

FALCON FAMILY NEWS

DECEMBER 2006 – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH RETIRES

Air Force head football coach Fisher DeBerry announced his retirement Friday, 15 Dec 06, ending over a quarter-century at the Air Force Academy.

Coach DeBerry just completed his 23rd season as the head football coach and 27th overall at Air Force. DeBerry has guided the Falcons to 17 winning seasons since taking over in 1984. He's guided the Academy to three conference championships. Air Force won the Western Athletic Conference title in 1985 and again in 1995. In 1998, the coach guided the team to its first out-right title and a championship game win over Brigham Young. His 1998 team matched the school record with a 12-1 season while earning him his third coach of the year award.

The Cheraw, S.C., native has done it all at Air Force. He is the winningest coach in school history with a 169-107-1 mark. He stands second in Mountain West Conference history in career wins with 100, trailing only close friend and former BYU coach LaVell Edwards. He has also beaten Notre Dame three times, including a 20-17 overtime thriller against the eighth-ranked Irish in South Bend in 1996.

Coach DeBerry has dominated service academy football. In 1999, he became the winningest coach in service academy football history when AFA knocked off Washington in Seattle. He is an amazing 35-11 against Army and Navy in his career and has led the Academy to 14 of its 16 Commander-in-Chief's trophy titles.

Coach DeBerry is a 1960 graduate of Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., where he lettered in football and baseball. After six years of coaching and teaching in the South Carolina high school ranks, Coach returned to Wofford, where he stayed two years as an assistant when the school won 21 consecutive games and was ranked No. 1 nationally. It was during a nine-year stop at Appalachian State in Boone, N.C., where his work with the option offense began to blossom. Appalachian State ranked in the top 10 nationally three times (1975, '78, '79) in rushing, total offense or scoring offense under Coach DeBerry.

Former Air Force head coach Ken Hatfield hired Coach DeBerry in 1980 as the quarterbacks coach at Air Force. He was promoted to offensive coordinator in 1981. When Coach Hatfield left Air Force after the 1983 season, Fisher DeBerry became the school's fifth head coach.

Coach DeBerry and his wife, LuAnn, are active in community affairs. The coach gives motivational speeches and has worked tirelessly with several local and national charities. The couple started the Fisher DeBerry Foundation recently, an organization to benefit single-parent families in Colorado Springs. Coach DeBerry is also active with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and in 2001 authored a book "For God and Country" of which the proceeds go to the FCA.

The coach has received several regional and national awards for his work off the field. He has been honored with the State Farm Coach of Distinction Award for his efforts on and off the field in 2001. This past summer, Coach DeBerry was selected for induction into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the South Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

FALCON FOCUS

The Falcon Focus launched Dec. 15 and is a weekly newsletter designed to give local, regional, and national media outlets and other prospective readers a one-stop location to stay informed about all the positive stories about the Air Force Academy. This new web page highlights all of the good news about Academy cadets, Airmen, civilians, contractors, and alumni. Prospective readers can check out the Falcon Focus on the web at <http://www.usafa.af.mil/index.cfm?catname=Falcon%20Focus> or sign up to receive it by e-mail each week. People can e-mail their photo and story submissions to webmaster.pa@usafa.af.mil. For more information about the Falcon Focus, call Public Affairs at 719-333-8826.

MESS DRESS UNIFORMS

Many parents have asked why the cadets don't get their mess dress uniforms until their third year at USAFA. There are, basically, two reasons. First, their bodies change so much from the time they arrive until they graduate that the uniforms would require constant alterations. Second, the uniforms can be worn in the regular Air Force, so if they were issued the uniform too early they would probably have to replace it when they graduate. Currently, cadets are measured for the mess dress uniform when they are 3-degrees and are actually issued the uniform as 2-degrees. It is not unusual for lower classmen to borrow mess dress uniforms from upper classmen if it's required for formal affairs, but it is also appropriate for them to wear their service dress.

CADETS REPEAT WIN IN LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT COMPETITION

A team of Academy cadets won the Inter-Academy Law of Armed Conflict Competition for the second year in a row. C1Cs Jenny Guilford, John (J.D.) Larson and Blake Pickell, with C2C Chris Stanton, won the competition with a legal memorandum covering four major military law topics.

