

# sports

## Freshman Phenom: Joshua Patterson

WILL DODDS  
the duquesne duke

Josh Patterson is humble, composed—the emblem of class in an athlete. But when it comes to scoring goals, he can't help but grin.

A freshman forward on the men's soccer team, Patterson is just two months into his collegiate career, but he has not wasted any time settling in to the swing of things. Patterson leads the team in scoring with six goals, and on three different occasions he has led the Dukes to victory with late game winners.

It would be fair to say Patterson has been a star for the men's soccer team, but he isn't one to savor his heroics.

"Soccer [at Duquesne] has been great," Patterson said. "I've been getting playing time and I've been scoring goals, but it's all about the team."

Whether he'll admit it or not, though, for Patterson, scoring goals is nothing new.

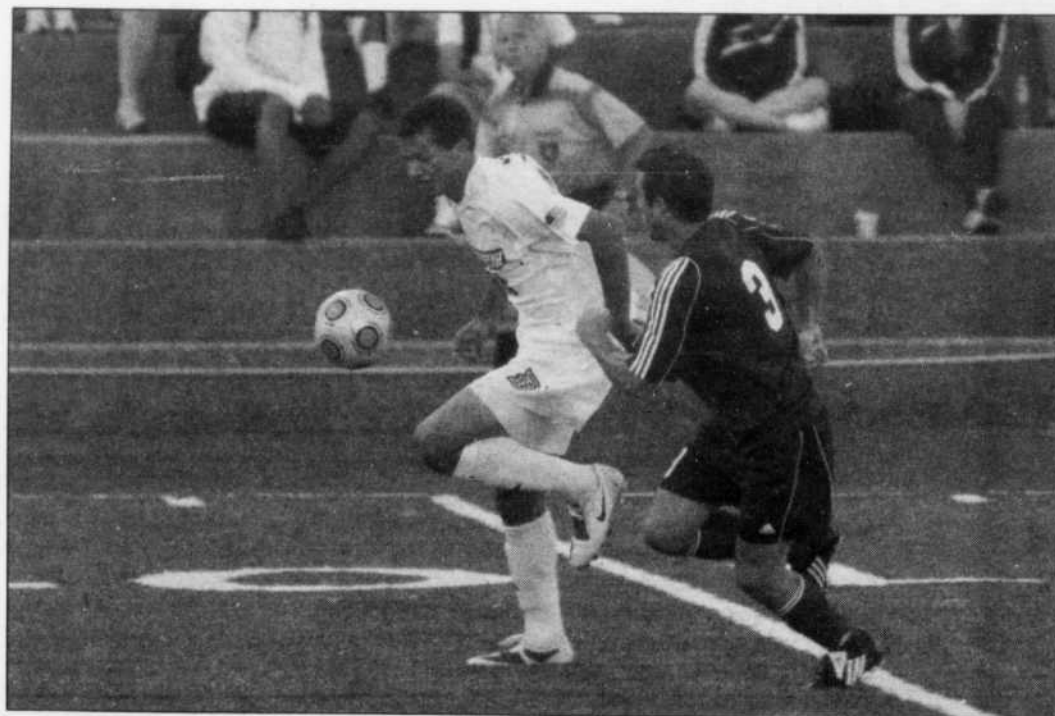
Growing up in Bowie, Md., Patterson was always an athlete. Around the age of 12, though, he realized his unique ability to put the ball in the back of the net. Then he began to focus exclusively on soccer.

His dedication paid off, and a few years later Patterson burst onto the Maryland soccer scene. His high school resume boasts an impressive 49 goals, as well as 29 assists. He was twice named all-state, all-county three times, and in 2008 led Bowie High School to a state championship.

It wasn't long before college coaches were calling Patterson's name.

Duquesne men's soccer coach Jake Ouimet first saw Patterson during his junior year of high school. Patterson's club team was visiting the Pittsburgh area to play in a tournament at Moon High School.

