

Drake University Athletics—“Points of Pride”

(updated 7/27/12)

Historical

- Drake has had four Rhodes Scholars in its history, and all four competed in intercollegiate athletics:
 - J.W. Woodrow—Football, Track..... 1907
 - Norman Scott—Track..... 1916
 - Robert B. Patrick—Tennis..... 1926
 - Lindsay Whorton—Women’s Basketball 2008
Whorton, in May 2012, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship grant to pursue her doctorate in education and labor relations in Finland.
- Three Bulldogs have been named either National Player or Coach of the Year:
 - Maury John, Coach—Men’s Basketball (USBWA)..... 1969
 - Wanda Ford, Player—Women’s Basketball (Women’s Sports Federation)..... 1986
 - Keno Davis, Coach—Men’s Basketball (AP, Chevrolet, Henry Iba, Sporting News, Basketball Times)2008
- Four times Drake athletes have earned National Academic Player of the Year honors:
 - Jan Jensen—Women’s Basketball (USBWA Academic A-A of the Yr.; WBCA S-A of the Yr.)..... 1990
 - Jan Jensen—Women’s Basketball (GTE/CoSIDA Academic A-A of the Yr.) 1991
 - Tricia Wakely—Women’s Basketball (GTE/CoSIDA Academic A-A of the Yr.)..... 1996
 - Adam Emmenecker—Men’s Basketball (GTE/CoSIDA Academic A-A of the Yr.) 2008
- Drake has produced 59 Academic All-Americans since the current program was implemented in 1952. Football claims 13 of those awards, followed by women’s basketball with 10 and women’s track and field with 7.
- Four Drake team have won national championships, including the men’s cross-country team that won three consecutive national titles from 1944-46. The 1975 men’s basketball team won the 1975 postseason National Commissioner’s Invitational tournament.
- Drake also has produced five individual national champions:
 - Linn Philson—Track & Field, high jump (6-4 7/8)..... 1935
 - Fred Feiler—Cross-Country (21:04.20)..... 1944
 - Fred Feiler—Cross-Country (21:14.20)..... 1945
 - Jim Ford—Track & Field, 220-yard dash (21.0) 1952
 - Rick Wanamaker—Track & Field, decathlon (7,406). 1970
- Drake athletic teams have won 60 Missouri Valley Conference championships, including a league-leading nine titles in men’s cross-country and eight in women’s tennis.
- The Drake Relays have succeeded in producing a sold-out Saturday attendance for 47 consecutive years.
- Drake historian, graduate and former sports information director Paul Morrison attended his 74th Drake Relays in April 2012, and has attended 678 Drake football games through the 2011 season.
- John L. Griffith remains one of the most influential and iconic figures in the history of Drake athletics, having founded the Drake Relays in 1910. He served as director through 1918, and was athletics director, football coach and track and field coach from 1908-15. Griffith later served as the first commissioner of the Big 10 Conference from 1922-44. His two bulldogs accompanied him on the sidelines, inspiring *Des Moines Register* sports editor Art Gordon in 1908 to refer to Drake’s team as the Bulldogs
- The playing field at Drake Stadium was named Johnny Bright Field in 2006 in honor of the 1952 graduate who in 1969 was voted the greatest Drake football player of all time. Bright lettered in football, basketball and track as a sophomore before concentrating fully on football. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles No. 1 in 1952 but chose to play in Canada where he starred for 17 seasons.
- The 1968-69 Drake Bulldogs made the school’s only appearance in the men’s basketball Final Four, in Louisville, Ky. The Bulldogs lost to the legendary John Wooden-coached UCLA Bruins, 85-82, before defeating North Carolina 104-84 in the 3rd/4th-place game .

- Dolph Pulliam became the first person drafted in both the NBA (Boston Celtics) and NFL (Dallas Cowboys) in 1969.
- Drake alum Zach Johnson has had a distinguished career on the PGA Tour, winning the 2007 Master's and playing on the '06 and '10 U.S Ryder Cup teams. He has won nine PGA Tour events. Since 2004, Johnson is one of only four golfers who have won nine PGA Tour events, including a major, joining Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh.
- Former Drake Bulldog Billy Cundiff earned Pro Bowl honors in 2010 with the Baltimore Ravens, and tied an NFL record in 2003 by kicking seven field goals in a Monday night game for the Dallas Cowboys.
- Former Drake softball player Dani Tyler, a 2012 Drake "Double D" Award recipient, earned a gold medal with Team USA at 1996 Olympics.
- Drake alum Kevin Little extended his track & field career beyond the Blue Oval, and was a five-time indoor medalist at the World Championships.
- Former Drake men's soccer standout Ezra Hendrickson played for the D.C. United, Columbus Crew & L.A. Galaxy and won MLS Cups.
- In 2001 Drake became just the 18th school in NCAA Division I-AA/FCS football history to win 500 games, and has an all-time record of 572-485-29.
- Drake was the first Iowa college team to play in a bowl game, appearing in the Raisin Bowl on Jan. 1, 1946, at Fresno State.
- The great Babe Ruth visited a Drake football scrimmage in 1926 and scored a 20-yard touchdown in a mock play from scrimmage.

