

The College of Wooster Profile

The College of Wooster is a liberal arts college nationally recognized for its emphasis on mentored independent research, located in northeast Ohio (60 miles from Cleveland). Founded in 1866, Wooster enrolls approximately 1,800 students from 46 states and 30 countries, and offers more than 40 majors in the sciences, humanities, business, and the arts. A student-faculty ratio of 11:1 ensures close engagement and personal attention through all four years.

That engagement culminates in senior year, when each Wooster student creates an original research project, written work, performance, or exhibit of artwork, supported one-on-one by a faculty mentor. That program, called Independent Study (or I.S), has been judged one of the best senior capstone programs in the nation by college presidents and deans, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. I.S. fosters creativity, resourcefulness, critical thinking, and communication skills. And it does so for every Wooster student, not just those in an honors program.

The skills I.S. helps develop translate into post-graduation success. Wooster's notable alumni include Nobel laureate physicist Arthur Compton, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Susan Stranahan, and Donald Kohn, vice chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Loren Pope, former *New York Times* education editor and author of *Colleges That Change Lives*, calls Wooster "my original best-kept secret in higher education...As I have gotten to know what it accomplishes, I can testify that there is no better college in the country."

Head Coach Tim Pettorini, The College of Wooster

The driving force behind a program that is regarded as one of the finest in NCAA Division III is Tim Pettorini, The College of Wooster's veteran head baseball coach.

Now in his 28th year at the helm, Pettorini became the eighth coach in Div. III history (sixth active) to win 900 games earlier this spring, currently sporting an overall record of 916-330-6 (.734). He has guided Wooster to a league-high 12 North Coast Athletic Conference championships (1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1998, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009), while also taking the Fighting Scots to the NCAA Midwest Regional Tournament on a regular basis (19 times). Wooster has won the regional championship on five occasions (1989, 1994, 1997, 2005, 2009), thus gaining berths in the eight-team finals of the NCAA Div. III Baseball Championship, where its top finishes were runner-up in 1997 and third-place in 2005.

Pettorini, among the top-10 Div. III coaches all-time in winning percentage, has been recognized by his peers a number of times. He's been selected the conference's Coach of the Year seven seasons (1987, 1988, 1990, 1995, 2002, 2004, 2006) and was the American Baseball Coaches Association NCAA Div. III Midwest Region Coach of the Year five times (1989, 1994, 1997, 2005, 2009).

Prior to accepting the Wooster position in 1982, Pettorini had taught and coached baseball at Fremont Ross High School between 1977-81.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Pettorini holds both a bachelor's degree (1973) and a master's degree (1980) from Bowling Green State University. As an undergraduate, he played baseball for the Falcons and was a four-year starter in the outfield. In fact, Pettorini was an all-Mid-American Conference selection and was drafted by the San Diego Padres at the end of his senior year.

But, Pettorini bypassed a chance to play professional baseball for the second time in order to pursue his true love – a career in coaching. The Philadelphia Phillies previously had drafted him four years earlier after earning all-state honors at Columbus Eastmoor High School.

The College of Wooster Baseball Notes

Making It Five – Wooster is making its fifth appearance in the finals of the NCAA Division III Baseball Championship. After going two-and-out during their first two trips in 1989 and 1994, the Fighting Scots fared much better in their next two. In 1997, Wooster lost its opener but then won four consecutive games to reach the national championship game, before succumbing to Southern Maine 15-1. In 2005, the Scots won their first two games and wound up in third-place overall.

Winning Ways – Part of the NCAA Division III Tournament field for the sixth-straight time and 24th overall, Wooster currently owns an all-time record of 53-50 in “regional” and “finals” games combined. The 24 appearances only trail fellow traditional powers Eastern Connecticut State (30), Ithaca (33), Marietta (30), and Montclair State (25) in total NCAA berths.

The Big 4-0 – The Scots are one victory shy of their sixth 40-win season (40-8-1 in 1979, 45-7 in 1980, 46-8-1 in 1997, 40-6 in 1998, and 42-7 in 2007), despite having to overcome three significant injuries. The ace of the pitching staff was expected to be junior **Matt Barnes**, however, he suffered a season-ending injury after just one start. Junior **Matthew Johnson**, who started the first 32 games at shortstop, has not played since April 12 due to an off-the-field, season-ending injury. And, senior **Anthony Trapuzzano** has been pitching through a torn labrum in his shoulder, which has decreased his effectiveness.