Each service academy submitted one paper to the International Law Division of the Army's Judge Advocate General School for evaluation. The papers were scored collectively by

three judge advocates — one each from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. The memoranda advised the commander on different LOAC scenarios including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles and civilian contractors on the battlefield, the treatment of detainees in the custody of coalition forces, law of the sea issues during conflict and the use of chemical weapons and targeting principles.

Brig. Gen. Dana Born, Academy Dean of the Faculty, presented the team with certificates of achievement, Dec 11.

AIR FORCE DOWNS COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES, 29-16

Backed by 6 victories, the Air Force wrestling team defeated Colorado School of Mines, 29-16, on Saturday, 9 Dec. The Falcons evened the dual meet season at 1-1 in their first home meet of the year.

FALCONS EARN CONFERENCE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

This semester 21 Falcons have earned “Conference Player of the Week” awards. Our Football teams lead the way with seven selections. Boxing claimed four selections; Cross Country and Ice Hockey each claimed three selections; Men Soccer had two selections; and Men’s Basketball and Volleyball each scored one.

AFA TEAM SUCCESS

Recently at the NCAA Regionals, the Men’s team finished 8th (out of 15 teams) and the Women finished 13th (out of 17 teams).

Men’s Basketball is 11-1, including wins over Wake Forest, Texas Tech, Stanford and Long Beach State. They are currently ranked #23 in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches poll, its highest ranking in program history.

Men’s Swimming finished 3rd at the Speedo Cup in mid-November. The meet featured 16 teams including 3 of the top 25 teams (Stanford, BYU and USC).

Former Hockey Player/Coach and 1982-83 Football Teams Enter Colorado Springs Hall of Fame. Chuck Delich and the 1982-83 football teams were inducted on 25 Oct into the Colorado Springs Hall of Fame. Dave & Chuck Delich are the second brother combination to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Chuck is the all-time leader in goals (156) and points (279) for the Air Force Academy ice hockey Falcons during a career from 1974-77. He holds 14 AFA records and was named the team's Most Valuable Player twice. He still ranks 13th on the NCAA career scoring list. He returned to the Academy in 1981 as an assistant coach and was the head coach at USAFA from 1985-1997. His Falcon hockey teams recorded 154 wins over 12 seasons, giving him a tie with John Matchefts for the most coaching wins in school annals.

1982-1983 Air Force Academy Football Teams: The heralded 1982-83 Falcon gridiron teams compiled an 18-7-0 mark that included wins in the 1982 Hall of Fame Bowl over Vanderbilt (36-28) and the 1983 Independence Bowl over Mississippi (9-3). Coach Ken

Hatfield's Falcon teams defeated Army and Navy in both campaigns and beat Notre Dame twice by scores of 30-17 and 23-22. Both teams were quarterbacked by Marty Louthan, who ran for 1,860 career yards and 4,997 total yards and scored 5 touchdowns against Navy in the 44-17 win over the Middies in 1983. Fullback John Kershner ran for 1,990 yards during the two seasons as the Falcons averaged almost 300 yards per game running the football. Current head coach Fisher DeBerry, named to the Hall of Fame last year, was the offensive coordinator for both squads.

CHAD HENNINGS HONORED BY COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Former Air Force great Chad Hennings was inducted into the College Hall of Fame on 5 Dec in New York. Hennings received one of the highest honors a college football player can earn this year, as he was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame Division I-A class. Hennings is one of 13 players and two coaches to be selected to the Hall of Fame from a ballot of 77 candidates and a pool of hundreds of eligible nominees, according to Ron Johnson, chairman of the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame. Hennings, a 1988 graduate of the Academy, is considered one of college football's great defensive linemen of his era. A unanimous first-team All-America selection in 1987, Hennings received the Outland Trophy as the nation's top interior lineman. A two-time first-team all-conference selection, he is a member of the Western Athletic Conference all-time team and was named WAC defensive player of the decade for the 1980s. Hennings led the nation with 24 sacks in 1987 and played in numerous post-season all-star games including the Japan Bowl and East-West Shrine Game. He is a two-time first-team academic All-American and earned academic All-WAC honors three times. Hennings also received the Stan Bates Award as the conference's top scholar-athlete in 1987. Although he was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in the 1988 NFL Draft, Hennings fulfilled a four-year military commitment, serving during the first Gulf War. In 1992, he rejoined the Cowboys and embarked on a nine-year NFL career that brought him three Super Bowl titles.