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Alverno Inferno basketball team wraps up the season with an all time high

By Casey Lanto
ALPHA STAFF WRITER

This year the Alverno Women's basketball team scored a record amount of wins in a season – ever in Alverno's history. With a consistent energy that told the crowd, opposing team and themselves that they were a team to be reckoned with, they showed us all what they are made of.

Last year, the end of the season record was 5-20. With six returning members and only three new, one has to ask, "What happened?"

> "When Brad came to this school, he made basketball fun for me again; he made me believe we can win again."
> – Bre Miller

According to Brad Duckworth, Director of Athletics and Head Women's Basketball Coach, besides a yearlong commitment to strengthen the team, not much has changed. Duckworth said the team's success is, "not a big surprise – we are just playing to our talent level now."

Ambrial (Bre) Miller, returning senior, said there is a new energy on the team. "When Brad came to this school, he made basketball fun for me again; he made me believe we can win again," she said.

This winning confidence and hard work not only drove the team to a record amount of wins in a season, it also led to winning against schools like Concordia University of Chicago, Benedictine University, Rockford College and University of Wisconsin Superior. Teams Alverno has never beat before.

Duckworth said the three returning seniors: Miller, Katie Salentine and Joslyn Binkowski had a lot to do with the new pace of the program and the growth of the team. With these teammates leaving, what shape is the team in for next year? Duckworth said these players have set higher expectations for upcoming students.

Miller has full confidence in the program. She said it has completely turned around, and though they did well this year, we should only expect more for the future. "It feels good. I'm a senior now, and I will definitely be coming back to support the team in the future."

Walking the talk

By Rosy Reitz
Alpha Staff Writer

Can walking 16 hours in the dark change the lives of millions of people worldwide?

If that 16 hours is part of a national effort to raise awareness and funds for cancer research, multiplied by thousands of participants, millions of dollars, and a united community, chances are those few hours will make an impact that is not soon forgotten.

Following the February 9th kick-off party, Alverno staff, students and supporters are gearing up once again for the 25th annual "Relay for Life" walk, to be held on-campus Saturday April 25th to Sunday April 26th.

This unique event brings various portions of the Alverno population to walk together from sunset to sunrise. Staff, students, friends and family join together and walk to symbolize the potential of eventually defeating cancer.

"[The relay] goes from night into day because we're walking for hope. The sun coming up is the ray of hope that there will be a cure for cancer one day," said Alisa Ackerman, Alverno Payroll Coordinator and Relay Co-chair.

"The majority of people who get involved have been personally touched by cancer, whether they've had cancer themselves—or someone in the family, or a close friend—and they see what they've gone through," she said.

"Whether they've survived, or if they have not, they don't want to see anyone else have to go through that. This is one way they participate to help find a cure. Another way is to honor the survivors who have overcome cancer," said Ackerman. "That's a big part. They come and participate to show support."

Teams have already begun to form for the 2nd on-campus Relay for Life. So far, the 23 participating teams have raised over $3000.00. While the event is already a quarter of a century old, this is Alverno's sophomore year participating. The co-organizers are optimistic about turn-out: last year's event was so successful, the participating teams raised over $75,000 in funds and were awarded the title "Rookie of the Year" by the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Cancer is an emotionally difficult and costly disease that touches many. According to the ACS, one in three people will be diagnosed with cancer over the course of their lifetime. While proceeds from the nationwide event go toward cancer research, an additional goal of Relay for Life is to unite cancer survivors and their supporters in raising awareness and sharing resources.

Alverno's Relay event is giving survivors and their families a network of support and hope.

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Come on down to Community Day

By Cindy Snader
Alpha Staff Writer

Alverno students, faculty and staff will participate in the 10th anniversary of Community Day. This day of service will be held on Wednesday, April 15th. The 2008 Community Day pulled in close to 400 participants. This year's theme focuses on diversity and is titled, "United in Service."

Leticia Martinez, Assistant Director of Student Life, said, "This is a great opportunity for Alverno students, faculty and staff to give back to the community as they practice effective citizenship and social interaction."

What makes this day a success? Martinez said, "The college commitment to the community and closing the college for a day shows support by the faculty that this is an all-college effort." She said many students are committed to helping "by using the skills they have learned and put to good use. It is our hope that students make a connection to the site they go to."

Registration starts on-line March 16th. The confirmed sites are: the Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee Park System, Adopt A Beach, Adopt A Highway, United Community Center, Goodwill and Food Pantry. Check the website as more sites are added.

Community Day starts with registration/continental breakfast at 8 a.m., followed by a keynote speaker who will speak on the topic of community service. Then group pictures will be taken before participants board the buses to go into the community. Find the full agenda on-line.