Nevada to induct six standouts into Wolf Pack Athletics Hall of Fame

“"This year’s class represents more than 40 years of the success of Wolf Pack Athletics and is made up of six decorated individuals who helped Nevada to numerous team and individual conference championships as well as a national title,” Wolf Pack Director of Athletics Cary Groth said. Lisé Mackie was the top swimmer in the Big West Conference in each of her three years at Nevada and represented her home country of Australia in the Summer Olympics, while DeShone Myles was one of the most dominant linebackers in school history, leading the Wolf Pack to four conference titles and setting the school record for career tackles. Bill Nicholson helped Nevada to a pair of Far Western Conference basketball championships before going on to serve as a member of President Gerald Ford’s staff and becoming a successful leader in the business world, and Bob Rautio was an All-American who won three conference titles in school history, helping the Wolf Pack to four conference titles and setting the school record for career tackles. Jerry Ballew put the Nevada women’s swimming and diving program on the map, guiding a team that had never won a dual meet to a national championship in just seven years.

2009 Nevada Hall of Fame Inductees

Lisé Mackie – Swimming (1995-98)
One of the top swimmers in Wolf Pack history, Lisé Mackie ’00 (political science/international affairs) was named the Big West Conference Swimmer of the Year three times in her career and helped the Wolf Pack to three conference titles. A seven-time NCAA All-American, she still holds the fastest times in school history in the 200 freestyle and 200 individual medley and as part of the 400 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay teams. The Brisbane, Australia, native still appears in Nevada's list of top times a total of 13 times. Mackie represented Australia at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Ga., winning a bronze medal as part of the Aussies’ 800 meter freestyle relay team in 1996.

DeShone Myles – Football (1994-97)
A four-time All-Big West Conference selection as linebacker, DeShone Myles ’07 (general studies) led the team in tackles in all four years at Nevada and the University’s career leader in tackles with 528 (next on the list is Matt Clifton with 388). The 1996 Big West Defensive Player of the Year and a member of Nevada’s Team of the Century, he never missed a game, started all but one in his career and helped the Wolf Pack to four Big West Conference championships and a pair of appearances in the Las Vegas Bowl. Myles turned in four of the top six single-season marks for tackles in school history and still holds Nevada’s single-game tackles record, turning in 20 tackles in a 1995 game at San Diego State. He was drafted in the fourth round of the 1998 NFL Draft by the Seattle Seahawks. He played in 12 games in 1998 and four games in 1999 before a knee injury ended his season.

Bill Nicholson ’66 (finance) earned All-Far Western Conference accolades and honorable-mention All-America honors in 1964 as a center on the Nevada men’s basketball team. He helped the Wolf Pack to Far Western Conference championships in 1964 and 1966, while Nevada’s 1966 team turned in a 21-6 overall record and went a perfect 10-0 in conference play. Nicholson turned in 876 points and 643 rebounds in
Former Wolf Pack standouts Lisé Mackie, DeShone Myles, Bill Nicholson, Bob Rautio and Susan Eisele Whitehouse, as well as former swimming and diving coach Jerry Ballew will be inducted into the University of Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame in October.

Bob Rautio - Track & Field (1961, 1967-68)

Bob Rautio won Far Western Conference championships in the javelin in 1961, 1967 and 1968, each of his three years as a member of the Wolf Pack men's track and field team. In 1961, he earned All-America honors and set a national record for javelin thrown by a freshman, a mark that stood for four years. He also ranked third in the nation and finished third at the NCAA Track and Field Championships in 1961. In 1961, he joined the U.S. Army where he was stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and was the All-Army javelin champion in 1966. Rautio returned to Nevada in 1967 and 1968, winning two more Far Western Conference championships in the javelin and finishing fifth at the NCAA Championships in 1968.

Susan Eisele Whitehouse – Swimming (1995-99)

Susan Eisele Whitehouse '00 (animal science) helped the Wolf Pack to four consecutive Big West Conference championships during her career at Nevada. She won a total of 10 Big West Conference championships, including five individual championships and five relay titles. Whitehouse qualified for the 2000 Olympic Trials but was unable to compete due to injury.

Jerry Ballew – Swimming & Diving Coach (1976-83, 1985-86)

In his seven seasons as the coach of Nevada's women's swimming and diving team, Jerry Ballew '76M.S. (physical education), '78 (secondary education certificate), '93Ed.D. (educational leadership) led the Wolf Pack from never having won a dual meet to winning a national championship. He guided Nevada to the AIAW Small College National Championship in 1979 and coached Nevada to a 68-35 record and six national top 25 finishes. He mentored 29 All-Americans and two individual national champions, including Ann (Belikow) Ballatore ’79 (physical education), ’81M.S. (physical education) who won the 50, 100 and 200 breaststroke events at the 1979 AIAW National Championships. His 1979 national championship squad was inducted into the Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991.

