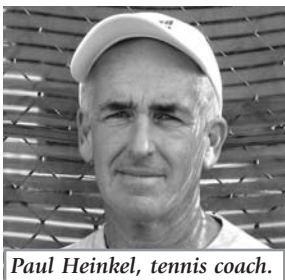


he currently serves as deputy director of recreation services.

With the Fox Valley Park District for 27 years, Heinkel has served in several capacities with the district, including overseeing the

Aurora Tennis Club. Currently a member of the United States Tennis



Paul Heinkel, tennis coach.

Association, Heinkel regularly plays competitive tennis and is rated as a 4.5 player. He enjoys working with Aurora University's tennis athletes, utilizing his skills and resources to build a solid, competitive program.

Heinkel received his BS in park and recreation administration from Southern Illinois University in 1973. Heinkel, his wife, and children reside in Aurora.

Spartans name women's golf coach

Aurora University recently named Chad Johansen the head women's golf coach. The program is now in its second season at AU. Johansen comes to AU from Blackberry Oaks Golf Course in Bristol, IL, where he currently serves as an assistant golf professional and helps with day-to-day course operations and instructing juniors and adults in lessons.

Johansen was an accomplished collegiate golfer at Augustana College, where he was a member of the college's nationally recognized men's golf program. While at Augustana, Johansen was a team captain in his senior season. As a junior, Johansen was a College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) All-Conference

selection and was named team MVP.

He was active in all aspects of Augustana's golf program, including assisting with tournament and practice schedules. Johansen also helped coordinate indoor workout routines during the winter and was heavily involved in the recruitment process.

Johansen continues his golf career today; he is currently an apprentice working toward membership in the Professional Golf Association (PGA) of America. He is a member of the Professional Golfers Association, Chicago District Golf Association, and Illinois Juniors Golf Association. Johansen earned his BA in business administration from Augustana College in 2001.

The "Spartan Report"

is published quarterly by the Aurora University Spartan Club booster organization. It is written by Brian Kipley, director of sports information, and designed by Kristin Savas, graphic designer. Photos were taken by Al Benson, media relations director, Chuck Savage, and Steve Matteo.

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SPARTAN REPORT



A publication of the Aurora University Spartan Club Booster Organization

Fall 2004



Head Coach Jim Scott leads the Spartans into action in his 19th season.

Football: High Spartan expectations

The 2004 Aurora University Spartans football team has high expectations, considering the return of 23 veteran players. Head Coach Jim Scott (96-65-3) enters his 19th season at the helm. Since 1998, the Spartans are 37-5 in the Illini-Badger Conference and have been the conference champions three times.

A dominant defense

The key to the Spartans' 2004 season lies in a dominant defense, which has been a mainstay of the

Aurora University football program in the past. "We are really excited about our defense. The players have been working very hard, and we have a few players coming into our program who should give us some help. We will get the eye of the tiger again and play physical AU defense," said Scott.

The defense has 11 returning players who saw significant time last season, including six starters. Senior co-captains, defensive lineman Josh Lane (39 tackles, nine for loss, two-and-a-half sacks), and defensive back Ryan Schrader (85 tackles, two sacks, one INT) led the Spartan defense. Senior linebacker Dustin Robertson (75

tackles, 10 for loss, two-and-a-half sacks) and junior defensive back Jerral Davidson (three INTs) also are key contributors on defense, along with newcomers defensive lineman Kyle Dentino, linebacker Falton Tate, and defensive back Robbie Parry.

An experienced offense

Leading the way for the Spartans is an experienced offense, including junior captain Ben Adolph, senior captain Nick Turvey, sophomore tackle Nick Koch, and sophomore center Mike Murphy Jr. The quartet will anchor an offense that will look to open holes for a talented core of running backs led by the versatile

Germain Vargas, a junior who will play in several positions, including running back, full back, and receiver. Freshman Travis Paro, senior Dan Whalen, and sophomore Nick Paxson will see time as running backs. Senior Justin Lehr moves into the backfield as a full-back after spending previous years as a receiver. "We have a group of blue-collar backs in our program, and we will use them all in a rotation," Scott said.

