



ArchLink

- Your E-Link to The University of Findlay -

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April 2009 Special Edition

Welcome to ArchLink!



Greetings, my fellow alums!

The University of Findlay family is celebrating the recent NCAA Division II national championship won by the men's basketball team in Springfield, Mass., March 25-28. We want to share a few highlights of this extraordinary accomplishment by a team that worked hard to earn this moment in history. In addition to being outstanding athletes, our team also boasts an average 3.0 team GPA.

With Oiler Pride!

~~Dee Dee Spraw '00, M '07, director, Alumni & Parent Relations



Marcus Parker makes a fast break down the court against the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos at the national championship contest March 28 in Springfield, Mass.

- **The University of Findlay Oilers won the NCAA Division II National Championship** on Saturday, March 28, in Springfield, Mass. The Oilers, now 36-0, topped unranked California State Polytechnic at Pomona 56-53 in overtime to take the title.



Charlie Ernst, assistant coach; Dr. DeBow Freed, president; Ron Niekamp, head coach; and the Oilers mascot at the campus send-off March 24.

- **The Oilers, the NCAA No. 1-ranked team all season, is the first unbeaten national champion team since Cal**

State-Bakersfield in 1993. Televised on CBS, the championship game was a standoff with the score tied at 53, with both teams playing tremendous defense, effectively containing scoring. During overtime play, Josh Bostic, the Oilers'



The Oilers men's basketball team and coaches show their trophy and the game net, which are destined to be displayed in a place of honor in Croy Center.



The team members and coaches celebrated their victory on the steps of Croy Center on Sunday.

NCAA Division II Player of the Year, fouled out and senior guard Tyler Evans replaced him on the court. In a heart-stopping move with 2.4 seconds of play, Evans received a pass from Marcus Parker and swished a shot from 25 feet as Oilers fans at the Mass Mutual Center, and those watching at home in the Jim and Mira Houdeshell Court in Croy Center, erupted in jubilation.

- **The team will go down as the NCAA**

Division II team with the most wins in a single season and only the fourth unbeaten national champion in D-II history. Each member of the team signed the game ball for inclusion in the College Basketball Hall of Fame. Veteran 24-year coach Ron Niekamp has never had a losing season at Findlay and now has a 550-174 record. Assistant coach Charlie Ernst, who played for Niekamp before joining the staff in 1992, honed the team's defensive skills that played such a vital role in the 36-0 season.



Senior Lee Roberts and Coach Niekamp thank their fans after arriving back on campus.

- **Charlie Ernst '92, assistant men's basketball coach, has been selected by his peers as one of 20 finalists for the assistant men's basketball 2009 Coaches of the Year awards by BasketballScoop.com.** Fan voting will reduce the list of semi-finalists to 10 nominees who are "rising stars" of the college basketball coaching profession. BasketballScoop's panel of coaches will then select five winners. You can help by going to <http://basketballscoop.com/mcoy> and voting for Ernst. He is the only non-Division I coach nominated. Please note that votes must come from home computers. Votes will be accepted through April 15.



Hundreds of Oilers fans turned out to welcome the victorious team home on a blustery March Sunday afternoon.

- **When the team bus returned to Findlay at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, hundreds of supporters welcomed the team members and coaches** in front of Croy Gymnasium. As longtime coach Ron Niekamp held the national championship trophy and the net from the championship game, senior members of the team and each coach spoke, thanking the fans who had supported the team throughout the years.

- **While UF sent three busloads and numerous private vehicles traveled to Springfield to watch the tournament games, support remained strong at home as well.** UF hosted a "United for the Oilers" community party on Saturday during the championship game. About 1,000 fans crowded into Croy Gymnasium in Findlay to watch Saturday's championship game, televised nationally on CBS and projected on two large screens. "We wanted to make this a community event so everyone could share the spirit and the excitement of the game," said David Emsweller,



Large projection screens in the Houdeshell Court allowed fans to see the games.

vice president for student services at the University. "The whole Findlay community had supported the Oilers throughout this 36-0 season, and we wanted to be sure everyone had the chance to support them in the title game."

- **After defeating unbeaten, No. 2-ranked C.W. Post, 89-79, in the Elite Eight matchup** on Wednesday, the Oilers played the NCAA semi-



Senior Morgan Lewis demonstrated the Oilers' winning style during a home game.

final game on Thursday with a thrilling 67-65 win over sixth-ranked Central Missouri. A crowd estimated at more than 750 turned out at Croy Center to watch the semifinal game on two large screens.

- **National Championship T-shirts are now available at all University stores**, and you can also purchase a national championship T-shirt from the University Stores Web site. Visit <http://shop.findlay.edu>, click on Clothing and Apparel from the menu at the top; choose Browse Adult Clothing from the middle section; scroll down until you see the T-shirt; follow online ordering instructions.

- **To watch highlights of the championship game**, click here: <http://all-access.cbssports.com/player.html?code=ncaa&media=111536>



Barbara Rice and Betty Cramer, who have been Oiler basketball fans for more than 30 years, attended the reception in Springfield, Mass.

- **A reception for the victorious basketball team and their fans was hosted on March 25** at the Springfield Marriott by Alfgreen Supreme. More than 100 alumni and Oilers fans attended, with Coach Ron Niekamps addressing the crowd.

- Check out Oilers sports at <http://www.findlay.edu>.

- If you know other alumni who would like to receive ArchLink, please forward this message. If you received ArchLink from another alum and would like to sign up for it, you may [click here](#) to fill out a form or e-mail your name, graduation year, major and home address to archlink@findlay.edu. Please add archlink@findlay.edu to your address book/contact list. The University of Findlay will not sell or give your e-mail address to a third party. If you do not wish to receive ArchLink, simply send an e-mail to: archlink@findlay.edu and place "remove" in the subject line.



Crowds packed Croy Gym to cheer the Oilers during the semifinal and championship games.



These fans showed their No. 1 Oilers spirit in their UF gear.

The mission of The University of Findlay is to equip our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.