

6-1-2011

Club sports make noise on national scene

Furman University

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Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2011) "Club sports make noise on national scene," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 54 : Iss. 2 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol54/iss2/19>

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Conference names Arguello Female Athlete of Year

MONICA ARGUELLO '11, who in 2011 posted an 18-5 record at No. 1 singles, including a 10-0 mark in league matches, was chosen the Southern Conference Female Athlete of the Year. The award, selected by conference athletics directors and a media representative, recognizes athletic achievement, academic performance and civic involvement.

Arguello is the seventh Paladin to win the award and the fourth Furman tennis player to do so, joining Megan Dunigan '02, Mary Neill Hagood '05 and Laura Gioia '09. Arguello was also the Women's Tennis Player of the Year and the Furman Female Athlete of the Year.

A native of Lakeland, Fla., she finished the spring season on a 12-match winning streak and was ranked 67th nationally by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, the highest ranking for any Southern Conference player. She completed her four-year career with a 38-1 record in league matches and was a four-time first-team all-conference selection.

She won 67 career singles matches, the ninth-highest total in Furman history, and was named the league's Freshman of the Year in 2008. She competed in the 2011 NCAA championships, losing in the Round of 64.

An education major, Arguello was named to the 2011 Capital One Academic All-District Team, the Academic All-Conference Team and the ITA All-Academic Team. Her service work extended to such causes as the Greenville Humane Society, Relay for Life, St. Anthony's Church and Furman's Heller Service Corps Fall Festival. She plans to earn a master's degree and become a child life specialist.



CASEY GIBSON

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THANKS TO ANDY BAKER '12, the Furman cycling team continues to earn national attention — and titles.

Baker, a history major from Easley, S.C., captured the USA Division II national collegiate cycling road race championship May 6 in Madison, Wis., outdistancing 78 other riders by completing the 74-mile course in a time of three hours, 18 minutes and 21 seconds.

Since Furman launched cycling as a club sport in 2007, Furman riders have won two national team time trial titles and two individual championships. Chris Butler '10 was the 2008 road race champion.

The Wisconsin course featured a number of grueling hills. Baker took charge toward the end and wound up winning by nearly five minutes. His time was also three minutes faster than that of the Division I champion.

"It's a really hard course that was well-suited to my abilities, and it just worked out really well,"

said Baker, who finished fourth in the same event in 2010. As the only rider from Furman to compete, he scored enough points to give the Paladins a 13th-place overall finish. He finished fourth among individual riders.

Baker competes professionally for Bissell Pro Cycling during the spring and summer.

THE CLUB BASEBALL TEAM also had the chance to pursue a national title this spring in the Division II Club Baseball World Series in Johnstown, Pa.

The Paladins were the No. 3 seed after winning the Division IV regional championship. They wound up losing their two games in the double-elimination national tournament, falling to the University of Wisconsin, 14-5, and Texas State University, 8-3, to complete the season with a 16-5 record.

This was the first time the club team qualified for post-season play.