



**Wilmington  
College  
Sport  
Management**

**Newsletter  
April 2019**

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Faculty Highlight: 1  
Trip Breen

Student Profile: 3  
Leon Tank

Student Profile: 4  
Dylan Fawley

Internship Success Story: 5  
Antonio Miller

Alumni Q&A: 6  
Christian Jones

Alumni, Where Are They Now?: 8  
Anton Niklasson

Alumni, Where Are They Now?: 9  
Alex Van Der Sluijs

## Contact:

1870 Quaker Way  
Wilmington, Ohio  
45177

937-481-2253

[alan\\_ledford@wilmington.edu](mailto:alan_ledford@wilmington.edu)



Wilmington  
College



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: TRIP BREEN

HEAD MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIMMING COACH

Trip Breen is the Head Men's and Women's Swimming Coach at Wilmington College. Breen earned his degree in Counseling, from Wright State University. Originally, Trip Breen had no plans to coach when his competitive swimming career came to an end. However when he was offered an opportunity to assist one of his former college coaches he found it was something that he really enjoyed; he knew that this is what he wanted to do. Trip Breen's first job was at Wittenberg University, in Springfield (Ohio); where he served as an assistant coach for three years.

Trip quickly learned that he did not know as much about swimming as he had thought. It is one thing to participate in a sport and another to teach it. He enjoyed the challenge of trying to understand everyone's learning style to help them make improvements. Trip also learned that the administrative/recruiting part of coaching requires a lot more time than the actual on-deck coaching. He found that he really enjoyed working with the swimmers, and seeing them improve. It was a career that he could best utilize his college degree in and still be involved in a sport that he loves.

Trip's coaching philosophy is "I want these kids to walk away with memories of the total experience, not just their fastest time in their preferred events," said Breen, a former member of Centerville High School and Wright State University's swim teams. "I want the experience to be the most memorable thing for them. And that isn't just swimming. It could be spending time with teammates, everything that's involved in the sport. They'll remember their college years more fondly because of being involved in swimming here at Wilmington College."

Trip Breen daily tasks involve writing a practice schedule and conducting workout sessions for the team. The swim team usually has 2-3, two hour swimming sessions daily. Trip is also in charge of recruiting, corresponding with prospective student-athletes and their families, coordinating team travel plans/itineraries, budget

# TRIP BREEN (CONT.)

management, fundraising and pool maintenance.

Trip's advice is to put people first; this is truly a people business. He had a coach named Don Megerle say something to him when he was just starting his coaching career, which was "They don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." Be prepared to spend long hours working, especially during your season.

"There is definitely a "Grind" element to coaching collegiately. Finally, have fun!"

---



## STUDENT PROFILE:

# LEON TANK

SOCCER

Leon Tank, a sophomore from Bochum, Germany, is double majoring in Business Administration and Sport Management. In Germany, Leon played soccer at semi-professional level and did not want to let go of his passion after high school. Therefore, the transition to the United States for the sake of playing soccer while pursuing an undergraduate degree at the same time felt like a great and very natural choice for him. Leon chose Wilmington College mainly because of the recruiting abilities of head soccer coach Alex Van der Sluijs. According to Leon, "Alex seemed very trustworthy to the point where I had the feeling that I was wanted here. The recruiting process really made the difference for me."

Leon decided to double major as he has big passion for sports with prior experience in the area of business. What Leon enjoys the most about Wilmington is its rather diverse environment – the fact that our soccer team is composed of players from 13 different countries speaks for itself. Upon the completion of his bachelor's degree, Leon plans to take some time off the studies in order to gain valuable working experience before moving on to applying for graduate school. However, he does not have any specific graduate programs on his mind quite yet.

---



# STUDENT PROFILE: DYLAN FAWLEY

FOOTBALL

Dylan Fawley is from Blanchester, Ohio and went to Blanchester High School. The Wilmington College football star got into the sport at the age of eight years old and has not looked back since. His diligent work ethic and dedication has lead him to do well in the class room and start on varsity as a sophomore. Dylan came to Wilmington because he was close to home and it was ranked one of the best Sports Management programs available at the small college level.

When I asked Dylan Fawley why he chose sports management he said, "I have always had a great passion for sports and I know my career as an athlete won't last forever so I chose Sports Management because I know that after my athletic career is over, I want to continue to make sports better." Around the

football team Dylan is known as a hard worker and is someone that continues to work on his craft as an offensive lineman.

Dylan's favorite memory from Wilmington College so far is when the football team beat Capital at home in overtime. Another one of Dylan's favorite memories in the sports management program was working the Flying to the Hoop tournament. He claimed it was extremely special because he got to see Lavar Ball and Lonzo Ball.

Through his work ethic and tenacity to be his best, there is no doubt that Dylan Fawley will be one of the better students to come out of the sports management program as he continues to succeed through his daily events.



## INTERNSHIP SUCCESS STORY: ANTONIO MILLER

RECREATION UNLIMITED

Antonio Miller is currently a Senior here at Wilmington College, majoring in Sport Management. Antonio has been part of the baseball team for all four years. He is also a member of the Sigma Zeta Fraternity on campus. He decided to go to Wilmington because he was given the opportunity to play the sport he loves and the college offered the Sport Management major.

