Nevada inducts five athletes, a coach and Sweet 16 basketball team into Hall of Fame

Five remarkable athletes, one instrumental coach, and the first NCAA Sweet Sixteen men’s basketball team in school history make up the 2016 Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame class, which was officially inducted at a ceremony Sept. 16.

The 2016 class consists of football standouts Mike Crawford ’99 (physical education) and Harvey Dahl ’03 (general studies), volleyball star Salaia Salave’a, golfer Rich Barcelo and baseball player Jim Puzey ’89 (economics), as well as former men’s basketball coach Mark Fox. Also inducted will be the 2003-04 men’s basketball team, which won the Western Athletic Conference Championship and made the school’s first and only run to the “Sweet 16” of the NCAA Tournament.

“What an outstanding group of individuals to induct into our Hall of Fame this year,” Athletics Director Doug Knuth said. “Classes like this are what allow us to carry on the tradition of Wolf Pack Athletics. We are very excited to welcome them back to campus this fall to honor all of their accomplishments.”

Since its inception in 1973, the Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame has inducted 188 individuals and five teams.

2016 NEVADA ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2003-04 Men’s Basketball Team

The team earned Nevada’s first trip to the NCAA Sweet 16 by defeating No. 25 Michigan State 72-66 and No. 2 Gonzaga 91-72 before falling to eventual national runner-up No. 14 Georgia Tech 72-67 in the round of 16. The Wolf Pack went 25-9 overall and was a perfect 15-0 at home en route to tying for the regular season Western Athletic Conference title. Nevada won the WAC Tournament Championship to claim the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, the first of four straight seasons that Nevada went to the tournament. The team consisted of Head Coach Trent Johnson, Associate Head Coach Mark Fox, Assistant Coaches David Carter and Josh Newman and Student Assistant Coach Matt Ochs ’04 (social studies), ’11 M.A. (secondary education). The student-athletes were Chad Bell ’06 (general studies), ’12 M.A. (educational leadership) (redshirt), Nick Fazekas, Garry Hill-Thomas ’04 (marketing), ’15 MBA, Marcelus Kemp ’08 (general studies), Curry Lynch, Todd Okeson ’05 (general studies), Sean Paul ’04 (management), Kevinn Pinkney ’05 (general studies), Kyle Shiloh ’07 (general studies), Kirk Snyder, Seth Taylor ’06 (management) and Jermaine Washington ’06 (general studies).

Barcelo was the Big West Player of the Year and earned All-America honors in 1998. He was a two-time All-Big West selection in his career at Nevada and won the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate in 1994-95. He turned professional in 1998 and played in 84 PGA Tour events in his career, including two major championships. He won the 2009 Cox Classic on the Nationwide Tour, and is now the head pro at Bluejack National in Montgomery, Texas, the first Tiger Woods-designed golf course in the United States.

Mike Crawford ’99 – Football (1993-96)
Crawford was named Nevada’s Defensive Player of the Year and earned first-team All-Big West honors at linebacker in 1996. He was named the MVP of the 1996 Las Vegas Bowl after recording 14 tackles and making the game-saving interception for Nevada’s first bowl victory in 50 years. He began his career as a walk-on and later earned a scholarship, becoming a two-year starter and two-time all-conference selection. He was drafted in the sixth round of the 1997 NFL Draft by the Miami Dolphins.

Harvey Dahl ’03 – Football (2001-04)
Dahl earned first-team All-Big West honors and served as a team captain in 2003 and 2004. He won the team’s Basalite Big Blocker Award in each of his last three seasons. Dahl was selected to participate in the East-West Shrine Game and the NFL combine following his senior season in 2004. Though he went undrafted, Dahl signed with San Francisco and worked his way from the practice squad to the team roster and played in four games in 2006. He played with the Atlanta Falcons from 2007-10, starting all 16 games in 2008 and again in 2010 before starting for three seasons with the St. Louis Rams (2011-13) and retiring in 2014.

Salaia Salave’a – Volleyball & Women’s Basketball (2002-06)
One of the top players in the history of Nevada volleyball, Salave’a earned AVCA honorable mention All-America honors following her senior season in 2005, which is the highest honor ever awarded a Nevada volleyball player. She was a first-team AVCA West Region selection her senior year after garnering honorable mention West Region honors as a junior in 2004. A four-year starter who played in 124 of a possible 125 matches during her career, Salave’a was a three-time first-team All-WAC, four-time All-WAC Tournament team and three-time All-WAC Preseason team selection.