"My first impressions [of Josh] were that he was very athletic and had a very strong attacking presence," Ouimet said. "We were very happy when he committed. The college game, and



BRAD MOROCCO/PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman forward Josh Patterson leads the Dukes this season with six goals and 19 shots on goal.

the game as a whole, is becoming faster and more athletic. [Josh] fits that mold."

However, making the commitment was not so easy for Patterson.

Patterson was contacted by a large number of schools, six or seven of which he says heavily recruited him. But with the overwhelming attention from coaches, Patterson didn't quite know what to do. He turned to his mom for advice.

"My mom wanted me to expand my search myself," Patterson said.

So he did just that.

As of December last year, Duquesne was not much more than an afterthought for Patterson. He decided to visit anyway.

"I visited Duquesne in February. After the

visit I really liked it, so I decided to talk with coach [Ouimet]."

The rest was relatively short history. And fifteen games and six goals later, how does Patterson feel about his decision?

"It's exceeded my expectations," he proudly proclaimed.

Patterson isn't the only one happy about his decision.

"[Josh] has been clutch," Ouimet said. "He's come up with big goals, he works hard, makes good runs, and he's good in the air. He brings a lot to our team."

Patterson might not be quick to compliment himself, but with his athletic talent and humble

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## ALTernate Angle



DAN ALTHOUSE  
sports columnist

### Wrapping up the week in sports

So much has happened lately in sports that I felt compelled to cover it all. The Yankees play the returning champs in the World Series. Mark McGwire is back in baseball. Sam Bradford is out for the season. And the NFL is heating up fast. What a weekend.

#### World Serious

The Yankees are the premiere organization in baseball and the Phillies are the returning champs. The Yankees have old but still-firing stars Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez; the Phillies have some still-young talent in Ryan Howard and Chase Utley.

The Yankees have 26 World Series trophies in their possession compared to the Phillies' three, but the Phillies have the advantage of having last year's trophy.

This is the first time since 2000 that the returning champion has a chance to repeat. The team that did it then? None other than the Yanks.

My prediction: Yankees in 6.

#### Mark McGwire, a coach?

Believe it. McGwire is a hitting coach. In my opinion, there are not many better people for the job. In 1998, McGwire and Sammy Sosa had one of the most gentlemanly contests in sporting history: the chase to break the home run record. McGwire, as we all (or probably only some of us) remember, won with 70 home runs, which broke the previous record of 63.

The accusations of his steroid usage threw his name in the mud faster than a shot from a cannon, and he's been wandering around with a half-glorious-half-disgraced shadow for the last few years. He is not even close to being inducted into the MLB Hall of Fame.

McGwire was not at the press conference that announced his new job, but apparently is not trying to hide. Good thing, because that might be tough in the super-media-exposed sports world of today.

Wait Sam, don't play it again  
Heisman award winner Sam

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## Dukes drop Explorers; improve to 13-11 on season



BRAD MOROCCO/PHOTO EDITOR

Junior libero Amy Palko recorded 11 kills and 13 digs in Sunday's win against LaSalle.

JOHN BOJARSKI  
the duquesne duke

Last Sunday, for the 25th time in the past 20 years, the volleyball team beat the LaSalle Explorers.

The Dukes won the match three sets to none. This puts the team 13-11 overall, (3-6 in the Atlantic 10 conference).

This was the Dukes' first win after a five game losing streak. Sophomore middle hitter Liz Homan was pleased to win again.

"It's good to know how this feeling feels again," Homan said.

Head coach Steve Opperman said the team made a lot of improvements in this game compared to the past few weeks.

"We finally played consistently and we stayed more disciplined," Opperman said. "Sometimes we

make too many unfortunate errors."

Sophomore setter Sarah Svorinic also said she saw an improvement in the team's performance.

"We treated every play like it was our last one," Svorinic said.

The Dukes started the first set with four scores in a row before the Explorers had a chance to get on the score board. The Dukes won the set 25-14.

