Wallin’s final fling lands 2nd NCAA javelin title

Gabriel Wallin became the first Boise State student-athlete to win two national titles when he successfully defended his championship in the men's javelin at the NCAA TRACK AND FIELD Championships in June.

A senior from Sodertalje, Sweden, Wallin (right) won the event on his first attempt in the preliminary round with a throw of 258 feet, 5 inches. His championship marks the fourth time a track and field athlete has placed first at the NCAAs.

Along with Wallin’s 2004 javelin title, Jake Jacoby won the 1984 outdoor title in the men’s high jump, and Eugene Greene won the triple jump at the 1991 indoor championships. In addition to Wallin, Boise State’s Mattias Jons earned All-America honors when he finished second in the hammer with a throw of 225-11.

Wallin and Jons combined for 18 points to give BSU a 14th-place finish in the team results.

In TENNIS freshman Luke Shields earned All-America honors in both singles and doubles to lead the Broncos. Shields and doubles partner Thomas Schoeck finished as the nation’s eighth-ranked duo to receive All-America recognition. Shields, who was named the 2005 Western Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year, also excelled in singles play, going 35-12 over the season and earning All-America honors by advancing to the round of 16 at the NCAA Tournament. As a team, the Bronco men went 31-8 overall, won the WAC championship, reached the round of 16 in the NCAA Tournament, and finished at No. 31 in the final national rankings.

Gordy Presnell was hired as the new head coach of the WOMEN’S BASKETBALL program. He replaces Jen Warden, who accepted the head coaching position at Colorado State. Presnell (below) has 18 years of head coaching experience and compiled a 396-127 record as the head coach at Seattle Pacific, where his teams amassed an average of 22 wins per season while claiming six conference championships, including four of the last five seasons. This past season Seattle Pacific won its third consecutive league championship, finished at 30-3 overall, and played for the NCAA Division II national championship, losing in the title game.

Overall, Seattle Pacific made postseason appearances in 13 of Presnell’s 18 years. In 2004 Presnell was named NCAA Division II Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association.

Kevin Burton, a Boise native and the teaching professional at Banbury Golf Course in Eagle, was named the new men’s GOLF coach. He replaces Mike Young, who retired after 35 years with the Boise State athletic department. Also in golf, BSU’s Matt Hastings was named WAC Freshman of the Year in a vote of the league’s coaches.

Fifteen Bronco student-athletes who played spring sports and 11 other freshmen and transfers were named to the WAC ALL-ACADEMIC team.

They are:

Women’s golf — senior Jennifer Hedberg and sophomores Charlotte McGinnis and Katie Street.

Men’s tennis — senior Beck Roghaar.

Women’s tennis — senior Carolina Pongratz.

Men’s track and field — seniors Mattias Jons, Mark Welsh and Gabe Wallin.

Women’s track and field — seniors Katy Sharratt and Neely Falgout, juniors Sofie Lundstrom, Miruna Mataoanu and Tess Collins, and sophomores Shawna Zimmerman and Bobbi Wangsgard.

Named to the WAC All-Academic teams as freshmen and transfers are:

Women’s basketball — freshman Tasha Harris.

Football — freshman Nicholas Schlekeway.

Soccer — freshmen Sophie Parrish and Melanie Bohnet.

Men’s tennis — senior Ikaika Jobe and freshmen Luke Shields and Brent Werbeck.

Women’s tennis — freshman Nadja Woschek.

Women’s track and field — freshmen Brittany Gardner, Alina Schimpf and Mikel Barrie.