

Eye On Sports



Up the Middle with Brandywine Baseball

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Senior second baseman Chris Napoli couldn't be any more confident for the upcoming baseball season. He feels that this Penn State Brandywine Baseball team is the best all-around team ever assembled in his four years here and has everything it takes to bring the PSUAC championship home. Napoli, a senior in Corporate Communications, has seen the program only get better and better in his four years.

When asked about his goal for the season, Napoli didn't mention any personal goals. But, looking at the big picture, Napoli unselfishly said he wants to win the PSUAC championship. Seniors Jon Brady, Chris Meccariello, Tom Ostien, and Sophomores Eric Soring and Craig Hannum will all return to give the team great experience. However, he feels for the team to win it all, they need be flawless from start to finish.

After finishing the fall season with five consecutive wins, the team took to Florida for spring training during the spring break. Napoli says that the momentum from the end of last season has definitely carried over into the start of this season, as the team had a great spring and played like a well-oiled machine.

Napoli says another important key to the season would be the younger players, particularly the freshmen. He believes this freshmen class is the most talented class he has seen at Penn State Brandywine, and he wants them to experience everything that he did during his four seasons. Having seen them step up during the fall season, he expects them to do the same this season. Following the lead of seniors Napoli, Brady, Mecca, and Ostien, the young players have great leadership to

look up to.

Napoli, who plans to work in marketing and possibly coach here in the future, will graduate this spring and plans to cap off his illustrious career at Penn State Brandywine with the perfect ending. Since Napoli has been here, the team has had a .800 winning percentage and has won three consecutive PSUAC division championships. There is just one more thing left to add to that list, and Napoli believes it will be done.



Brandywine baseball player Chris Napoli fields a ball during a recent game. Napoli, a senior, is confident that this years' baseball team is one of the best Brandywine has seen in many years.

(photo courtesy of PSU Brandywine Athletics)



Brandywine Athletics Announces

Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament

Game dates: Monday/ Wednesday starting April 7th

Game times: 1st game – 12:30pm
2nd game – 12:50pm
3rd game - 1:10pm

Game duration: 9 points/ 15 minutes

Tournament will be single or double elimination depending on the amount of teams participating.

Brackets will be updated daily outside Coaches' office.

RULES

1. All made baskets count as one point.
 2. Teams alternate possessions on made baskets.
 3. Offense calls all defensive fouls.
 4. The ball must be taken back to the foul line to change the possession.
 5. The ball is to be checked on all out of bounds/made baskets
 6. Red line is out of bounds on the baseline and sideline
 7. Good sportsmanship is required. Arguing calls, intimidation or use of foul language will result in a disqualification of one/both teams.
 8. Disqualification counts as a forfeit.
- Sign up sheets are available outside the coaches' office and must be returned to the AD by Thursday, 4/3/08.

INVINCIBLE PAPALE COMING TO BRANDYWINE

Special To Lion's Eye

Alumni and current athletes will share food, reminisce, chuckle at old photos, and hear former Philadelphia Eagle Vince Papale's recounting of his improbable and inspirational life story. Former Philadelphia Eagle Vince Papale, subject of the 2006 motion picture *Invincible*, will be the featured speaker at Penn State Brandywine's 40th Anniversary Athletics Banquet to be held in the Commons/ Athletics Center Gymnasium.

Papale was a virtually unknown former high school football player when he participated in an open tryout for the Eagles in the mid-1970's and earned a spot on the team, thanks in large part to his fierce determination. Papale is a perfect choice for the keynote address since many of Penn State Brandywine's student athletes are also models of hard work and commitment--taking classes, playing sports, and often working jobs during their spare time.

"Mr. Papale is a fine example of a local guy who put everything he had into being successful on the football field, and he's a great role model for the student/athletes here at Penn State Brandywine, who are hard-working in their own right," said Athletics

Director Jim Gastner. "His presence should make the sports banquet entertaining and enjoyable both for those who don't know much about our athletics program, as well as those who follow our teams regularly."

In addition to honoring current and former athletes, there will be an auction of Penn State memorabilia, including a John Cappelletti autographed football, and other items.

The event is open to the public and lunch is included. Tickets are \$25. Penn State Brandywine is located at 25 Yearsley Mill Road, in Media. For information call 610-892-1255, or e-mail rlp29@psu.edu.



Former Philadelphia Eagle Vince Papale (pictured with Mark Wahlberg during the filming of his life story) will be the featured speaker at Penn State Brandywine's Athletic Banquet on April 13, 2008.

(photo courtesy of google.com)