

# COMMUNIQUE

LINDENWOOD

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR  
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

## Athletics Director John Creer Honored by ECAC

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Lindenwood University Athletics Director John Creer was named the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Male Administrator of the Year this week for the NCAA Division II level. Creer is starting his 24th year at Lindenwood and his 14th season at the school's Athletics Director.



## Did You Know?

**Did you know that Lindenwood's oldest known student enrolled in 2000? At a period in life when most people consider taking it easy, 90-year old Les Prinster signed up for an Economics class. When asked about it, Prinster said, "I've got some time now to do some things I have wanted to do for a while."**

Creer directed the athletics program to a very successful year in 2013-14 in its first season of full eligibility at the NCAA Division II level. The Lions had 11 teams or individuals make the postseason. Lindenwood had three top-10 national finishes with women's lacrosse advancing to the NCAA semifinals, men's soccer advancing to the NCAA quarterfinals, and wrestling coming in seventh as a team at nationals. Lindenwood finished 23rd overall in the Directors' Cup Standings, the second-highest point total in the MIAA and the highest among the 15 schools that were the most recent to go through the NCAA membership process.

Along with the national success, men's soccer, women's lacrosse, and men's swimming and diving won conference championships. Men's soccer became the first Lindenwood program to be ranked No. 1 in the country at the NCAA Division II level.

Off the court in 2013-14, Lindenwood student-athletes had one of their top years in program history in the classrooms. In the fall, Lindenwood student-athletes had their highest semester GPA in school history, and the athletic program continued to have a higher GPA in the spring than the mark of the whole student body. Over 300 student-athletes won academic awards from their various conferences, and Lindenwood had its highest number of Academic All-Americans and Academic All-District selections. The Lindenwood Athletics Department also won the NCAA Division II Award of Excellence in January of 2014 for running an event that best exemplified excellence in the areas covered by the six attributes of NCAA Division II.

The ECAC Male Administrator of the Year is presented annually to administrators from ECAC member schools in recognition of outstanding service to the conference. Creer and the other winners will formerly receive the award on Sept. 28 at the ECAC Honors Dinner in North Falmouth, Mass.

The ECAC is the nation's largest conference with over 300 member schools at the NCAA Division I, Division II, and Division III levels. Lindenwood is a member of the ECAC in men's lacrosse and field hockey.

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## Godar Featured in *Sports Illustrated*

Tom Godar's job as certified athletic trainer for the Lindenwood University football team is to treat players who suffer injuries and protect them through close monitoring during games and practices.



Godar patrols the sidelines during the Lions games. One of his students sits in the stands with a two-way radio and alerts Godar to any potential injuries. Godar started using a second pair of eyes after he started working as an injury spotter for the NFL two years ago.

"Their job is to get the experience from that point of view but to also serve as another set of eyes with a broader perspective," Godar said.

When the St. Louis Rams play at the Edward Jones Dome on Sundays during the fall, Godar acts as an independent injury spotter for the NFL team. Godar sits in a booth high above the field and watches each play closely and alerts team doctors and trainers if he sees a player who might need medical attention. Godar was recently featured in a *Sports Illustrated* article titled "The NFL's Eye in the Sky Sees Everything, Often More Than Once."

In the article, writer Jenny Vrentas describes the frenetic pace in which Godar tracks every play. She writes that Godar doesn't take a break during the game, even during timeouts or at halftime. When Godar spots a player who might be in trouble, he has a direct phone line to the Rams head athletic trainer. Sacks, chop blocks, illegal blocks to the back, blows to the head, are just some of the plays that get Godar's undivided attention.

A couple dozen medical staff are on hand for each Rams home games. Godar is connected to them through the latest communications technology. The NFL started using independent injury spotters three years ago, according to the article. Godar doesn't provide the team any diagnosis of the players, he's there to alert the team's staff if he sees a problem.

The article discusses the Rams' preseason opener with the Saints, in which a player injures a foot on a kickoff return. Godar reviewed the play, which showed how the player was injured. Each injury is tagged so it can be reviewed later by the team's staff. Unfortunately, the player injured in this case suffered a fractured ankle and will miss the season.

To read the entire story, click [bit.ly/sigodar](http://bit.ly/sigodar).