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Hockey: Beats Bind Both Coasts

Amanda Chidester: A Lesson in Utility

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Senior Lion Kim earned honorable mention All-America honors as just a sophomore, All-Midwest Region honors each of the last two years, and was named All-Big Ten second team last year. Not a bad collection of awards. But his biggest accomplishment? Earning an invitation to play in the 2011 Masters at the famed Augusta National course, which just so happens to be designed by the same man who designed the U-M Golf Course: Alister MacKenzie.
The Wolverines swept their in-state rival, Michigan State, in 2010-11 with a 61-57 win in East Lansing and a 70-63 win in the season finale at Crisler Arena. Without a single senior on the roster, U-M earned its second NCAA Tournament invitation in three years and opened with a convincing 75-45 win over Tennessee as the No. 8 seed. They faced top-seeded Duke in the second round, falling in a heartbreaker, 73-71. Winning 10 of their final 15 games, the Wolverines finished the year with a 21-14 mark with Darius Morris earning All-Big Ten third-team honors while Tim Hardaway Jr. was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman team. Business major Zack Novak (pictured) was named to the Academic All-District IV first team for the second straight year.

On the cover: Senior forward Scooter Vaughan, junior third baseman Amanda Chidester, sophomore thrower Erin Pendleton, sophomore outfielder Patrick Biondi.
Patrick Biondi was the spark plug at the top of the lineup for the Wolverine baseball team in 2010. The Woodhaven, Mich., native hit .313 with 11 doubles, six triples, two home runs and 30 runs batted in on his way to being named to the three Freshman All-America teams: Louisville Slugger, NCBWA and Ping! Baseball. Biondi broke Bruce Fox’s U-M record for stolen bases in a season by a freshman, swiping 29 last year. He also has the record for runs in a season (69) by a freshman. Biondi showed some leather last year, manning centerfield for 51 of Michigan’s 57 games and committing just two errors. Look for Biondi to once again be a catalyst in the Wolverines’ lineup in 2011.

“From a fan’s perspective, he has to be one of the most enjoyable players to watch. He has outstanding speed, is fearless and highly competitive. From an offensive standpoint, when he gets on base he is always thinking of the next base. His fearlessness makes him an outstanding baserunner. He also can hit and play great defense. He had an outstanding freshman year and he’s primed to have another great year for us. He’s a joy to coach and is one of the leaders on the team as a sophomore.”

—U-M Head Coach Rich Maloney
Since arriving in Ann Arbor last fall, freshman tennis player Shaun Bernstein has made an instant impact the Wolverines, both on the court and off of it. One of four members of the nation's third-best recruiting class last season — along with Alex Buzzi, Barrett Franks and fellow blue-chip recruit and Novi, Mich., native Justin Rossi — Bernstein has found a home alternating between the No. 4 and No. 5 positions in singles, and is among the team leaders in wins. He has spent the entire season playing doubles with sophomore Chris Cha, and began the dual-match portion of the schedule in January at the No. 2 spot.

For many college freshmen, playing experience is often trial-by-fire, and Bernstein was at the epicenter in Michigan’s match with fifth-ranked Texas on Jan. 22. With the match tied at 3-3, Bernstein took No. 100 Ben Chen to a third set to decide the match’s fourth and decisive point. Though he was defeated, the record crowd at the Varsity Tennis Center was given a good look at Bernstein’s game, and the bright future that awaits the University of Michigan men’s tennis program.

“Shaun is a hard worker. Whether he steps out onto the court for practice or a match, his mindset is to always get better, and the results have shown. He’s going to be a very good player for Michigan.”

— Senior teammate Jason Jung
After bursting onto the college golf scene last year, Jack Schultz finished as the unanimous choice for Big Ten Freshman of the Year. Schultz became the second U-M player to earn the conference honor after starting all 12 events, while recording the second best U-M freshman scoring average of 73.67 per round — just missing the record of teammate Matt Thompson (73.54).

The Wisconsin native, who is a diehard Packers fan and public shareholder of the NFL franchise, had three top-10 finishes last season, including a fifth-place showing at the Big Ten Tournament, which marked the highest finish by a U-M freshman. His 287 total (69-73-71-74) set the U-M freshman 72-hole record and earned him a spot on the Big Ten All-Tournament team. Adding to his freshman season, Schultz was named to the all-tournament team at the Big Ten Match Play Championships after posting a 2-0-1 record.

