

Ayala brings hockey to Wesleyan

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Starting this fall, students at Texas Wesleyan will have the opportunity to represent the university not only on grass, in the gym or on clay, but also on ice.

Jonathan Ayala, a transfer sophomore from Robert Morris University in Chicago, is the leading force behind the project.

"In late June, Dr. Pam Rast mentioned that maybe we could put a hockey team together at Wesleyan," he said. "My dad [James Ayala] and I just couldn't let go of the idea."

Originally a baseball player, Jonathan Ayala went to a Dallas Stars game as a child only to fall in love with the sport. He started playing roller hockey at Breakaway Roller Hockey Center in Arlington before playing for the Breakaway Dancers' all star team for six years.

After playing hockey for Birdville High School from eighth grade to graduation, Ayala decided to attend Robert Morris University in Chicago.

"I received a partial scholarship and played there for one year," he said.

For his sophomore year, Ayala decided to transfer to Texas Wesleyan where his dad, James, works in the maintenance department.

Ayala made a presentation to Dean of Students Cary Poole within a matter of weeks after the initial idea was born this summer. He was given the thumbs up by the school, and Rast took on the role of faculty sponsor.

Darrell Upton, nephew of National Hockey League leg-

end Bernie Nicholls and a former professional hockey player himself, is currently the main prospect to be the head coach. Upton accumulated 88 goals and 131 assists for a total of 219 points during his professional career. He played for the Fort Worth Brahmas for two seasons before retiring and finding his way to coaching.

Upton's previous coaching experiences include the Birdville ISD varsity hockey team and the Junior Brahmas Midget Major A hockey team.

At his side, Upton would have assistant coach James Ayala (Jonathan's dad) and goalkeeper coach Bill Ivey.

"Jonathan has done pretty much everything himself," James Ayala said. "And he was the one doing the whole presentation to Dean Poole."

Jonathan Ayala has put everything into motion to form the team. All that is missing are the players.

"We are advertising and trying to spread the word on the different campuses," he said. "I think hockey at Wesleyan will bring something new and exciting that this school has never seen before. Also, there are many hockey players in the DFW area who lack nearby options if they still want to play after high school. By bringing hockey to Wesleyan, we give them a chance to continue playing after high school."

Faculty sponsor Rast is also excited about the chance to recruit a new group of students to Wesleyan.

"Since the Stars moved to Dallas, I believe that ice hockey has taken off as a club sport in the Metroplex," she said. "I

have thought for a long time that the addition of ice hockey here at Texas Wesleyan would attract students from area high schools here to play."

As a brand new organiza-

tion. Current members include University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Christian University, Texas A&M and Texas Tech, as well as teams from Louisiana and Arkansas.

administration has agreed to cover the \$1,200 league fee for this year, a fee that includes high impact insurance for all participants.

"As for where we are right



Renee Greer | Rambler Staff

Jonathan Ayala promotes his newly founded ice hockey team at the President's Picnic.

now, Wesleyan will be able to step in and cover the \$1,200 league fee for the first year," Ayala said. The fee includes high impact insurance for all participants.

"Considering the high risks involved in hockey, the university has agreed to help by making sure that our participants have sufficient coverage," Poole said. "It is only a one-year commitment assuming that [the team] has enough players to participate in a competitive league."

Wesleyan's hockey team will participate in the American Collegiate Hockey Associa-

tion at Wesleyan, the hockey team will have to work hard to establish itself, and players will have to cover most expenses themselves.

"It is unclear how much the players will have to pay," Jonathan Ayala said. "It all depends on how many players join, if we are able to find supportive sponsors, and whether we are successful in our fund-raising."

The proposal for the team was approved by senior administration this summer. The next step is for student government to recognize it as an official student group. The

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our team," he said.

According to ACHA rules, undergraduate students must complete at least nine hours per semester to be eligible. Graduate students are required to take at least six hours per semester.

If enough players join the team, Ayala hopes to be able to offer on-ice practice twice a week at the NYTEX sports center in Richland Hills and off-ice practice (strength, conditioning, etc.) two to three times per week until April or May.

The first season (this season) would be composed of exhibition games played both locally and away as preparation for a true season the following school year.

If not enough players join the team by October, Jonathan Ayala will put Plan B into action.

"We'll take the players we have and play in the adult leagues at the NYTEX sports complex once a week," he said.

In that case, the cost for the participating individuals would be significantly less, and the ACHA eligibility requirements wouldn't apply.

Rast is looking forward to the upcoming challenge to establish hockey at Wesleyan.

"The sport is great to watch live," she said. "It's fast and easily as high impact as football. It may take a little time, but I can see a nice size fan base rallying around a Texas Wesleyan ice hockey team. It's not just for Yankees anymore."

For more information about the Texas Wesleyan ice hockey team, contact Jonathan Ayala at (817) 713-5435 or ayalasave@yahoo.com, or Dr. Pam Rast at (817) 531-4876 or prast@txwes.edu.

Athletic Training Program sees growth

Jacqueline Wittman

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The Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) at Texas Wesleyan strives to develop students capable of supplying the highest standard of care for physically active individuals and prevention and rehabilitation of injuries.

Eighteen students, seven freshmen, six sophomores, four juniors and one senior, are currently enrolled in the ATEP. According to Program Director Dr. Pam Rast, new additions have been made for further advancement and commitment to personal attention for each athletic training student.