McDowell Tops – Wooster sophomore right-handed pitcher **Justin McDowell** was voted the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA Division III Mideast Regional Tournament this past week, to go with his Most Valuable Player of the North Coast Athletic Conference Tournament. During that span, he has combined to go 5-0 with a 1.91 ERA and 32 strikeouts over six appearances (four starts) and 37.2 innings.

Miller Making His Mark – Equally impressive during the postseason has been senior right-hander **Mark Miller**. The versatile Miller has combined to go 2-0 with three saves, a 2.57 ERA, and 20 strikeouts throughout the NCAC and NCAA Division III Mideast Regional Tournaments. He has made seven appearances (three starts) and totaled 28.0 innings pitched. Miller, who had served as the team’s closer exclusively his first two years, pitched a no-hitter in his third career start earlier this spring (March 29), blanking Oberlin 12-0. More recently, Miller equaled the North Coast Athletic Conference record for career saves with his 26th, as he tied **Dean Peterson** of Allegheny (1991-93).

Streaking – **Matt Groezinger** equaled an NCAA Division III record recently by homering in seven consecutive games from April 19-May 2, 2009. McMurray University’s **Derek David** accomplished the same feat last season (March 25-April 5, 2008).

Playing Long Ball – At Mt. Union on April 27, Wooster blasted 11 home runs, including four before an out had been recorded, as part of a 31-5 victory. It marked the third-most home runs in a single game in NCAA Division III history. Wooster holds the record in that category, having clubbed 13 against Kenyon on March 29, 1986. The Fighting Scots did set a school record for largest margin of victory (26) that day.

Big League Moments – Wooster played a game at the Cleveland Indians’ Progressive Field for the second year in a row, defeating Case Western Reserve 15-5 on April 16. Hitting home runs in the Major League stadium were **Stu Beath** and **Sean Karpen**, with Karpen’s clearing the 19-foot high wall in left field.

Successful Seniors – With a 155-36 record (.812) since 2006, Wooster's senior class of **Sean Karpen, Anthony Trapuzzano, and John Warren** is just one win shy of tying the Class of 2007 (156-35; .817) and the Class of 2000 (156-40; .796) for the most victories over a four-year period. **Mark Miller** is also a senior, but he did not join the Scots until his sophomore season.

Scouting Karpen – Gaining some interest from pro scouts is senior centerfielder **Sean Karpen**. One of the fastest players to come through the Wooster program, Karpen bats leadoff and has hit safely in 46 of 48 games, including a 28-game hitting streak to begin this season, which was just one shy of the school record. For his career, Karpen currently ranks eighth in the program's rich history in batting average (.389), eighth in runs scored (179), ninth in hits (225), tied for ninth in doubles (42), and third in stolen bases (81).

Records May Fall – Several Scots are within striking distance of single-season school records. **Sean Karpen** is six short of the at bats record (204), 13 shy of the runs record (79), and 10 away from the hits record (94). **Stu Beath** is currently tied for eighth in doubles and five short of that mark (25), while **Matt Groezinger** needs nine more RBI to reach that mark (77). Also of note, **John Warren** is one away from the sacrifice hits record (9). On the mound, **Justin McDowell** needs one more victory to tie the wins record (13), and he's 16.1 short of the innings pitched mark (111.1)

On A Tear – The NCAC is divided into two five-team divisions in the sport of baseball, with each school playing four four-game series against the other teams within its division. Since that format was adopted in 2003, Wooster had never lost a series until this year when Kenyon took three-of-four on April 11-12. Since then, the Scots are 14-2, including a 7-5, 10-6 sweep of Kenyon in the NCAC Tournament championship series.

Tough Teams – Wooster played a challenging non-conference schedule this year, including eight regular season games against teams who competed at NCAA Division III regional tournaments. The Scots took two-of-three from Heidelberg, splitting a doubleheader in Port Charlotte, Fla., during the spring break trip and then edging the 'Berg 5-4 on April 23. Also in Florida, Wooster defeated Carthage by a score of 9-5 in 11 innings and dropped a 6-5 decision to Wis.-Whitewater. Prior to playing Marietta three times in the Mideast Regional, the Scots got past the Pioneers 11-10 in 11 innings on April 1, and they also swept an April 19 doubleheader, 11-3 and 12-8, against Penn State Behrend.

Looking For No. 2 – National championships have been hard to come by at Wooster. Despite a long and storied athletic history, the Scots have just one NCAA Division III team national title in their trophy case – 1975 golf. Wooster has had three swimmers win individual national championships, including as recently as 2005, when **Elizabeth Roesch** finished first in the 1650 freestyle (17:03.70).