

Summer 2007

'Cat Tracks: End of Era: Carnahan Exits Field

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Recommended Citation

Davis, Laura (2007) "Cat Tracks: End of Era: Carnahan Exits Field," *Linfield Magazine*: Vol. 4 : No. 1 , Article 15.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol4/iss1/15

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End of era: Carnahan exits field



Scott Carnahan '73, received a framed portrait with the names of every former player before the final game of the season on April 29 at Roy Helsler Field. He will remain as athletic director.

Plenty of numbers surround Scott Carnahan '73 as he retires as Linfield College head baseball coach this year.

Among them: 1,174 games coached, 727 games won, more than 500 players mentored.

But one number is more meaningful than the rest to Carnahan – 98. That's the percentage of Linfield varsity baseball players he coached who completed bachelor's degrees.

Carnahan, who will remain as Linfield's athletic director, has spent the past 24 years molding students first and athletes second, following in the footsteps of Linfield coaching legends such as Roy Helsler '36, Ad Rutschman '54, Paul Durham '36 and Ted Wilson.

"It's something we've tried to pass on," Carnahan said. "It is impor-

tant students get the educational experiences to be successful in whatever their career endeavor is after college. Not only the lessons they learn in the classroom, but also the success-related skills and lessons they learn through participation in athletics."

Carnahan learned that philosophy as a student after being recruited to Linfield by Rutschman to play football and Helsler to play baseball. He earned a teaching degree and married Cathy (Wark) '73. After a six-year stint coaching baseball at Lower Columbia Community College, Carnahan returned to Linfield as a member of the faculty and head baseball coach. He was named director of athletics in 1996.

Career stats

- Linfield record: 562-375-2
- Career record: 727-445-2
- Northwest Conference record: 359-127
- NWC Coach of the Year: 11 times
- NAIA District 2 Coach of the Year: 3 times

Under his leadership as athletic director, Linfield has been awarded the McLroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy three times, honoring the top overall athletics program in the NWC. He has overseen major upgrades to athletic facilities, including the 2004 \$1.4 million renovation of the running track and football field.

During his tenure as baseball coach, Carnahan's teams have won 11 Northwest Conference championships – five straight between 1992 and 1996 – and finished second on six other occasions. He has been named NWC Coach of the Year 11 times and NAIA District 2 Coach of

the Year three times.

Over the years, Carnahan has passed along his own attention to detail and commitment to excellence, continually reminding players that "everything counts."

"We go into each game with an underlying confidence, expecting to win," he said. "We play without fear of making mistakes or losing. If we play our best on the field, we'll put ourselves in a position to be successful. We won't have any regrets."

Players have been touched by his passion, including Jon Searle '03, who applies many of the lessons he learned as an outfielder to his current position at Nike.

"I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to be a part of the rich tradition of Linfield athletics," he said. "Carnahan taught me simple lessons like teamwork, leadership, time management, sportsmanship, patience, confidence and, most importantly, family."

Standout moments on and off the baseball diamond pale compared to the relationships Carnahan has made.

"The wins and losses all kind of run together," he said. "But the connections I've had with my players are the most memorable."

Scott Brosius '02, who will succeed Carnahan as head coach, attributes much of his own success to Carnahan. Brosius won three World Series titles with the New York Yankees in 1998, 1999 and 2000 and was named the Most Valuable Player of the 1998 World Series.

"Carney's had a huge impact on my development as a player, a person and now a coach," Brosius said. "He's built a program that has carried on what Linfield athletics is all about – the pursuit of excellence, both on and off the field. He's a tough act to follow."

– Laura Davis