Nevada inducts Athletics Hall of Fame class

The 1990 Wolf Pack football team, two football standouts, an All-American diver and a volleyball player who led the Pack to two NCAA appearances comprise the 2014 Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame class.

The 1990 football team, inducted Sept. 4-5, is just the third team to be inducted since the inception of the Hall of Fame in 1973. Also in the class are linebacker/defensive end Jorge Cordova ’10 (general studies), running back Chance Kretschmer ’04 (general studies), diver Lang Rao and volleyball player Michelle More Williams ’05 (management).

“This is a terrific Hall of Fame class that represents so much of our great tradition here at Nevada,” said Athletics Director Doug Knuth.

2014 Nevada Hall of Fame Inductees

1990 Football Team

The Wolf Pack won the 1990 Big Sky Conference championship with a 7-1 record as part of a 13-2 season. The team advanced to the championship game of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, posting back-to-back triple-overtime victories over Furman and Boise State and falling just short of the national championship with a 36-13 loss to Georgia Southern. The Wolf Pack set the school record for victories in a season, which has since been matched by the 2010 team.

Jorge Cordova ’10 – Football (2000-03)

Jorge Cordova was a four-year starter for the Wolf Pack, spending two seasons at linebacker and two at defensive end. He earned first-team All-WAC honors on the defensive line and won the team’s Golden Helmet Award as MVP in 2003. A three-year co-captain, he was also Nevada’s Outstanding Defensive Player in 2000 and 2002. Cordova led the WAC in sacks in 2002 with 8.5 for 69 yards and holds the Nevada career record for sacks with 31. He was taken in the third round of the 2004 NFL draft by the Jacksonville Jaguars. He was bothered by injuries but made his first NFL start in 2006 and played in 13 games with the Jaguars that season.

Chance Kretschmer ’04 – Football (2001-04)

Running back Chance Kretschmer became just the second freshman ever to lead the nation in rushing when he did so in 2001 with a then-school record 1,732 yards (Marshall Faulk was the other in 1991). He was the WAC Freshman of the Year in 2001. He earned first-team All-WAC honors in 2001 and second-team All-WAC honors in 2003. He was named the Golden Helmet Award as team MVP in 2001 and was the team Offensive Player of the Year in 2003. Kretschmer holds the top single-game performance in school history with 327 rushing yards vs. the University of Texas at El Paso in 2001 and scored six touchdowns in that game, which is tied for first all-time at Nevada.

Michelle More Williams ’05 – Volleyball (1999-2002)

A first-team All-WAC honoree in 2001 and 2002, Michelle More Williams helped the Wolf Pack to NCAA appearances in 2001 and 2002. She was the first Wolf Pack player to be named to the American Volleyball Coaches’ All-West Region squad in 2002. She also earned Big West freshman team honors in 1999 and was a second-team All-WAC selection in 2000. Williams became the first Pack player to surpass 500 kills in a season and set the school single-season record with 570. Her 668.5 points as a senior are still the school record. She held all three Nevada career block marks upon her graduation and still ranks in the top three. In all, her name appears in the Nevada record book 20 times. She went on to star on the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour with 2011 Nevada Hall of Fame inductee Suzanne Stonebarger Barnes ’03 (speech communications).


Three-time NCAA All-American Lang Rao won four individual Big West championships during her career, sweeping the 1-meter and 3-meter springboard diving titles in both of her years at Nevada. She set Big West Conference records in both events and helped Nevada to Big West Conference championships in 1998 and 1999. She finished second and earned All-America honors in the 1-meter springboard at the 1999 NCAA Championships. She also earned two All-America certificates at the 1998 NCAA Championships, finishing fourth in the 1-meter and fifth in the 3-meter. She went undefeated in dual and Big West Conference meets in 1998.
Wolf Pack alumna wins Emmy as part of Mountain West Network

Katie Cavender ’05 (journalism), assistant commissioner for strategic communications at the Mountain West Conference, was awarded a regional Emmy for her work on the Mountain West Network.

The Mountain West Network was recognized for its technical achievement after receiving a 2014 Emmy Award in July through the Heartland Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The Mountain West Network, powered by Campus Insiders and utilizing Volar Video’s revolutionary production solution, provides on-demand video content, as well as broadcasts an unprecedented number of live events from the league’s 18 sports. Since its launch in October 2012, the Mountain West Network has provided fans more than 1,100 on-demand videos, while also live-streaming more than 1,500 events, including select conference championships. More than 15.1 million unique viewers from 134 countries have tuned into MWN content in the past year.

Mountain West Network content is available at no cost to viewers and is accessible on multiple devices, including desktop and laptop computers, smartphones and tablets. Fans can also download the official mobile application of the Mountain West on their iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad and Android devices.

Founded in 1947, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and the Emmy Award stand for the best in the television industry. The National Academy is the only nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing outstanding achievement, raising industry standards and improving the quality of television.

- The Mountain West Conference and the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences contributed to this report.

Gardner, Whalen to receive inaugural Silver and Blue Service Award

Brian Whalen ’57 (civil engineering) and Jim Gardner ’60 (mechanical engineering) are the inaugural winners of Nevada Athletics’ Silver and Blue Service Award.

The Silver and Blue Service Award honors individuals who have volunteered their time and efforts in all support areas to help Wolf Pack Athletics over the years. Any person who has volunteered in any capacity is eligible for this award. The awards were presented to Whalen and Gardner as part of Nevada’s Hall of Fame Weekend Sept. 4-5.

A member of the Wolf Pack baseball and boxing team in the 1950s, Gardner volunteered as the official timekeeper at Nevada basketball games for over 32 years. The former president and CEO of Gardner Engineering and Gardner Mechanical Services is a longtime donor to the University of Nevada, Reno and has held basketball and football season tickets for more than 35 years.

Whalen played on the Nevada baseball and basketball teams in the 1950s and went on to spend 34 years volunteering his time as the scoreboard operator at Wolf Pack basketball games. Whalen worked in facility services on campus for 38 years, including 22 years as a vice president. A longtime donor and supporter of the University and Wolf Pack Athletics, he was instrumental in the construction of additional restroom and elevator facilities at Mackay Stadium.