



Delaware Football Lettermen Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

University of Delaware Fightin' Blue Hens

March, 2008

2008 DELAWARE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August

30 at Maryland.....6 p.m.

September

13 **West Chester**6 p.m.
(Sponsored by Coca-Cola)

20 at Furman.....tba

27 **Albany**6 p.m.
(Parents & Family Weekend -
Sponsored by RE/MAX)

October

4 at *Massachusetts3:30 p.m.

11 ***Maine** (Band Day)6 p.m.
(Sponsored by Synerfac Technical Staffing)

18 ***William & Mary**12 noon
(Homecoming - Sponsored by
Delaware College Investment Plan)

25 at *Hofstratba

November

1 at *James Madison3:30 p.m.

8 ***Towson**12 noon
(Sponsored by Seasons Pizza)

15 at *Richmond3:30 p.m.

22 ***Villanova**12 noon
(Hall of Fame Day - Sponsored by
Discover Financial Services)

*=Colonial Athletic Association Games

Blue Hen Sports Alumni Family Fund: Life After UD Sports

AN ORGANIZATION CREATED TO ENABLE ALL PAST DELAWARE ATHLETES TO MAINTAIN AND GROW LIFE LONG, AND LIFE ENHANCING RELATIONSHIPS THAT WERE INITIATED WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THEIR CHOSEN SPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE.

The University of Delaware Football Program has developed and maintained an extremely high level of success over the course of its 118 year history.

Competent coaching staffs, talented, hard working players that are committed to individual, and team excellence and a very enthusiastic, proud fan following are all elements responsible for creating the University of Delaware's championship atmosphere.

All Championship teams are made up of players that have bonded together to attempt to accomplish what can't be done by the individual.

This bond creates a positive chemistry which will allow a group of individuals to become an unselfish, focused, highly motivated team committed to achievement of the highest level.

The All Sports alumni for the University of Delaware have now created a vehicle that will allow all the members of this group to maintain, grow, and take advantage these friendships/relationships and positive chemistry through out their lifetimes.

The bonds and chemistry of the

group will not be diminished or stop completely because of graduation.

This Alumni networking/charity group is entitled the Blue Hen Sports Alumni Family Fund (BHSAFF).

The BHSAFF has been legally registered as a non-profit organization. It was incorporated in the state of Delaware on February 20, 2008.

The BHSAFF is a self governing organization and is not sanctioned by the University of Delaware. There is absolutely no connection in anyway to the University of Delaware.

The creation of the organization, the administration of the organization, and the daily operations of the organization was and is determined solely by its members.

The mission statement of the BHSAFF is to be a group that is highly-organized so that it will enable its members to maintain, and grow the relationships/friendships developed while attending the University of Delaware.

The BHSAFF will allow these quality relationships/friendships to part of a member's lifetime, and not just part of

a four or five-year college career. These networking relationships/friendships will be extremely beneficial to the individual with creating success in their personal and professional life.

The objectives of the BHSAFF are as follows:

1. Provide a Lifetime Support Environment: When members are looking for growth in their professional and or personal life, the members of the BHSAFF can help provide the connections and pathways to allow growth to occur.

2. Career Change Assistance: Group members facing career changes due to elimination of a position or the desire to seek new challenges. The same relationships/friendships will supply the assistance needed to secure new job opportunities and different career paths.

3. Job Acquisition: The organization will make its members available to be able to assist new graduates/members with acquiring a job that will start their chosen career.

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Catching Up With The 2008 Blue Hen Senior Class

Our 2008 Senior Class is one that we can all be proud of, not only for their outstanding achievements on the football field and advancing to the National Championship game, but also for their leadership and commitment to their academics.

We are proud that all of our Seniors have already graduated or will graduate on time this May.

Each of these young men are about to embark on their professional careers, and as you may have experienced, sometimes getting that first big break with an internship or a job is the hardest part of entering the workplace.

We are hoping that all our of alums will keep these young men, and future Blue Hen alums in mind for internship and/or employment opportunities.

Our annual Football Alumni Golf outing is set-up so that you will have an opportunity to meet and learn more about our young men who are about to graduate from UD and enter the workplace.

There will be time during lunch, golf, and the cocktail party to get to know one another on a personal basis. It is our hope that our young men may be able to work for you in your companies and businesses.

Listed below is a brief profile of our 2008 Senior class and their professional ambitions:

MIKE BYRNE

Mike was selected as the Colonial Athletic Association Academic Player of the Year in addition to his All-CAA and All-American selections. He is interested in pursuing a career in federal law enforcement. He is still considering the FBI, the DEA, the Secret Service, or US Marshalls. Mike is also considering pursuing his Masters Degree or going to Law School to enhance his career pursuits.

