

November 22, 1999

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to the national champion Parkland College Lady Cobras volleyball team! And congratulations to Parkland student Jodi Huddlestun, who finished first in the NJCAA Division II Cross Country National Championship.

It has been a remarkable semester for Parkland athletes. Not only does the college boast the top volleyball team and cross country runner, the men's and women's cross country teams finished fourth and sixth in the nation, respectively. And this year, three new sports were added to the Parkland line-up: men's and women's soccer and women's tennis.

As great as these accomplishments are, there is something else that is special about Parkland athletes: they are dedicated students. It is difficult to concentrate on studying when practice and competitions take so much time. But Parkland is committed to making sure its athletes are students first. Just as teaching is the foremost goal of the Parkland faculty, helping our student athletes get the best education possible is the foremost goal of our athletics department.

Last year, five Parkland athletes were named NJCAA "Academic All-Americans," having completed at least three semesters with a grade point average of 3.6 or better. Two were "Distinguished Academic All-Americans," with a 3.8 or better. And more than 50 student-athletes had a 3.0 G.P.A or better.

As a member of the Parkland Board of Trustees, I applaud the efforts of our athletes, both on the field and in the classroom, their coaches, advisers, and instructors. I wish all our athletes a wonderful spring season and semester.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Bennett  
Parkland College Trustee  
540 Clover Court  
Gibson City, Illinois

H – 217/784-8540  
W – 309/766-8435