"We do have more team speed than in the past. We need to utilize that, and we will throw the ball a little more than in the past. The difference-makers in the program lie within the receiving corps," according to Scott.

To utilize such a talented group, the quarterback must be able to get them the ball. Sophomore Andrew Hornung is ready for the challenge with one year in the program under his belt.

Junior transfer Jeff Polley will challenge Hornung for playing time. "Drew is our quarterback, and transfer Jeff Polley is learning our offense. With the two, we have a very talented tandem in an important position," Scott stated. Polley was an accomplished passer at Bellevue HS in Ohio. Hornung and Polley will look to pass the ball to junior Troy Blaser (34 rec, 418 yards, two TDs), Joe Folliard (12 rec, 139 yards, one TD; 13 rushes, 76 yards, two TDs), and senior transfer Rob Bieritz. The tight end, junior Nate Fincham (eight rec, 154 yards, one TD) will continue to be a go-to guy in the red zone, as well as a key cog in the Spartan ground attack.

Talented special teamers

The 2004 special teams unit are a promising area for the Spartans. "Our special teams will be a plus for us. Returning the

punter and return men is always a good thing. Our core of special teams members now understands what their roles are and how important they are to winning football games," Scott said.

Junior Eric Guthrie (33.0 avg, 12 inside the 20) is once again handling the job as the Spartans' punter. Anchoring the punt and kickoff-return game is junior Troy Blaser (punt returns: 30 att, 257 yards; kick returns: 18 att, 355 yards), a 2003 IBFC 1st team All-Conference selection. Senior Rob Bieritz joins Blaser as a return man. Sophomore Chris Greene and freshman Jeremy Ayers are handling the kicking duties for the Spartans.

"We are excited about our kicking game. Greene looks very strong on kickoffs, and Ayers looks to be a very good extra-point and field-goal kicker," Scott said.

The 2004 Spartans aim to recapture the title as Illini-Badger Conference Champions with hard work and dedication. With a core group of experienced returners and a talented group of newcomers, Saturday afternoons will bring good outcomes at Aurora University.

Spartan tribute: A decade of success

On September 10, 1994, Aurora University played to a 0-0 tie at Greenville College in the first varsity women's soccer game in AU history.

Ten years later, the Spartans can boast of a decade of significant achievements. Among the many AU accomplishments are two NCAA National Championship tournament appearances, six of the past eight NIIC Conference Championships, a current 32-

game unbeaten streak in NIIC Conference play, and its highest season-ending NCAA national ranking in 2003 (ninth in NCAA D-III of 393 teams).

With an overall 10-year record of 136-54-10 (.705), the Spartans have enjoyed nine consecutive winning seasons, producing one All-American, two Academic All-Americans, four All-Region players, five NIIC Players of the Year, and 55 NIIC All-Conference players. Within the NIIC Conference over the past nine years, the Spartans hold a 45-8-4 (.825) record. The last time the Spartans lost an NIIC match was at Rockford College on September 7, 1999 (1-0).