J.T. LAWS

J.T. was recently accepted into the University of Delaware's prestigious Graduate program to get

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4. Keep All Relationships/Friendships

Current: Maintain these quality relationships.

5. Create New Relationships Within the Group:

Create new relationships with the other sport members.

6. Provide Awareness, Visibility to, and Both Emotional and Financial Support of Members in Need:

There will be an annual alumni reunion/charity event. Tickets will be sold and funds will be raised for a single member or multiple members who have had to deal with unfortunate life events or other challenging issues during the course of that year.

The organization will use 2 primary tools to accomplish the stated objectives.

1. The website: www.bhsaff.com

The site will allow for the communications necessary to maintain the relationships/friendships from a distance. The administrators for the organization with feedback from the group members has built an easy to use, well organized site. The site is very sophisticated but not complicated. The site has been built with the necessary capabilities for its efficient and successful use.

The capabilities for the site include:

A. Family Fund Home Page

B. Forum Home Page

C. Portal - Basic page where communications capabilities originate. Members can send private messages to individuals, or can send mass e-mails, or announcements. Business owners can also advertise for your business.

D. Networking Forum - Jobs wanted and Jobs needed, and E-mail capabilities.

E. Site Blog

F. Chat Room

G. Careers Page

H. Photo gallery

I. Question and Answer Page

2. The Annual Reunion/Charity event

The organization will sponsor an annual themed reunion that will allow members to get together in-person and enjoy the evening.

This year the organization sponsored its 1st annual reunion - "Monte Carlo Night."

A fundraising organization was hired to set up casino style gambling, Black Jack tables, Roulette wheels, Craps tables, and taped replays of past horse races. Tickets were sold for the event.

The event was a well-organized, meaningful, fun event held at Botto's Italian Line Restaurant in Swedesboro, NJ.

The Botto family provided a great buffet dinner, which included beef and chicken carving stations, a full complement of salads, additional side dishes, wine, and beer with the ticket price.

Horses for the races were sold prior to the event and the attendees ate, drank, bid on baskets of donations, sports items, purchased 50/50 tickets, and gambled all night long.

Everyone enjoyed a great evening of fellowship, food, and fun. Over 250 members were in attendance with another substantial number of alumni contributing to the event without being able to attend.

The "Person of Focus" and recipient of the charitable donations from the event was former UD women's basketball head coach Joyce Perry.

Joyce acquired ovarian cancer over the last year and has been dealing with all of the issues and hardships that go along with trying to survive a life-threatening illness.

WHY AN ALL SPORTS ALUMNI GROUP AND NOT JUST FOOTBALL??

A networking group has its success rooted in the diversity of the group and the numbers that make up the group.

The football alumni will be part of a larger, stronger, more successful group with the group having it members come from all the sports. THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS, AND THE MORE THE MERRIER.

The next step to the success of this group is to achieve 100 percent enrollment and participation.

You must be registered with the group in order to access the advantages of the group.

REGISTER NOW!!!! Go to WWW.BHSAFF.COM, click the registration link, and submit your information. It literally should not take more than two minutes.

The website and membership to the organization is absolutely free. Your only responsibility to the group as a member is to actively recruit new members, increase registrations with the website and to maintain any and all relationships/friendships with members of the group.

A special thank you goes out to Bill Vergantino, (Football), Geof Gardner (Football), and Colleen McNamara-Cimador (Women's Basketball) for volunteering to accept the responsibility as the Administrative Board for the organization.

Meet the 2008 Delaware Recruits / Transfers

MARCUS BURLEY

CB • 5-10/160 • Richmond, VA

Played at Highland Springs HS for head coach Scott Burton...led team to a 10-0 record and the Capital District title in 2007...intercepted four passes and collected 29 tackles and returned five kicks for TD's in '07...averaged 33.0 yards on 25 returns for the season...first team Virginia High School Coaches Association All-State and first team Associated Press All-State as a senior as a defensive back...in track, was the Capital District 400m champion last spring.

CHAD DAVIS

OL • 6-4/280 • Newark, DE

Two-way lineman at nearby Newark HS for head coach Butch Simpson...led Newark HS to four state playoff appearances, two state title game appearances, and the state title in 2004...two-time All-State selection (both ways in '07)...had 44 tackles, including 21 solo hits, six tackles for loss, and two fumble recoveries in 2007...two-year team captain...DIAA Scholar-Athlete Award...will play guard or center.

