

New Wildcat coaches ready for action

It has been a year of coaching changes for the Wildcat and United States Olympic Education Center (USOEC) athletic programs.

“NMU’s intercollegiate athletic department can go through long periods with no coaching changes and then, all of the sudden, there is a period of substantial change. The past 10 months have been such a period,” said NMU Athletic Director Ken Godfrey.

Since last season, head coaches Jim Moore, volleyball, and Mike Geary, women’s basketball, left and are now working with Division I programs. Moore is at the University of Oregon, along with former assistant coach **Stacy Metro ’94 BS**. Geary is at Ball State University.

Longtime hockey associate head coach **Dave Shyiak ’93 BS** also departed to become head coach at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Taking over the helm

The three new head coaches for 2005-06 are **Troy Mattson ’86 BS**, women’s basketball; **Jenny Ryan ’02 MS**, women’s track and field; and Qi Wang (pronounced Chi Wong), volleyball.

A women’s assistant at Lake Superior State University early in his career, Mattson spent the past 17 seasons working with the NMU men’s program as the assistant and then associate head coach. A point guard and team captain as a Wildcat, he was the 10th player in school history to score 1,000 points.

Ryan was promoted from assistant to head coach of the track and field program in September while **Sten Fjeldheim ’86 BS, ’93 MA**,

who was head coach, became one of the assistants. Ryan continues to serve as Fjeldheim’s assistant coach for the nationally ranked women’s cross country and men’s and women’s Nordic ski teams. Ryan joined the NMU staff in 2000 as a graduate assistant.

Qi Wang and his wife Shelly (Xiao-Xin) left Truman State University to take over as the head and assistant coaches of the Wildcat volleyball program. Qi, the 2002 NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year, was 133-17 in his four years guiding the Bulldog program. He was an assistant there for four years prior to advancing to the top spot. Before becoming a coach, Shelly played with the elite Liaoning Province and Beijing Sports University programs.

Assisting the new leaders

Several of the new assistant coaches are making return appearances on the Wildcat bench: **Marisa DellAngelo ’03 BS**, women’s basketball; **Tom Graves ’88 BS**, men’s basketball; and **Andy Ward ’89 BS**, swimming and diving.

DellAngelo was the 2002 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Player of the Year and a Division II Second Team All-American. As a Wildcat, she won the most valuable player award twice and ranks fourth in all-time scoring (1,558 points).

Graves has filled the associate head coach position that Mattson left vacant. He served last year as the men’s volunteer coach. He was a men’s assistant at Northwood (1988-97) and Saginaw Valley State (2003-04), and was NMU’s student-assis-



Troy Mattson



Jenny Ryan



Qi Wang

tant coach from 1986-88.

A diver on the 1979-80 Wildcat squad, Ward was also the diving coach at NMU from 1999-2000 and at Marquette Senior High School from 2001-03.

John Olver is Shyiak's replacement as the associate head coach of the NMU hockey team. The father of junior forward Darin Olver, NMU's leading scorer a year ago, the senior Olver comes to NMU from the Idaho Steelheads of the East Coast Hockey League, where he posted a 228-100-32 regular-season mark during the past five years and won the 2004 Kelly Cup.

He played college hockey at the University of Michigan (1978-80) and was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in 1978.

USOEC gains three helpers

The USOEC also welcomed three new assistants: Tony DeAnda, women's freestyle wrestling; Jim Gruenwald, Greco-Roman wrestling; and **Tricia Stennes '97 BS**, speedskating.

DeAnda finished fifth at the 2005 World Team Trials and sixth at the 2004 U.S. Olympic team trials. He also won a bronze medal at the 2003 Pan American Championships.

Gruenwald finished in the top 10 at the 2000 and 2004 Summer Games and captured the U.S. national title in 2002 and 2004.

Stennes trained at the USOEC from 1989 until retirement in 1994. She continued to participate in coaching training camps. Stennes, a '88 and '92 Olympian, returned to NMU as a part of the Bridging Program, which works with retired USOEC athletes to help them earn a college degree.

Cinda Paavola '84 BS

NMU Sports Hall of Fame 2005 inductees

Steve Avery '89 BS, Cranberry Township, Pa.

A four-year letter winner with the football Wildcats, Steve holds the NMU record for yards rushing in a career with 3,842. In 1987, he was named the GLIAC Player of the Year and an All-American honorable mention. After graduating from NMU, Steve went on to play in the National Football League. He played for the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1993-95 when they won three AFC Central Division championships, one AFC Championship, and took on the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl XXX. He has since retired from the NFL and is the regional marketing director for The Hartford/PLANCO.

William Hamor '64 BS, Beverly, Mass.

Bill earned four letters as a two-way tackle with the 1960-63 Wildcat football teams. During his time on the squad, NMU compiled a 24-10-2 record. He has a master's degree from Eastern Michigan University and has enjoyed a productive teaching and coaching career. He coached the Beverly, Mass., high school football team for 26 years. His 1988 Panther squad was 10-0 and went to the Division II Super Bowl.

Joan Peto Hopkins, Richmond, Ky.

Joan was hired as the first coach of the NMU women's swimming team in 1977 and led the Wildcats to seven top 10 national team finishes, including second place in the NCAA Division II Championship in 1982. During her nine-year tenure at Northern, her teams produced eight Division II national champions and 34 Division II All-Americans. Joan is the coordinator of the Bratzke Student-Athlete Academic Success Center at Eastern Kentucky University.

Randy Meier '82 BS, Riverdale, Mich.

Randy was a four-year letter winner on the NMU wrestling squad. He earned All-America honors at 142 pounds in 1979 when he was fifth in the NCAA-II finals. He was the 1982 co-captain and was fourth at 152 pounds at the national meet. As the head wrestling coach at Fulton High School, Randy has coached 44 state qualifiers, 24 state place winners, and 11 state champions. Randy retired from coaching in 2004 and is currently a physical education instructor.

Keith Nelsen '86 BS, Tampa, Fla.

A four-year letter winner in football, Keith was a two-year starter at quarterback for the Wildcats. He holds the NMU record for total offense in a season and total offense in a game. Keith was team captain and most valuable player in 1985. He earned a juris doctorate from the University of Wisconsin Law School and currently serves as chief administrative officer and general counsel for Danka Business Systems, a provider of office printing solutions and services.

Gary Shanley '64 BS, Alanson, Mich.

Gary competed in both football and track at Northern and earned six letters. He was a member of the 1960 track team that won the NAIA State Championship. Gary's 30-year career in education included coaching the high school football team. His record at Indian River Inland Lakes includes a 24-game winning streak, two undefeated seasons, and one state championship. He retired from teaching in 1994 but continues to officiate track meets.

Bill Harris, Jackson, Miss.

Bill earned four varsity letters in basketball at NMU and was the team's most valuable player three of those four years. He is the all-time leading scorer with 2,224 points and is the all-time, single-season scoring leader with 763 points. Bill also holds records for the most career field goals (856), the best career free-throw average (84.4% - 387 of 458), highest-scoring senior (763 points), and best free-throw average in one season (89.7% - 113 of 126).