Entering his sophomore season, Schultz picked up right where he left off, closing the fall season with a 73.80 scoring average. With the spring season in full swing, Schultz will be looked upon to continue his strong play and utilize the experience he gained a year ago to assist the Wolverines in their quest for a fourth straight NCAA Regional appearance.

“We are looking for Jack to have a strong spring like he did during his freshman year. He is a great ball striker who can win tournaments if his putter gets hot. He adds a lot to our team chemistry because he is fun to be around. If he is able to improve upon last year’s success we will be a force to be reckoned with at every tournament this spring. We hope he can ride the high of his beloved Packers winning the Super Bowl and that it will translate into low scores on the golf course for him.”

— U-M Golf Coach Andrew Sapp
Commanding the Junior Olympic stage in 2010 by winning all-around titles at the USA Gymnastics and Junior Olympic National Championships, U-M freshman Sam Mikulak was the undisputed top recruit in the nation last year. With a veteran senior class departing, the defending national champion Wolverines were anxious to gain the services of Mikulak, who yields international competition experience as a member of the Junior National team.

Rocketing onto the NCAA scene this year, Mikulak has proved to be a worthy asset for the Wolverines already competing with the poise and confidence of an experienced upperclassman. With the season barely underway he registered six top-five event finishes and boasts the teams highest start value on floor exercise and vault. Furthermore, Mikulak recently upgraded to a dynamic triple twisting vault, only the second NCAA gymnast to ever perform this difficult skill. His vaulting efforts earned him Big Ten Freshman of the of the Week (Feb. 7-13), and on April 1st, he became just the third freshman to win the Big Ten all-around title at the conference championships. Look for Sam to lead the team on the floor exercise and vault moving into the postseason as he makes a convincing push for All-America honors in U-M’s fight for back-to-back national championships.

“As a teammate, and more valuable a friend of Sam Mikulak for the last seven years, I can accurately say that his gymnastics is some of the most dynamic and powerful in the United States. It provides us with the style and flair a team needs in order to win back-to-back championships. His ethic and desire to make ‘big things happen’ has skyrocketed since he stepped foot on campus. His progression has helped spark the drive our team needs in order to make ‘big things happen’. I have complete faith that Sam will develop into a Senior National team member and eventually be a contender for the Olympics.”

— Freshman teammate Jordan Garenstroom
Junior Felice Mueller has been a big part of the Michigan rowing team since she stepped on campus as a freshman in 2009. Mueller has been part of U-M’s first varsity eight since her freshman season when she helped the first varsity eight to an undefeated season and runner-up honors at the Big Ten Championships. Mueller also helped the Wolverines to an eighth-place finish at the NCAA Championships while also claiming the Jessop-Whittier Cup at the San Diego Crew Classic.

Mueller followed up her freshman campaign by leading the first varsity eight to a 12th-place finish at the NCAA Championships last spring. She also made a name for herself in international competition last summer, teaming with former Wolverine Ashley Kroll to win the gold medal in the pair at the 2010 U-23 World Championships in Brest, Belarus. Not only did Mueller and Kroll win the first U.S. gold medal in the pair, they shattered the previous world record time by 0.87 seconds. The Cleveland Heights, Ohio, native is ready to help the Wolverines to their fifth Big Ten title and a spot in the NCAA Championships.

"Felice is a passionate and intense competitor. She has developed into a strong leader on our team and a really effective rower. I am excited to watch her perform this spring."

— U-M Rowing Head Coach Mark Rothstein
Balancing college sports and academics can be a daunting task at times, but Meagan Bauer has been able to balance the demands of being a full-time nursing student and a starter on the women’s golf team with relative ease.

After playing in just five events as a freshman, Bauer became a full-time starter her sophomore year, playing in all 11 events. She extended her streak to 16 after starting all five tournaments for the Wolverines this past fall. After setting a career-best scoring average of 76.97 in 2010, Bauer has maintained a career-best pace with a 76.73 average. A testament to her leadership and commitment, Bauer was named co-captain this season.

