



Nevada's student-athletes, coaches and staff set a goal of 2,000 hours of community service every year.

Wolf Pack gives back

Competing in front of Wolf Pack fans each night is one of the greatest privileges of being a student-athlete at the University of Nevada, Reno. The Wolf Pack athletics department has a long-standing commitment to giving back to the community that support our teams.

Between academics, practices and competitions, Wolf Pack student-athletes, coaches and staff pride themselves on getting out in the community and therefore set a goal of at least 2,000 hours of community service every year. Each team has a goal based on their number of student-athletes, and several Wolf Pack squads have already exceeded their goals.

Throughout the year, Nevada's student-athletes participate in a number of activities, including reading to children at elementary schools, working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and participating in sports clinics. A number of Wolf Pack teams also volunteered at this year's American Cancer Society Heart Walk and the Race for the Cure. The athletics department also holds its Girls and Women in Sports Day every spring, a popular event that gives hundreds of girls a chance to interact with student-athletes, attend a women's basketball game and

participate in clinics from every sport.

In addition, Nevada's Student-Athlete Advisory Council has chosen Habitat for Humanity as its community service project for this year. Teams of Wolf Pack student-athletes are heading out at least once a month to help build houses, as well as working in the group's discount store.

As much as the Northern Nevada community benefits from Nevada's community service efforts, Wolf Pack student-athletes say they benefit from the experience even more.

"It's important for student-athletes to give back to the community to set examples and expand our awareness of the world outside of our sports," former Wolf Pack swimmer Nonie Wainwright said. "Community service benefits student-athletes by getting us out of the court, field or pool to do something productive and to give back to the place that supports us."

"Community service gives athletes the chance to interact with the people who support them and their sport," former Wolf Pack soccer player Blaine Dugan said. "It benefits athletes in ways that are

immeasurable. It teaches everything from responsibility to conscientiousness and also brings out characteristics such as respect, humbleness and caring."

According to Nevada's coaches, community service plays a big role in enhancing a student-athlete's college experience and building character.

"Community service completes the overall experience of being a student-athlete," Wolf Pack baseball coach Gary Powers said. "It's not just about playing the games; it's about being a role model and a good citizen and giving back to the people who have supported them during their time as a student-athlete."

"We as Division I coaches and student-athletes receive a lot of great benefits and we need to give back to the community," first-year Nevada women's basketball coach Jane Albright said. "Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our problems, but it's hard to think about our own selfish needs when you are helping others. It gives you a great feeling. It's like winning a game."

—Rhonda Lundin is the director of the Athletics Media Services Department

Morrill named one of top 10 Division I Finalists for NCAA Woman of the Year

Former Nevada rifle student-athlete Meghann Morrill '08 (accounting/information systems) was named one of the top 30 honorees and one of only 10 representing NCAA Division I institutions for the 18th annual NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

The NCAA Woman of the Year Award recognizes outstanding female student-athletes who have excelled academically and athletically in addition to demonstrating strong community service and leadership. To be eligible, female student-athletes must have been lettered and competed in 2007-08 and been in their final year of eligibility.

"It is a great honor to be chosen as one of the ten honorees in Division I for NCAA Woman of the Year," Morrill said. "This and many of the other recognitions I have received are directly attributed to the support the Nevada Athletics Department has provided during my four years as a member of the Wolf Pack. Being a student-athlete at Nevada has given me more experiences in personal growth than I would have thought possible, as well as given me memories to last a lifetime."

A native of Verdi, Nev., Morrill was a four-year letter winner on the Wolf Pack rifle team and earned first-team All-America honors in 2006 and 2008. A 2008 recipient of the NCAA's Postgraduate Scholar-

ship, she graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Nevada's Honors College with a degree in accounting and information systems in May of 2008. She also received

one of the University's 11 Outstanding Senior Awards from the College of Business. Morrill's future plans include attending law school where she seeks to specialize in tax and estate planning law, as well as attempting to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Team at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

During her senior season, Morrill finished first in eight of the Wolf Pack's 10 competitions. She set a number of school records, including the high team aggregate score. A two-year team captain, she was also a four-time academic honoree by the National Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association. Morrill finished third at the 2008 National Air Rifle Championships and seventh at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials and is currently ranked third in the United States in women's air rifle.

"Meghann is one of our best and brightest. She pursues excellence in all that she does," Wolf Pack rifle coach Fred Harvey said.

