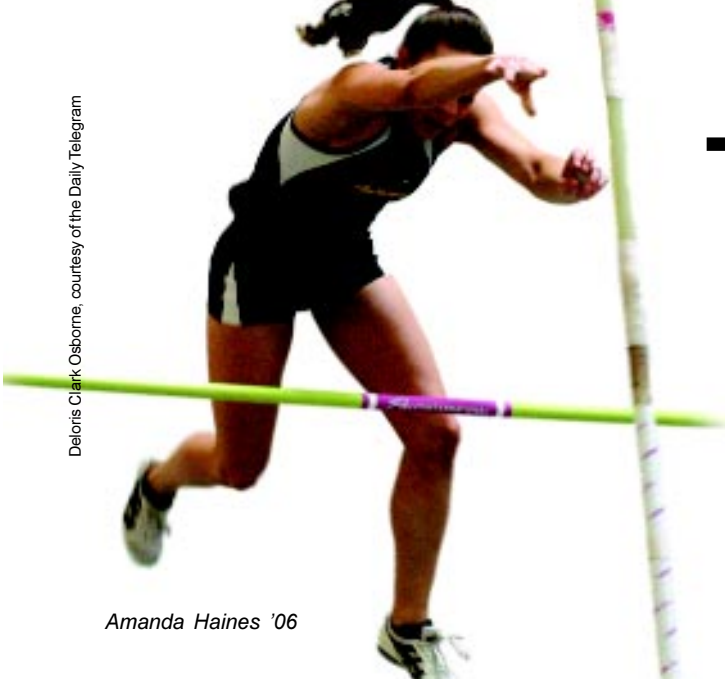


Top 10 moments in AC Sports

Deloris Clark Osborne, courtesy of the Daily Telegram

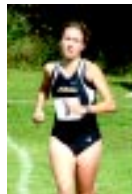


Amanda Haines '06

by ed patino '04

Without a doubt, 2003-2004 will go down as one of the most incredible seasons in Adrian College athletics. It was a year of amazing individual and team accomplishments, championship chases, and breakout performances. My goal was to find the top 10 sports moments of the year. Nearly double that amount were nominated, and all deservedly so. Space permitted, I would've mentioned every event.

- **Amanda Haines becomes National Champion.** History was made on March 13 in Whitewater, Wis., as sophomore pole-vaulter Amanda Haines cleared 12 feet, 11 inches to win the NCAA Div. III Indoor Pole-vault National Championship. Haines' title is the first-ever national championship for the Adrian College track & field team.
- **Bulldogs retain Milk Jug.** Perhaps the most emotional game of the men's basketball season was Jan. 26 at the Merillat Sport & Fitness Center, when the Bulldogs stunned nationally-ranked Siena Heights 77-76. The Saints built an 11-point lead early in the second half, only to see the Bulldogs fight back behind Jeff Nokovich's 23 points. Siena Heights, number two in the entire NAIA at the time, fell to Adrian for the second year in a row.
- **Men's basketball advances to the MIAA finals.** The Bulldogs capped a 14-11 season with an amazing run in the conference tournament. After disposing of fifth-seeded Olivet 88-67 at the Merillat Center, Adrian shocked the experts with an 86-82 victory over top-seeded Hope in Holland. The Bulldogs ended their season the next night with a loss to Calvin in the MIAA Championship game.
- **Danielle Hobbs named First-team All-MIAA, again.** Hobbs capped an amazing cross country career by earning First-team All-MIAA honors for the second year in a row. This makes her the first Adrian runner, male or female, to attain the honor in consecutive years.
- **Half-court shot lifts women's basketball to victory.** Trailing by two in the final seconds, Jodi VanWassehnova buried a 50-foot shot at the buzzer to give the Adrian College women's basketball team a 70-69 victory over the Kalamazoo Hornets on Valentine's Day. The victory was part of a three-game winning streak.



- **The baseball team (24-15 overall) broke the school record of 22 wins.** Adrian finished second in the MIAA, one game short of a league title and a berth in the NCAA regional tournament.

- **Craig Rainey, Bobby Wrozek set school records against Kalamazoo.** Adrian baseball coach Craig Rainey recorded his 200th victory and pitcher Bobby Wrozek became the school's all-time leader in strikeouts (171) and decisions (37), and tied the record for career wins (17). Wrozek and sophomore pitcher Craig Reynolds both won seven games each this season on the hill, tying the school record for most wins in a single season pitching.



- **Mike Lewis named All-American in football.** The sophomore defensive end earned a spot on the Div. III All-America team. During the Bulldogs' 8-2 season, Lewis had 46 tackles, 14.5 tackles for a loss, 14 sacks, three fumble recoveries, and scored one touchdown. Lewis is the first All-American for Adrian football since 1996 (Todd Alcock).



- **Volleyball team wins playoff match.** The Bulldogs rallied from a one-game deficit to defeat Kalamazoo in five games, 30-26, 20-30, 26-30, 32-30, and 16-14 on Nov. 4, giving Adrian its first-ever victory in the MIAA post-season.



- **Chris Clay, Jim Lyall set records in Homecoming game.** Chris Clay and Jim Lyall entered the history books during the Bulldogs' 49-14 rout of Tri-State on Oct. 11. Clay set the school record for longest touchdown run (91 yards), while Lyall's 56th victory made him the school's all-time wins leader by an AC football coach.



Ed Patino '04 is sports editor for the College World. A version of this story was first published there.

Ed really didn't want to pare his list down. See his top 15 at contact.adrian.edu.