

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC CLUB

ATHLETICS *Newsletter*

Volume 2, No. 1 | September 2020 | www.shepherdrams.com



IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the SUAC President
- 2 Coach's Corner
- 2 Did you know?
- 3 Catching Up with the Vice President for Athletics
- 4 In the News
- 5 SUAC Information



From the SUAC President

We continue to find ourselves in uncharted territory as it relates to the COVID-19 global pandemic, not to mention having to navigate civil and social unrest in our society. The goals remain clear however: that united together, our country will stem this global virus and facilitate the changes necessary to remove systemic racism, social injustice, and inequality.

A year ago, none of us could have imagined such challenge due to the aforementioned, nor could we have envisioned a new academic year void of fall athletics. Shepherd, like most colleges and universities, has had to make some difficult decisions in order to protect the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Nonetheless, SUAC remains committed to its mission to help drive athletic fundraising efforts so that our student-athletes have the best facilities and can compete at their highest level.

Because of your generosity, we've been able to have great impact. On behalf of the SUAC Board, the Shepherd University Athletic Department, and, most importantly, our student-athletes, we thank you!

Though we are still dealing with a great deal of uncertainty, as previously stated, our



Scott Bradford-Doleman '95 and '99
SUAC President

mission to elevate our athletic programs remains unchanged. Our ask is that you continue to give annually and help us promote SUAC and Shepherd University Athletics. Again, we've made great progress, but imagine the success of our programs with every former student-athlete, family, friends, faculty, and staff contributing annually at their highest level. The future is bright and we appreciate you in advance for your continued support!

Scott



Shepherd University Athletic Club
www.suathleticclub.org

Coach's Corner

Featuring Coach Ernie McCook, Shepherd University Football Coach

Without game day Saturdays this fall, what is the plan for you, your coaches, and your players?

"We're going to get the most we can out of the game of football. We're going to make sure our players are safe, being in an academic setting and being successful in the classroom, and then we're going to slowly get back into football activities. We will be maintaining safe social distancing while developing our players to compete in the spring semester. With the spring season being shorter, we still want to be the best football team we can be. So, everything is geared toward building a foundation this fall, hitting the ground running in January, and ultimately being successful in the fall of 2021. We're also going to be really focused on recruiting and have a plan for developing our roster moving forward."

What will the message be to the players as they come back and acclimate to a very different style of practice, learning, and training?

"The players understand the importance of social distancing, wearing a mask, and being smart in how we operate. Our players are going to be very cognizant of how we're going to prepare in smaller group settings, taking advantage of every rep. I have 100% confidence in our coaches and players as we face this new challenge."

Not knowing the details of what may lie ahead as far as a football schedule in the spring, when will you have information on players returning or players that may decide to sit out any abbreviated season?

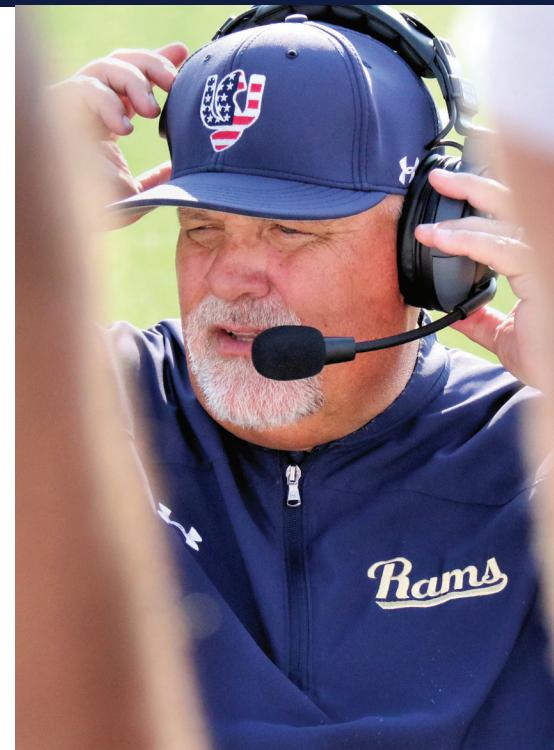
"We've been in communication with our football team for the last six months, making them aware of our potential options for them. Every decision is going to be made by each individual player and their families on what is best for them. Our players know that we are 100% supportive of their decision. Our ultimate goal is that they have the best academic and athletic experience while here at Shepherd University."

