



No Grass Growing



UNDER THEIR FEET

Meet three athletes who've leveraged their Adelphi experiences to excel on and off the field.

1 Robert Nixon

Joining Bobby Lanigan and Keith Couch, starting pitcher Robert Nixon is the third Panther to participate in a Major League Baseball draft in the past four years. In an experience he describes as both nerve-racking and exhilarating, he was selected by the Cleveland Indians in the 46th round this past June.

The three-day process seemed like an eternity to Mr. Nixon. "Since I was drafted so late, I was wondering if it was ever going to happen," he

says. "But then I saw my name, and it was such a relief."

Mr. Nixon, who studied criminal justice at Adelphi, has had his eye on baseball since childhood. An Ontario native, he joined the local T-Ball team when he was about seven, played baseball at the varsity level in high school, and followed his passion at Adelphi.

In the 2010–2011 season, Mr. Nixon became Adelphi's all-time leader in career strikeouts

and wins, with 28 wins and 256 strikeouts, as well as the holder of a single-season record of 104 strikeouts. In 2011, Rawlings/American Baseball Coaches Association named him a Second-Team All-American. He was also named to the All-Tournament Team at the NCAA East Regional Tournament and to the All Northeast-10 First Team.

Mr. Nixon says work and play (pun intended) have been key to his success thus far. "Good things will happen" when you pursue both, he says.

2 Erika Loomer '12

Exceeding expectations on and off the volleyball court is a skill Erika Loomer '12 acquired from her mother, a former athlete and volleyball coach who travels 380 miles round trip from Massachusetts to attend every game.

Ms. Loomer believes academics complement athletics and vice versa. "As athletes, we have such a great opportunity to use what we learn in the classroom on the court, and what we learn on the court in the classroom," she says. "They go hand in hand."

She credits her academic drive and athletic passion to former assistant athletic director

Suzette McQueen, who encouraged her to apply for the NCAA Sports and Entertainment Summit held last March in Los Angeles.

"She was my mentor for three years, and someone who was always there for me," says Ms. Loomer. "She opened up so many opportunities."

With Ms. McQueen's support, Ms. Loomer was selected as one of 100 student-athletes from around the country to attend the summit, where she learned about social media, sports management, and sports journalism from leading industry professionals, such as Gregg

Champion, founder of Champion Media, ESPN reporter Shelley Smith, and *Sports Illustrated* writer Lee Jenkins.

"It was such a great networking opportunity," says Ms. Loomer. "It taught me so much about myself, about my peers, about the business, and about my surroundings."

As a member of the Adelphi volleyball team, Ms. Loomer recorded three kills, 92 assists, and 11 digs during the 2010 season. She was also named copresident of the Student Athlete Advisory Board for the 2011–2012 academic year.

3 Thorne Holder


Going pro. It's the dream of nearly every student-athlete. And it's what Thorne Holder, former goalkeeper on the Adelphi men's soccer team, not only dreamed about, but also achieved earlier this year.

Mr. Holder signed a professional Major League Soccer (MLS) contract with the Philadelphia Union, marking him as the sixth former Adelphi athlete to be involved with an MLS club and the first from a Tri-State-area college

or university to be awarded an MLS contract in the past three years.

Hailing from Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Holder spent three seasons on the field as an Adelphi Panther where he earned two National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Region honors and three All-Atlantic Soccer Conference (ASC) recognitions. In 2010, he was also named ASC Tournament co-defensive

most valuable player with his teammate Mauricio Mora '12.

Although Mr. Holder now shines in the spotlight as one of 48 MLS goalkeepers, he hasn't forgotten his former colors: brown and gold. "I represented Adelphi for three years," he says, "so every time I'm out on the field, I think about what I've learned." 

By Leslie Fazin '10