

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES: MAKING THE GRADE, AND THE SHOT

For generations, the halls of Louisville Collegiate School have housed extraordinary talent. While students may possess a natural ability in a certain academic course, artistic gift or athletic skill, at Collegiate they are always encouraged to explore and learn and never limit their knowledge.

Last spring, the Class of 2008 set a record for the highest percentage of students committing to participate in college level athletics. Nearly 30% of the class now proudly wears the soccer, lacrosse, baseball, tennis, or crew jersey of their college or university. However, Collegiate has seen a steady amount of graduates begin their athletic careers on Glenmary Avenue and advance their skills to the college level. While excelling in their physical endeavors, these graduates juggle a heavy academic courseload and the daily challenges of university life. Suzanne Hardesty '90, David Jasper '92, Maggie Galloway '05, and Rashad Masri '08 are just a small handful of the scholar-athletes produced by Collegiate.



Jennifer Berman '90, Field Hockey Coach Wendy Martin, and Suzanne Hardesty '90

SUZANNE HARDESTY '90

Before her freshman year of high school, Suzanne Hardesty was thinking about quitting field hockey. Anxious about going to the mandatory hockey camp with the team, she was quickly dissuaded by coach Wendy Martin, who said “No way!” and convinced Hardesty to continue playing.

If not for coach Martin’s guidance, Hardesty would have never gone on to play Division I field hockey at Davidson College. “She would take a ton of time outside of practice to help me work on corners, penalty strokes, or other skills needed to be

competitive at a college level,” says Hardesty. “Wendy wrote letters of support to coaches for me and gave me the confidence to play the sport at a higher level.”

“Suzanne was a great field hockey player...she loved the game and she is so much fun to be around,” says Wendy Martin, who has won 11 state championships during her tenure as Collegiate’s field hockey coach. “We are still great friends today and that means the world to me.”

Hardesty’s time at Davidson College was a “fantastic experience.” Her team won the Deep South tournament during all four years of her career, and in her junior year, Davidson beat several top 20 teams. She was selected to play on all-conference teams at the end of each season but she admits, “nothing beats the camaraderie that our team established with each other.”

From a young age, Hardesty grew excited to participate in team sports for the friendships and bonds created with her teammates. From playing tee-ball to her seasons playing field hockey, basketball and softball at Collegiate, Hardesty “loved the physical and mental challenges that sports gave me.”

“I knew field hockey at Davidson was going to continue to provide me with those challenges, friendships, and winning moments that made me ‘tick,’” she says.

Off the field, Hardesty was focused on earning a degree in Psychology. She learned to balance a full class schedule, a part-time job, and the practices, games, and travel that come with playing College sports.

“I knew how to study efficiently, and critical thinking that was developed at Collegiate was a huge help. I was used to completing a lot of homework, reading, writing long papers, and participating in classroom discussions,” she says. “I felt confident to approach professors for help, which I think stemmed from the good relationships one can establish with teachers in the intimate classroom setting at Collegiate.”



Suzanne and her mother and Lower School teacher Martha Hardesty.



David Jasper '92 (kneeling at bottom right) at 1997 NCAA Division I Finals in Chicago.

DAVID JASPER '92

Looking back on his college years, David Jasper concedes that a massive state school such as the football powerhouse of the University of Michigan represents “everything that is different from Collegiate.”

During Jasper’s years at Collegiate, the school witnessed the graduation of the first co-ed class in its history. Slowly, the school was attracting more male students from around Louisville. The athletic department was seeing similar growth and adding new offerings and teams for the school’s new constituency.

Coached by former Collegiate teacher, Mark Cunningham, in both golf and basketball, Jasper initially thought he would be a two-sport athlete. However, when his golf skills began to garner more interest from schools than his basketball prowess, he shifted his concentration to golf. His hard work paid off and he entered Jim Carras’ Division I program as a University of Michigan Wolverine. “I loved the sport and it helped me pay my way through school,” says Jasper.



David on the 1992 Varsity Golf Team.

He began as a redshirt, but Jasper’s career at Michigan took off and he was quickly considered one of the team’s top talents. In 1994-95, the squad placed an impressive third in the Big Ten Championship and advanced to the NCAA Regionals. In 1997, Jasper’s senior year, he led the team to qualify for the NCAA Division I Finals in Chicago.

A lot has changed since the days when Jasper and his teammates were mockingly called “Amazons” during away basketball games, but he remains grateful to Collegiate for the athletic options that were available to him and the handful of boys enrolled in the newly co-ed school. He is thankful for the academic preparation Collegiate provided. “I was able to play golf and pursue my chemical engineering degree with good friends, and understanding professors,” he says. “Academically I was more prepared to float on my own after the academic coursework I encountered at Collegiate.”

MAGGIE GALLOWAY '05

Of the 13 different sports offered by Collegiate’s athletic department, rowing is one of the newer programs. Naturally when one thinks of Collegiate rowing, the first name that comes to mind is Tori Murden-McClure '81, who is also the first woman to have rowed solo across the Atlantic. However, joining her is a new name.

