men's soccer team. He coached his alma mater from 2000–08 posting a 134-61-7 record, including a 20-3-1 slate in 2003.

Morris Creates Legacy for Christ in Tennis and Her Players' Lives
by Mark Womack '82

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).

Cedarville University women's tennis coach Dee Morris is a walking example of that verse.

Since being the recipient of what those words command, she in turn has taken what she was taught and desires to honor the Lord by influencing others — especially her players, or, her “kids,” as she affectionately calls them.

Morris has stayed the course for nearly six decades, and she isn't finished yet. Talk about leaving a legacy!

New Sport

Louise Delyte Morris had never touched a tennis racket until she arrived at Geneva College as a freshman in 1955. That’s where she was introduced to a godly woman named Doris Nevin.

“I was an assistant to her throughout college,” recalled Morris. “She was a mentor, taught me life lessons, and was a friend for the 52 years I knew her following graduation. I created a scholarship for students at Cedarville in her name because I wanted to honor her.”

“I want my players to experience the fun of competition, the fellowship of being part of a team, and to know they can be, as Doris Nevin taught me, a strong, fierce competitor and still be a godly woman at the same time.”

Assistant Coach

Morris has been associated with the Lady Jacket tennis program since 1977 when good friend Pamela Diehl Johnson took over as head coach, and Morris served as her assistant for 30 years.

In 2007, their roles reversed when Morris became the Head Coach, and Johnson assumed the title of Associate Head Coach.

For 40 seasons, Cedarville has won more than 65 percent of its tennis matches while piling up 11 conference championships, 11 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics district and region titles, and multiple national tournament appearances.

“Dee loves to win as much as the next coach,” stated Johnson, Cedarville’s Dean of Undergraduate Studies. “But, her players remember that she cared for them as a person more so than as a tennis player. When you build others up for just being people of God then everything comes along with that, and it becomes a tremendous experience for the entire team.”

Three Sisters

Current and former Lady Jacket players, practically to a woman, describe an identical experience at Cedarville that they will never forget.

One recent and unique example is that of the three Heydt sisters — Courtney, Kristen, and Kendall — who had the opportunity to be on the same Cedarville roster during the 2014–15 conference championship season.

“When I met Dee for the first time, I knew I wanted to play for her,” said Courtney (Heydt) Ammon ’15, who was a 2015 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) All-American as a senior. “Her love for Jesus was evident in all of her decisions. Through our weekly Bible studies she listened to us, taught us, and poured into our personal lives.”

“She cares so much about us and is always there to help us improve not only as tennis players, but more importantly, as people,” noted Kristen ’18. Her sister Kendall ’18 agreed. “It is so clear that Coach Morris’ top priority on and off the court is showing Jesus’ love to not only her team, but to all of her students and colleagues as well.”

Mark Womack ’82 is Sports Information Director at Cedarville University.