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Athletic Hall of Fame inducts five new members

Furman University

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Furman athletics

Paladin Plaza makes debut

Stadium's redesigned entrance area a true showplace

This fall, Furman football fans were treated to a spectacular new sight when they approached the home entrance to Paladin Stadium.

Known as Paladin Plaza, the redesigned entrance area features a 17-foot-high bronze patina statue of a horse and knight, which symbolizes the university's athletic mascot. The lighted, 12,000-square-foot area also includes such features as benches, custom landscaping and brick walkways with granite-set edging.

More than 200 people attended a late August dedication ceremony for Paladin Plaza.

Local residents Sonny Horton '52 and his wife, Keeter, and Melvin Younts '50 and his wife, Dollie, were the primary donors for the \$500,000 plaza. Artist Jon Hair of Cornelius, N.C., who has replicated a number of mascots for universities across the South, designed the statue.

Irwin and Carol Grotnes Belk of Charlotte, N.C., donated the sculpture. The Belks have funded numerous projects at Furman, including the Irwin Belk Track Complex; the "Great Egrets" sculpture in front of Judson Hall; "Aquarii," the centerpiece of the brick patio beside Herman N. Hipp Hall; and the statue of Richard Furman that graces Benefactors Circle at Cherrydale, the university's Alumni House.

The granite for the Paladin Plaza statue was donated by the L.D. Stewart family of Oldsmar, Fla., in honor of the 2002 Furman football team. Chris Stewart and Marty Priore, both 2002 Furman graduates



who were All-America offensive linemen for the Paladins and who are now in the granite business in Odessa, Fla., installed the material for the statue's six-foot pedestal.

In addition, the names of athletic donors who have created fully endowed scholarships have been engraved into the pedestal of the statue. The names of members of the Order of the Paladin (contributors to the Paladin Club at the quarter-, half- and full- scholarship levels) have been engraved on a plaque attached to Paladin Stadium.

Athletic Hall of Fame inducts five new members

Standouts from the sports of football, golf and soccer were inducted into the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame August 30.

Selected for inclusion this year were two members of the Class of '98, golfer Jen Hanna and soccer defender Pete Santora. They were joined by offensive tackle Jack Summers '46, linebacker Kota Suttle '93 and golfer Todd White '90.

■ **Jen Hanna** was a National Golf Coaches Association All-America selection in 1998, when she was also named Furman's Edna Hartness Female Athlete of the Year. A two-time Southern Conference Player of the Year, she played in three NCAA championships and set the Furman season stroke average record (73.63) during the 1997-98 campaign. She currently plays on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour.

■ **Pete Santora**, a four-year starter,

was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association All-America first team in 1996 and '97, becoming the first soccer All-American in Furman history. The Southern Conference Player of the Year in 1997 and a three-time all-league selection, he played two seasons of professional soccer after graduating. He lives in Atlanta and is founding partner of Nacional, LLC, a national soccer camp organization.

■ **Jack Summers** was a first-team All-South Carolina selection and honorable mention all-conference and All-America in 1942 before his career was interrupted by World War II. He served in the Army Air Corps before returning to Furman for the 1946 season. He participated in the 1946 Blue-Gray All-Star Classic and served for many years as a high school coach and as a school administrator in Sumter, S.C. He died in 1980.

■ **Kota Suttle** was a four-year letterman and starter at linebacker for Furman and was named first-team All-America in 1992 by both the American Football Coaches Association and Sports Network. A two-time all-conference performer, he was voted the team's top freshman in 1989 and the defensive most valuable player in 1992. Now practicing law in Atlanta, he ranks as Furman's all-time leading tackler.

■ **Todd White** advanced to the third round of the 2003 United States Amateur Championship. A four-time all-league selection, he was honorable mention All-America in 1989. He won the 1988 Southern Conference championship and the 1989 and '90 Furman Intercollegiate, as well as the 1990 South Carolina Amateur and 1991 state match-play championship. He is a teacher and coach in Spartanburg, S.C.