Meghann Morrill



Photo courtesy Nevada Athletics Media Services Department

—Rhonda Lundin

Nevada athletes graduation success rate at all-time high

The University of Nevada, Reno's Graduation Success Rate for student-athletes is at an all-time high, according to the most recent data released by the NCAA in October 2008.

Nevada's student-athletes posted an overall Graduation Success Rate of 70 percent in 2008, the highest mark in school history, and up from 67 percent in 2007. Nevada's success rate has improved in each of the four years the NCAA has released the data, from 63 percent in 2005, 65 percent in 2006, 67 percent in 2007 and now 70 percent in 2008. The federal graduation rate for Nevada's student-athletes, which doesn't count trans-

fer students, is 54 percent this year.

"We are pleased to see our Graduation Success Rate reach 70 percent for the first time in school history, and I want to commend all of our student-athletes, academic staff, coaches and the University community for all of their hard work in helping our student-athletes accomplish the ultimate goal of graduation," Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth said.

The current Graduation Success Rate is based on student-athletes who began full-time enrollment at any school in 2001-02 and received athletic aid in their first year of college.

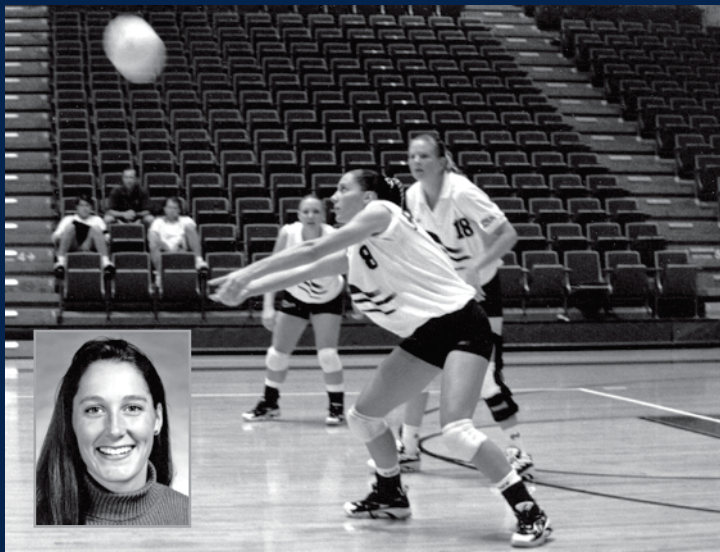
The Graduation Success Rate was developed by the NCAA as it part of its academic reform initiative to more accurately assess the academic success of student-athletes. Unlike the federal graduation rate, the NCAA's rating holds institutions accountable for transfer student-athletes, includes

mid-year enrollees, and is calculated for every sport.

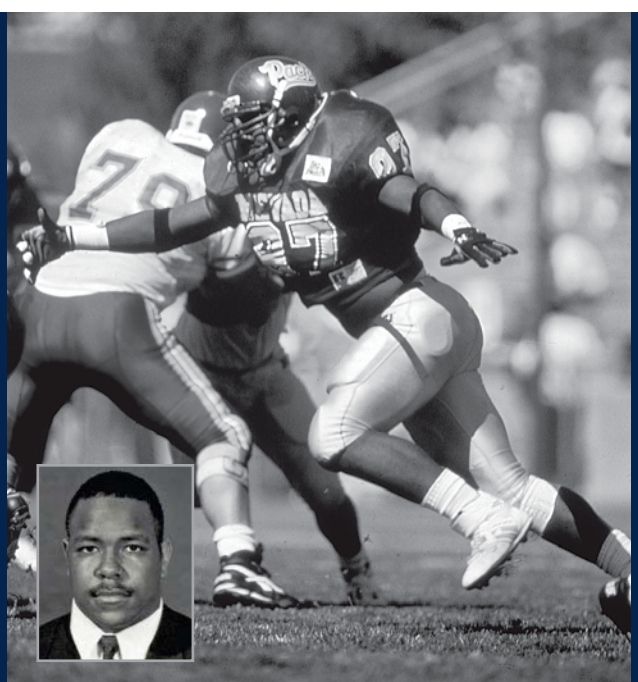
Nevada's highest-ever Graduation Success Rate mark is the latest accomplishment in a year of academic successes for the Wolf Pack. All 17 of Nevada's teams turned in a multi-rate Academic Progress Rate at or above the NCAA's standard of 925 in 2007-08, and Nevada was the only school in the Western Athletic Conference to not have any teams face penalties. Nevada saw 78 student-athletes representing 15 teams earn their degrees in the 2007-08 academic year, while 103 Wolf Pack student-athletes were named to the 2007-08 WAC All-Academic teams.

