

## **OEDING EARNS 2003 NCAA POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

LANCASTER, PA -- Franklin & Marshall College pole vaulter **Luke Oeding (Sr., Lancaster, PA/Manheim Township)** has been awarded a 2003 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Postgraduate Scholarship.

Oeding is the second track athlete in as many years to earn a NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship as sprinter/hurdler Keith Hamilton '02 garnered the award last year.

He is the 12th student-athlete in school history to be awarded the prestigious scholarship joining Frank DeGenova '69 (football), Robert Olender '73 (football), Eric Holmboe '81 (track & cross-country), Catherine Prinz '82 (swimming), Robert Shepardson '83 (football), Robert Belser '87 (tennis), Todd Marshall '92 (baseball), Trish Vos '94 (volleyball), Jerome Maiatico '00 (basketball), Emily Green '02 (volleyball) and Hamilton. A two-time NCAA provisional qualifier and a three-time Centennial Conference champion in the pole vault, he has a 3.73 GPA with a double major in mathematics and physics.

This year, he has experienced a breakout season winning the Centennial Conference indoor track title in the vault with a height of 15' and resetting both the Franklin & Marshall and CC record in the event with a height of 15' 3".

Outdoors, he placed fifth at the Penn Relays Eastern Division Pole Vault championship as one of only two Division III vaulters competing against Division I talent. Further, he is ranked first in the Centennial Conference in the vault with a height of 15' 1", finished second at the CC Championships and qualified for the ECAC Championships.

The 2002 Tom Floyd Award recipient as F&M's outstanding field event athlete, Oeding earned the honor as a junior by resetting both the indoor and outdoor pole vault records during the 2001-02 academic year. Indoors, he bettered his own school and Centennial Conference record of 14'-00" with a height of 14-7 3/4 to claim first at the Centennial Conference Indoor Track Championships.

Outdoors, he established a new F&M record with a height of 15'-02.25" at the Centennial Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships hosted by Ursinus College on May 4. The mark bettered Oeding's height of 15'-00" from the Millersville Metrics on April 27 in which he broke the 19-year old record 14' 11.25" held by Ed Eisenberg '85 from the 1983 season. In addition, the mark established a new Centennial Conference championship meet record.

As a sophomore, he finished as the Conference runner-up indoors (13' 7.75") and outdoors (14' 0") and placed fifth as a freshman (12' 6") during the outdoor season.

A 2002 Verizon Academic All-District II selection, Oeding serves the F&M community in a variety of functions. A Nora Lesher, Andrew C. Schaedler Foundation, Caplan, Paul & Edith Felker and John Marshall scholarship recipient, he was recently elected president of Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society and was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, a physics honor society. In addition, he received a National Science Foundation-Research Education for Undergraduates grant and is a Kershner Scholar in both mathematics and physics.

Overall, he was one of three Centennial Conference athletes to earn a Winter Postgraduate Scholarship joining Gettysburg's Steve Kareha and Johns Hopkins' David Lofthus.

Kareha was second in the CC wrestling championships at 133 pounds and was a co-recipient of the Chris Clifford Award, symbolic of most points earned at the championship during a career. Lofthus scored in seven events at the NCAA Men's Swimming championships, including a fourth-place finish in the 100 butterfly. In all, six students have received NCAA scholarships in 2002-03 bringing the Centennial's total to 39 in 10 years.

This year, the NCAA awarded 58 postgraduate scholarships of \$5,000 each to 29 men and 29 women who participated in winter sports during the 2002-03 academic year.

In addition to the winter sport honorees, the NCAA also awards 116 postgraduate scholarships to student-athletes participating in fall and spring sports in which the NCAA conducts championships, for a total of 174 postgraduate scholarships annually.

To qualify for a NCAA postgraduate scholarship, a student-athlete must have an overall grade-point average of 3.20 (on a 4.00 scale) or its equivalent and must have performed with distinction as a member of the varsity team in the sport in which the student-athlete was nominated. The student-athlete must have behaved, both on and off the field, in a manner that has brought credit to the student-athlete, the institution and intercollegiate athletics. The student-athlete also must intend to continue academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree as a full-time or part-time graduate student.

Nomination forms are sent to faculty athletics representatives for fall sports in September, for winter sports in late November and for spring sports in February. Selections are made three times each academic year. The application must be submitted during the appropriate seasonal category for the sport. Candidates are screened by one of seven regional

selection committees and the winners are selected by the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.

For more information about the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Program, go to [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) and click on Education/Outreach.