What makes Bauer unique is her ability to keep up with golf and the rigors of being in the School of Nursing. Bauer, who loves working with kids, has continued to explore all nursing options before focusing on one particular area. She uses her calm demeanor learned from being patient on the golf course to help her in all her efforts at the hospital.

A tireless worker, Bauer continues to do all she can to help U-M return to an NCAA regional, something the Wolverines have been able to do in eight of the last 10 years.

“Meagan is one of our hardest working and committed players. She brings 100 percent each day to practice along with a great attitude. She has consistently improved her game while at Michigan and does this all while taking a rigorous academic schedule in the School of Nursing. She is truly a “Michigan Woman.””

— U-M Golf Coach Cheryl Stacy
Jack Greenlee
Sophomore Pole Vaulter
> Set meet record and new personal best against Ohio State in “The Dual” this year with a height of 16-8 3/4 feet

“Stepping onto the pole vault runway, you block all thoughts out of your head, with the confidence that you’ve done everything you could over the past nine months of training to be ready for this moment. You blast off toward the pit, feeling the boost of energy from adrenaline and the roars of your teammates and the crowd. The last thing you feel is driving all possible force up into your pole at the take-off, and then everything becomes a blur. Your body takes it from here, having done it hundreds of times before. In one continuous motion you swing upside down and throw yourself off the top of your pole. You catch a glimpse of the bar at the peak of your vault before heaving your arms and chest back to avoid knocking it off on the way down. Finally, in slow motion, you fall back down to the mat, and as all your thoughts rush back into your head, you experience the gratification of knowing that all of your efforts have led you to the ultimate goal, properly representing the block M you wear on your chest.”

Erin Pendleton
Sophomore Discus Thrower
2010 Big Ten Outdoor Freshman of the Year / 2010 Big Ten Discus Champion

“Throwing discus is like a dance that you are always trying to perfect. It is a smooth, rhythmic motion that involves being aware of where your body is at all times in the ring. To throw, you must keep your arms and shoulders behind your hips until the very end when the discus is released like a slingshot into the air. It takes a person with a lot of patience and a positive attitude because no throw is ever perfect, and you’re constantly working on your technique. Throwing takes a lot of strength and flexibility, which result from efforts in the weight room and constant stretching. However, you do not always have to be the biggest and strongest person to be the best. What it comes down to is hard work and the will to win every time you go out there to compete.”

Kaitlyn Peale
Senior Distance Runner
Cross Country NCAA All-American / Industrial & operational engineering major / 2010 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America third team

“Everyone loves the thrill of a 100-meter dash or the gracefulness of the high jump, but few people truly appreciate the beauty of the 5,000-meter race on a track. It is about rhythm, strategy, patience and self-discipline. I know that if I go out too hard, my legs will not forgive me in the last mile. But if I go out too slow, I will have a slim chance of catching the leaders later. The 5k therefore requires a delicate balance of risk-taking and control — and of course the acceptance of pain. But in my mind, there is nothing more satisfying than running a personal best in the 5,000m race.”
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I
n the history of Major League Baseball, there have been only four play-
ers to appear at every position in a single game. Today they would be
labeled as “super utility” players, possessing such a vast range of funda-
mental skills that they are valuable anywhere on the field. They are regular,
everyday players without set positions. While super utility may be a recent
addition to baseball/softball lingo, that type of player really isn’t anything
new. But they are a dying breed in this age of specialization.

Over her first three collegiate seasons, junior Amanda Chidester has
appeared at left field, second base, shortstop, third base, catcher and desig-
nated player. She earned All-America honors as a utility player during her
rookie campaign after seeing time at five different positions. She started all
59 games at second base as a sophomore, seemingly settling into one posi-
tion, but so far this season she has yet to return to that spot, instead splitting
her time evenly between catcher and third base.

She’s quick to mention that she also has practiced at first base a few times and
equally quick to point out that she’ll never pitch here at Michigan. She’s never
pitched in her life after all. Well, she recants, except for a time in fifth grade.

“The first inning I ever pitched I struck all three batters out,” Chidester
said. “The second inning, I came in and walked every single batter on the
team. I walked them all. No one got a hit. I probably walked in about five
runs. Nobody came out to talk to me; they just left me out there then pulled
me. That was the end. I just remember thinking, ‘Okay, I tried it. I don’t like
it anymore.’”

