

Caccese Becomes Doctor

Patti Diacont

Most of us who have had a gym class have met Mr. Caccese. Only now can we call him Dr. Caccese. Dr. Caccese was raised in the Hazleton area. He graduated from Hazleton High School in 1965, where he lettered in track and basketball. After graduation, he immediately entered the U.S. Navy, during the Vietnam conflict, where he gained experience in electronics. After serving for three years, he decided to enter Pennsylvania State University, receiving an associate degree in Electronic Engineering Technology. He came to the conclusion that electronics wasn't for him, so Dr. Caccese returned to Penn State and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education followed by a Master's Degree in Physical Education. In December of 1982, he received a Doctorate in Sports Administration from Temple University in Philadelphia. As well as serving as both instructor and coach, Dr. Caccese is coordinator of Athletics at Penn State Hazleton. Before becoming a member of the faculty at Penn State in 1973, Dr. Caccese was a teacher at the Bishop Hafey High School in West Hazleton, where he coached soccer and baseball. Since coming to PSU, he has been the basketball and soccer coach from 1974 to 1977. Caccese is proud of Highacres basketball, as well as the other athletic teams. He believes the campus is very rewarding; it has a lot to offer an athlete. After introducing many prospects to the campus, he finds that they usually stay. "But, if they have a bona fide offer to play for a division II school, then by all means they should take it." As a coach, he feels his relationship with his players is a delicate one. One can be friends with a

player but he must not let personal feelings stand in the way of critical decision-making. "I try to maintain close personal ties while still maintaining some authority over them as their coach." Each year he must observe the team's personality, what the chemistry is like, and interact as he feels is best. Every year brings changes, both in the team and the individuals themselves.

For Dr. Caccese, the key to success is to be enthusiastic, "to be ready for the opportunity when it comes." This was the philosophy he had while pursuing his education. The idea that he truly loved what he was doing was also very important. "I said to myself that no matter what I do the rest of my life, I don't want to be miserable. I want to love it." And so he does.

Profile: Staci Robbins

Terry McCarthy

One of the reasons some students are attending this particular campus of PSU is for the skiing that is available in the winter. These ski enthusiasts flock to the slopes every winter weekend and in PE class on Tuesday mornings during winter term. Many of them saw their fellow student Staci Robbins flying past at speeds they could only dream about. Well, there is no need for these students to feel embarrassed because Staci can fly past some of the best female skiers in the entire state! For the past three years, Staci has been the recipient of the Pennsylvania Governors Cup, an award given to the best female and male skier in the class I (age 16-18) group of the United States Skiers Association. The Governors Cup is awarded to the best all-around junior alpine skier in the Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association for three events: the downhill, the slalom, and the giant slalom. If Staci had won the cup again this year, it would have been retired in her name. Unfortunately, Staci's best event, the giant slalom, was cancelled this year due to a lack of snow on the date when this event was scheduled. Staci still finished third this year and has earned a spot on the prestigious Pennsylvania state team. To



(photo by M. Vignapiano)

earn a place on the team, one must compete in a series of twelve runs where the top three finishers make the male and female team. The team competes in Sugarloaf, Maine representing the state of Pennsylvania. According to Staci, winning has not been such an easy feat. She began skiing when she was four years old under the guidance of her two older brothers who were also racers. Robbins said, "I always used to come in near last place until about four years ago when I started to improve. When I started to improve, everything just came together. Through my faith in God I started to achieve higher ranks. God took away a lot of my nervousness." Next year Staci will be packing up her sports talent and moving it to University Park where she will be a member of the women's ski team.

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