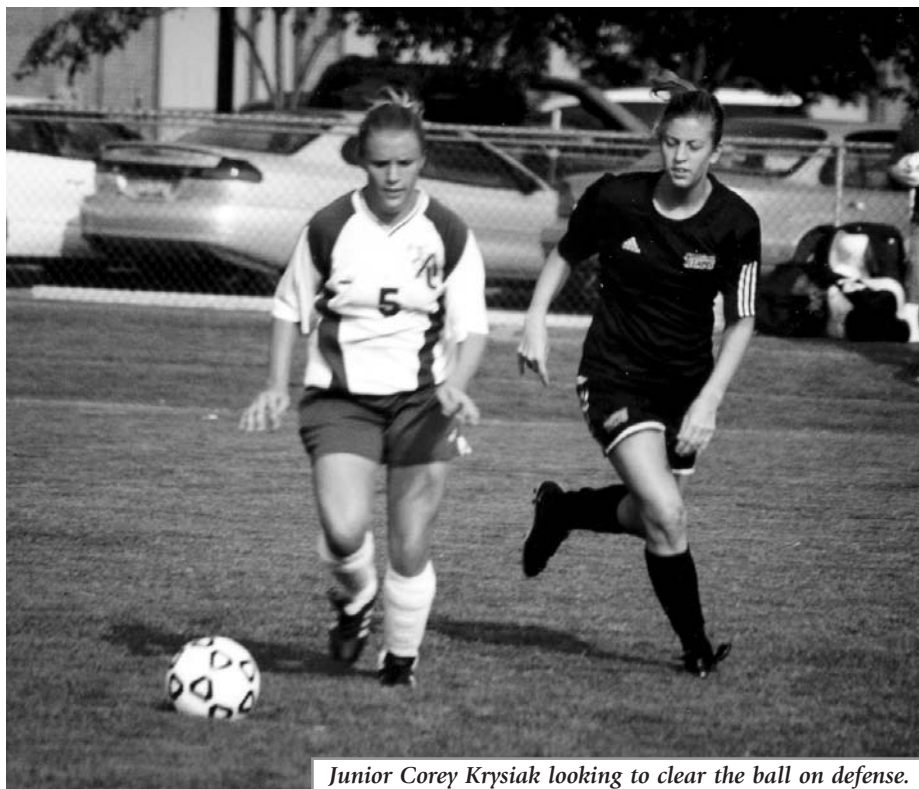
Nationally ranked and recognized for their decade of accomplishments, AU women's soccer faces a challenging 2004 schedule without any seniors on the roster.

Head Coach Kanute Drugan believes the Spartans will not suffer from lack of leadership or experience.

"I have never witnessed a team that could win over a long period of time without exceptional leadership, without leadership stratified throughout the team structure. Almost every woman on our roster is a leader. It is one of the traits we require in a recruit," Drugan said.

Is it that quality that has been the driving factor in AU's decade of success? "I don't think it is any singular factor," said Drugan. "Success is not what we concern ourselves with anyway.

"We want to focus on what is within our control," explained Drugan. "We focus on excellence in all that we do athletically, academically, socially, and in our community involvement. We believe in striving for excellence. If we are patient and persistent in our pursuit of excellence, then we probably will be successful."



Junior Corey Krysiak looking to clear the ball on defense.

Experienced leaders

Although the Spartans may not have senior experience or senior leadership, they do have experience and leaders. Indeed, AU returns all three captains to the lineup.

Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference (NIIC) 2003 Player of the Year, Allison Banta (Griffith, IN/Griffith HS), returns as a captain, along with Corey Krysiak (Milwaukee/Thomas More HS). Joining the two junior marking backs as a captain is junior sweeper Meghan Stoltman (Algonquin, IL/Jacobs HS). Krysiak, Stoltman, and Banta were named to the NIIC All-Conference team.

The Spartans return a pair of sophomores to lead the offensive attack: NIIC All-Conference forward Anna Wallace (Madisonville, KY/North Hopkins-Madisonville HS) and forward Katie Danek (Bensenville, IL/Fenton HS). Sophomore forward Hilary O'Friel (Dixon, IL/Dixon HS) will also make an impact at the finishing end.

Returning to control the midfield is NIIC All-Conference sophomore wing Morgan Roewer (Woodstock, IL/Woodstock HS), junior wing Krista Lessmeister (Plainfield, IL/Plainfield Central HS) and sophomore center midfielders Erin Kwiatkowski (Rockford, MI/Rockford HS) and Lauren Thomas (Milwaukee/Thomas More HS). Supporting them in the midfield are sophomore wings Ashley Steiling (Decatur, IL/St. Teresa HS) and Amanda Haines (North Muskegon, MI/North Muskegon HS), with sophomore center midfielders Shalisse Mathieu (West Chicago, IL/Glenbard North HS) and Shari Sterling (Lombard, IL/Glenbard East HS).

