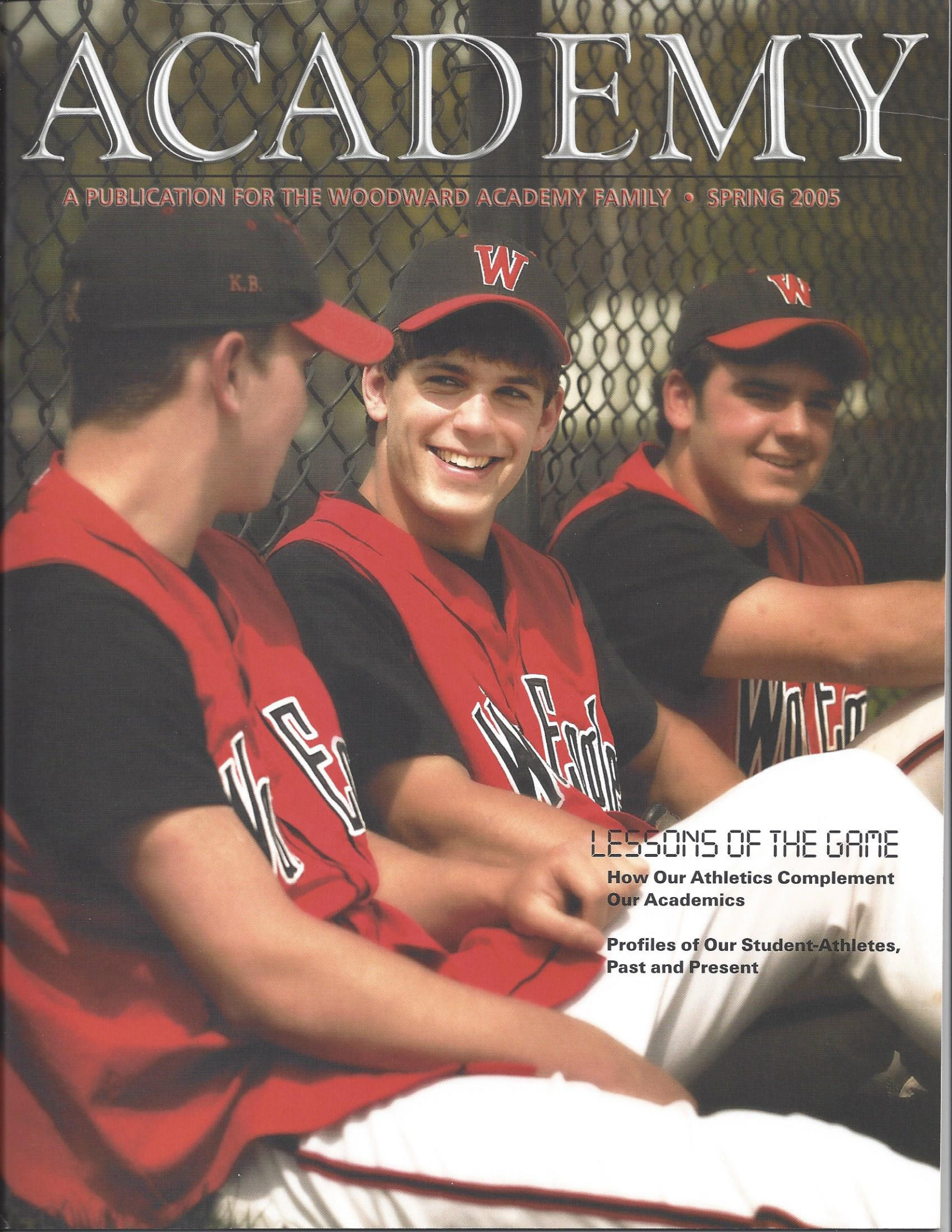


ACADEMY

A photograph of three young men in baseball uniforms sitting in front of a chain-link fence. They are wearing red jerseys with black sleeves and white pants. The player in the center is smiling broadly at the camera. The player on the left is looking towards the center player. The player on the right is also smiling. They are all wearing black caps with a red 'W' logo. The background is a chain-link fence.

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LESSONS OF THE GAME

How Our Athletics Complement
Our Academics

Profiles of Our Student-Athletes,
Past and Present

Dear Academy Readers

We dedicate this issue to the wonderful story of Woodward Academy athletics. We consider participation in physical activity and sports a core part of the life of any well-rounded person, and we know the opportunity to compete at high levels on athletic teams has a special place in the development of many.

This is an exciting time in the life of Academy athletics. Taken together, our many teams are competing better than ever. The great majority of our GHSA interscholastic teams, now numbering 16, have been routinely qualifying for state championships – winning many regional titles, going deep in the brackets in a wide array of sports and winning our share in sports as varied as soccer, riflery and volleyball. Last year, in state AAAA competition, our boys had the highest rating in the state for all sports, and our girls were a close second.