"We have a strong athletics program that embraces the importance of producing student-athletes who are as successful in the classroom as they are in competition," University President Milton Glick said.

—Rhonda Lundin



Tiffany Neumeier Breeden '98



James Cannida '03

Nevada's Hall of Fame class

represents more than 50 years of Wolf Pack success

The Nevada Athletic Hall of Fame's Class of 2008 will likely be remembered not only for its fine collection of athletes who achieved at the highest level, but also for the diverse collection of individuals who contributed to the University of Nevada, Reno.

The class included individual standouts Tiffany Neumeier Breeden (volleyball), James Cannida (football), Andy Dominique (baseball) as well as former coach Bill Ireland and the first national championship team in school history, the 1956 rifle squad.

"This year's class is one of the most diverse and decorated groups we have inducted into our Athletic Hall of Fame," Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth said. "They are all very deserving of the honor and represent over 50 years of Wolf Pack athletics success."

The inductees were honored at the Hall of Fame Dinner on Oct. 17 at the Silver Legacy and the group was inducted into the Hall of Fame at halftime of the Homecoming football game on Oct. 18, a Wolf Pack victory over Utah State.

Tiffany Neumeier Breeden '98

Volleyball, 1994-97

Considered undersized, the 5-foot-8 hitter is one of the most dominating players in Wolf Pack history. Eleven years after her last match at Nevada, she still holds the school record for

career kills with 1,779, and ranks in the top six all-time in digs and service aces.

"When Tiffany played, you did not want to be on the other side of the net," said head coach Devin Scruggs, who introduced Neumeier Breeden at the Hall of Fame Dinner.

Neumeier Breeden was the catalyst who ushered in the golden era of Wolf Pack volleyball, which has made five NCAA Tournament appearances under Scruggs. Though she did not possess the height of a prototypical outside hitter, Neumeier Breeden played with a fire and intensity that transferred to her teammates.

"My entire life, people told me that I would not survive in a top volleyball conference, so I always played with a chip on my shoulder," Neumeier Breeden said. "I will always cherish the memories I have of Nevada, and will always be thankful for the opportunity I was given."

James Cannida '03

Football, 1994-97

Defensive players in the 1990s did not receive as much attention as their offensive counterparts on the Nevada football team. With their prolific aerial attack setting records and dismantling opponents by racking up yardage and points, the defense oftentimes went overlooked. With that in mind, it is a telling honor that James Cannida '03 (jour-

nalism) was selected to the Wolf Pack's "Team of the Century" in 1998 as a celebration of 100 years of Nevada athletics.

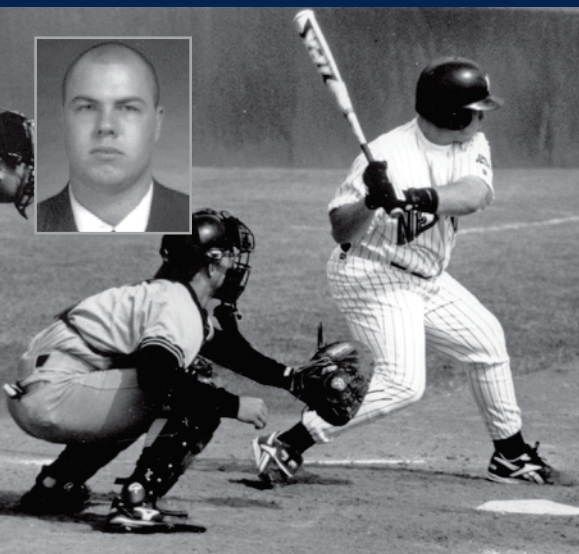
Cannida was a dominant defensive lineman who was a two-time All-Big West Conference honoree. He helped the team to a pair of Las Vegas Bowl appearances, including a victory in the 1996 game against Ball State. Playing in the trenches, Cannida was known not only for his toughness, but his durability as he started all but four games in his career and missed only one game in four seasons.

"James Cannida has passion and desire," said former roommate and teammate Mike Edwards, Cannida's presenter at the Hall of Fame dinner. "And I'm not just talking about football, but in life."

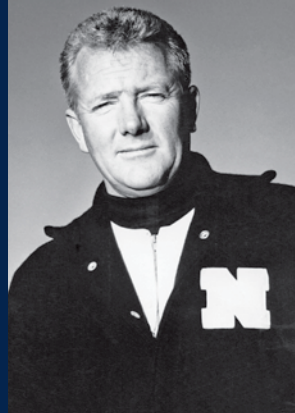
Cannida called the induction "the greatest honor I could ever ask for."

