Anders leads Blue Devils to best-ever track finish

Men’s Track

The seasons can’t get much better than this for UW-Stout men’s track, or can they? Terry Anders (Jr. Cornell) successfully defended his 400-meter outdoor title and added two additional titles to his collection at the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships this season as the Blue Devils placed fifth with 56 points, Stout’s best ever finish, and the highest of any WSSU program.

Anders won the 200-meters with a time of 21.38, almost a half second ahead in front of his nearest competitor. Anders clocked a school record 46.81 in the 4x400 relay at the last big track meet by the 100 in school record time, 10:55, and won Athlete of Meet honors from the United States Track Coaches’ Association (USTCA).

Anders is now one of only two Division III athletes to have won three individual titles at the national meet in a single year and is one of nine Division III performers to have won four individual titles in his career. One other athlete, former conceptual science major Mark Oertel, has also done it twice. Anders is only a junior and with a repeat three-peat next year, could tally seven individual titles. By winning the 400-meters, Anders sets himself up to join a group of 12 to win a three-peat in an individual event. Anders also has two indoor 400 titles.

The 4 X 100 relay team of Anders, Jesse Wickett (Fr., New Lisbon), Mike Hallingstad (Jr., Sports), and Chris Valois (Jr., Anoka, Minn.) placed fifth [3:15.64] despite dropping the baton. The 4 X 100 relay team of Anders, Wickett, Hallingstad and Joe Verstegen (Fr., Little Chute) placed sixth [41.70].

Jason Lehman (So. Broe) was fourth in the discus [162-9] and seventh in the shot put [51' 5.50"].

Chris Hallingstad (Jr. Kroninger) had a school record in pole vault [16' 0.75""].

Records were made to be broken and 1996 was the year they were broken.

Devney is described by his coach, Dwain Mintz, as “a tough competitor who played hard and gutsy. He played so hard it sometimes would get in the way.”

Troy Gustafson (Jr., Waukesha) set a new single season school record in stolen bases for a single-season record of 68 thefts.

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 licensed to read it naturally.

The Blue Devils may have found someone to challenge Brion’s hitting numbers, and didn’t have to look outside of Menomonie.

Tanya Petrie, who attended high school in Woodville, Wash., and is the daughter of Stout baseball coach Terry Petrie, spent most of her formative years in Menomonie. As a freshman designated player this season, Petrie earned all-region honors by batting .477 and driving in a team-best 39 runs. Petrie was named Obert’s rookie of the year.

Joining Brion and Petrie on the all-WWLUW West Division team were Carolyn Bure (So, Superior) and Joy Ringer (St. Cloud, Minn.).

Baseball

Looking back at the season, two things immediately jump out from the statistics sheets — bases stolen and losses by two runs or less.

At the beginning of the season, 26th year coach Terry Petrie said his team would need to counter a lack of power hitting by utilizing team-speed on the base paths. The Blue Devils did not use only speed on the paths, they sacrificed the bases for a single-season record of 68 thefts.

Unfortunately for the Blue Devils, stolen bases didn’t add up to quite enough runs as Stout dropped eight games by two runs and four more by one run. On the other side of the coin, Stout won two games by two runs and two games by a single run. The Blue Devils finished 15-20 overall, 3-9 in the Wisconsin State University Conference, good for third for the second consecutive year in the Northern Division.

Transfers helped to shore up the Blue Devils this season, with Barry Michlig (Jr. Wisconsin) and Ron Yesu (Jr., Amersfoort) being named co-most valuable players. Both transferred from junior college national champion Madison Area Technical College.

Michlig proved very solid at second base, hitting .359 and fielding at a 957 clip, committing only six errors in 138 chances. Michlig reached on 43 hits and led the team at-bats with 123.

Yesu posted a 4.6 overall season, .402 of 98 hits and nine complete games, the most of all Blue Devil pitchers.

Terry Anderson (center) successfully defended his 400-meter outdoor title and added two additional NCAA III titles to his collection.