NIIC All-Conference junior goalkeeper Alicia Martin (Roselle, IL/Lake Park HS) and NIIC All-Conference stopper Abby Wackerly (Godfrey, IL/Marquette Catholic HS) aid in anchoring the defense.

Battling for significant playing time are junior Kym Smith (Punta

Gorda, FL/Pewaukee HS) and sophomores Kristen Buehler (Griffith, IN/Griffith HS), Ashley Camillo (Collinsville, IL/Collinsville HS), and Stephanie Springman (Hobart, IN/Hobart HS).

The newcomers

New to the AU roster in 2004 is Lyndsey Mica (Naperville, IL/Naperville North HS), a starting forward/wing with IHSA State Quarter Finalist (fourth place) Naperville North. The Spartans also added Rockford-area scoring leader Erin McDonald (Rockford, IL/Lutheran HS). From IHSA "Sweet 16" participant Glenbard East HS, AU picked up starting goalkeeper Angela Garza (Glendale Heights, IL/Glenbard East HS).

Turning to local defensive stalwarts, AU added Tina Chayka and Alex Contreras (both from Plainfield, IL/Plainfield Central HS) and Ashley Dzielawa (Romeoville, IL/Romeoville HS). In the midfield, AU received commitments from center midfielder Katie Dean (Big Rock, IL/Hinckley-Big Rock HS) and wing Laura Wagley (Sycamore, IL/Sycamore HS).

Highly touted goalkeeper Jana Weltzin (Fairbanks, AK/West Valley HS), Katie Angeloni (Elwood, IL/Romeoville HS), Erin Anthony (Tinley Park, IL/Tinley Park HS), Danielle Wagner (Mokena, IL/Tinley Park HS), and Melissa Doolan (Romeoville, IL/Romeoville HS) complete the incoming freshmen at AU.

AU also added transfer defender Monica Ecker (St. Charles, IL/St. Charles East HS/Northern Illinois University).

With this strong roster in place, the Spartans are positioned for even greater success in their second decade of women's soccer.

Men's soccer: Building on a foundation

The 2004 men's soccer campaign will represent the 42nd season that Aurora University has taken the field in intercollegiate men's soccer competition. The incoming squad will kickoff the fall with a large group of new faces and a substantial core of returning student-athletes.

The 2003 season marked the first step in a turnaround for the Spartan soccer program. Head Coach Pete Watkins, entering his second season this fall, led the team to a 7-11-2 overall record and a 2-3-0 finish in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference regular season competition. The '03 AU team squad played in six overtime contests and represented the NIIC well in victories over regional opponents from the Lake Michigan Conference (Wisconsin Lutheran), College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (Carthage College), Midwest Conference (Monmouth College), and Iowa Intercollegiate (Upper Iowa University). The Spartan 2003 season ended in a NIIC semifinal loss at Dominican University, the eventual NIIC champion and NCAA Division III Tournament quarterfinalist.

Senior leadership

The 2004 Spartans boast four seniors: striker Matias Alvarez (Aurora, IL/Marmion Academy), defenders Tom Dean (Plano, IL/Plano) and Jason Lemberg (Des Plaines, IL/Maine West), and goalkeeper Pat Drews (Aurora, IL/West Aurora). Lemberg and Dean represent the only four-year Spartans, as Drews and Alvarez are both transfers. Despite playing in only half of the team's matches in 2003, Alvarez finished as one



Sophomore Amador Contreras controls the action in men's soccer.

of the top three Spartans for goals and total points, while Drews saw time in goal in 15 of AU's 21 season contests.