During a recent campus tour, Cannida said he was impressed with the direction of the University with facility upgrades and additions in the athletics department, as well as the new Joe Crowley Student Union and Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center.

"The University is growing and that is really neat to see," Cannida said. "All of the facilities that these athletes have now made me feel that, as a player here, I helped set a foundation for the future. And that really means a lot to me."



Andy Dominique



Bill Ireland '52



1956 National Championship Rifle Team

Andy Dominique

Baseball, 1994-97

Simply put, Andy Dominique is the best baseball player to ever play the game at the University of Nevada, Reno. A decade removed from his days at Peccole Park, his name still appears at or near the top of every hitting category in the Wolf Pack baseball record books. A two-time All-Big West selection, Dominique was the MVP of the conference as a senior in 1997 and earned All-America honors after slugging 30 home runs—still a single-season Nevada record.

His professional career was cut short due to injury, but he was part of five major league organizations, making his major league debut in 1994 with the eventual World Series champion Boston Red Sox.

This from a player who never thought he would ever go to college.

“I had a learning disability, but this University gave me the opportunity to advance myself,” Dominique said. “This school gave me an opportunity I never thought possible.”

Overcoming odds was the hallmark of Dominique’s career. Overlooked by the major leagues coming out of high school, Dominique came to Nevada and immediately helped the Pack to an NCAA Regional appearance as a freshman. After two more highly productive years, Dominique went undrafted after his junior season and nearly quit the game. But he came back for his historic 1997 season and led the Pack to another NCAA Regional trip.

“He is the greatest player I have ever coached,” said 26-year Nevada coach Gary Powers. “His attitude was everything. His

mindset was ‘don’t tell me that I can’t do something because I’ll show you that I can.’

“He spent his entire career doing just that.”

Bill Ireland '52

Baseball Coach/Assistant Football Coach, 1960-67

Few others have made a larger impact on intercollegiate athletics in Nevada than “Coach I.” A 1952 graduate of Nevada, he has a lasting legacy with the Wolf Pack, the UNLV Rebels and the rivalry between the Silver State’s premier college athletic programs.

He coached the Wolf Pack’s freshman football team in 1960, and then went on to a seven-year coaching career with the Nevada baseball team, winning a Far Western Conference championship in 1966. He became UNLV’s first football coach in 1968, a post he held through the 1972 season before serving as UNLV’s athletics director from 1973 until 1980. Ireland died in 2007 at the age of 80.

“It was not an easy time to coach, but he was blessed by a great collection of kids, most of whom were Nevadans,” Ireland’s widow, Jeanne, said of her husband’s time at Nevada.

He is perhaps best known for his idea of creating a traveling trophy for the winner of the annual rivalry game between Nevada and UNLV. His idea became a reality in 1970 when the Fremont Cannon was presented to the schools’ students in 1970.

During the Hall of Fame induction, it was announced that the traveling trophy has been renamed the Bill Ireland Fremont Cannon.

1956 National Championship Rifle Team

The seven-man team coached by Sgt. Joel


Cantrell is notable for two distinct reasons: The squad is the second team to be inducted to the Nevada Athletic Hall of Fame, joining the 1979 swimming and diving team; moreover, the team brought home the first national championship in school history.

The team was comprised of Max Botz '57 (geological engineering), Gene Espin, Terry Katzer '57 (geology), John Middlebrook '58 (mining engineering), '59M.S. (geological engineering), Dick Mills, Bill Rusk and Chuck Taylor.

Prior to the national championships, Nevada had a stellar season, winning the 31-team Southwest Invitational in El Paso, Texas, and the Eastern Washington College of Education Invitational. Nevada also won the Sixth Army Title at the prestigious Hearst Intercollegiate Shoot as Nevada finished second.

But it was in March of 1956 that Nevada made history. Competing at the National Intercollegiate Rifle Championship in Berkeley, Calif., Nevada set a national record with 1,443 out of a possible 1,500 points with the victory coming against the defending national champs, California.

Katzer and Rusk were named All-Americans that season, and Sgt. Cantrell was awarded the Army’s Commendation Ribbon with Medal Pendant, one of the top peacetime awards available for meritorious service.

“This honor means more at this point in our lives than it ever would have before,” Katzer said. 

— Chad Hartley '03 is assistant director of Athletics Media Relations