

# Wheeling Jesuit University

## Cardinal News:

As the Christmas Holiday fast approaches I would like to take this time to recap this past fall and share with you some thoughts and upcoming events. I hope most of you were able to follow us with The Cardinal Cast during the season and realized how exciting the season finished. The 2009 season started with a lot of promise. After all we were young last year and looking to build for the future. We finished strong in 08 and new that with a good recruiting year we could make a strong challenge in 09.

Well the season got off to a great start! At one point we were 6-1-1 and headed for a Conference showdown with undefeated Charleston. We lost a 2-0 in a great game, with UC scoring second goal in last 5 minutes. We finished the year with a record of 12-5-4 and finishing third in the league and losing in PK's in the Conference Tournament Semi-Final. Some of the highlights of the season were defeating our conference rivals WVW 2-1 in overtime, gaining my 300<sup>th</sup> career victory (thanks to all of you) a revenge win against perennial PSAC power Gannon University and finishing with a conference record of 6-2-2. The Conference Semi-final was a great atmosphere and the boys did not disappoint as we dominated all of the game but the chances didn't fall our way, as we ended up tied after regulation at 0-0. The guys worked their socks off to try and get the winner in sudden death, but the game went to PK's and we fell short. I felt bad for our senior class, who deserved to get to the Championship game!

I was extremely grateful to all of you who sent e-mails and came to support us at home and on the road during the season it really did make a difference! The New Year is fast approaching and as another group of seniors graduate and join your ranks, I hope you will join me in welcoming them: TJ O'Brien, Hans Moses, Eric Steele, Jason Smith, Tony Trabert and Marjan Moro. All of these young men will be great addition to your team for this spring's Alumni events!

### *Post-Season Honors:*

**All-Conference:** TJ O'Brien, Hans Moses, Billy Wilson, Paul Silvestrone, Chris Reel and Shane Young

**All-Region:** Stephen Hawthorne, Hans Moses

## Events

The **NCSAA Convention** this year is in Philadelphia. (Jan 14-17) I will be attending and my son Sean will be there also. If you are planning to be there or can stop by for a drink, give me a quick e-mail.

The Athletic department has moved our **Hall of Fame Induction** ceremony to the fall. It will coincide with Homecoming and parent's weekend and will enable us to have more events on campus and better weather for inductees to travel back to campus. Please remember to send in your nominations for those former players you feel are deserving of this honor!

The annual **Alumni Game** is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</sup> so mark your calendars early! This event is getting bigger and bigger every year, so I am anticipating record numbers for this spring!

Next fall marks the **10 year anniversary for the 2000 Team** that reached the NCAA Elite 8 and set a mark as the only Wheeling Jesuit University sports team to go through a regular season undefeated. In recognition of this accomplishment we are inviting back all of the players and coaches of that team for a special event in their honor. The event will take place on the weekend of Sept 10-12, 2010 when the Cardinals host University of Charleston. So mark your calendars and book your flights early!!

### Gifts and Donations:

As we look towards a new year, we would like to recognize and emphasize the importance of your continued support of Wheeling Jesuit Men's Soccer. Your past generosity has enabled us to show our student-athletes how much you **care** about our programs. Hopefully you had the opportunity to contribute! If you did contribute we thank you! If you are still planning on contributing, please do! Please be assured if you indicate that you want your gift to support the soccer program, it will!

We do request annual alumni dues of \$50.00 which goes directly to our soccer programs. Although any and all donations you can make regardless of the amount are greatly appreciated and wisely utilized! Please make checks payable to Wheeling Jesuit Men's Soccer!

In closing I just want to thank all of you for continued support of the program and challenge all of you to stay involved and contact any of your former team mates who may have lost touch! I will be meeting with some of you in Philadelphia to help plan this April's activities and to discuss our fund raising goals for the New Year! If any of you have suggestions or wish to be a part of this meeting please give me a quick e-mail, so that we can present ideas to the group as a whole!

**Have a Great Christmas and an even better New Year!**