AU will suit up four juniors in 2004, and their experience will be a key to the Spartan defensive efforts. Outside defenders Mark Chayka (Plainfield, IL/Plainfield Central) and Nathan Reimer (Elgin, IL/Oakton CC), along with sweeper Kyle Solberg (Aurora, IL/West Aurora), will compete to patrol the Spartan backline. Newcomer goalkeeper Jeff Bishop (Norridge, IL/Harper CC) is competing with Drews and sophomore keeper Josh Simpson (Streator, IL/Western Illinois University). Simpson saw action in six matches last fall, including a key 3-2 win over Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Super sophomores

The most unique element to the AU team this season will be the experienced sophomore class, many of whom played a significant role in the team's improved ledger as freshmen. Local stand-outs Alex DeGurian (Aurora, IL/Nequa Valley), Rob Michaels (Hinckley, IL/Hinckley-Big Rock),

Larry Heiden Jr. (Somonauk, IL/Somonauk), Joe Miller (Woodridge, IL/Downers Grove North) and Amador Contreras (Aurora, IL/Central Catholic) comprise returning starters who played the majority of minutes during the year. Both Degurian and Contreras were honored as NIIC Players of the Week for multi-goal games, and Miller, Michaels and Heiden Jr. started almost 75% of the Spartan matches. Out-of-state products Taylor Kilcrease (Wichita Falls, TX/Rider) and Jeff Horst (Greenville, MI/Greenville) both made immediate contributions in their first season, Kilcrease roaming the midfield while Horst competed up front as a forward.

Sophomore forward Dan Fink will look to return from an illness that sidelined him much of last season. Sophomore transfer Mike Skupien (Western Springs, IL/Carthage College) has emerged as an early favorite to contribute in the central defense; Skupien brings a composure and high level of playing experience to a position essential for success.

Incoming freshmen will have a big impact on Aurora University

men's soccer program. In particular, the Spartan front line will boast several new faces as the season progresses. The "Aurora Beacon-News" Prep Soccer Player of the Year, Tyler Klotz, brings a scoring touch and passing accuracy that will allow him to immediately compete for a starting spot. After leading Hinckley-Big Rock High School to the Class A state finals tournament, Klotz will look to develop the same attacking prowess for the Spartans. Another big presence on the AU front line is Jordan Barry, a 6'4" freshman (Decatur, IL/St. Teresa); his performance in preseason scrimmages has shown glimpses of scoring greatness. Marshall Reed (Otsego, MI/Otsego) and Scott Anderson (West Dundee/Jacobs) also have impressed the Spartan faithful with their speed and confidence on the dribble. Both Reed and Anderson have the ability to score goals and set up teammates with timely crosses. Another target player, 6'4" Graydon Engle (Harvard, IL/Harvard) will look to push his teammates for playing time.

Talented midfielders

While the royal blue and white midfield has perhaps the most experienced returning players in the squad, freshmen Jody Hall (Sugar Grove/Bartlett), Mark Heggen (Peoria/Metamora Township) and Kevin McFadden (Crown Point, IN/Crown Point) fit in well playing central midfield roles during the early season training sessions. Andrew Zajicek (Springfield, IL/Lutheran), Phil Tedford (Morris, IL/Morris) Hilario Neito (Aurora, IL/East Aurora) and Shaughn Wingard (Decatur/St. Teresa) all have shown solidly in the early going and will compete for time at outside midfield positions.

One of the most-improved areas for the Spartans in 2004 will be the defensive corps; several freshman are making their way onto the field in key roles. Drew Taylor (DeKalb, IL/DeKalb) has settled into the AU backline seamlessly, playing with a confidence normally expected from an upperclassman. In preseason fitness testing, Jim Spann (Park Ridge, IL/Maine South) proved he put in a lot of work over the

summer, and he will compete for a starting spot as an outside defender. Joey Catrino (Valpariaso, IN/Valpariaso) has played well as both a marking back and sweeper, and he will be counted on to contribute in 2004. Lance Austin, (Otsego, MI/Otsego) has proven to be a versatile backline player in the early going, playing well in all four of the Spartan defensive positions. Both Austin and current AU teammate, Marshall Reed, were named to the Michigan Division III All-State team while competing for Otsego (MI) High School.

According to Coach Watkins, "AU has the makings of a very good team. Our returning players have an experience level beyond a typical sophomore and junior class, as they saw significant action last year as starters and key reserves." Most importantly, the Spartans have at least two quality players at every spot on the field, and the competition in training should result in a battle-tested squad. Injuries and other issues should have less of an effect on the 2004 squad, as each position will have athletes who can step in and contribute.