Although the second set started with two LaSalle scores, the Dukes pulled together and dominated the rest of the set, winning 25-12. In the third and final set, the Explorers held a lead for awhile before the Dukes finished it off 25-16.

The Dukes noticeably struggled in the third set. Svorinic said LaSalle blocked the Dukes frequently during that set. Opperman said the team simply laid back during

the third set.

Homan recorded 11 kills and one block. Junior libero Amy Palko recorded 13 digs. Palko and senior outside hitter Jessica Artman each recorded aces. Senior setter Chelsea Tillotson recorded 17 assists.

Although the season is almost over, Opperman said he thinks the team has a chance to get to the A-10 tournament.

"We're just going to keep going after it," Opperman said. "If we work on our side of the court, good things will happen."

Svorinic also said she felt positive about the tournament.

"We're not out of the tournament yet, we have a good shot," Svorinic said.

The Dukes play Saint Louis on Thursday at 7 p.m. and Rhode Island on Friday at 7 p.m., both at the A.J. Palumbo Center.



## swim preview

## Swim teams poised for A-10 run



RYAN SAMANKA/THE DUQUESNE DUKE

Both the women's and men's swim teams have goals to finish in the top three inside the Atlantic 10 Conference.

TONY PIMPINELLA  
the duquesne duke

Coaches and players of the swimming programs agree on the same goal for the upcoming season: finish within the top three spots of the Atlantic 10 Conference.

High aspirations generated this year after a successful 2008-09 campaign which showed both the men's and women's team finishing third in the Atlantic 10 Conference. Though goals are high, the team believes they can reach them and be consistent.

"We want to continue to climb in the Atlantic 10," said head men's and women's swimming coach David Sheets. "For the men's we're looking at the number two spot. For the women's team, that means remaining in third or higher."

The Dukes bring on 11 new swimmers to the program. Current men's swimmers believe the new additions will help the program reach their goals this year.

"This is the first time I've been here when all 18 swimmers can contribute, including the freshman," senior Chris Kobela said.

Men's swimmers agreed. Chemistry is strong, and by pushing one another to their highest potential, success can be achieved.

"We're swimming fast right now and we're looking to being one of the best teams in the A-10," junior Matt Wollenschlaeger said. "As for my role, I just try to score as many points as I can."

The women's squad will be without last year's freshman phenom Monique Lefort, who transferred. Lefort broke a school record in the A-10 Championship last year in the 400-yard individual medley and consistently contributed points throughout the year.

When asked if she'd be missed,

Sheets said, "I don't think so" and expressed his confidence in the current women swimmers' abilities to lead and contribute points.

"We have leadership on the women's team, and I don't think we're going to notice Monique being gone," Sheets said. "We have quality swimmers who can step in and take their place if someone leaves."

The teams are stocked with excellent swimmers, as Sheets believes some of the experienced upper classmen will excel and reach new milestones this year.

"We obviously expect everyone to have good seasons," Sheets said.

Sheets mentioned Roman Becicka, Eddie LeBlanc, Ian Walsh and Brenden Schilling as potential top performers for the season. For the women, Sheets said juniors Erin Sykes and Kirstie Shumaker will swim well along with lone senior Anne Hayles.

"Walsh, Hayles and Schilling are stepping forward and are doing what they need to do," Sheets said. "These are the kinds of kids who epitomize who we want to be as a swimming program."

Though the program is poised for success this year, the team has a "handicap."

"We have a handicap when it comes to diving because we don't have a program here," Sheets said. "It makes it difficult because when they score [through diving], we don't."

Nevertheless, swimmers trust Sheets and appreciate his coaching.

"He's the kind of coach who likes to keep things fresh, he knows where he's coming from and what he's doing," senior Anne Hayles said.

"He likes to have a good time, but he's strict in practice and

makes sure everything gets done," Kobela said.

Despite Sheets motivational impact for the women, Hayles said it is important she leads the younger swimmers by example.