Obviously too soon to grade your recruiting class when they haven't hit the field yet, but tell us about some of the recruits and your expectations. What percentage of recruits were must-haves that you were able to land here at SU?

"We're really excited about our recruiting class. We think this has been a blessing for the redshirt freshmen from last year and this incoming class. So now we are going to use the fall as a developmental time and they will have the opportunity to get live game reps in the spring which will build for the fall of 2021. This is a great opportunity for them to develop and have a very productive redshirt year."

Shepherd football has been steep in tradition for many years, dating back to the 1950s. As the current coach, but as a member of the coaching staff here for many years, what makes SU so successful year in and year out?

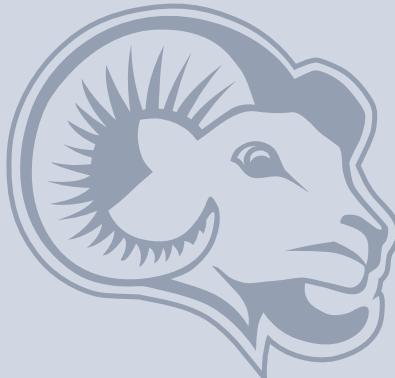
"What makes us successful at Shepherd University is consistency. Even though the program has changed since the '50s, we still have the same core values. Tough, hard-nosed individuals that play here are goal oriented and want to be successful. Shepherd is a great



place to live, work, and coach football. We have consistency in our staff, our players are happy, and we find the right niche for them. That is the key to making us successful as a team."

Finally, if you could ask our members, alumni, fans, and friends of SU for one thing to keep your program playing on the national stage year in and year out, what ask would you make?

"The most important thing for our alumni and fans to do is support the entire athletic program. The stronger we are as a whole, the better we will be in each individual sport. We have a lot of kids that are going to work very hard and they are very eager to be successful. Our coaches also want to be successful and do it the right way. This is a great athletic department to be a part of. This department works to make our alumni and friends of Shepherd University very proud." ■



Did you know?

With the addition of Women's Golf, and Men's and Women's Cross Country in the coming year, the number of sports fielded by Shepherd University will be 15.

Fifteen sports is the most offered in university history! ■

The **average GPA** over all Shepherd athletic teams was 3.3 with 10 of the 12 teams over a 3.4 GPA for the 2019-2020 Fall Semester. **Congratulations to all of the programs' student athletes** and their excellence both in the classroom and their respective sport ■

Catching Up with the Vice President for Athletics

As always, Chauncey, thanks so much for the time you spend with us to keep members and fans updated and informed.

We're three to four months from last speaking and talking about the cancellation of spring sports and that process. Hard to believe we start this interview with the postponing of fall sports for the upcoming academic year.

Postponing of the season and canceling the season are two different things so what is the latest on the fall sports and the intention to play some type of season?

"As of right now, the PSAC has decided to push all fall sports to the spring. They've also made a decision to only play 50% of the maximum amount of games that the NCAA will allow. They also lowered the maximum and minimum amount of games, so for instance with football, the maximum amount of games was 11, they lowered it to 10. So in communicating with the coaches from the institutions within the league, the majority of the fall sports thought that the 50% rule made sense. Therefore, the athletic directors in the league voted for the 50% percent rule. So that is the direction we are headed with regards to fall sports next spring. The biggest piece of that is the NCAA decided to cancel all NCAA fall championships, which made that decision a little easier."

Obviously, we cannot discuss every aspect of how this affects eligibility, players that may be set to graduate in the fall, etc., but what do you see as the most challenging point of discussion that is taking place in the PSAC and NCAA meetings in respect to trying to play a fall schedule at a future date?

"It was confusing with regards to the direction that the NCAA was going, where the league was going, and where the institutions were going as well. At the end of the day, all of those stakeholders want us to provide a good experience for student athletes. So, eligibility for student athletes was the biggest concern. We are still dealing with students who are taking a semester off because it made sense from an academic standpoint. With the NCAA giving students a year back, I think it made it a little easier for students to go part time, go online, or be able to come back in compete in the spring as a fall student-athlete and it will not affect their eligibility. We are still trying to figure out how this is going to affect winter sports."



Chauncey Winbush '95 and '00

Spring sports for the most part, are all set; there shouldn't be very many changes on how this affects them unless COVID increases in some way. So, eligibility was the main focus for the NCAA, our institutions, and our league."