While she admits that she was never “a particularly good athlete,” Maggie Galloway credits Collegiate with exposing her to crew. 2008-09 is her 4th year of rowing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a NCAA Division I school where she competes in the First Varsity Eight Boat.

“I think the most important thing Collegiate did to encourage me to play sports was to give me the opportunity to play any sport I wanted,” she says. “There are very few high schools in the United States that have rowing teams and even fewer schools that are as small as Collegiate. I think the variety of opportunities available to Collegiate students is unmatched at any similarly sized school in the country.”

During her years at Collegiate, Galloway participated on the crew team for four years, and even had Tori Murden-McClure as a coach for one season. She also played basketball and soccer while in Upper School, where it is not uncommon for students to engage in different sports throughout the year despite their skill level or experience.

“Maggie had a tremendous attitude on and off the field,” said Thomas Travis, the Varsity Girls’ Soccer coach.

Success came early for Galloway while rowing for Wisconsin. In 2006, her freshman boat won the Big Ten Championship. “It was about 45 degrees, pouring rain and the water was white capping, but we were so excited to be there,” Galloway exclaims.

She also competed in the 2006 and 2008 NCAA Championships with coach Bebe Bryans. “The opportunity to be a college athlete is hard to pass up. I get to row everyday (that the lake is not frozen), which is what I love. I also get to be part of a wonderful group of girls all striving for the same goals.”



Maggie Galloway '05

Aside from rowing, Galloway is pursuing a degree in Biological Aspects of Conservation with a minor in Environmental Studies. Careful to balance out her busy schedule, she remains active on campus, and holds an internship at Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch, an organization that works to introduce local, sustainable food into meal programs of Wisconsin schools. Eventually, she finds time for sleep and “a little bit of a social life.”

However the hectic regimen is nothing new for Galloway. “Collegiate taught me how to manage my time well...I don’t struggle as much with time management as some of my teammates do,” she says. “Coming from a small school where I had great relationships with my teachers and held several leadership roles, it was easier to find my way in Madison. I try to be proactive about getting to know my professors, participating in student organizations, and being a leader of the rowing team, because that is what I was used to doing at Collegiate.”



Rashad Masri '08

RASHAD MASRI '08

As a member of the record-setting Class of 2008, Rashad Masri just recently began his undergraduate career at the University of Chicago. He is a starting center back on the men’s soccer team.

The Maroons are coached by Scott Wiercinski and compete in the University Athletic Association against schools such as Emory University, NYU, and Carnegie Mellon. To any freshman, college life can be a daunting experience but Masri is adjusting with stride to the whirlwind of college athletics.

“A lot of the teams we play are ranked in the top 25... so it is a great opportunity to play the best teams in the country,” he says. “Especially since I got to start as a freshman, I am lucky to have these experiences right away.”

Masri’s college career is preceded by his time on Collegiate’s teams. Besides soccer, he also played basketball under coach and Athletic Director Tim Williams and spent the spring playing baseball with coach Matt Brooks. While on Collegiate’s

varsity soccer team, Masri was guided by coach Brad Davies who also currently serves as Head of Upper School.

“The athletic program was so supportive of me, and they really cared for me on a personal level. I felt that from all my coaches,” notes Masri. “Coach Davies was a great mentor for me because he played college soccer and had so much to offer in terms of advice for not only soccer but also life in general. I have a real passion for soccer and athletics, and Collegiate’s athletic program helped me to improve and grow as a player and person.”

Davies, who played soccer during his undergraduate years at Stanford University recalls, “Rashad recognized how special it is to be a part of a team and gave his all, not for the personal glory that often finds such a talented athlete, but for the team’s overall success.”

While his major is still undeclared, Masri intends to pursue Economics, a field for which past and present University of Chicago faculty have gained fame. However, the rigors of business school and soccer are expectedly demanding. “It’s difficult to handle soccer and school because soccer takes up so much time with practice and road trips,” he admits. “I just use the time during the day, when I’m free, efficiently. I have to use any free time to get homework done because I have soccer every day.”

Luckily, Masri does not endure his tough schedule without practice. His courseload at Collegiate and the amount of work he was assigned gave him ample practice in time management. “It was a perfect way to train me for what I’m going through now. The jump to college wasn’t as difficult because of the preparation I got at Collegiate.”

For another source of advice Masri need not go far. His father, Bashar, played soccer at the University of Louisville and has frequented the stands of the University of Chicago’s games with his wife, Debbie.

Despite his strenuous schedule Masri expresses no regret in deciding to play sports in college. The trade-off of friendships and achievements have made it all worth it. “I had such memorable experiences playing on teams at Collegiate, and I wanted to continue to be on a team in college. It is a great feeling working hard and fighting as a team and then achieving the goals you set for yourselves. Being a part of a team has given me some of my most unforgettable moments of high school.”



Rashad Masri '08 as a University of Chicago Maroon.