FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MacEwan University to celebrate athletics excellence in ceremony

EDMONTON, AB – MacEwan University and Griffins Athletics will celebrate athletic excellence and aim to once again “white out” the City Centre Campus gymnasium on January 31, 2014. The Griffins will raise seven championship banners earned in the first half of the season, as well as honouring eight national award winners. The ceremony will take place during half time of the women’s basketball game versus the Keyano Huskies.

The 2013-14 season has been spectacular for the Griffins so far, winning championship titles in men’s and women’s soccer and golf, as well as men’s cross country running Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC).

The women’s soccer team completed the perfect season finishing undefeated and capturing MacEwan University’s first ever women’s soccer national title.

Women’s cross country running fielded the two best individual runners in Canada. Lesley Koopman (Edmonton, AB) and Vanessa Trofimenkoff (Fort Saskatchewan, AB) finished gold and silver in a record setting performance at the national championship in Toronto, ON. Koopman crossed the finish line a mere 0.36 seconds ahead of her teammate, and 0.63 ahead of the bronze medalist. The final clocking was the closest finish in Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) history. Trofimenkoff also earned the ACAC individual gold, while Koopman finished in the bronze position.

Seven Griffins earned All-Canadian awards this fall season. Ryan Matowe (Edmonton, AB), men’s soccer; Erika Vecchio (Edmonton, AB), Nicola Weber (Morinville, AB), women’s soccer; Megan Vermillion (Fort McMurray, AB), James Charpentier (Edmonton, AB), golf; Koopman, Trofimenkoff, cross country running will each be honoured at the event.

Men’s soccer head coach, Cam Leverman (St. Albert, AB), earned the highest honour bestowed on coaches as he was named the CCAA national coach of the year.

The first 750 fans in attendance will receive a free “proud GrifFAN” t-shirt and noise maker. GrifFANS will also be eligible to win a variety of prizes including Edmonton Oilers tickets, gift cards and Griffins Athletics sponsor prizes.

Tip-off is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., with the men’s game bookending the double header at the conclusion of the women’s game.

Men’s and women’s soccer and cross country running will move into the Canada West Universities Athletic Association league in 2014-15, while golf will remain in the ACAC.

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