Growing up in the shadow of the Michigan softball program in Allen
Park, Mich., Chidester dreamed of playing for the Wolverines. She attended
Michigan’s summer camps from the time she was 13 and was a long-time reg-
ular at home games at Alumni Field. Committed to Michigan since her soph-
omore year, she excelled throughout high school, leading her Cabrini team
to three straight trips to the state championship game — winning back-to-
back titles in 2006 and 2007 — while claiming numerous individual honors,
including a pair of national All-America first team citations.

Once she arrived in Ann Arbor, it didn’t take long for Chidester to make
an impact in the lineup. She led the Wolverines in several offensive categories
for the entirety of the 2009 season, finishing with a .350 average, 20 extra-
base hits and 36 runs-batted in en route to NFCA All-America second team
and All-Big Ten first-team accolades.

But Chidester also went through her rookie season without an everyday posi-
tion on the field. She served in the designated player role for most of the season’s
first half, earning occasional starts at catcher, second base and shortstop, before
alternating between designated player and left field over the second half. For a
freshman player simply trying to gain her bearings in the college game, the
uncertainty of her role added another challenge to her transition.

“It was really hard my freshman year to accept what I was,” Chidester said.
“I was all over the place, and game to game, I didn’t know where I would be.
That was tough, because I wanted to play somewhere and just be known for
that spot. Instead I just felt a little lost.”

“It’s almost a disservice to her as a player,” head coach Carol Hutchins
said. “She doesn’t get to develop at any one position, but she just gets it done
for us. What she lacks in experience at any one particular thing, she makes
up for with her enthusiasm for attacking her job. Chiddy is just very valu-
able, and to some degree that has nothing to do with her talent.”

If Chidester struggled internally with the uncertainty, she rarely let it show
around her teammates, who glowingly describe her optimism, enthusiasm and
devotion to Michigan. She has been the same since day one — a consistently
positive presence, who is quick with favors and words of encouragement. Softball is supposed to be fun, after all, and Chidester always appears to be having fun — in games, in practice, in the locker room and all moments in between. Whether it’s stepping to the plate with her trademark “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” walkup song or bouncing circles around her teammates as they walk to team meals, she keeps the atmosphere lighthearted and pure.

“It’s about loving the game and appreciating where you’re at,” Chidester said. “There are only 21 girls who can wear this jersey, so take that for what it is and just play. Wherever they need me, that’s where I’m going to go, and I have to be able to play the best I can at any position.

“I think it’s a maturity thing for me now,” she continued. “Last year, I got a bit caught up in trying to do too much. Because of all the success I had as a freshman, I wanted to repeat that. I’d be too hard on myself. It’s hard to pull yourself out of that mentality. You just have to remind yourself that there are all these other girls out there who can pick you up. So, I really focus on putting my energy into my teammates. When I do that, I stop worrying about myself and everything takes care of itself.”

So far for the Wolverines in 2011, things have taken care of themselves. In the face of some preseason anxiety due to a team largely dominated by inexperienced underclassmen, Michigan opened the year with its best start in program history — and that’s saying a lot for a program with a Women’s College World Series title and 13 Big Ten titles, including the last three. As one of three team captains, Chidester has learned that she’s now in a position to set the tone for the rest of her teammates to follow.

“I think Chiddy has gotten particularly good at navigating the emotions of other people,” senior Dorian Shaw said, “as well as adjusting her own emotions to fit what other people need in that moment. It helps everybody and is a great example for everybody. The fact that she manages to be athletic enough to go from left field her freshman year to catching her junior year — and play second base and third base in between — is astounding in itself, but that she does it with a smile on her face every single day just shows what kind of player she is. She just wants to be here and just wants to play, and it doesn’t matter where she is, she’s going to contribute as much as she possibly can to Michigan softball. That’s how she views it.”

“She’s happy to be doing what she’s doing,” Hutchins said. “She exudes that every day. She still has that youthful exuberance, and now she has the sage of experience, wisdom and maturity. It’s a great blend.

“One umpire asked me recently, ‘She’s the heart and soul of your team, isn’t she?’ And she truly is. She has the charisma of being a leader by example and being the kind of natural leader that everyone flocks to. She gives to everybody on the team, and everybody plays for her. She is absolutely one of the joys of coaching.”