Tell our members and fans the type of President Shepherd University has in President Mary J.C. Hendrix. Not only have university administrators had to deal with the pandemic, but also a national movement for social justice and the call for racial unity. How has she shaped and directed the university through this? What level of support and leadership has she provided to not only the university, but to athletics as well?

"It goes without saying that Dr. Hendrix is an incredible leader and she is the right person for that position during this time. For those that don't know, Dr. Hendrix has a background in cancer research, so dealing with a pandemic is right up her alley. She's done a great job of leading us through this situation. I think one of the best things about Dr. Hendrix is that she is incredibly optimistic, even during tough situations. She has put into place testing all of our students and employees before returning to class. She created a plan so that when our students and faculty came back to Shepherdstown, they would feel safe. From a social justice and racial unity standpoint, she is

all for making sure that people are being smart with regards to those two facets. She will not put up with any racial divides on campus and she will allow students to have their voices to support racial justice. From an athletic standpoint, she has been very involved with the PSAC and making tough decisions with regards to whether or not we were going to compete or push athletics to the spring. Dr. Hendrix wants our athletic department to be successful, and she has been very supportive of our plans for the student athletes thus far"

Lastly, what do you see when you look at the landscape of athletics socially, competitively, and financially at Shepherd University this academic year?

"It's going to be a challenging year. It certainly feels weird that we're not preparing for football, soccer, and volleyball. We're going to use this time to get our student-athletes ready to compete in the spring. This will certainly have a financial impact on us this year especially since we won't be having our home football games. Not being able to go out and work with corporate sponsors is obviously going to have a negative impact on us this year as well, but we're not the only ones dealing with that. There are many schools across the conference and Division II that are going through the same thing this year, so we can't feel sorry for ourselves." ■

In the News

NOW COACHING, SHANK WAS ONE OF SHEPHERD'S BEST



SHEPHERDSTOWN— “Pond Bank, Pennsylvania.”

How Shepherd men’s basketball public address announcer Paddy Alter loved to bring out Rams’ forward Danley Shank to the starting lineup. “A senior from Pond Bank, Pennsylvania . . . Danley Shank,” Alter would draw in the crowd with his lengthy introduction.

Pond Bank is a village of few people and fewer houses that sends its residents to Chambersburg High School.

And in the case of fast-rising Danley Shank, Chambersburg High sent him on to Shepherd University to play four years of basketball for the Rams (from 2002-2003 through 2006-2007).

Shank seemed to improve by leaps and bounds,

from his junior season at Chambersburg through his senior year. He was on the crowded junior varsity team as a junior, and then led the varsity in scoring as a senior. After averaging about 17 points a game, Shank was named to the Mid-Penn Conference first team.

While at Chambersburg, Shank lettered in basketball, volleyball, and track and field.

Nothing extraordinary was expected of the 6-foot-5, 180-pound Shank when he reported to Shepherd practices in October at the beginning of his freshman year.

However, the lithe forward soon began to open eyes and draw compliments with his scoring and the manner in which he played the game.

Shank was as quiet and well-mannered as he was effective.

By the time he completed his senior year for the Rams, who were stationed in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference at the time, Shank had scored 1,560 points, claimed 510 rebounds and been selected to the All-WVIAC first-team in his senior year. His last accolades gave him a three-year run of All-WVIAC honors.

Throughout his senior season (2006-07), Shank led the nation in free throw shooting with a 94 percent success rate. In the last several weeks of that season he missed enough free throws to drop his overall success rate to 90.5 percent, good for third-best in the country.

Shank’s demeanor on the floor combined with his sportsmanship earned him the respect of the game officials who worked the Shepherd games. That group honored him with the Sparky Adams Heart and Hustle Award for the 2006-2007 season.

Now 36-years-old, Shank has become the head varsity boys basketball coach at Shalom Christian Academy, a private school in Chambersburg.

His collection of statistics gained at Shepherd were enough to get him voted into the university’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

And he’s the only player from “Pond Bank, Pennsylvania” to ever join the elite ranks of the best athletes Shepherd has ever produced. ■

