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Peace Inducts Second Athletic Hall of Fame Class

Twenty-eight Peace graduates and coaches were inducted into the second class of the Queen of Peace Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony Oct. 2.

This year's inductees included the 1991 Cross Country team, which finished in 10th place at the State Championship meet; the 15-member 1995 State Quarterfinal Volleyball team and head coach Linda Lucchetti Vivona. Alumnae inducted for their outstanding accomplishments in their respective sports were Gina Spano '98, basketball; Yvette Vazquez '99, tennis; Megan Smith '98, softball. Tom Naughton also was inducted for his 19-year career as coach of the Peace JV basketball team and several years as softball coach. During that time he has coached nearly 500 games and won more than 300 of those games.

The Peace Athletic Hall of Fame was created to recognize players, coaches, entire teams, athletic directors and friends of Peace who have made significant contributions to the athletic program.

"The progress made in women's sports over the last 36 years has been truly amazing," athletic director Darlene Graf told a packed gymnasium of spectators attending the ceremony. "Many of the women being honored were direct beneficiaries of the opportunities resulting from the advances in that time.

"When you read or hear about tonight's inductees, you will realize the role that their experiences at Peace, as students and as athletes, contributed to their successes not just in high school, but in their futures as well."

The 1991 Cross Country team finished in 10th place at the Illinois High School Association State (IHSA) Final Meet. Prior to that meet, the team took first in the GCAC Conference Meet and advanced to the state finals after placing first in the Rich East Sectional.

Inducted members of the 1991 Cross Country team included: Karen Wozniak Arias ’92, Karen Sears Duggan ’94, Kasey Dillon ’94, Deborah Lacki-Sheahan ’93, Renee Rubino ’93, Kristin Seifert ’94, Pamela Tucker ’92 and Barbara Wiczek ’92.

The 1995 Volleyball team, under the direction of head coach Linda Lucchetti Vivona, finished second in the GCAC Red Tournament and proceeded to advance to the regional, sectional and super-sectional championships in the IHSA Tournament. The team ended its season with a 35-8 record and is only the second Peace volleyball team to advance to the state finals.

Inducted members of the 1995 State Quarterfinal Volleyball team included: Erica Anderson Cahill ’97, Angela Banys ’98, Bianca Camarena ’97, Catherine Carroll Clarke ’97, Colleen Donahue ’98, Kristen Duckhorn ’98, Ann Hintz ’97, Margaret Howaniec ’98, Deanna Lazouskas ’96, Jennifer Utz Maita ’96, Beth Lynch McCue ’96, Jacqueline Utz Murphy ’97, Genevieve Ramos ’97, Sandra Rokosik Kletzel ’97, Elizabeth Wagner McGlynn ’96 and head coach Linda Lucchetti Vivona.

Vivona described the 1995 team as a “gritty group” who worked long and hard and reaped the benefits of success.

Megan Smith, who was inducted for her softball accomplishments and is now the Athletic Director and head women’s softball coach at Robert Morris University, said it was “an honor and very inspiring” to hear the stories of the Peace alumnae inducted into the Hall of Fame.

“We were all in the same starting place, and we now have very different successes,” she said.

During his 19-year coaching career at Peace, Tom Naughton has coached more than 100 student-athletes who have continued their athletic careers in college. During that time he has stressed academics and team camaraderie.

“You can’t win if you don’t have a cohesive group,” Naughton said. “There were never any divisions and I stressed unity, fundamentals and the opportunity to always improve.”

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