

Shepherd adds four to its Athletic Hall of Fame

The Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame has added four new members to its list of inductees.

With the 2010 inclusion of Wayman Everly, Judy Massano Ryskamp, Jason Johnson, and Jeff Casteel the SU Athletic Hall of Fame now has 121 members.

Wayman Everly was a four-year starter in both football and basketball for the Rams, graduating in 1964. He was a two-time, first-team All-WVIAC selection in football. He was an All-WVIAC selection in basketball as a junior.

Everly led Shepherd in pass receptions for three seasons. When he was a senior captain in 1963, the Rams went 7-1-1 overall. His

15 career touchdown receptions leave him fifth on Shepherd's all-time list.

In his four years of basketball, Everly totaled 1,059 points.

Ryskamp was a two-year (1983-84) women's tennis player. She played in the No. 1 position in both singles and doubles. One season, she was the singles runner-up in the WVIAC tournament. She also won the No. 1 doubles title.

Ryskamp and Dana Axelsson Cheney were the first SC women's tennis players to reach the NAIA national tournament.

Johnson was a four-year letterman at Shepherd from 1991-94. He was a three-time first-team

All-WVIAC selection and was named to various NAIA All-America teams in three different seasons.

Johnson played on WVIAC championship teams in 1991, 1992 and 1994. He was on two NAIA playoff teams.

When his career was over, Johnson held the school record for pass interceptions with 29. He is now second on that category's all-time list.

Coach Casteel was an assistant in football for 12 seasons (1988-99). Shepherd won six WVIAC championships in his dozen years. There were four post-season appearances.

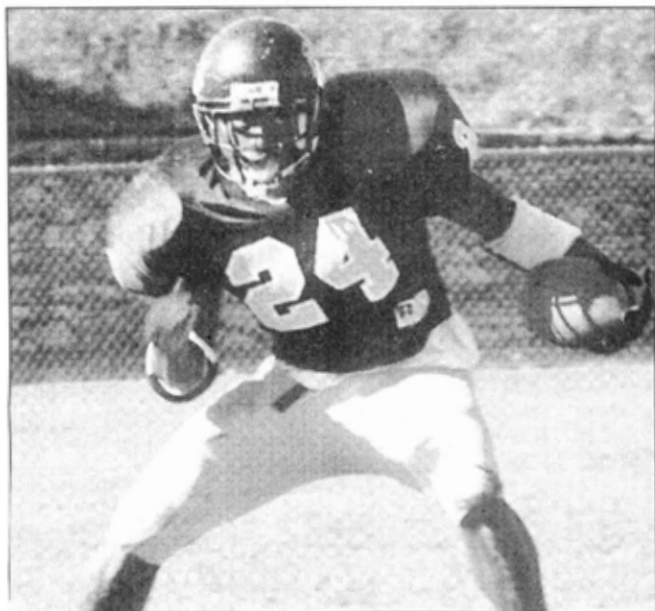
Casteel was Shepherd's defen-

sive coordinator from 1991-99.

After leaving Shepherd, Casteel was at Texas-El Paso for a season before going to Morgantown as a defensive assistant for three seasons at WVU.

He was moved to defensive coordinator of the Mountaineers in his fourth season. WVU has appeared in six bowl games while Casteel has been on the coaching staff.

The four newest members of the SU Hall will be inducted on Friday, September 17, at the Clarion Hotel just outside Shepherdstown. The foursome will also be honored at the Shepherd vs. Fairmont football game on Saturday, September 18.



SHEPHERD PHOTO

Jason Johnson was elected into the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame.

SU's Collins enjoys Valley League

Rams' infielder works to improve during offseason

By BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

STAUNTON, Va. — School is still several weeks away for Shepherd third baseman Brian Collins, but he's still out on the diamond with the Valley League's Staunton Braves.

"I'm enjoying playing every day," said Collins, who is a Martinsburg native. "I'm just focusing on baseball. When you're at school you have to balance academics and baseball. Here I can focus on baseball."

"Of course, it's easy to say you like playing every day on a day off, sitting by the pool."

Collins' focus on baseball has led to him batting .340 so far with the Braves in 53 at-bats, giving him a

three-way share for the team lead in doubles with six.

"I'm always trying to get better, and playing against better competition is only going to help me do that," he said.

Collins has two home runs so far — the first being the most memorable to him.

"I came to the plate against Harrisonburg, my second at bat, and knocked a home run. That moment definitely sticks out in my mind," Collins said.

The Braves are 13-15 on the year, but 9-8 since Collins has joined the team.

"I feel like we, as a team, could be winning more, but I've gotten a good opportunity and I've taken advantage of it so far," he said.

Collins is used to playing third base with the Shepherd Rams, but

has been spending most his time in right field for the Braves.

"I like it out there," he said. "I never played there before. I'm adapting to it, and it's a good experience to be out in the field."

The Rams hope that playing every day will benefit them this fall, and Collins feels his time with the Braves will help him improve as a player.

"The competition is at a good level here," he said. "I'm up against good pitchers and great talent. That's a plus. The day-to-day repetition just helps me get better."

The Martinsburg native has spent most of his playing career in West Virginia, so it took a bit of time to adjust to Staunton.

"Everything was new to me down here, so it took me time to get comfortable," he said.

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Journal file photo by Ron Aguir

Shepherd third baseman Brian Collins is honing his skills this offseason with the Staunton, Va., Braves in the Valley Baseball League.

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"But after three weeks, it feels like I've been down here all summer."

Collins' time away from home has been eased by the Harrisons, his host family, making the departure much smoother.

"It's always difficult being away from home, but Robin and Maurice (Harrison) have been great," he said.

"They've welcomed me since I've got here."

Collins' adjustment to Staunton has been helped by having former Shepherd catcher Anthony Jackson along for the ride as the Braves' first base coach.

"He helped me get my foot in the door, and it's good having him as a

coach," Collins said.

While Collins balances being away from home, he also knows his time with the Braves will only help his baseball skills.

"I don't like being away from home, but I get to play baseball every day in front of over a 1,000 people," Collins said.