SHEPHERD FOOTBALL PLAYER ZANE LEWIS COMMENDED BY MARYLAND SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Football player Zane Lewis received kudos from Lt. Mark M. DeBord, Operations Bureau, Carroll County Sheriff’s Office in Maryland, in an email to Chauncey Winbush, vice president for athletics. In his note, DeBord commended Lewis for a presentation he made to Carroll County police officers as they were planning for protests and demonstrations related to the death of George Floyd. DeBord said, “Prior to the briefing I was able to speak to Zane and his family. I shared some Shepherd College stories with him and we were able to laugh with one another. However, what impressed me the most was when this mature young man walked into an auditorium

of police officers and addressed the crowd. He spoke of his ties to Carroll County, how he loved Maryland, and Shepherd University. He compared his football experiences and teamwork to the operation we were preparing to encounter. He spoke to us about diversity and peace, understanding each other, and articulated the importance of ‘implicit biases’ and community policing. At the end he asked us all to hold hands and we prayed together! I have experienced many incidents in my 16 years of law enforcement and could go into detail about the events, but they are not relevant to the conversation. However, standing beside Zane and listening to

him speak was the most humbling experience I have encountered in my career. This young man embodies the characteristics of a great leader; he is humble, articulate, wise, and approachable.”

The SUAC would also like to commend this young man on the attributes he possesses, the leadership he shows, and his desire to get involved and make a difference in our society. Our board is a group of people that differ in age, gender, ethnicities, and sports played. What Zane embodies in working together with open dialogue is what the SUAC board was founded on and we applaud his efforts. ■

GOLF COACH CHUCK INGRAM LANDS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY GOLF HALL OF FAME

Shepherd University head men's and women's golf coach Chuck Ingram was recently inducted into the Washington County, Maryland, Golf Hall of Fame. Ingram was one of four inductees at a ceremony at Beaver Creek Country Club.

Ingram boasts an impressive list of victories including the WACO Championship (1991), Beaver Creek Invitational (1999), Black Rock Championship (2000, 2002), Washington County Amateur (2002), Beaver Creek Club Championship (1993, 1999), and the Harnett County (NC) Championship (2007). He won nine events in the Harris Teeter Senior Amateur Tour and captured three events in the Keller Williams Amateur Tour.

"Based on his success as a player, this distinguished recognition is well deserved," said Shepherd University Vice President for Athletics



Chauncey Winbush. "We are incredibly proud of Coach Ingram and are lucky to have him leading

our men's and women's golf programs here at Shepherd." ■

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCEMENT

Shepherd University announces the Class of 2020 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Football player Tom Korbini '88, joins Lee Cook '63 (men's swimming), Ed Bridge '95 (men's soccer and men's basketball) and Laura Harkins Kelly '09 (women's basketball) as the 35th class to be inducted. The "fantastic four" bring the total number of inductees in the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame to 159.

Korbini (Berryville, Va./1984 graduate of Park View High School), was a member of the football team from 1984-87 where he started all 41 games for the Rams over that period. He recorded 216 tackles (110 solos) with 26 sacks over his career. His 26 sacks currently rank him seventh on the Shepherd all-time list.

Cook (Vienna, Va./1959 graduate of Anacostia

High School) was a four-year standout on the Shepherd men's swimming team from 1959-63. Cook set numerous records over his career, which included pool, school, and conference marks. Cook was also a two-year member of the men's track team and helped Shepherd place second at the 1961 WVIAC title meet as a participant in the pole vault, long jump, and the 4X400 relay team. Bridge (Leesburg, Va./1990 graduate of Salesianum (Del.) School) was a four-year standout goalkeeper on the men's soccer team from 1991-94. He finished his career as the program's all-time leader in saves (504). Bridge posted a school-record 20 saves against Davis & Elkins in 1992. He was also a four-year member of the men's basketball team.

Kelly (Atlanta, Ga./2004 graduate of Spring

Grove (Pa.) High School) was a four-year standout on the women's basketball team from 2004-08. Kelly ranks 10th on the all-time scoring list with 1,225 points and eighth on the all-time rebounding chart with 730. The program's all-time leader in blocked shots (248), she shares the single-season mark (69).

Congratulations to these athletes who proved themselves to be the best of the best in their respective sports at Shepherd University. We honor their accomplishments and know that they will continue their legacy over the coming years and be ambassadors for this great university and the athletic department. We look forward to seeing you all at your induction ceremony. ■

SUAC Information

The SUAC board wishes all of our members and fans continued health and peace through this time. We also want to thank you for your generosity to all of our sports and their facilities. It goes without saying that when we all support a vision in pursuit of the university's athletic goals, it will be successful! ■



CONNECT WITH US

Find up-to-date information and events

www.suathleticclub.org

[shepherdramssuac](#)

[shepherduniversityathleticclub](#)

[shepuathleticclub](#)

DONATE

www.suathleticclub.org/join-the-suac-today