Mark Fox – Men’s Basketball Coach (2000-09)
Fox recorded a 123-43 (.741) record in five seasons as Nevada’s head coach from 2004-09 and was named the Don Haskins Western Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in three of his five seasons at the helm (2005, 2006 and 2007). He
was the first coach in WAC history to be named coach of the year three consecutive years and he led the Wolf Pack to five postseason appearances, including three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances from 2005-07. He guided the Wolf Pack to four consecutive WAC titles as head coach and five straight as a member of Nevada’s coaching staff. He led the Wolf Pack to the best season in school history in 2006-07 with a school-record 29-5 overall record.

Jim Puzey ’89 – Baseball (1982-85)

Puzey was a three-time first-team all-conference selection at catcher [Northern California Baseball Association in 1983 and 1984, and West Coast Conference in 1985]. He led the NCBA in batting average as a freshman at .413, while playing at designated hitter and platooning at catcher. He started at catcher his sophomore year and hit .317 with 16 doubles and was selected to the U.S. National Team following his sophomore year. He won the bronze medal with the U.S. team in the Pan-American Games in Venezuela, hitting .778 to lead the U.S. team. He served as team captain his junior and senior year, hitting .364 as a junior and .374 as a senior. Puzey was taken in the 17th round of the 1985 MLB Draft by the St. Louis Cardinals and spent five seasons in the Cardinals’ minor league system after his Nevada career.

Former Nevada football standout Jordan Dobrich ’16 (mechanical engineering) was named in July as the Mountain West’s Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year for the 2015-16 season – the first such honor for a Wolf Pack student-athlete in the school’s four-year history in the conference.

Dobrich was a three-year team captain who helped the Wolf Pack to a 7-6 record and win in the NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl game to cap his senior season last fall. He graduated from the University in May with a 3.83 GPA and a degree in mechanical engineering, and he began studies in Nevada’s MBA program this fall.

“It is an incredible honor to be named the Mountain West’s Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year,” Dobrich said. “I want to thank the conference and everyone at the University of Nevada, Reno for the opportunities I enjoyed as a student-athlete for the Wolf Pack. I am proud to be a Nevada alum and am excited for the next step in my academic career.”

Established by the Mountain West Joint Council in 1999, the MW Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award is the highest honor presented by the conference to a student-athlete. The award is bestowed annually to one male and one female who best exemplify the term “student-athlete” by achieving excellence in academics, athletics and community involvement over the course of their collegiate career. In addition to athletic achievements, recipients of the MW Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA, demonstrate leadership, and exhibit good character and conduct on and off the playing field. Each honoree will receive a $2,500 postgraduate scholarship.

“We are incredibly proud of Jordan for receiving this great honor,” said Nevada Coach Brian Polian. “He represents all that is good about college athletics – he is a terrific person, an exceptional and accomplished student, and a talented athlete. This award is a fitting way to cap his career at the University of Nevada, Reno.”

In October, Dobrich was inducted into the 2015 National Football Foundation National Scholar-Athlete Class and was a finalist for the 2015 William V. Campbell Trophy, the so-called “Academic Heisman.” He was the first Nevada player ever to earn the NFF Scholar-Athlete Award and was one of 12 in the country to earn it in 2015.

Dobrich was an Academic All-Mountain West Team member all four years of his collegiate career, 2012-15, and was a two-time MW Scholar-Athlete. He was involved in Tau Beta Pi, the country’s oldest and most prestigious honors engineering fraternity, and volunteered as the academic chair of Theta Tau, a professional co-ed engineering fraternity. Dobrich served as an undergraduate assistant for thermodynamics during summer of 2015 while interning for Southwest Gas Corporation. Additionally, Dobrich was a member of the National Society of Leadership and a Golden Key Scholar.

Dobrich, from Magnolia, Calif., came to Nevada as a walk-on. He quickly earned a scholarship and played in 49 games during his Nevada career, recording 274 tackles with 3.5 sacks and 11.5 tackles for loss. He forced three fumbles, recovered two others, and recorded two interceptions, including one that he returned for a touchdown.