



Friday, October 18, 2002

OU Hall of Honor inducts new members

Five athletes and a coach were added to Oakland University's Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor during an Oct. 12 ceremony in the Athletics Center O' Rena.

The Hall of Honor recognizes athletes, coaches and athletics staff who have contributed significantly to the success of Oakland University's athletics program through outstanding achievement.

"All of the new inductees were excited and honored to be recognized in the Hall of Honor," said Amy Hirschman, assistant to the athletic director. "For the first time, we had each of the inductees unveil their plaque during the ceremony."

The 2002 Hall of Honor inductees include: Mali Walton (soccer), Chris Zoltak (swimming), Karen (III) Piper (volleyball), Dario DiFazio (diving), Gray Haizel (soccer) and Tracy Huth (coach).

In addition, Hugh Elliott was presented with the Gary D. Russi Community Service Award, which recognizes members of the community who have aided in the advancement of the overall mission of the Athletics Department, while serving as an advocate for the welfare of student-athletes. This award is given to individuals who exemplify a commitment to community service and mirrors OU President Russi's dedication to developing graduates and champions at OU. Established as the Community Service Award in 1986, the award was renamed the Gary D. Russi Community Service Award in 2002 in honor of Russi.

Bill Macauley was honored with the George Wibby Award, which is presented to an OU employee who has made outstanding contributions to the Athletics Department and best exemplifies the spirit and humanity of George Wibby, a former employee and long-time OU booster before his death in 2002.

The successful 1982 women's basketball and 1982 men's soccer teams also were honored at the ceremony.

The Hall of Honor, established in 1984, was renamed the Hollie L. Lepley Hall of Honor in 2002 in honor of the late Hollie L. Lepley, OU's first athletic director, and was dedicated during the ceremony, with Lepley's wife, Margaret, and son, Chuck, in attendance.

2002 Hall of Honor Inductees/Honors

Mali Walton

Walton is the only three-time All-American and four-time All-Region honoree in OU men's soccer history. He helped lead OU to four NCAA Tournaments during his career, including two final four appearances and one finalist showing. Walton holds the school record with 46 career assists and ranks fifth in career points with 108. As a sophomore, Walton finished 15th in the country in scoring.

Chris Zoltak

Zoltak earned a perfect 28 Division II All-American honors during his four years at OU, joining Hall of Honor member Tracy Huth as the only other swimmer in school history with this accomplishment. Zoltak is OU's top NCAA scorer in school history with 275 points and was named the NCAA Division II Men's Swimmer of the Year (1995). Throughout his four-year career, Zoltak won a school-record 15 national championship titles including nine relays and six individual (100 butterfly-3, 100 backstroke-2 and 200 backstroke-1). A member of three national championship teams (1994, 1995 and 1996), the Jenks, Okla., native recorded the fastest 50-yard butterfly split in Division II history with a time of 21.23.

Karen Piper

Oakland's first ever volleyball All-American, Piper is a four-year letter winner for OU volleyball and a two-year letter winner in basketball (1992-94). She was a three-time All-GLIAC and two-time All-Region honoree throughout her career. She was team captain her junior and senior years. Piper still holds single match (30 vs. Northwood 1995) and season kills per game (4.77 in 1995) records as well as career hitting percentage (.314) and career kills per game (3.48) records. In 1993, Piper led OU to its first ever berth to the NCAA Tournament.

Dario DiFazio

In just two seasons, DiFazio became a national champion three times, was titled NCAA Division II Diver of the Year (1994) and

was part of two national team championships. He holds every school, pool and GLIAC record in both the one-meter and three-meter diving boards and the NCAA Division II record on the one-meter. Di Fazio won the NCAA Division II title on both the one- and three-meter boards in 1994 and the one-meter title in 1995. He also represented his home country, Venezuela, in two Olympics (1992, 1996) and is a seven-time South American champion and a 39-time Venezuelan national champion.

Gray Haizel

Haizel was Oakland's first two-time soccer All-American, earning the honor in both 1985 and 1986 while playing a major role in OU's trips to the NCAA Tournament in 1984 and 1986. He still holds the Oakland single-season record with 19 assists during the 1985 season. Haizel also holds the number two spot with 16 assists in 1986. In the career record book, he ranks second with 42 assists throughout his three years. Haizel scored 79 career points after scoring 22 goals during his career.

Tracy Huth

Huth is making his second appearance in the Hall of Honor, previously inducted as a swimmer in 1990. With this year's induction as a coach, he becomes the first person ever to be inducted twice into OU's Hall of Honor. He coached the women's swimming team from 1987 through 1998, establishing OU swimming and diving as one of the top NCAA Division II programs in the country. During his tenure, OU finished in the top three nationally for nine straight seasons (1989-97). Huth's team won the national championship five consecutive years (1990, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994), finished second three times (1995, 1996 and 1997) and claimed third place in 1989. For his coaching accomplishments, Huth was named Division II Women's Coach of the Year three times. During his 11 years as OU's mentor, 48 swimmers earned All-American honors more than 500 times. Twenty-one national championship titles were won by individuals, while 21 relay teams claimed the national honor under Huth's guidance.

Hugh Elliott

A longtime supporter of Oakland, Elliott's most recent endeavor was establishing the President's Invitational, a major fund-raiser for OU athletics. Elliot has played a major role in the growth of OU and is the namesake of the Hugh and Nancy Elliott Room in the Athletics Center O' Rena and of Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology. Elliott, with his wife, Nancy, recently endowed a scholarship for an OU student-athlete who is a business major, recognizing the importance of a business education fortified by competition. The first scholarship was awarded in 2001.

Bill Macauley

Macauley has been part of the Oakland family for 24 years and has filled many roles. His official title and affiliation with Golden Grizzlies athletics is NCAA faculty athletics representative (FAR). Unofficially, he is an avid fan and supporter of the Athletics Department. As the FAR, Macauley is the liaison between intercollegiate athletics, student-athletes and OU faculty.

1982 Women's Basketball Team

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the 1982 women's basketball season as well as the first women's basketball appearance in the NCAA Tournament. The 1982 team finished 27-5 overall and 14-0 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The 14-0 record earned OU the GLIAC title and marked the first time in school history that a team would go undefeated in conference play. At the culmination of the 1981-82 season, the OU went 2-2 in tournament play.

1982 Men's Soccer Team

The 1982 men's soccer team also celebrated its 20th anniversary. The group of 22 men made up the second team in OU history to advance to an NCAA Tournament. They made history by being the first Oakland men's team to win an NCAA Tournament game and advance to the national finals. The team opened play with a 2-1 victory over Cheyney State and followed with a 1-0 win over Evansville. Oakland was defeated in the semi-finals by Florida International 3-2 in overtime. In 1982, OU finished 14-4-4 overall. The four ties still stands in the Oakland record book for most ties in a season. The team also set the school record that season with 13 shutouts and only allowed 0.73 goals per game.

SUMMARY

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