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Sports roundup

Furman University

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Sports roundup

Paladin football players earn host of post-season honors

The 2004 Furman football team was one of the most honored in school history, and for much of the season the Paladins appeared talented enough to add the greatest honor of all, a national championship in Division I-AA. But, in the end, it was not to be.

The team posted a 10-3 record, won the Southern Conference championship and finished the regular season with a No. 2 national ranking. Its three losses all came in the games' waning minutes—in overtime to Fiesta Bowl qualifier Pittsburgh (41-38), in the last 35 seconds to Appalachian State (30-29), and in the last 28 seconds to eventual I-AA national champion James Madison (14-13) in the second round of the playoffs.

Top individual honors earned by the Paladins:

■ Senior offensive tackle Ben Bainbridge was named to the Associated Press I-AA All-America first team. He also made the Walter Camp and Sports Network All-America teams and received the Jacobs Blocking Award, given annually to the top blocker in the league.

■ Junior linebacker William Freeman was the 2004 Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Year and South Carolina Player of the Year (chosen by the Greenville Touchdown Club). He was also named third-team AP All-America and was a second-team selection for the Sports Network All-America squad.

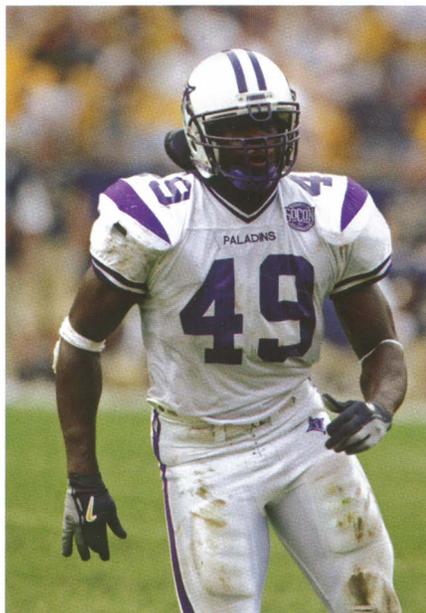
■ Defensive end Roy Ravenell became the first sophomore defensive player in Furman history to earn All-America honors, making the AP and Sports Network third teams.

■ Coach Bobby Lamb was named Southern Conference Coach of the Year by league media.

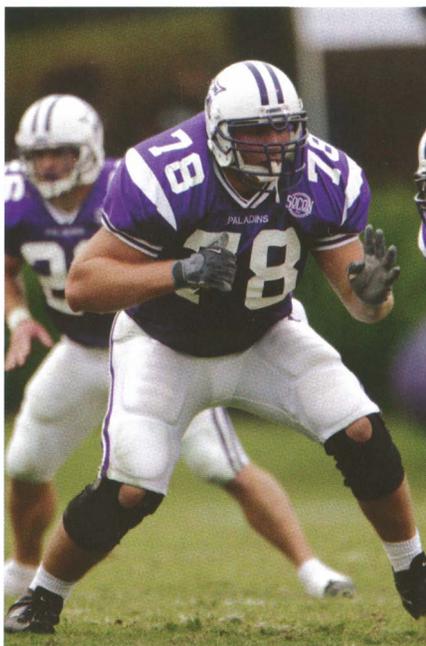
■ Strong safety Andrew Thacker was named Southern Conference Freshman of the Year by league media.

■ Junior quarterback Ingle Martin, who transferred to Furman from the University of Florida last year, was named Southern Conference Player of the Month for November.

A total of 14 Paladins were named to the media's all-conference squad. Bainbridge, Freeman, Ravenell, freshman placekicker Scott Beckler and three other seniors — free safety Cam Newton, receiver Isaac West and tight end Willis Sudderth — made the first team. Four seniors (receiver Brian Bratton, linebacker Cedrick Ritter, cornerback T.J. Wilson



Linebacker William Freeman was the league's Defensive Player of the Year.



All-American Ben Bainbridge won the conference's Jacobs Blocking Award.

and punter Bo Moore) were joined by three juniors (offensive guard Patrick Covington, center Corey Stewart and nose guard Brant Glover) on the second team.

State shrine tabs Southern

Debbie Southern, women's tennis coach at Furman since 1984, was inducted into the South Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame December 4.

In her 20 years at Furman, Southern's teams have won 12 Southern Conference

regular season titles and 12 league tournament crowns while making five trips to the NCAA tournament. In 2004, she surpassed 300 wins at Furman.

Entering the 2005 season, her teams were undefeated in conference play since 2000. She has been named the league's coach of the year eight times, most recently in 2004, and has twice received Furman's J. Lyles Alley Coach of the Year Award.

Court One of the Minor Mickel Tennis Center is named for her in recognition of her contributions to Furman.

A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., and a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Southern is widely recognized for her administrative skills. In July 1995 she was assistant to the director of tennis at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Colorado Springs; she has also been a member of the NCAA Women's Tennis Committee and has chaired the NCAA Southeast Regional Committee.

Southern joins men's coach Paul Scarpa in the state hall.

Burr succeeds Lee

Andrew Burr '91, assistant women's soccer coach since 1998, was named in December to succeed Brian Lee '93 as head coach. Lee, who had coached at Furman since the women's program began in 1994, has become head women's coach at Louisiana State University.

Burr has extensive experience in sports marketing and in coaching. In addition to his work with soccer camps, he was coach for two years of the under-18 and under-16 girls' teams for Greenville's St. Giles United, now Carolina Elite Soccer Academy.

A member of the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame, Burr was a three-time All-Southern Conference soccer selection as a student and a two-time member of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-South Region team. He also spent one season on the football team, earning all-conference and all-state honors as a placekicker.

Under Lee, who captained the soccer team during his student days, the Furman women compiled a 144-80-10 record, including a 76-16-3 mark in Southern Conference action. He was named league coach of the year five times and was a finalist for NSCAA National Coach of the Year honors in 1999. His 2004 squad finished 14-9 and won the conference tournament.

FURMAN SPORTS INFORMATION (2)