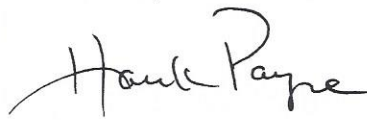
At the same time, we have made dramatic improvements in our facilities and are planning even more. The recent acquisition of nine acres of land on the east end of the campus allowed us to create the beautiful new Shailendra Tennis Complex, and we will soon be layering in four new fields that will enhance our programs in softball, baseball, band, lacrosse, football, soccer and ultimate Frisbee.

We are developing plans for our next major construction project in the area of the current Paget Gym. This project, which we hope and plan to complete within five years,

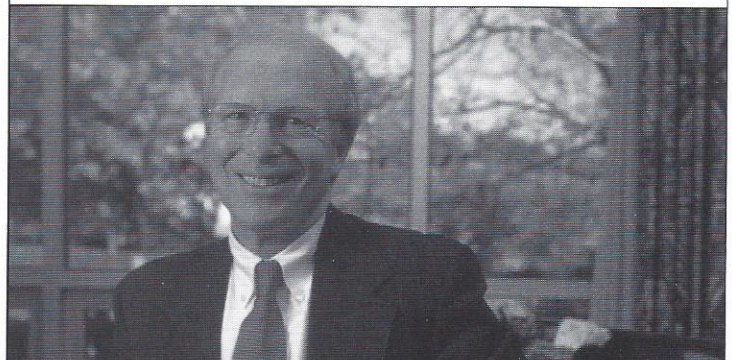
will house courts, lockers (for varsity football and other sports), offices, weight and fitness facilities, a dedicated diving pool, student lounge and campus store.

In all we do, we think optimistically and pursue our goals with pride. Our athletic programs and emerging facilities show just this spirit.

All the best,

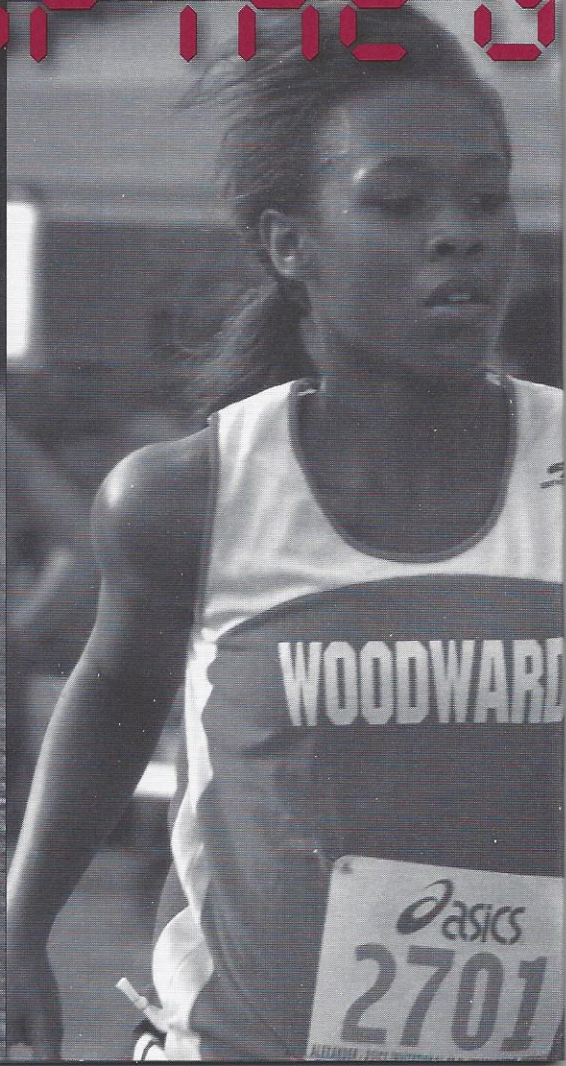
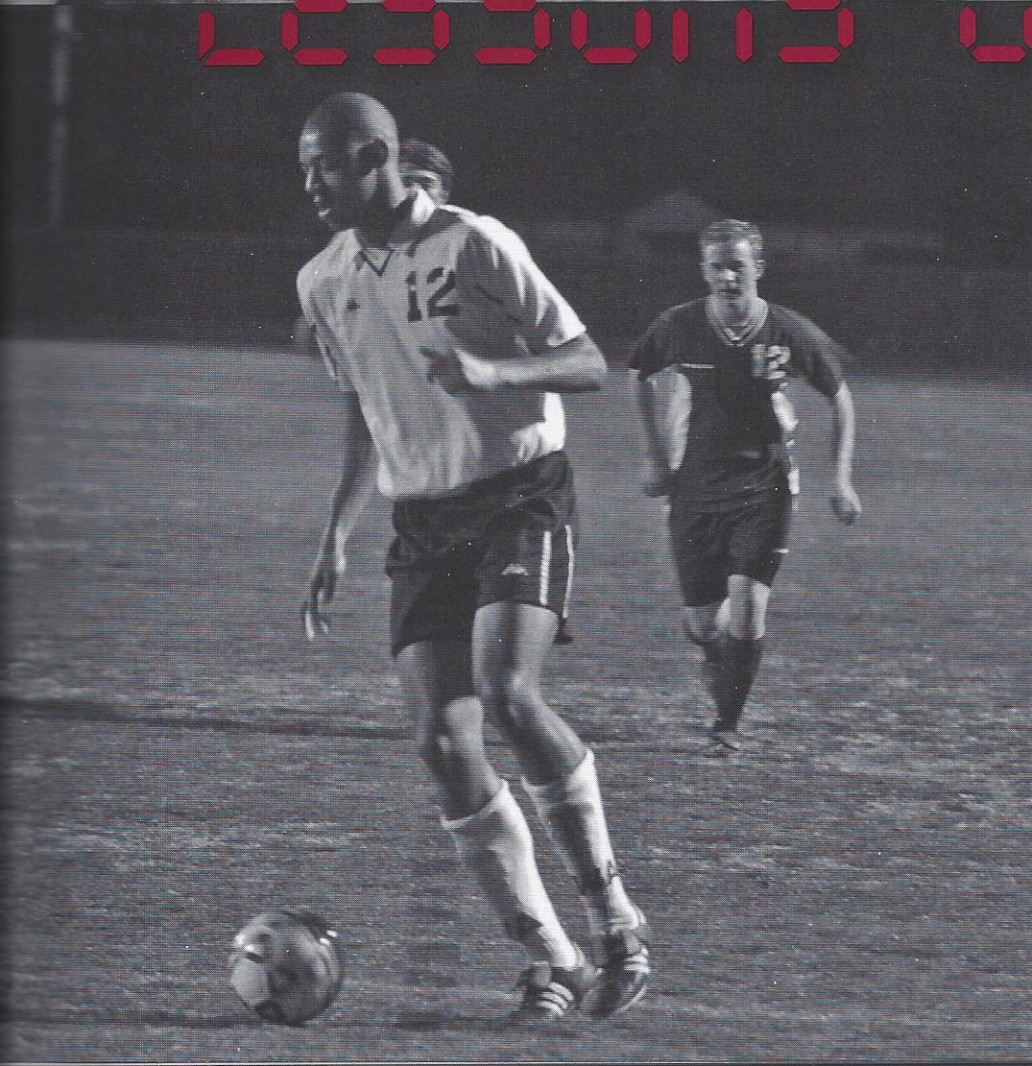