— U-M Head Coach Carol Hutchins

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Left: Amanda (center) with 2010 teammates Angela Findlay and Marley Powers.
ADVANTAGE: SENIORS
It could only get better. It had to.

The senior class of Denise Muresan, Whitney Taney, Rika Tatsuno and Kari Wig had a rocky start to their Michigan careers. Before even stepping foot in Ann Arbor, the coach who recruited them had just taken another job, leaving them with someone they did not even know.

They were dealt a pair of 7-0 losses on their season-opening road trip as freshmen, getting shut out at Vanderbilt and Kentucky in their first collegiate action.

Fast forward four years and the quartet is on pace to leave Michigan as the most successful class in history, while taking Michigan from a top-25 program to a top-10 program.

And they have not been defeated 7-0 since that first weekend.

A NEW COACH, A NEW SCHOOL

What seems like such a perfect fit between the players and coach was just pure luck. Each one already had settled on Michigan as her college destination, but in the summer of 2007, then-head coach Amanda Augustus left for the University of California. Enter Ronni Bernstein.

“They were so accepting of the change,” Bernstein said of her move to Ann Arbor from Florida International. “Even though I did not recruit them, I never felt that it was an issue. I always felt comfortable with them from the time I started. The way they accepted me was awesome. I know that coaching changes are not always so smooth, but I do not think that they ever second-guessed coming here.”

Muresan actually cried when she heard the news, but only because her sister had a bad experience with a coaching change. But she trusted the process, and most of all, Michigan, to find the best replacement possible.

“In a way, it was a good thing that I came in when they were first getting here, because I am all they know,” Bernstein said. “I could not be happier with what they have brought to this program, and the example they set in practice every day.”

The senior class is four deep now, but the group of seniors said they used to joke about Bernstein being a “freshie” along with them during that first year.

“I think the first year was different, and every year has been a little different as Ronni has gotten used to being at Michigan. I feel like we have matured together as a group with Ronni,” Wig said.

ESTABLISHING A CULTURE

This group prides itself on two things: hard work and team chemistry. The first comes naturally to the competitive group, while the latter has been built over countless road trips and long hours at the Varsity Tennis Center.

“We are just such a hard-working group and we are so competitive,” Taney, a two-year captain, said. “We fight for every point and when you have all six courts competing so hard at the same time, it helps a lot. It gives us wins.”

“They are so hard working, it is incredible,” Bernstein added. “They all have different roles. Take Kari for example. It is amazing what she has done in her four years. She works so hard even though she really has not had the opportunity in the lineup. She fits the role of always doing the right thing. The four of them together have really set the standard for Michigan tennis going forward.”

“I feel like we have helped form a certain way that we do things with Ronni,” Wig explained. “The freshmen picked that up the first few weeks that they were here. Everyone on the team knows the type of work ethic they need to have and what we have established here.”

When you spend as much time together as they do, you better get along. It runs deeper with this group, which quickly points out they are much closer than other teams. The cheers on the sidelines, the inside jokes, constant laughter and smiles reaffirm the fact they are more like a family than a team.

It is a stark change from the junior tennis they played growing up, where each player is out on court alone, on an island. Not the case in college tennis, where each individual match counts toward the team score.

“One you get to college, you are cheering your heart out for your teammates,” Tatsuno said. “Everything is just different than high school and juniors, going out there and playing for a group. College tennis is really the only time when tennis is a team sport. You want to win and play well for the team, not just yourself.”

“They understand that no matter where you play, a win is a win and the point counts,” Bernstein said. “They are all about the team and getting the four points for the win. That is what the senior class cares about.”

Like Muresan, who frantically ran around the VTC last season trying to find someone to add her team point to the board after her Indiana opponent defaulted so that her teammates on the other side knew they were that much closer to a win.

“WIN A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP”

That is what Taney immediately states as her goal for the season. She can barely finish saying that before everyone jumps in agreeing how possible it is for them.

“Honestly, I have been so scared to say that,” Muresan echoed of Taney’s goal. “But it is so true. I feel like I have hinted at it before but never actually said it. We could definitely do it.”

Now that someone has finally said it, the group agrees that it is a realistic goal for a team that set a program record for wins (24) and won a Big Ten Championship in 2010. Just the fact that someone said it out loud shows the newfound confidence the team has in 2011.