ROB MCDOWELL

OL • 6-3/270 • Silver Spring, MD

Played at DeMatha HS for head coach Bill McGregory...also wrestles...played center, offensive

tackle, and defensive end at DeMatha...led team to three-year record of 33-3 and three straight WCAC league championships...team ranked No. 10 nationally by *USA Today* in 2006 (12-0) and No. 14 in 2005 (11-1)...led 2007 squad to 10-2 mark...posted 97 "pancake" blocks his final two years...set school squat lift record (605 lbs.)...second team All-State...honor roll.

LOGAN SHULTZ

DT • 6-3/275 • Orrtanna, PA

Played both ways at Gettysburg HS under coach Sam Leedy...led team to four-year record of 37-11 (12-3 in '07), three league titles, and two state playoff appearances...career totals of 278 tackles, 33 sacks, 56 tackles for loss, 13 forced fumbles, and seven fumble recoveries...posted 103 tackles, 14.5 sacks, 29 tackles for loss, six forced fumbles, and three fumble recoveries in '07...school records for sacks and tackles for loss in a season and career...two-time team MVP...three-time all-conference...school weightlifting record - lifting 1,400 lbs. in the bench (375 lbs.), clean (425 lbs.), and squat (600 lb.) lifts.

NIHJA WHITE

WR • 6-2/200 • Wayne, PA

First name pronounced "nigh-juh"...played at Conestoga HS for coach Jon Vogan...also competes for basketball team...has played wide receiver and kick returner at Conestoga...led team to four-year record of 26-11 (11-2 and district playoffs in 2007)...caught 103 passes for 2,076 yards and 34 touchdowns over final two seasons...caught 50 passes for 988 yards and 15 TDs as a junior in 2006 and snared 53 passes for 1,088 yards and 19 TDs in 2007...second team *Associated Press* All-State in 2007...Main Line Life Area Player of the Year.

ROB SCHOENHOFT

QB - 6-6 - 245 Mason, OH (Ohio State)

Transfer from Ohio State...will have two years of eligibility at Delaware...will take part in 2008 spring drills...backup for the No. 1 ranked Buckeyes the last three years and helped lead team to 2006 and 2007 BCS national title games...ranked No. 17 high school quarterback in country coming out of St. Xavier HS when he threw for 1,159 yards and 13 TDs...led basketball team to state finals...redshirt in 2005...played in two games in 2006...threw for 129 yards as team's No. 2 quarterback in 2007.

Meet the New Blue Hen Coaching Staff Members



Gregg Perry

Gregg Perry, who led the University of Delaware football team to national success as a player and then as a long-time assistant coach, returns to the Blue Hen staff this spring as tight ends and offensive tackles coach.

Perry, 54, served as offensive line coach at Princeton University the past two seasons, leading the Tigers to the 2006 Ivy League title. A native of Washington, NJ, Perry was a three-year standout as a running back and tight end at Delaware under Tubby Raymond from 1974-76, helping the Blue Hens win 28 games and make two appearances in the NCAA Division II playoffs. The 1974 squad went 12-2 and advanced to the national championship game.

Perry earned his bachelor's (1977) and master's (1979) degrees from Delaware. He served as an assistant coach for the Blue Hens for 25 seasons, working as a graduate assistant under Raymond in 1977-78, served as head coach of the freshman team in 1979-80, and became offensive line coach in 1981, a duty he held for 21 seasons until the 2001 season when Raymond retired.

During his tenure, Delaware teams posted a record of 172-79-1 (.684), advanced to the NCAA Tournament 11 times, including four national semifinal appearances and captured six league titles. He coached nine All-Americans.

Perry's wife, Joyce, served as UD's women's basketball head coach and was inducted into the UD Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004. They reside in Lincoln University, PA with their sons Rhett (a UD student) and Trey.



Aaron Harris

Aaron Harris, a former standout running back at Penn State, joins the Delaware staff in 2008 as running backs coach.

Harris, 31, a native of Exton, PA, takes over the running backs position after T.J. DiMuzio was moved to receiver coach.

An All-State running back at Downingtown (PA) High School where he received the prestigious Maxwell Club Award as the area's top player and was a Big 33 game nominee, Harris moved on to Penn State where he played for four seasons under Joe Paterno and earned his degree in integrated arts in 1999. Harris was a three-year starter and served as a team captain.

He rushed for 587 yards and nine touchdowns as a redshirt freshman and in 1999, led Penn State to a No. 1 national ranking. Penn State participated in a bowl game each of his four seasons. Before joining the coaching ranks, he served as a teacher in the Coatesville (PA) and Downingtown (PA) school districts.

