



Northern HORIZONS

WINTER 2007

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Sports

Behind the scenes

Going to extremes

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Good sports

NMU has produced a remarkable number of high-level sports professionals. Some who come to mind include **Lloyd Carr '68 BS, '70 MAE**, University of Michigan football head coach; **Don Waddell, '80**, general manager of the NHL's Atlanta Thrashers; **Steve Weeks, '80 BA**, Thrashers' assistant coach; **Frank Novak, '62 BA, '67 MA**, special teams consultant for the NFL's Green Bay Packers; **Tom Izzo '77 BS**, head coach of the Michigan State University men's basketball team, the 2000 NCAA champions; and **Steve Mariucci '77 BS, '82 MAE**, current Football Network analyst and former NFL coach.

And then there are our superlative athletes, including **Cathy Turner-Bostley '91 BS**, short track speedskating Olympic gold medalist; current student Shani Davis, two-time world champion and Olympic medalist in long track speedskating; **Dallas Drake, '92**, captain of the NHL's St. Louis Blues; **J.P. Vigier, '01 BA**, right wing of the Thrashers; and **Frida Waara '77 BA**, the first Michigan woman to reach the North Pole on skis.

But then there are so many others with Northern ties who do amazing things in athletics—out of the spotlight—that we thought their stories should be told, and the limelight shared with them. We hope you'll be inspired by the folks we've featured in this issue to follow your own passions, however you can.

—Rebecca Tavernini

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Great article by Kristi Evans in *Horizons* (Fall 2006) about my former roommate and good friend Scott Hegerich. Not only did he work for WNMU FM and TV at NMU, he also was a mainstay at Audio-Visual.

When he was in Chicago, we got together periodically, often for lunch at either Manny's Deli or Lou Mitchell's, both near his office in the West Loop. One time he helped me expedite some camp friends of my daughter's through customs at O'Hare. Legally, of course! Thanks! I really enjoyed it.

—**Barry L. Axelrod '69 BA**
Past President, NMU Alumni Association
Deerfield, Ill.

Northern Horizons' Law and Order issue left me feeling a large sense of loss. The old pristine, peaceful university in the north woods seems just the opposite today. Yes, 911 was an extremely tragic event, but since then, crime and terrorist statistics show that the U.S. is no less safe than pre-911. It seems that NMU has fallen for the Republican administration's main campaign theme—make Americans feel vulnerable, then talk and walk tough on crime and terrorism. But in the case of your magazine, the world is less safe, but trust NMU's law and order programs to make it safer.

When covering these issues, there is a very fine line on what's appropriate. Be careful not to over-romanticize our new security forces, nor should we be too excited about the opportunities to fight crime and terrorism.

—**Bob Sutherland, '89 BS**
Traverse City, Mich.

May the circle

Keep in touch

be unbroken



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Gwyn, 15, Reese, 9, Roni, Paris, 13, and Jerry Woods.

Jerry is a lifetime member of the NMU Alumni Association since 2003 and Alumni Association board member from 2003-06.

Of course I'm a member.

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the NMU Alumni Association today.**

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My NMU coaches had a great impact on the person I've become. Herb Grenke, Jerry Rosberg, Jim Driscoll were like father figures to me. It was never about Xs and Os or statistics with them. It was about discipline, effort, courage, enthusiasm and pride. Having those principles embedded into my mind while I played Wildcat football was one of the greatest experiences in my life. It set the foundation to be the father, husband, brother, friend, co-worker, coach and the man that I am.

I'd like to think that I, too, serve as a good role model for young athletes. My day job is as a senior designer for Cummins Generator Technologies in the Twin Cities, but in my free time, I coach everything my kids are involved in: baseball, soccer and football, and serve as coordinator of our area's youth football program. The key ideas I stress with kids are work hard, give great effort, be disciplined, be enthusiastic and have fun.

Northern teachers and coaches taught me how to define and achieve success. So, when I have the chance to give back to NMU, I do, such as serving on the Alumni Association board and staying involved. I have even worked two college fairs in the Twin Cities and really enjoyed it!

When I'm coaching, Northern is on the field, too, because I always carry the values of my NMU experience with me.

Jerry Woods '89 BS



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