“Last year, we were really successful,” Bernstein said. “But I do not think they believed they were as good as they really were. This year, they are super confident. They really feel like they belong there, at the top with all the regular powerhouses. It is not like we did not feel that way last year, but it was sort of new.”

“This year, the mentality is different,” Muresan explains of this year’s team. “Last year, it was like ‘Wow, we are one of the best teams.’ Now we belong and we all know it.”

No matter what the Wolverines accomplish this year, Bernstein wants the group to have fun in their final season.

“You want to enjoy it at the end of the day,” she said of her coaching philosophy. “It is not always just about winning; it is about the process too. The wins are nice but you want the whole experience to be the best four years of their lives. People say that, but when you look back at what you get here at Michigan, it should be a great experience.”

The process started with two humbling losses. It will hopefully end in Palo Alto, Calif., the site of the 2011 NCAA Championships. What happened in between is how this senior class established Michigan as a national power.
Husted had taken service trips to six countries in the past 16 years, but he had never seen or heard anything in his travels quite like what Chris Coghlan shared with him one night last fall.

Husted, a Michigan baseball assistant coach, and Coghlan, the 2009 National League Rookie of the Year and Florida Marlins outfielder, had taught baseball clinics in the Dominican Republic earlier that day. While Coghlan instructed children on how to hit a baseball, one boy, 12 or 13 years old, hung back from the group.

With the little Spanish he knew from playing in the majors, Coghlan started talking to the shy teenager. The boy eventually told Coghlan both of his parents had died — and he was living in a tree.

He had told the right person. Coghlan was involved in that day’s clinic through SCORE International, an athletics- and spirituality-based service group. The organization tracked down the boy and made plans to place him in an orphanage with a set of foster parents.

In Husted’s five years of traveling to the Dominican Republic with SCORE, the boy’s story has remained a poignant memory. It was the desire to make that type of impact on others’ lives that has motivated Husted to visit less fortunate areas since he was 20 years old, teaching children to play baseball while sharing his faith.

Husted’s most recent trip was in November 2010, when he, former Michigan assistant coach John Lowery (2003-04) and 233 other participants took a five-day trip to Santo Domingo to run baseball clinics and do service work.

The clinics were taught by high school coaches, college coaches and Major League Baseball players, including Coghlan, New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera and former Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte. SCORE provided bats and some equipment for the hitting, pitching, infield and outfield stations, but most of the children either shared baseball mitts or used their hands.

“Two kids came out, and they didn’t have anything but underwear on,” Husted said. “No shoes, no pants, no shirts, just out there in their underwear playing. That’s all they had, so that’s what they came in. That’s how poor they were.”
In the afternoons, the coaches and major league players went on orphanage visits, church visits and brought food packs to nearby Dominican villages.

Michigan head coach Rich Maloney, who traveled with SCORE to the Dominican Republic in 2006 during Husted's second visit, was particularly touched by his trip to the orphanage.

“It was absolutely unbelievable,” Maloney said. “There was a young girl, probably 8 or 9 years old, and she held my hand literally for two straight hours. It broke my heart. It really opened my eyes.”

In November, one of the communities Husted and Lowery visited was a gathering of 20 shacks in the middle of a sugarcane field. The potholes in the road were so massive that their vehicle had to stop and navigate around them. Outhouses dotted the landscape, and chickens, horses, goats and dogs ran free in the village.

“We took those people some food, maybe six or eight dollars worth of rice and beans and some seasoning and some cooking oil, and they’re telling us that amount of food will feed people for a week,” Lowery said.

“It’s definitely a different experience to see what real poverty’s like, seeing people look like they haven’t eaten a whole lot,” Husted added. “It definitely grips you and helps you appreciate what you have and the blessings we have here in the U.S. … There’s a different kind of wealth in this country than what you find when you go to some of the places I’ve been.”

Husted always had been strong in his faith, but when he entered college, he couldn’t have imagined the places to which he would eventually travel to share it.

The Pickerington, Ohio, native went to Texas Christian University for his first year of school. After growing up in Ohio, the country music and cowboy boots of TCU gave him a culture shock he says he “wasn’t mature enough to deal with.” But before he transferred closer to home, his friends at TCU introduced him to the university’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes group.