This year’s six honorees will be inducted into Nevada’s Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 23 at a dinner at the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino in Reno. They will also be recognized at halftime of the Homecoming football game against Idaho at 1:05 p.m. Pacific Time on Saturday, Oct. 24 at Mackay Stadium.

Tickets for the Hall of Fame Dinner are available by calling (775) 682-6902, while tickets for the Homecoming game are available by calling (775) 348-PACK (7225) or going online at www.nevadawolfpack.com.

—Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications
John Ascuaga wins Jake Lawlor Award

John Ascuaga, a longtime University of Nevada, Reno supporter and president of John Ascuaga’s Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, was honored with the Jake Lawlor Award at the 40th annual Governor’s Dinner in Carson City. The Jake Lawlor Award is given annually to an individual who, over the years, has consistently demonstrated unwavering support for Wolf Pack Athletics.

Ascuaga has been a supporter of the University since his arrival in Nevada in 1955. He has awarded the John Ascuaga’s Nugget Scholarship to seniors in northern Nevada since 1956. Ascuaga has also been a season ticket holder at Nevada for years and has been a strong corporate sponsor.

John Ascuaga’s Nugget has generously sponsored many of the athletic department events, including the annual Nugget Classic women’s basketball tournament. The Nugget has also been the host of some of the athletic department’s most popular fundraisers over the years, including the Wolf Pack Wine Tasting Dinner and the Salute to Champions.

The Nugget opened in March of 1955 as a 60-seat coffee shop and has grown into a 1,600-room casino resort with award-winning restaurants, 75,000 square-feet of casino space and 110,000 square feet of convention space. Ascuaga purchased the Nugget in 1960 and became the sole owner and operator.

In addition to his support of the University of Nevada, Ascuaga’s charitable generosity can also be seen at St. Vincent’s Dining Room, where for more than 50 years, tens of thousands of Thanksgiving and Christmas meals have been served.

An avid rancher, Ascuaga was born in Caldwell, Idaho. He holds a degree in accounting from the University of Idaho and a degree in hotel and restaurant management from Washington State University.

—Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications

Rifle’s Andrew Hickey becomes Nevada’s first Academic All-American in six years

Former University of Nevada, Reno rifle team member Andrew Hickey has been named a first-team ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American, the first Wolf Pack student-athlete to earn the honor since 2003. A native of Sutter, Calif., Hickey maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.97 during his Nevada career and graduated with his degree in biochemistry in May. He will spend the next year teaching English in Korea and then plans to attend law school.

Hickey became the first Wolf Pack student-athlete to earn first-team Academic All-America honors since baseball’s Erick Streelman in 2003 and just the sixth student-athlete in school history to be selected to the first team. Hickey also won a prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship this year.

Hickey, who just completed his senior season with the Wolf Pack rifle team, was named a second-team All-American in both air rifle and smallbore this year. He shot every match this season and finished first in air rifle three times. He turned in the team’s best score of the year in air rifle with a 594 vs. Nebraska on Oct. 5 and had three of the team’s top five smallbore scores this season.

“He worked very hard this past year to make the team the very best it could be,” Wolf Pack rifle coach Fred Harvey said. “We appreciate that his efforts have been recognized.”

The men’s at-large program for Academic All-America includes the sports of fencing, golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, rifle, skiing, tennis and water polo, and only 15 division I student-athletes from across the country were selected to the first team.

To be eligible for Academic All-America consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his/her current institution and be nominated by his/her sports information director. Winners are selected by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Since the program’s inception in 1952, CoSIDA has bestowed Academic All-America honors on more than 14,000 student-athletes in Divisions I, II, III and NAIA, covering all NCAA championship sports.

—Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications
Nevada Traditions

The University of Nevada, Reno’s athletics programs have established themselves as some of the top in the Western Athletic Conference, but the Wolf Pack couldn’t do it without the support of its fans at all of its games.

With a new school year and sports season in full session, the school’s cheerleaders, mascots and dance team remind fans of a few things they can do to help support the Pack.

Nevada Fight Song

The Wolf Pack encourages fans to stand up during the fight song, clap and sing along with the Pride of the Sierra Marching Band and join the cheerleaders in yelling NEVADA at the end. The cheerleaders also invite Wolf Pack fans to join the band in yelling “Go Big Blue” with the tubas.

The Nevada Fight Song

HAIL to our sturdy team, loyal and true,
MARCH, march on down the field
oh Silver and Blue!

We’ll give a long cheer for NEVADA’s team,
See them break through again,
Fighting for our own U of N to victory.

N - E - V - A - D - A
NEVADA!

Wear Blue

The University of Nevada is very proud of its colors, Silver and Blue, and encourages its fans to wear blue to support the Wolf Pack at all of its venues. The teams would love nothing more than to look up and see a stadium or arena filled with fans wearing blue.