

6-1-2003

## Spring honors

Furman University

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### Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2003) "Spring honors," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 2 , Article 28.  
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol46/iss2/28>

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# Furman athletics

## Spring honors

*Standout seasons bring Paladin athletes conference, national recognition*

James Cameron and Tom Mastny were awarded Furman diplomas May 31, but a college degree was just one of a host of milestones the outstanding student-athletes reached during the late spring.

Cameron, who played No. 1 on the tennis team, was named the 2003 Southern Conference Player of the Year and the league's Male Athlete of the Year after posting a 16-10 singles record and 18-6 doubles mark. A Phi Beta Kappa, *summa cum laude* graduate in health and exercise science, the Harrare, Zimbabwe, resident was also named to the Verizon Academic All-America University Division Tennis First Team and to the TIAA-CREF All-Academic Team. He has been accepted to medical school at Emory University.

Two other 2003 graduates, football player Rodney Johnson and baseball pitcher Jon Stallsmith, were also named to the Verizon Academic All-America first teams in their respective sports.

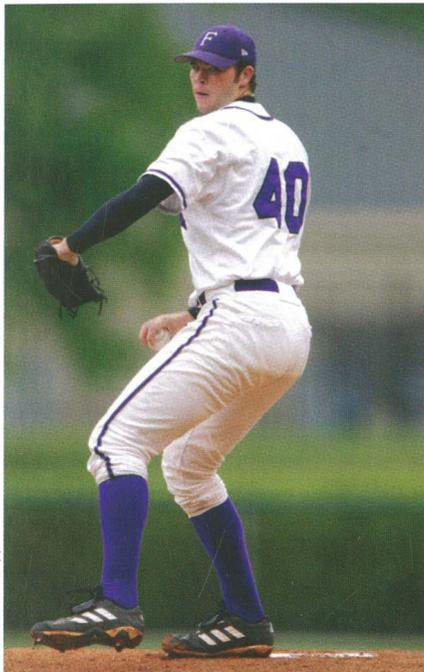
Mastny, a standout right-hander on the baseball team, was named 2003 Southern Conference Pitcher of the Year by the league's coaches and was chosen a third team All-American by *Collegiate Baseball Magazine*. He posted an 11-2 record and a nation's best 1.09 earned run average. The 6-5, 225-pounder from Zionsville, Ind., went 9-0 against conference foes and tossed eight complete games, helping the Paladins to a school-record 32 wins. He earned his degree in business administration.

Just a few days after Commencement, he was chosen in the 11th round of the major league draft by the Toronto Blue Jays. The 320th selection overall, he became the highest draft choice in Furman baseball history. In 2002, pitcher Danny Rueckel was drafted in the 12th round by the Montreal Expos.

### 11 in a row

The Furman women's program has earned its 11th straight Germann Cup, awarded to the top women's athletic program in the Southern Conference.

The Lady Paladin program compiled 83.5 points in the Germann Cup standings during 2002-03 to outpace Tennessee-



PATRICK COLLARD (2)

Chattanooga by 5.5 points and Georgia Southern by 9. Furman was bolstered by regular-season league championships in soccer and tennis and a second-place finish in the golf tournament.

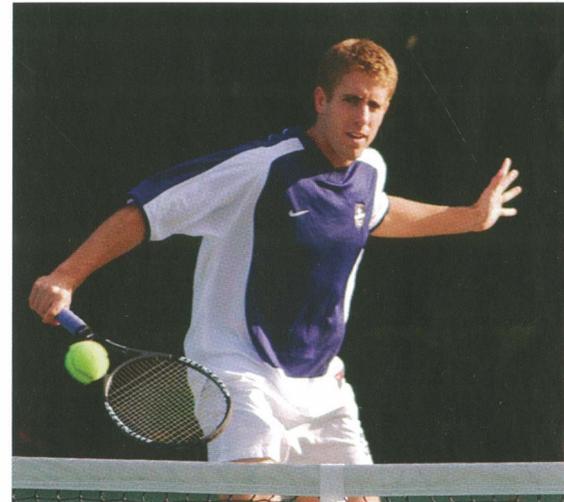
The Furman men tied for second (behind Appalachian State) in the Commissioner's Cup race, their highest finish since winning the Cup in 1991. The men's program was led by a league title in soccer, a tie for second in football and a third-place finish in tennis.

### Flynn steps down

Softball coach Bonnie Flynn announced after the 2003 season that she was retiring from coaching as of June 30. Flynn coached at Furman for the last eight years and was a college coach for a total of 13 years.

Flynn was twice named Southern Conference Coach of the Year and led the Lady Paladins to the finals of the league tournament on three occasions. She also traveled overseas several times to work as an instructor and consultant at international softball clinics and developmental programs.

An official for boys' and girls' high school



*During one stretch of the 2003 season, Tom Mastny hurled 26.2 consecutive scoreless innings; James Cameron is the third Furman tennis player to be named to the Academic All-America first team.*

and Division II women's basketball, Flynn says that she may pursue officiating at the Division I level. She also expects to continue working at softball clinics, thereby staying involved in the two sports in which she competed as an undergraduate at Yale University. She plans to remain in the Greenville area.

### Jackson, Kovarik tapped

Brandi Jackson '03, the runner-up in the 2002 U.S. Amateur, was named second-team All-America this spring by the National Golf Coaches Association.

Jackson, who was also named the Southern Conference Player of the Year, earned a bid to the NCAA tournament by winning the East Regional championship. She carded a final-round 66 to capture the individual crown by four shots.

Tennis player Mary Kovarik '05 also was named the league's Women's Player of the Year after going unbeaten at No. 1 in conference singles play (8-1 in doubles) and compiling a 15-8 singles mark overall.