Watkins noted, "We have picked up players from the traditionally strong club programs, as well as some standout athletes from state finalist high schools. I think this combination makes us a more complete and dangerous team. The most important thing will be for our leaders to step up and to develop a group of good players into a team that is focused on team success."



The AU volleyball bench cheers on their teammates.

Volleyball: Developing chemistry

The 2004 season will be a challenge in terms of developing the necessary chemistry for a competitive volleyball team. With a core of returning players and a talented group of freshmen and transfers, the Spartans can improve on last year's record and challenge for the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference title. Freshman Brook Sunleaf, sophomore Kari Drewelow, and freshman Dina Kyriakoulis will share the setting chores, running a 6-2 offense. Sophomore Courtney Lillard returns as one of the starting middle blockers, while transfers junior Tara Read and freshman Lauren Ruffie will play the other middle positions.

Senior Lyndsey Michaels, 2003 Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference Honorable Mention All-Conference selection and co-captain, returns to the right-side hitter position, while freshmen Shauna Harlan and Katie Wyss will provide backup.

The left-side hitter position is open for competition. Returning veterans, sophomore Julia Eggert and junior Kayla Holmbeck will be challenged by transfer junior Jamie McPherrin and freshmen Barbie Miller and Breann Kukurin.

Senior co-captain Tia Kyriakoulis and sophomore Katy Jefferson will handle the defensive backcourt responsibilities.

The schedule

The Spartans open the season at home against Endicott College from Massachusetts and will host the Jim Coleman Memorial Tournament and the Fall Festival. The travel schedule includes tournaments at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Wheaton College, Millikin University, and

North Central College.

In October, the Spartans travel to the East Coast to take on Western Connecticut State University, Smith College, and Amherst College. The Spartans finish the regular season by hosting a tri-match against nationally ranked Elmhurst College and the University of Chicago, and competing for the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference championship at Rockford College.

"We have more depth than we had last season," Coach Jerry Angle said, "and our returning players have a better understanding of what I expect from them. To have a successful season, our players must blend their skills together and become a confident, hard-working group who stays focused and develops a never-quit attitude. If we can accomplish this, we will have a terrific season."

Men's cross country: A bright future, building a program one step at a time

The Aurora University men's cross-country program begins its second year under Head Coach James Kluckhohn. The process of building a program is still in the infancy stage. "On the men's side of our program, we return only one runner from last year, and that leaves us extremely young with a little of the unknown going into the season," Kluckhohn said. Last season, the Spartans competed against a formidable schedule, finishing with a season-best second place showing at the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference meet.

"We look to continue to grow and develop a successful, nationally recognized Division III cross country team," Kluckhohn stated. A big

step in enhancing the image of a new program is hosting the Spartan Classic on September 10 at Oakhurst Forest Preserve. "It's important to have a home meet and have the home-course advantage. It's also a chance to highlight our program and allow many of the community college programs that will compete along with the high school teams we have invited out for the day to see what Spartan cross country is all about," Kluckhohn said.

Kluckhohn will look to two freshmen to set the tone for the season, Nick Aloisio (Aurora, IL/Aurora Central Catholic HS) and Pat Buffington (Howards Grove, WI/Howards Grove HS), along with top returning runner Danny Hernandez (Aurora, IL/Aurora Central Catholic HS). "Nick Aloisio is in his third year of competitive running, so he is still young from a racing standpoint, but he is very talented. Pat Buffington is a talented runner and looks to be one of our top distance runners," Kluckhohn stated. "We will be a deeper team than a year ago, and that will help us. Yet at the same time, we must develop a front runner who could affect us at bigger meets," said Kluckhohn.

Adding depth will be freshmen David Mathew (Aurora, IL, Aurora Central Catholic HS), Michael Kain (Aurora, IL/East Aurora HS) and Adam Wagner (Aurora, IL/West Aurora HS); sophomore Aaron Smith (Sugar Grove, IL/Kaneland HS); and junior Tony Carson Jr. (Decatur, IL/Eisenhower HS).

