

Lancers

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those honorees — Julie Hinrichs (A.O. Dur, 1996) and Lucas Klumper (Emil S. Liston, 2003) — went on to win the national award.

“It has been a great thing to see how many of our student-athletes have received awards related to academics,” Lofthus said.

When Lofthus came on as FAR, the Lancer athletic program consisted of volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, and baseball. Since then, MMC has added cross country, track and field, soccer, golf, women’s softball and archery. MMC will add women’s tennis for the 2012-13 school year.

“We’ve grown up in the athletic department together,” said Iverson, who joined MMC as athletic director and women’s basketball coach the year that Lofthus took over as FAR. “When we started, there were only 45 student-athletes. Now we have 240.”

But Lofthus’ connection to the student-athletes of Mount Marty has extended far beyond making sure they are eligible. For years, Lofthus could be seen running the scoreboard for baseball games and keeping the scorebook for basketball games.

In recent years, his gift to student-athletes has been his photography. His works have been displayed on the MMC website, as well as in gallery exhibits both in Hartington, Neb., and on campus in the past year.

“I like to create a photographic record of all the teams each year, so that we have an archive of those photos,” he said.

Lofthus is stepping down from the FAR position after this school year, the second year that he spent as the president of the GPAC’s FAR’s, to focus on other projects. He will remain at MMC, where he has been since 1989.

Lofthus will take with him the connections he has made with a generation of Lancer student-athletes.

“I don’t know how many athletes I’ve gotten to know,” he said. “But those relationships go way back to the beginning. It’s something you’ll always have.”

And finding someone who can make that connection with student-athletes will be a challenge for Iverson.

“The number one thing with Rich is that he truly cares about the student-athletes. We all say that, we all believe that, but he really does,” he said. “You can see that with the number of former student-athletes that he is still in contact with, and the respect they have for him.”

JASON SELCHERT

Mount Marty was not Jason Selchert’s first choice, but when he finally made it to Yankton, he left his mark.

The Miller High School graduate spent four years at Mount Marty, starting 285 contests between basketball and baseball. His name still stands in the Lancer record books in several categories in both sports.

His college career started at Dakota State, but the Madison school was not what Selchert had hoped it would be.

“The funny thing is that Terk (baseball coach Bob Tereshinski) and (basketball coach Bob) Wilber recruited me out of high school, but I ended up going to Dakota State,” Selchert said.

“Things did not work out well for me in Madison. Wilber contacted me, and (coming to Mount Marty) seemed like the right thing to do.”

For Wilber, who is also originally from Miller, Selchert was a known commodity.

“My brother Jim coached him in baseball,” said Wilber, who coach Selchert for his first three years at MMC. “He was a really good person, and came from a good family.”

Being able to bring in someone who could help two programs was an added bonus, Wilber noted.

“Any time we had a chance to have a dual sport athlete, we felt it was a pretty good fit,” he said. “Jason had good size, good skills and was a guy we thought could be beneficial to both our programs (basketball and baseball).”

“It turned out we were right.” Because Selchert had already been through the recruiting process with MMC, he was already familiar with many of his teammates when he arrived on campus in 1992.

“I don’t think it took me very long to fit in,” he said. “I knew what I was getting in to. A lot of the same guys that were there when I was first being recruited were still there.”

“Mount Marty is a pretty accepting place.”

Selchert stepped into a baseball lineup that had some of the Lancers’ all-time greats. Fellow Hall of Famers Tim Jensen and Mac Zachow were on that team, as well as standouts like Chris Kilpatrick, Tony Tonn and Shawn Nistler.

“One through nine in our lineup, it was like the Yankees

are,” Selchert said. “I can’t say how amazing it was to get that many hitters on one team. Jensen and Tonn were basically Division I players.”

Selchert first cracked the lineup on the Lancers’ traditional season-opening trip to the Metrodome, then never left it. He currently stands in the top four in seven career offensive categories, as well as ranking second in both home runs (18) and runs batted in (67) for a season, set in 1995 when he earned NAIA All-Region and was named the NAIA Midwest Region Player of the Year.

Selchert still holds the MMC career record for runs scored (172) and was surpassed by current Lancer senior Jason Schmidt

as the all-time doubles leader (40) earlier this spring. Selchert still ranks second in career hits (207), walks (83) and at-bats (540), third in home runs (41) and tied for fourth in triples (7).

“He was a good average hitter, a good RBI man,” Tereshinski noted. “He could unload on a ball and hit it 400 feet, then come back the next time up and slap one to the opposite field.”

He was also a part of 133 victories for Lancer baseball, the most successful four-year stretch in the program’s history.

“He was a really good leader,” Tereshinski said. “He made other players responsible for what they did on the field.”

Selchert’s sturdy 6-5 frame and athleticism also served him

well on the basketball court, where he was also a part of team success. His sophomore year, the Lancers came within one victory of the NAIA Tournament, losing at current NCAA Division II power Northern State. As a senior, the Lancers won the South Dakota-Iowa Conference title under then first-year head coach Jim Thorson.

“Jason was a quiet guy on the court, a blue collar worker,” Thorson said. “He was very instrumental in us getting off to a good start.”

Selchert remains the Lancers’ all-time leader in fouls committed (431), and was on the receiving end of several as well. He still ranks third in both free throws attempted (511) and made (353).

“Contact found him at both ends, not because he was a dirty player, but because he was just physical,” Wilber said. “When you are that kind of player you tend to get attention, but I know Jason was sure he got fouled more than he fouled.”

Selchert also ranks fifth in career games played — tied with fellow inductee Kranz — as well as ninth in scoring (1,255 points), tenth in field goals attempted (943) and 14th in field goals made (434).

Selchert, now the superintendent at Gayville-Volin school, tried his hand at coaching before settling in on officiating as a way to remain active in the sports he loves.

“All the officials I had when I

was playing say that I’m doing what I did when I was playing,” Selchert joked.

Wilber, who coached at Sioux Falls Roosevelt before stepping away from basketball, felt that his former player was a very skilled arbiter.

“I liked Jason’s demeanor on the court,” he said. “He was authoritative and showed good judgment.”

Selchert and his wife Natalie, also a former Lancer athlete, have one son, Nathaniel (4).

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