2011-12

- Drake earned two Academic All-America honors during the 2011-12 year.
 - Senior men's soccer player Matt Kuhn earned first-team Capital One Academic All-America honors;
 - Fifth-year senior football player Michael Lahart earned second-team accolades.
- 6 Drake student-athletes earned Capital One Academic All-District VI (Football—Michael Lahart, Tyler Moorehead; men's soccer—Hunter Kennedy, Matt Kuhn, Nick Marshall, Thomas Ostrander)
- 42 Bulldogs were named to conference all-academic teams.
- The men's tennis team won the Missouri Valley Conference title for the fifth time in the last seven seasons...Football was the Pioneer Football League co-champion with San Diego, sharing equal 9-2 records, 7-1 in the PFL. It was Drake's fifth PFL title, and first since 2004.
- Bulldogs men's cross-country standout Brogan Austin won the Missouri Valley Conference individual championship in Terre Haute, Ind., on Sunday, Oct. 30. Austin, a sophomore, is the first Drake MVC cross-country champion since Bobby Anderson won the meet in 2004.
- Drake had four conference player of the year choices: Rachael Hackbarth (WBB) and Anis Ghorbel (MTEN) were named MVC Player of the Year in their sports. Quarterback Mike Piatkowski was PFL Offensive Player of the Year and linebacker Travis Merritt was the Defensive Newcomer of the Year.
- Drake coaches earned two Coach of the Year honors in 2011-12 (Evan Austin, men's tennis, MVC; Charlie DiSilvestro, rowing, MAAC).
- Two Drake Bulldogs (Jean Erasmus, MTEN; Amber Wollschlager, WBB) earned the Missouri Valley Conference's coveted Elite 18 Awards, given to the student-athlete with the highest grade-point-average among all competitors in the championships event of that sport.

2010-11

- Drake coaches earned two Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year honors in 2010-11 (Rich Calvert, softball; Evan Austin, men's tennis) and one national Coach of the Year award (Charlie DiSilvestro, women's crew, Dad Vail Regatta National Coach of the Year).
- The Bulldogs produced 33 first- or second-team All-Conference (MVC/PFL/MAAC) honors in 2010-11 (19 first-team, 14 second-team).
- A total of 35 Drake student-athletes were named to their conference Scholar-Athlete teams (MVC, PFL, MAAC), including 27 first-team choices and 8 second team.
- Three Drake programs earned NCAA Public Recognition Awards for scoring in the top 10 percent for Academic Progress Rate (APR). Women's basketball, women's golf and men's cross-country each achieved perfect APR scores of 1,000 in 2010-11.
- Three Drake Bulldogs earned national recognition as scholar athletes, including softball's Brynne Dordel who earned CoSIDA Academic All-America, and men's soccer's Nick Foster and Thomas Ostrander, who earned Scholar All-America honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.
- Eight Bulldogs were named to CoSIDA's Academic All-District VI first team.
- Two Drake Bulldogs earned the Missouri Valley Conference's coveted Elite 18 Awards in the program's first year. Modeled after the NCAA's Elite 88 Awards, the Elite 18 is given to the student-athlete with the highest grade-point-average among all competitors in the championships event of that sport.
- Men's golf senior Cody Schweinefus was Missouri Valley Conference champion in 2011, winning a sudden-death playoff at the conference tournament to take home the title and earn a berth in the NCAA Division I men's golf regionals.
- Hurdler Jon DeGrave won the Missouri Valley Conference 400-meter hurdles title and qualified for the 2011 NCAA Division I Outdoor Championships by setting a Drake record of 50.59 in that event at the NCAA West Regional on May 27, 2011. He earned honorable mention All-America honors by competing on his home track in the NCAA semifinals June 8.