With a talented group looking to make their mark on a rising program at AU, the 2004 Spartan men's cross country team has lofty expectations for the coming year.

Women's cross country: Building expectations

The 2004 Aurora University women's cross country season brings great expectations for the second year of a growing program at AU. The Spartans return four runners from the inaugural campaign. "We return most everybody from last year's squad. Hopefully they can provide the leadership needed to get us to that next level," Head Coach James Kluckhohn said.

Finishing the 2003 season with a season-best third-place finish at the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference Meet, the Spartans are looking to build on the last year's success, taking bigger strides in early meets and again finishing toward the top of the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference. Seniors Jesena Gonzalez (Aurora, IL/West Aurora HS), Lyndsey Todd (Elgin, IL/Elgin CC), and Cami Loving (Streator, IL/Streator HS) provide veteran leadership for Spartan newcomers, sophomores Fran Sikorski (Lombard, IL/University of St. Francis) and Stephanie Carson (Aurora, IL/Waubonsie Valley HS); freshmen Jenn Garlinsky (Sugar Grove, IL/Kaneland HS), Susan Sawtell (Little Falls, MN/Little Falls HS), and Natalie Lacaria (Decatur, IL/McArthur HS). Sophomore Margarita Castellanos (Aurora, IL/East Aurora HS) returns to the Spartans in 2004 and looks to build on her performance last season.

"Gonzalez and Garlinsky had great summers training and are in great condition entering the season. Add Fran Sikorski to the mix, and we are looking forward to having quite a successful season," Kluckhohn stated. Garlinsky ran track last spring and spent the

previous two years as a member of the AU women's soccer program. Gonzalez currently holds the Aurora University women's cross country record for a 6k event with a time of 27:27, set at the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference Meet.

"We are a much stronger and deeper team than a year ago. Our depth and experience will only allow for continued growth and development of a successful cross-country program," Kluckhohn stated.

AU will host the Spartan Classic on September 10 at Oakhurst Forest Preserve. "It's an important step to have a home meet and have the home-course advantage. It's also a chance to highlight our program and allow many of the junior college programs that will compete along with the high school teams we have invited out for the day to see what Spartan Cross Country is all about," Kluckhohn said.

Women's tennis: A fresh start:

The 2004 Aurora University Spartan tennis program has a new look in first-year Head Coach Paul Heinkel. Heinkel plans on transforming the Spartans into a proud winning team. "I will have to first assess what my players can do well and what they need to work on. Returning four players from last year's squad provides us with some experience, and they are eager to turn around the program as well," Heinkel said.

The Spartans' top returners are senior Michele Faber (Maple Park, IL/Kaneland HS), sophomore Michele Albrecht (Sugar Grove, IL/Kaneland HS), and senior Samirah Watkins (Chicago/Amundsen HS). "We will work to

improve and learn from every match, practice, and drill in which we compete. Measuring our progress and being able to see improvement is one of my priorities in my first season," Heinkel said. "Being ready and competitive for the conference tournament in October, which we are hosting at Waubonsie Valley High School will be the top priority."

Incoming freshman Jalitza Colon (Aurora, IL/East Aurora HS) has four years of high school playing experience, including a second-place finish as a senior in the Upstate Eight Conference tournament. "Having a player like Jolly in our program, who went through the Fox Valley Park District junior tennis program at Phillips Park — which I was part of starting through my role as deputy director of recreation services — is very exciting for me," Heinkel said. Joining Colon are fellow freshmen Stephanie Bun and Joselyn Armstead.

Heinkel is excited about the present and future of Aurora University women's tennis. "AU has great courts and an indoor practice facility that will help us to continue to attract quality student-athletes, allowing us to become the top team in the Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference. "The players in the AU program will be conditioned both mentally and physically, and they will be ready to play the moment they step on the court," Heinkel stated.

Spartans select women's tennis coach

Aurora University recently named Paul Heinkel the head women's tennis coach. Heinkel comes to Aurora University from the Fox Valley Park District, where