At Miami University the next year, Husted sought out a group similar to the one he had found at TCU and joined Oxford’s chapter of Athletes in Action. As a college freshman, Husted had felt like Texas was a different country — but less than two years later, he was on the plane for a six-week AIA trip to South Africa and Zimbabwe.

A house servant in Zimbabwe did his host family’s cooking, cleaning and brought Husted tea at 6 a.m. every morning. Husted’s host father was a former general in the Rhodesian army and told military stories, like when soldiers were called to take care of 19-foot boa constrictors that were eating goats in the village.

In South Africa, Husted saw a country fresh off of its first multi-racial, democratic election. During the summer of 1994, Nelson Mandela was newly in office, uncertainty was high and the economic divide in the country was stark. Shanties stood along the sides of freeways, with three pieces of sheet metal for the walls and a gaping, open hole as a door. In Cape Town, though, Husted went to his first IMAX movie theater and was impressed by the wealth he saw.

The group moved to a different African city about once a week. In each location, AIA conducted baseball clinics, talked to schoolchildren, spoke in churches and worked with missionaries. In addition to advocacy work, Husted and his AIA team played a series of baseball games against African provincial and club teams.

Husted graduated from college in 1995 and accepted an assistant coaching position at Grace College, but continued his service involvement by working clinics in Canada and Slovakia. He returned to South Africa four years after his initial visit, this time to coach an AIA team during its six-week season.

As he moved up the coaching ranks in 1999 to a position under Maloney at Ball State, recruiting and other Division I coaching obligations made it difficult to commit to mid-summer trips. It wasn’t until Husted had moved to the University of Toledo in 2004 that he heard about SCORE International and its involvement in the Dominican Republic. With trips available in November, one of the few off-season months in college baseball, Husted could again combine his faith with the sport he enjoyed most.

“After my first trip to Africa, I think it was a life decision to have a life of faith,” Husted said. “It’s good for each year to get refocused on what’s important. In this business, with the recruiting and the rat race that it is, to go on these trips and help people, that means a lot.

“Each trip is a little bit different, but I think all in all, it helps me bring some value to life.”
beats
bind

BOTH COASTS

By Josh Leskar

Before every game, the University of Michigan ice hockey team warms up to three songs: “All I Do Is Win” by DJ Khaled, “All the Above” by Milo and “Dynamite” by Taio Cruz. All three are popular songs and top 40 hits from 2010 that the players chose to get them ready for game time.

However, if you pulled the cord from Yost Ice Arena and plugged it into senior forward Scooter Vaughan’s computer, you would hear a completely different sound: one that doesn’t exactly gel with most of the team’s preferences.

Vaughan has been passionate about house music (a type of electronic dance music) ever since, “I realized how it was made.” At the age of 12, he received his first turntable as a Christmas present. He taught himself how to use it by playing Earth Wind & Fire and Prince vinyl records over and over again. By his senior year of high school, he found his own style and began to fully appreciate the subtle nuances of music so much that he decided to start the process of creating his own. Little did he know that he would find a companion at Michigan who would share his passion for composition.

When Mac Bennett arrived in Ann Arbor last fall, he became privy to the fact that Vaughan occasionally played disc jockey at a few of the local clubs, and how he liked to create some of his own music along the way. So, as good teammates do, Vaughan brought Bennett under his wing and took him along for the ride through the passion they both share.

As student-athletes, Bennett and Vaughan are often strapped for time. “It’s not like we sit down for eight hours at a time. We do a little bit, and then take breaks,” Bennett poses.

“Sometimes we’ll play a specific sound over and over again. I’m really good at finding annoying sounds.” Vaughan doesn’t hesitate to agree. “Yeah, he always finds the worst noises.”

Whether as a relief from the rigors of school, or on bus rides to and from away games, the two find time to sit and work together on their creations. “Obviously, we have other stuff going on during the week: practice and school work. But we’ll work for an hour, hour and a half, when we’re done.”

“It is so much better than watching a movie. It is something proactive,” Vaughan adds in between beat-boxing. So what does it mean to them?