Laura Kunkel, the new clinical coordinator and instructor for the ATEP, comes to Texas Wesleyan from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She said she's happy with her new position and role to oversee the clinical experience of all athletic training students.

"I am excited about getting to know everyone and learning every aspect of the program while working one-on-one with the students," she said.

Originally from Minnesota, Kunkel received her bachelor's in athletic training and exercise science from Augustana College in South Dakota and received her master's in applied physiology and kinesiology from the University of Florida.

With a desire to be a clinical coordinator at a more personalized university, Kunkel came to Texas Wesleyan and felt a connection with the abundance of friendliness throughout campus.

"I really believe in being a part of a quality program," she said. "Thanks to the great staff and individual attention provided at Texas Wesleyan, our students have a much greater opportunity for individual growth and exposure to clinical

experience than if the attended a larger school."

The ATEP has come a long way and continues to grow and prosper. Fifteen years ago, no full-time athletic trainer was to be found on campus. Rast became the first athletic trainer and instructor to the five students enrolled in the few classes offered at the time. Between 1996 and 2005 the program was built from the foundation. In 2003 the ATEP actively started working to-

ingly competitive.

"The reason students choose our athletic training program is because they receive a more individualized education, and no student is overlooked," Rast said. "With a smaller program, it is easy to keep up with the skill development of each student."

Students in the program are not only completing an undergraduate degree, but also gaining clinical and field experience. They receive hands-

by working with the department's varsity teams.

With an excellent relationship in the medical community, students at Texas Wesleyan benefit through early experience in the field and are able to build relationships with future employers.

"Our students get the opportunity to engage in unique off-campus clinical sites that give them hours of experience and increases their development as athletic trainers," Kunkel said.

The ATEP prepares students who wish to pursue a career in athletic training for the requirements for the Texas Advisory Board of Athletic Training licensing and the Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers (BOC) national certification exams.

"We prepare our students for Athletic Training, but they will be able to enter numerous related fields as well," Rast said. "We have alumni currently working as athletic trainers, physical assistants, chiropractors, respiratory therapists and physical therapists, just to mention a few."

Rast estimates that a majority of the graduates from the Wesleyan ATEP either have or are in the process of pursuing a graduate degree of some sort.

"What you do with your athletic training degree is only limited by your imagination," she concluded.

With continuous growth projected by Rast, the program accepts enrolled Texas Wesleyan students who indicate a desire to seek a career in athletic training or allied health professions. The deadline for submission of the ATEP application is May 5.

For more information about the ATEP, contact Dr. Pam Rast at (817) 531-4876 or prast@txwes.edu, or Laura Kunkel at (817) 531-7526 or lekunkel@txwes.edu.



Renee Greer | Rambler Staff

New ATEP clinical coordinator Laura Kunkel

ward national accreditation, which was issued by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education on Feb. 24, 2007.

"It was a four-year process to become accredited," Rast said. "We have accomplished a lot over a short period of time."

Even though the ATEP at Wesleyan, one of 18 accredited programs in Texas, still is young, it is attractive to prospective students and increas-

on training with athletic trainers Kyle Morgan, Melissa Weeldreyer and Alicia Berry.

Coursework in the program allows students to take part in general medical classes taught by physicians, visit off-campus clinical sites, observe actual surgeries and high school athletic trainers and work in clinical settings.

Athletic training students also have the opportunity to gain hours of experience with Texas Wesleyan athletics

The Weekly Sports Quote

"He's a guy who gets up at 6 o'clock in the morning regardless of what time it is."

Louis "Lou" Duva
boxing trainer

Wesleyan Week-in-Sports

- The **Lady Rams Volleyball** team is 3-6 after losing 3-0 at Texas Women's University on Sept. 9. They went 2-2 in the Lubbock Christian University Lady Chap Classic Sept. 11-12. On day one, they beat Concordia University 3-0 before losing to the hosts Lubbock Christian University with the same numbers. The following day they went 1-1 against Howard Payne University (3-0) and Wayland Baptist University (0-3). Starting Sept. 15, the Lady Rams will play at home eight times over 12 days.
- **Lady Rams Soccer** suffered a 2-0 loss at Texas Women's University on Sept. 11. The lady Rams are now 5-1 and face six more games on the road before playing at Martin Field again on Oct. 8 when they host Our Lady of the Lake University in a Red River Athletic Conference game.
- **Rams Soccer** defeated visiting Bethany College on a rain-soaked Martin Field. Lightning pushed the game back. Kevin Rauch scored the lone goal to secure a 1-0 win for the Rams who, with the win, tied the 16-year-old program record of most consecutive wins (six).

Upcoming Sports

	Game	Time/Place
Friday	Women's Soccer vs. Univ. of Sci. & Arts	1 p.m. Chickasha, OK
	Volleyball vs. John Brown Univ.	3 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
	Men's Soccer vs. Univ. of Sci. & Arts	3 p.m. Chickasha, OK
	Volleyball vs. College of the Ozarks	7 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
Saturday	Volleyball vs. Belhaven College	1 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
	Women's Soccer vs. St. Gregory's Univ.	1 p.m. Shawnee, OK
	Men's Soccer vs. St. Gregory's Univ.	3 p.m. Shawnee, OK
	Volleyball vs. Oklahoma Baptist U.	7 p.m. Sid W. Rich.