

Twice the talent: academics, athletics earn students twin billings

With the excitement of Husky sports blazing throughout the St. Cloud State University campus practically year round, some students find themselves in a world of both academic and athletic success. Recent College of Science and Engineering standouts in intercollegiate sports are Ryan Koch, Katie Huschle and Steve Trull.

Koch, who graduated in 2006 with a 4.0 grade point average and a degree in computer science, was a member of the Husky football and track and field teams. A recipient of athletic awards far too numerous to list here, Koch's more prestigious awards include the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Today's Top VIII Award, an annual honor that recognizes eight student-athletes who have brought merit to themselves, their institutions and intercollegiate athletics; and the Woody Hayes Award, an annual award granted to only one man and one woman in each NCAA Division. With his many other awards and achievements, Koch's success in Husky athletics is legendary, perhaps leaving a legacy as the best student athlete the school has ever known.

Although Koch said he is content for now working as an applications developer with Securian Financial Group in St. Paul, he still has goals of continuing his athletic career at a higher level.

"SCSU has prepared me for my future in more than one way. Wherever my life might take me, I truly believe that few schools could have put me in a better situation for my life after college," he said.

Katie Huschle, a 2005 graduate, garnered more than a degree in elementary education with a minor in mathematics from her college years. She also took with her the honor of having played shooting guard on a women's basketball team that for the first time in twenty years, made it to the Elite Eight.

The Elite Eight is where the best eight women's basketball teams in the country compete for the number one spot in

their division. Huschle and her teammates ranked seventh in their region all year, which qualified them for the regional tournaments, where the Huskies accomplished major upsets by winning three games.

From the regional tournaments, they

went on to the Elite Eight at Summit Arena in Hot Springs, Ark., and lost by one point to Merrimac College of Andover, Mass., in the first round.

A four-year member of the team, Huschle was elected a team captain in her senior year, and she believes the responsibilities of being a college athlete can help a student succeed.

"I say that if I wasn't in sports or I wasn't involved, I probably wouldn't get the grades I get or be as organized. Just because you have to have time management -- you only have so much time to get your homework done. After practice, after class, you only have so much time, so you have to use it. If you don't then you're going to be in trouble." She also said sports help build relationships, as well as teamwork, leadership and communication skills.

Steve Trull, a 2005 aviation graduate, also found himself captivated by the thrill of the basketball court. A forward, Trull played for the Huskies from 2001 to 2005. As co-captain, he was named the 2005 North Central Conference defensive player of the year, marking the fourth straight year and fifth time in the last six years that a Husky has earned that honor.

Trull was also a member of the 2003 North Central Conference Championship Team, the 2003 Wells Fargo Finals Champions and the 2003 NCAA North Central Regional Semifinalists.

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Named three-time All-American in the decathlon, Ryan Koch heaves a shot put in this photo from his Husky track and field days.



Katie Huschle scored 1,043 points for the Huskies, averaging 9.2 points per game.



Steve Trull started 88 games for the Huskies, scoring 733 points and tallying 498 rebounds.