“I just like the idea that I can put a whole bunch of songs together that I really like, say ‘I made this,’ and play it before a hockey game to get me pumped up,” Bennett said. As for Vaughan, he hopes for the day that his tracks can be played at clubs for thousands of people, and know that he is getting people on the dance floor thanks to his beats.

On the surface, Scooter Vaughan and Mac Bennett could not be more different. Vaughan is from southern California (Placentia), while Bennett resides 2,938 miles away in Narragansett, R.I. Vaughan is a senior, Bennett a freshman. One’s a forward, one’s a defenseman. While they both came to Ann Arbor for hockey, that’s not the only thing that connects them. Each constantly refers to the music they create as “our songs,” and Vaughan even says that he thinks, “We have a keen ear for it.” Two completely different people bound by their love of hockey and the sounds of house music.
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The M Den is proud to be the Official Merchandise Retailer of the University of Michigan Athletic Department.
Division I athletes are just like everyone else. Here’s a sneak peek into the lives of some Wolverines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hometown, State</th>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Nickname</th>
<th>Person in History: I'd Most Like to Meet</th>
<th>Worst Habit</th>
<th>Pregame Ritual</th>
<th>Favorite Cartoon/TV Show Growing Up</th>
<th>Favorite Musician or Music Group</th>
<th>Favorite Book</th>
<th>Favorite Movie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ian Makowske</td>
<td>Sr. / Gymnastics Redding, Conn.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2010 NFCA All-America second team and 2011 USA Softball Player of the Year Watch List</td>
<td>Majoring in English and both his parents are U-M alums</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>John Steinbeck and his friend Ed Ricketts, and maybe Ernest Hemingway too</td>
<td>Alphabetizing my DVDs</td>
<td>Sushi and some visualization</td>
<td>Roadrunner and Coyote</td>
<td>Bon Iver and some old Death Cab for Cutie</td>
<td>I'm in the middle of East of Eden right now and that is pretty incredible</td>
<td>To Have and Have Not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorian Shaw</td>
<td>Sr. / Softball Burke, Va.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2010 CWPA All-Western Division first team as a freshman in 2010</td>
<td>Named to the CWPA All-Western Division first team as a freshman in 2010</td>
<td>DurtyD, DShaw, Diggity</td>
<td>Jesus and John Wooden</td>
<td>Picking at my nails</td>
<td>Do things the same way each time</td>
<td>Tie between Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and Saved by the Bell</td>
<td>… couldn’t pick one if I tried!</td>
<td>The Five People You Meet In Heaven</td>
<td>To Have and Have Not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Adamson</td>
<td>So. / Water Polo Coronado, Calif.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Two-time team MVP and holds school record for doubles wins by a freshman (25, 2008)</td>
<td>Father played hockey at Eastern Michigan and brother, Bobby, is a pitcher on U-M's baseball team</td>
<td>AA</td>
<td>President Lincoln</td>
<td>Taking naps when I have things I should be doing instead</td>
<td>I peel the wrapper off of every water bottle I drink before a game and roll it up to put inside when it's empty. Then throw it away.</td>
<td>Grey's Anatomy</td>
<td>To Kill a Mockingbird (the Twilight series is a close second)</td>
<td>Into the Wild</td>
<td>The Notebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Madden</td>
<td>Sr. / Tennis Lotus, Calif.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Had 13 and 16 points in U-M's wins vs. Ohio State, the first season sweep over the Buckeyes in program history</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mogley</td>
<td>Larr Holbeck, he is a kayaking legend who pioneered the sport in Northern California</td>
<td>Biting my pencils</td>
<td>Listen to Daft Punk</td>
<td>Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles</td>
<td>I listen to everything, but The Beatles are my all time favorite</td>
<td>Dr. Dolittle</td>
<td>180 Degrees South, Endless Summer 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tommy Brosnanan</td>
<td>Fr. / Wrestling Ann Arbor, Mich.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tommy</td>
<td>Michael Jordan. He's historical by now right?</td>
<td>Cracking my knuckles</td>
<td>Wear the same clothes I won in last year's bowl game</td>
<td>Looney Tunes</td>
<td>Listen to music and get to the gym as early as possible so I can relax in the locker room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Thompson</td>
<td>So. / Basketball Plymouth, Minn.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kato</td>
<td></td>
<td>Procrastinating before exams</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Crocodile Hunter</td>
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