He began his coaching career as defensive backs coach at Valley Forge (PA) Military College before heading to NCAA Division II power West Chester where he was running backs coach in 2005-06 under Bill Zwaan. The Rams went 17-8 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament each year, reaching the second round in 2006 with a 9-4 record. Both teams ranked among the top 10 in the nation in scoring.

Harris moved up to the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision level in 2007 when he served as running backs coach at Tennessee-Chattanooga under Rodney Allison. Aaron is single and resides in Wilmington, DE.

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a Doctoral of Physical Therapy. We are thrilled that J.T. will remain close to our football program for the next two years.

MARK CIAVIRELLA

Mark is interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Mark is planning to take the New Jersey State Trooper and State Civil Service Exam in the near future. Meanwhile, Mark will also help coach at his high school alma mater, Bergen Catholic High School.

TIM PRINDLE

Tim will earn his degree in finance this May. Tim is interested in pursuing a career as a financial analyst, but is also open to any opportunities in the financial services industry.

GREG BENSON

Greg is currently pursuing graduate school, and has already secured a job working in Athletics Operations at Florida Atlantic University. Greg is preparing himself for a career in Intercollegiate athletics, and one day hopes to be an athletics director.

JEREMY KAMETZ

Jeremy is currently pursuing graduate school here at the University of Delaware. Jeremy will receive his Masters Degree in Education and hopes to be a teacher in the near future. Jeremy would also like to coach high school football in Delaware near the Newark area.

OMAR CUFF

Omar is currently in training for a career in the National Football League. Omar has had several private workouts on campus with NFL teams this spring. Once Omar's football-playing days are over, he would like to own his own auto repair shop and work as a mechanic.

JOE FLACCO

Joe is currently in training for a career in the National Football League. Joe has had numerous private workouts on campus with NFL teams this spring. Once Joe's football career is over, he would like to have a career as an accountant.

2008 Delaware Football Alumni Golf Event May 9 • Patriot's Glen Golf Club • Elkton, MD

The 2008 University of Delaware Football Alumni golf outing will be held on Friday, May 9, at Patriots Glen Golf Club in Elkton, Maryland.

Registration and Lunch will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Shotgun start will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Following golf, we will hold a Cocktail Hour and Seafood Buffet from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

There is a sliding scale registration fee for golfers this year. The golf fees are:

Class of 2008 – Free

Class of 2007 - \$90

Class of 2006 - \$100

Class of 2005 - \$120

All Other Classes - \$125

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Jerry Oravitz, Director of Football Operations at (302) 831-4431 or email: joravitz@udel.edu.

Please hurry with your registration!

As of this mailing we have already registered 66 golfers.

Third Annual Rich Gannon Celebrity Golf Outing June 12, 2008 • White Clay Creek Country Club at Delaware Park • Stanton, DE

The 3rd Annual Rich Gannon Blue Hen Golf Classic will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at White Clay Creek Country Club at Delaware Park.

This event is the premiere fund-raising event for Delaware Football with all proceeds going directly into our program.

We have raised over \$150,000.00 in our first two years thanks to the very generous support of our alums, corporate sponsors, and friends of Blue Hen Football.

As of this mailing, we have already secured 21 golf sponsorships.

If you are interested in sponsoring a golf foursome (\$3,000.00), or attending our Captains and All-Americans Cocktail Party (\$100.00) hosted by Rich Gannon, please contact Jerry Oravitz at (302)831-4431, or by email at: joravitz@udel.edu.

Our Cocktail Party will be held right at White Clay Creek Country Club from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

The Cocktail Party will feature an open bar, heavy hors' d'oeuvres and silent auction.

We would like to give special thanks to MasterCard, our Title Sponsor for the second consecutive year, as well as our other major sponsors:

Presenting sponsor – Embassy Suites – Newark;
Cocktail Party sponsor – DelCard Associates; Golf



Course sponsor – White Clay Creek Country Club; Sign sponsor – Fast Signs; and Beverage sponsor – NKS Distributors.

Finally, this event would not be possible without the leadership of our Gannon Golf Committee:

Fred Rullo & John Cooley (Co-Chairs); Rich Gannon; K.C. Keeler; Ellen Reed - UD Football Staff Assistant; Chris Coyne; Curt Krouse - UD Sports Marketing Director; Bobbi Sample - GM at White Clay Creek CC; Keli Hefele & Kyle Post - UD Sports Management Interns; and Jerry Oravitz - UD Director of Football Operations.

Thank you for all your hard work and support!