

# ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Brad Waters

## Lang

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reer-high 21 tackles.

Although Lang ended his career just one step away from the national championship game, he is not done with Cardinals' football just yet. He hopes to earn his Masters for Education at Fisher and possibly be a linebackers' coach for the Cardinals.

"We'd love to have him here as a linebackers' coach," Vosburgh said. "You always want to keep players like him in the program, because I think people respond to him."

For his career, Lang finished with 325 tackles, which put him third on Fisher's all-time list, seven forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries. His 147 tackles was the 16th highest season-total in Division III history. He finished this year as the 2006 Empire 8 Conference Defensive Player of the Year, garnered First Team All-Empire 8 selection honors and, as mentioned, capped it all off with the *Don Hansen Football Gazette* Linebacker of the Year award.

"I was really proud to win all

those awards and it was a really good cap to my career," Lang said. "Football's been my whole life, and I'm thankful to all the people that got me to where I am now."

Although Lang has many accolades and awards, his lasting legacy for this program will be to have always been the one to look towards as being an example of professionalism, leadership and high standards.

"I sincerely hope that the guys behind him learned from him, and that they are going to say 'that's the way things are supposed to be done, the way Gene Lang did them,'" Vosburgh said.

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### Male Voting Breakdown Top 5

*Name, Points (First Place)*

1. Gene Lang, 174 (9)
2. Dan Mueller, 140 (3)
3. Mark Robinson, 118 (2)
4. Rob Kramer, 81 (1)
5. Matt Hargather, 70

*Past Winner:*  
2006: Sean O'Brien

## Quackenbush

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arship was in reach. But rather than hopping on the expressway with an established program, Quackenbush steered her career onto a scarcely traveled lax path...St. John Fisher College.

"My mom told me, 'Why don't you go to Fisher and help advance that program.' That made a lot of sense to me."

And to think, Quackenbush nearly donned purple and gold, one mile down East Avenue. Laurie's graduated 26-year old brother, Jim Quackenbush, was an All-American honorable mention midfielder for the Nazareth men's lacrosse team in 2003 among a mantle of accolades.

"My dad jokes, 'I'm going to wear your brother's jacket to your next game if you don't play well,'" laughed Fisher's Quackenbush.

You can bet that Quackenbush digests some extra motivation at the family dinner table.

"My competitiveness wants to beat his status," she smiles. "My brother lives in Fairport, so one game, he and his friends made me

all kinds of signs. He is very supportive of me."

Mutual support is an epidemic on the Lady Cardinals. The ultra-humble Quackenbush feels a special bond with the team's quartet of seniors. Just as Quackenbush inspires Lockwood and others, seniors Ramona Walters, Theresa Nobilski, Caitlin Navor and Haley Koperski inspire her. Each senior has made a specific impact on Quackenbush's success, as she's quick to credit.

"I came on my recruiting trip with 'Mona, so it will be sad to see her go,'" Quackenbush said. "Theresa is one of my closet friends on the team and one of my role models. Haley tore her ACL as a sophomore. To see someone bounce back like she has is great motivation. And the first thing I noticed about Caitlin is how encouraging she was. I try to positive like her. I have learned so much from all of the seniors on and off the field."

Now Quackenbush has built her own legacy. She has amassed 119 points in 43 career games. Her portrait is firmly entrenched in the Student Life Center. And she is almost certain to rack up her third straight E8 First Team honor.

More importantly, Quackenbush has set the stage for Fisher women's lacrosse to emerge as a perennial powerhouse beyond her graduation. Her impact on underclassmen has set a high standard.

"Laurie is willing to sacrifice for the love of the game," Lockwood said. "I aspire every day to be the player that Laurie is."

At one point in our interview I casually asked Laurie, "What does it feel like to be the star of a lacrosse team on the rise?"

Her response was vintage Laurie Quackenbush.

"I'm not a star," she said. "I'm a player."

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### Female Voting Breakdown Top 5

*Name, Points (First Place)*

1. Laurie Quackenbush, 142 (7)
2. Allison Boehm, 122 (4)
3. Katie Botkins, 107 (4)
4. Kristi Palotta, 101
5. Kelly Zeppetella, 77

*Past Winner:*  
2006: Melissa Hartman

## MEN'S LACROSSE

### Hargather, Schmidt fuel wins vs. Keuka, Elmira

STAFF WRITER  
**GIORGIO LAMARCA**

The St. John Fisher men's lacrosse team defeated the Keuka College Storm by the score of 12-8 on Tuesday. The Cardinals received contributions from very familiar sources as freshman Chris Schmidt once again led the team in scoring with four goals, followed by senior Matt Hargather who tallied a hat trick. Both have been scoring at an unconscious level so far this season. Hargather leads the team with 33 goals and Schmidt is not far behind with 28 goals thus far.

Similar to many of their previous wins, jumping out to an early lead has been essential to their success. Great defensive play has been a staple throughout this season for the Cards, as they have constantly proven that once they hold the lead, their defense is determined to keep it that way.

Schmidt and the team's leading assist man, Dave Malone, went on a tear in the first period, as Schmidt scored three and Malone scored two to give Fisher another early lead. Sophomore Mike Cortina also added a goal to give the Cardinals a 5-2 lead after the first quarter.

"I thought we played a full 60 minutes of lacrosse today, something we haven't done all year," Schmidt said. "This is the first time we've beaten Elmira and it was great to do it with such a big win."

"We moved the ball great and Dave Malone had

some nice looks as we got their defense moving."

Hargather scored all three of his goals in the second quarter with help from freshman Scottie Bowen who added one to give Fisher a 9-4 lead at halftime. The Cardinal attack proved to be too much as each Keuka goal from then on was almost immediately answered back by Fisher's potent offense, resulting in yet another Fisher victory.

The St. John Fisher men's lacrosse team played their most dominant offensive performance of the season with a 19-6 blowout of Empire 8 opponent Elmira College on Saturday. For the second straight game, Fisher continued to show their amazing ability to jump out to an early lead and never look back.

Once again, the one-two punch of Hargather and Schmidt was effective as ever, as Hargather scored an impressive five goals and Schmidt added four for the second straight game. Freshman Jeff Price also had a hat trick for the Cardinals.

Surprisingly, despite the plethora of goals scored by the home team, the most impressive performance of the game goes to Malone and his ability to constantly find the open man for the goal. Malone had an unbelievable seven assists for Fisher, while still scoring two goals of his own, once again showing his versatility and ability to share the ball and score when need be.

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