Quarterback Steve Gachette, Class of 2010 (center); Photo by Brittny Wilkerson '08

A Point to Prove: SBU Football Finishes with Winning Season

BY JEFF WESELOH '09

The Southwest Baptist University Bearcats football team entered the 2010 season with a point to prove. There were many skeptics who believed last year's results were a fluke, which sparked a motivation within the players and coaching staff.

"We challenged our kids," head coach Keith Allen stated, "let's show these people that we're getting better every year."

His athletes responded, as SBU completed the most successful season in school history.

SBU finished the 2010 season with a 7-4 record, and won a record seven straight games during the season. This marked the second consecutive year the Bearcats have finished the season with a winning record.

Head coach Keith Allen has turned around the SBU football program, moving the Bearcats from 0-11 his first year as interim coach, to 5-6 in 2008, to the winning record of 6-5 in 2009.

All-American quarterback Steve Gachette was nothing short of spectacular in his final season at SBU. Gachette's play ranked him as one of the top 15 players in the nation in the following categories: total offense (6th), passing yards per game (14th), points responsible for (4th), passing (11th), and total passing yards (12th).

Gachette also set school records including total offensive yards (4,088) and total touchdowns scored (39). "The biggest thing with Steve Gachette is that he wants it more than anybody I've ever seen," said Allen, "He's a one-of-a-kind player."

As a team, the Bearcats also found success in the national rankings. SBU was ranked 3rd in total offense, 2nd in punt returns, 4th in first downs, 7th in scoring offense, 8th in third-down efficiency, and 12th in total passing offense. SBU set school records in total team offensive yards (5,552) and total points scored (435).

The Bearcats will look to continue to build upon their success and strive for a third consecutive winning season next year.

For more SBU sports news, visit www.sbubearcats.com for the latest updates and information.

SBU athletics announces 2011 Hall of Fame class

Five inductees include two new honorees along with three from 2001

BY JUSTIN WOLLARD '97

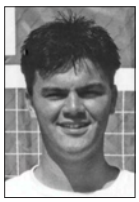
SBU athletics is pleased to announce the Hall of Fame Class of 2011. On Saturday, February 12, 2011, SBU will induct Michael Obertop '94, a former tennis All-American and national singles champion along with Jack Funderburk '97, a multi-time All-MIAA and All-Region honoree in baseball as a catcher and designated hitter.

While the class technically includes two members, the actual ceremony on February 12 will include five total honorees. In 2001, John Willis '88, JoAnn Harrison '84, and Ronnie Miller were scheduled to be inducted, but their induction ceremony was never held. They have previously been counted as members of the SBU Athletics Hall of Fame. Now on the ten-year anniversary of their induction, they will rightfully be recognized during the Honors Night ceremonies.

The 2011 SBU Athletics Honors Night will not only recognize Hall of Fame members, but will also honor Bearcat senior student-athletes. Each senior from all 16 sports sponsored by SBU will be presented with framed certificate by their head coach. The Rex Brown Award for Excellence will also be given to the top male and female senior student athlete, based on character, service, academic, and athletic achievement.

This is the third year for the Honors Night event. The 2011 edition will follow Bearcat men's and women's basketball games earlier that day against Washburn University. The women's game with the Lady Blues tips at 1:30 p.m. with men's contest starting at 3:30 p.m. The Honors Night event will begin at 7 p.m. from the SBU intramural gym.

2011 Hall of Fame class



Michael Obertop - Tennis 1991-94

- Intercollegiate Tennis Association NCAA Division II singles national champion in 1993
- Three-time ITA All-American
- Two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American
- 1993-94 MIAA Ken B. Jones winner and the first ever KBJ winner in the conference for any school
- Earned MIAA singles and doubles championship three times
- All-MIAA all four seasons as Bearcat
- Received 1994 Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship Award
- Ranked in top 10 nationally twice in both singles and doubles
- Was a double major in business and math and an honors graduate.

Jack Funderburk - Baseball, 1994-97

- Catcher and designated hitter for four seasons
- Hit .382 for his career with 221 hits, 155 RBI, 150 runs scored, 42 doubles, 18 triples, and 28 home runs in 172 games
- Career leader in hits, triples, homers, runs, walks
- SBU single season record holder in triples with 10 in 1996 which also led Division II
- All-MIAA all four seasons including two times with dual honors (catcher and DH)
- MIAA Freshman of the Year in 1994
- Three-time ABCA All-Central Region including two First Team honors.

2001 Hall of Fame class

John Willis - Basketball, 1982-84, 1986-88

- NAIA All-American honorable mention as a junior in 1986-87
- School record holder with 1,752 career points; 674 field goals made and 1,374 field goals attempted in four seasons and fourth with 296 free throws made and fifth with 366 free throw attempts
- Also holds junior single-season scoring record of 621 points in 1986-87 and senior record of 622 points in 1987-88 which also are the top two single-season records in SBU history.

JoAnn Harrison - Basketball, Softball, Volleyball coach - 1966-84

- SBU's winningest softball and volleyball coach and the pioneer of three women's sports programs
- SBU's first women's basketball coach in 1967-68 and also coached team in 1972-73
- Harrison also was SBU's first softball coach in 1966, and coached for 18 years
- Her coaching record is 255-161, by far the most victories by any SBU softball coach
- From 1979 through 1982, SBU softball won 117 and lost just 46 games and played in two AIAW National Championship tournaments
- She was also SBU's first volleyball coach in 1965, and her coaching record is 314-235-4 (.571)
- Harrison's remarkable record includes 13 consecutive winning seasons from 1966-78, and a total of 14 winning seasons among her 18 years as a volleyball coach.

the late Ronnie Miller - Friend of Athletics

- Camdenton businessman who was a great friend and contributor to the university and former trustee
- A graduate of Stoutland High School, he also attended Drury and Christian College (in Columbia) for one year each
- Among he and his wife Billie Max's contributions were the athletic training room in Meyer Wellness Center
- Millers had three daughters including Stacey who was a standout basketball player at SBU
- Also had several grandchildren attend the university, including Colt Blair who was MIAA Freshman of the Year in 2005-06
- Miller served as deacon and teacher at FBC-Camdenton until his passing in 2003.