



From the Office of the President

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.

REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

Student Athlete Banquet

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Regis University

Thank you.

Tonight, we honor the student athletes of Regis University. We do that because what they do for our community is hard, not easy, but you all get it done. Here are a few examples of your accomplishments:

- 209 student athletes
- 3.347 Fall GPA
- 72 Student Athletes named to RMAC all academic teams
- 3 Academic All-Americans
- Over 3000 hours of Community Service
- 1 RMAC Championship—Men's Soccer
- 35 Student Athletes named to All-RMAC teams
- 2 NCAA Tournament Appearances—Volleyball & Men's Soccer
 - Men's Soccer made it to Elite 8
 - Steve Brault (baseball) drafted by Baltimore Orioles last summer

These Regis University community members, and all of our student athletes, embody what is at the heart of our community.

You have heard the phrase, “Leave it all on the field.” Generally, we know that to mean “spend all your effort; keep nothing back; be single-minded, full of heart, courageous, and spare nothing of your talent and pride in the effort.” What I have seen this year is the embodiment of that saying—on the field, on the court, and in the classroom.

More importantly, you have taught the Regis University community that talents spent on others are not lost, but enhanced. They grow the University community, but go far, far beyond that. A few examples:

Tae'lor Purdy a fifth year student this year, finished her bachelor's degree last year, and because she had one year of eligibility left, stayed for a fifth year to play basketball while working on a graduate degree. Her sister, Bay'lee, transferred to Regis so they could play together. Tae'lor is the woman who never leaves the gym, spending hour after hour every day shooting and getting better. Tae'lor was an Academic All-American as well as an honorable mention All-American.



Will Sabin, a 4th year Cross Country runner and biology major, has many involvements in the Regis Community: RUSGA Executive Cabinet, RUSGA Vice President Leader of the Student Senate, SAAC, FCA charter member, and Office of Student Activities Intramural Sports. Will also volunteers off campus working with Habitat for Humanity, Youth Gang Prevention and senior support services.

Ellen Augsburg, Women's Soccer and RMAC national SAAC representative, started a relationship with Team Impact as they were looking for a school to be their flagship program in the west. Team IMPACT is a non-profit chartered to improve the quality of life for children facing life-threatening illnesses. The organization matches these children with college athletic teams throughout the U.S. to allow them to form bonds with players and escape their medical realities. Regis University is the only school in the West participating in Team IMPACT. We are piloting the program for all schools in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

As a result of Ellen's efforts, a 7-year-old Aurora girl, Daisy Walsh, was "drafted" by the Regis University Women's Lacrosse team.

Last April, Daisy was diagnosed with brain cancer. Since then, she's had surgery to remove a golf-ball sized tumor, went through six weeks of radiation and began chemotherapy.

Through the program, Daisy is a fully functioning member of the team and can join all practices and participate on the sidelines during all games. She will even have a dedicated locker.

Pride and hope. Hard work and courage. A way forward and a future. That is what Regis University student athletes do, not just for the University but for the entire Denver region and our Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

On behalf of a grateful University, thank you and God bless you. We are most proud of all of you.