"I try to be a quiet leader through leading by example," Hayles said. "I want to be there for the girls outside of the pool as well, even if it comes to lifting or academics. We also have a new assistant coach who's positive and willing to work with us and to help us get in quality practices."

The season began this past weekend at Buffalo, where they lost 123-114. The Dukes won seven of the nine individual swimming events, but lost by nine points due to the diving event, the team's "handicap."

"We have some good freshmen, it's still early now, but based on their high school records, they give us hope," Sheets said.

The Dukes' home meets this year will take place on November 14 against Clarion and January 23 against Pittsburgh.

"It's important to get as many students as we can out to our swim meets, especially since there's only two at home," Sheets said. "They [the meets] are exciting and have a great atmosphere especially with the success we had last year."

Gold medals by senior Ian Walsh and junior Edward LeBlanc at the A-10 Championship also highlighted the Dukes' success last year.

"If we swim as capable as we can, we can do extremely well," Sheets said.

The men's team lost only one senior over the offseason. A returning cast with new additions should improve as the year goes on since virtually the same team returns to the pool this year.

## The week in sports

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Bradford of Oklahoma University made two big announcements. First, he will have surgery on the injured shoulder that has been plaguing him this season. Secondly, and more importantly, he announced he hopes to enter the 2010 NFL draft, barring complications from surgery.

He should recover from his surgery about one to two months before the draft, which will yield teams a small window to gauge whether or not his shoulder is back at its level of excellence.

Bradford has 15 school records at Oklahoma, including career passing yards and touchdowns. He was injured in the season opener, missed two games and then came back for the rivalry games against Texas, where he left the game injured again.

## That pro football league

There was lots of buzz this weekend about the Steelers-Vikings game, and the teams did not disappoint; however, many other teams

and individuals were in competition for the top headline.

Drew Brees led the Saints back from a huge deficit. The 4-2 Cowboys derailed the 4-2 Falcons. The Texans have a winning record. The 2-5 Raiders got blown away by the 4-3 Jets after beating the then 3-1 Eagles the week before.

And at least the Browns don't plan on sitting QB Derek Anderson. Head coach Eric Mangini said he has no plans to bench Anderson for former first-round pick Brady Quinn. Darn, that's a shame because Anderson has thrown for two touchdowns and seven interceptions.

In other AFC North news, the Bengals are still smokin' hot. They ran and passed all over the Bears in a 45-10 romp Sunday, in which quarterback Carson Palmer was 20-24 with five touchdowns. The Bengals come to Pittsburgh in three weeks, a potential match-up of two-loss teams.

Hopefully that meeting will yield a better result than the first meeting or else Steelers fans might run Mike Tomlin out of town.



BRAD MOROCCO/PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman Josh Patterson (right) was named A-10 Co-Rookie of the Week.

## Patterson shines as freshman

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persona, others are.

Perhaps the one who knows Patterson best is his roommate and teammate Max Kleess. Kleess is full of praise for Patterson both as a player and as a person.

"On the field, he's really motivated, really focused all the time, and he's always giving it 100 percent. He loves the game. But off the field, he doesn't really mention anything about soccer. He's really humble," Kleess said.

Despite his success on the soccer field, for Josh Patterson, life isn't all about getting playing time and scoring goals. At heart, he is a student-athlete, and this fall he has worked to balance his efforts on the field and in the classroom.

"Right now, it's all about getting an education," Patterson

said. "The biggest adjustment has definitely been time management. Time's valuable. It's all about getting school work done before road trips."

Patterson's hard work in the classroom certainly hasn't gone unnoticed. He was recently named the Student Athlete of the Week at Duquesne.

Patterson admitted that if he were ever able to continue playing soccer after college, it would be a dream-come-true, but said a nice office might not be so bad either. Patterson is a sports marketing major and hopes to get a job with a sports team, possibly working in their front office.

Wherever his hard work leads him, there is a world of opportunity in Josh Patterson's future.

For now, though, he's content to put the Dukes on the scoreboard.