Antonio had an internship with Recreation Unlimited. Recreation Unlimited is a nonprofit organization that strives to help serve kids and adults with physical and mental disabilities through week long camps and respites. Antonio's responsibilities included creating engaging activities for campers, creating schedules for campers, setting up for activities, making sure all campers were safe, and creating memory collages for the campers to take home with them. Antonio enjoyed his internship and would recommend it to others.

After Antonio graduates from Wilmington College he plans to coach youth baseball in the Summer. In the Fall, he plans on going to Graduate school. His hopes are to be a Graduate Assistant for a college athletic department.

---



# ALUMNI Q&A: CHRISTIAN JONES

BASKETBALL COACH

Jones is a 2018 Wilmington College graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management.

## What position do you currently hold as a Wilmington College Graduate?

"I am currently coaching Junior Varsity basketball at Hamilton High School in Hamilton, Ohio and serve as the floor manager at the local YMCA in Hamilton, Ohio".

## What is the biggest piece of advice you can give a current Sport Management student?

"The biggest piece of advice I would give to current Sport Management students would be connecting with as many people (students, faculty, professionals, etc.) as possible during your time spent in college. Basically, you should try to network with as many people from your desired career field to get your name out there. That way, upon graduation, you can give yourself as many options to choose from as possible. For example, I volunteered around my community in Hamilton numerous times over the course of several summers and as a result, I was given a chance to interview and ended up landing a job at my local YMCA. I plan on continuing to volunteer and network as much as I can so that I can keep progressing as a sport's professional and also as an aspiring coach".

## What advice would you give students entering your field of work?

"Some advice I would give students entering my field of work would be, improving and focusing on time management skills, which you can easily get better at during your time as a student. In the field I'm currently working in, you must be able to have your priorities set straight and must be accountable for all that you do. You must be punctual and should possess the ability to juggle several tasks at once. On a daily basis, I am around toddlers,

## CHRISTIAN JONES (CONT.)

teenagers, and adults from a wide range of backgrounds. Because of this, I would recommend that you improve on your “people” and communication skills because this particular field of work involves loads of communication and interacting with people of multiple ethnicities and cultures”. I have enjoyed working with such a diverse group of community members and know it will help me moving forward.

### How did your experience at Wilmington College help you in your career today?

“My experience at Wilmington College helped my career today because it shaped me into a reliable and knowledgeable person in my field. I had to juggle my athletic functions with my school work which required a good grasp of personal accountability and time management. I also enjoyed the smaller school atmosphere and the benefits of smaller classes. The student to faculty ratio was beneficial to me and generally helped me get a quicker grasp on things I needed to learn moving forward”.

### What are some of your long-term goals?

“Some of my long-term goals are to continue coaching at the high school level until I complete my master’s degree. I would love to lead my alma mater, Hamilton High School, to a conference title, a district championship, and even beyond. I am passionate about the game of basketball and hope to eventually move on to coaching college level basketball. In the short term, I plan on evolving into a bigger role at my local YMCA where I can give back to the community that has made me into the person I am today”.



## ALUMNI, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?:

### ANTON NIKLASSON

ASSISTANT COACH | MEN'S SOCCER

Anton Niklasson is a Wilmington College alum that originated from Gothenburg, Sweden. Coming to the United States in 2010 to continue his studies, he chose Wilmington College for their nationally ranked Sports Management program. He would soon learn that the College would have a bigger effect on his life than the education. Anton graduated in 2014 with double majoring in Sports Management and Business Management and a minor in Economics. He accomplished all this while participating in the Soccer Team and International Club for all four years.

Although he came here to learn and challenge himself with the dueling task of a double major and a minor, he happened to meet the love of his life and soon to be wife Abbie, here at Wilmington College. After finishing his master's program at Wright State and working part time here at Wilmington College in the business office, he earned his MBA with a finance concentration to hopefully work his way into a job here on campus. Soon after his hopes of finding a job became a reality after Wilmington offered him a position as an accountant for the college and also as the assistant coach for the Men's Soccer Team here on campus.



## ALUMNI, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?: ALEX VAN DER SLUIJS

ASSISTANT COACH | MEN'S SOCCER

I had the privilege to ask a Wilmington Alumni, Alex Van der Sluijs, a few questions about how Wilmington helped him while he was a student here, what made him come to Wilmington College, and what was/is one thing he liked about Wilmington.

Alex graduated from Wilmington college in 2007, was a four-year member of the men's soccer program and finished his career with 29 goals and 20 assists. He was a three-time First Team All-Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) selection along with being named OAC Forward of the Year on two occasions. He was a key offensive figure on a team that won the College's only OAC title in 2004. After graduating he had the opportunity to play professional soccer while pursuing his master's Degree. Ever Since then he has been coaching.

When asked about what life was like after graduating college Alex said this. "Life after graduating was a great learning experience. I really enjoyed that time in my life. During my master's degree I was able to study the psychological side of athletics which has driven me in my coaching career ever since". Alex decided to come to Wilmington college because, it felt like "home" he also liked the soccer program and the story behind it. Alex is the current Wilmington College head soccer coach and during his first season, he managed to get the Men's soccer team to winning ways, completing the season with a positive record for the first time in several years.

Finally, the last thing Alex addressed was to what extent did Wilmington and its education program help him prepare for the real world "Wilmington guided me in one way. WC made me a critical thinker. WC always fostered creative and critical ways to go about education. This is especially important for life after graduating because it is always going to help me professionally develop in my career field.