

9-1-2011

Letters

Furman University

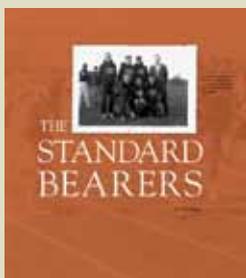
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Letters



THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY

THE SUMMER 2011 ISSUE of *Furman* had an outstanding article about Coach Chuck Rohe and Furman track. Coach Rohe deserves all the accolades mentioned in the article and actually many more.

The purpose of this letter is that I believe the article omitted the biggest and best compliment for Coach Rohe. When he arrived in 1957 the track team was a bunch of walk-ons who had no coaching — just a group of good old friends having fun. The year before they had scored two points in the Southern Conference meet by finishing the mile relay.

Coach Rohe changed all that almost immediately. He added indoor track and worked with outdoor track to develop a full schedule of practices, six to seven days a week. He took them from a rag-tag group to a formidable track team by 1959. He was then able to start recruiting quality scholarship-caliber athletes.

It seems the athletic department has ignored the accomplishments of this team during the first two years of Coach Rohe's tenure. In fact, I don't think there is a Furman athlete from the 1958–59 spring sports in the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame except for golf and cheerleading.

The 1959 team defeated Clemson (for the first time in approximately 35 years) and the University of Miami. The team's performance at the Southern Conference championships was also a surprise for everyone, since it finished second after finishing ninth just two years earlier. Four first-place individual championships and four school records were recorded at this meet. There was also improvement in cross country as well as indoor track, with the team actually bringing home medals in the Atlantic Coast Conference Indoor Championships.

The accomplishments of this walk-on group were the start of Furman's impressive track history under the leadership of Coach Rohe. Because of his determination track moved to the forefront of sports at Furman and received national acclaim.

All members of these teams realize the influence Coach Rohe had on their lives and will always be appreciative of his motivation, support and guidance. All alumni and the current student body should be made aware of the accomplishments and success of his first two teams. Those are outstanding years and should not be forgotten in Furman's athletic history.

— JUAN A. BROWN

The writer, a 1959 graduate, was a captain of Furman's cross country and track and field teams. He won two state titles and a conference title in the 880-yard dash, and was the conference two-mile champion in 1959. He is a physician in Anderson, S.C.



9/11 STORIES STRUCK A CHORD

I READ THE STORIES ABOUT 9/11 in the Summer 2011 magazine with great interest, since it is a topic of particular significance to me and my family.

I was at the World Trade Center with two of my children when the first plane hit. My daughter Magee was 11 at the time; she is currently a senior at Furman. Thankfully, we escaped without physical injury, but living just a few blocks north of the site, we are constantly reminded of the events of that day.

Neither of my children will ever escape the memory of the horrific events they witnessed. However, in the days that followed, we all discovered the resiliency of the American spirit and, through service to others, found the tools to live life fully. Both children have chosen areas of study in college that have been inspired by what they did in the days and months that followed — things which helped them renew their spirit, hold onto their humanity and live life joyfully.

This past June, Magee was interviewed for "Nick News with Linda Ellerbee" for a special program about 9/11. Watching it, I was reminded of the terror we experienced as the building exploded above our heads. Perhaps more significantly, I was reminded to be thankful that my children and my family not only survived, but grew through the experience.

We will spend this anniversary at our restaurant, located in the neighborhood just north of the WTC, where we spent the hours, days and months after the terror attacks. We expect to see many of those who sought refuge with us that day, and those we served for weeks that followed.

I thought you would like to know. Thank you for your articles.

— KATHY CAPSOUTO

The writer's family runs Capsouto Freres, a New York restaurant. Her daughter is double-majoring in philosophy and violin performance and is concert master of the Furman Symphony Orchestra.

STILL SAVVY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS



WHEN I CAME ACROSS the Flash Mob article in the Summer 2011 magazine, I had to chuckle because someone felt it necessary to explain to those of us over 30 what a Flash Mob is. I know 53 must seem nearly dead to you, but I assure you we still manage to get out at our age. Oh, and I used the barcode app on my iPad 2 to view the video, by the way.

— JILL TILLMAN

The writer, a 1980 graduate, stays hip and current in Pittsburgh, Pa.