**Dr. Harry C. Payne, President
Woodward Academy**





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While excellence in academics is always Woodward Academy's first priority, the Academy's strong athletics programs complement its academics and serve as an avenue for building character. Athletics is also a vital part of the Academy's culture.

The athletic arena is a place where students learn about themselves and others. Many lessons can be learned on the playing field: dedication to a goal, the value of hard work, the ability to win and lose with dignity and acceptance of responsibility. The list could go on and on. "Students learn to stretch themselves by competing. They learn they can go beyond what they thought they were capable of doing," said Headmaster Ron McCollum. "They also learn how to work as a team for a common good."

In addition to the benefits accrued by individual students, athletics provide common ground for our life as a school family. Woodward Academy's culture and sense of community often center on sports. You only need to attend a varsity football game in the fall to feel the spirit of this great school.

Woodward Academy has a rich athletic tradition. The Academy's roster of past coaches includes names that are legendary among Georgia high school coaches: Grant Gillis, Les Fouts, Manfred Padget, Graham Hixon, Johnny Stallings and Pete Fritts Sr.

There is also a long list of student-athletes who have won prestigious awards, earned scholarships to compete at the college level and even gone on to play professional sports: Kiesha Brown '96 won basketball's Naismith Award for best female high school player in her senior year. Tommy Lyons '66 played football for the University of Georgia and then the Denver Broncos.

Tim Simpson '74 became a golfer on the PGA tour.

The Academy offers a wide range of 16 team sports – from basketball, wrestling and lacrosse to swimming, diving and riflery – so every student can find a sport that matches his or her unique talents and interests. The War Eagles have an impressive record, with many teams reaching championship levels. (In recent years, girls volleyball has fielded an extraordinary team, with the Lady War Eagles capturing four straight AAAA state championships, making Academy and state history.)

Although they share pride in War Eagle wins, our students understand that victory is not the only goal or even the most important one. "We at Woodward have a history of winning and losing with dignity and good sportsmanship," said McCollum. "The characters and friendships formed on the field and memories of games well played are the truly important legacies of athletics. These are the things that accompany our students as they leave the Academy and remain with them throughout their lives."



The girls volleyball team made state history by winning four consecutive championships.