UC Scholar-Athlete of the Month for August

D.J. Albert

“When I came to UC, it was neat the amount of respect you get as a student athlete,” says junior D.J. Albert, “Coming here (UC) makes you feel like you are part of the elite... and it’s something I take very seriously.”

D.J. Albert, a junior in the Engineering Program at UC, has made his mark on UC through athletics and academics. As a midfielder of the men’s soccer team, D.J. has achieved great things in his time here at UC. It is even more remarkable that he has done these on the field as a Mechanical Engineering major in the ACCEND Program at the College of Engineering and Applied Science.

Balance is a way of life for D.J. Albert. To be successful in every aspect of his life D.J. needs to possess skill, stamina, vision and tactical understanding. As a midfielder on the men’s soccer team, D.J. has to manage both an offensive and defensive position. He is has to juggle supporting the offense while acting as the first line of the defense. Academically D.J. juggles majoring in Mechanical engineering, minoring in business, all while being part of the ACCEND program. The ACCEND program allows students to simultaneously work toward their undergraduate and
master’s degree. D.J. balances his academic and athletic requirements very well. He maintains a 3.54 GPA and has been named UC Scholar-Athlete of the Month for August.

D.J. knows that being a Bearcat is more than just attending UC. He describes the immense amount of work, effort and heart it takes to become a bearcat but says, “It’s a huge privilege and opportunity to be a part of.”

D.J. started his athletic career at UC in 2008, but his season was cut short due to a leg injury which sidelined him for the last five games of the season. Since recovering from his injury, he started 15 matches in 2009, scoring a pair of goals and an assist. He saw over 1200 minutes of action. In the most recent season, in 2010, D.J. started 12 matches and played just over 1100 minutes.

The achievements of a student athlete do not come easily. They take hard work and commitment. The level of focus and balance these students maintain is inspiring. “Believe me it’s sometime hard but there is no reason you still can’t have fun, but it’s about having that discipline and being able to stay on track with what you’re doing”, says D.J. referring to the demands placed on a student athlete.

His advice to future students is, “Know these four years or five years of your life are probably the most important. Probably the ones you are going to be setting up habits for the rest of your life. Really realize all the habits that you do set up are habits that are going to stay with you for the rest of your life.”

D.J. looks forward to entering into his fourth year in the engineering program. He is excited to be taking engineering classes exclusively, two of which are graduate level courses.

On top of D.J.’s rigorous school and athletic schedule, he has also had the opportunity to expand his horizons through the UC co-op program. He has worked throughout his college career for AK Steel Corporation, each time gaining more experience and responsibility.

D.J. has always had different ideas of what he would do when he grew up. He says, “I’ve always had dreams of becoming a professional soccer player, but in reality I can’t tell the future”. In the meantime he balances that dream with the knowledge that he’ll secure a responsible engineering job after graduation.

The College of Engineering and Applied Science Honors Scholar-Athletes

Dean Carlo Montemagno of the University of Cincinnati’s College of Engineering and Applied Science and Bob Arkielpane, Interim Director of the UC Athletics Department announced that the college is sponsoring the UC Scholar-Athlete of the Month award in the 2011-2012 academic year. This is the
fourth year that CEAS has sponsored this honor.

Each month of the academic year, the College of Engineering and Applied Science, CEAS, will recognize a UC scholar-athlete who has demonstrated success both in the classroom and in an athletic arena. To be eligible for the award a scholar-athlete will have completed 2 years of education at UC, have a defined major, a cumulative grade point average (or GPA) of 3.25 or better, be in good standing, and have achieved athletic success.

"CEAS is pleased to recognize scholar-athletes from across the university who stand out both academically and in athletic competition. Their dedication, competitive fire and ability to balance the demands of classroom, athletics and life parallel our own students," stated Dean Montemagno. "Our students balance work and class schedules on a daily basis and are rewarded with top jobs upon graduation."

On behalf of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, I am honored to announce that CEAS recognizes D.J. Albert as the UC Scholar-Athlete of the Month. D.J. is a midfielder on the Men’s Soccer Team. He is an outstanding competitor on the field and a leader in the classroom with a solid GPA in Mechanical Engineering and our challenging ACCEND program where he will graduate with both a BS and a master’s degree. D.J. Albert has earned our acclaim."

"With a GPA of 3.54 and his solid performance on the field, D.J. Albert continues to prove that scholarship and athletics do go “hand-in-hand”. His dedication to excellence during matches and in class is a model for all of our student-athletes," affirms Mr. Arkielpane.

"It is an honor to have one of our collegiate partners, the College of Engineering and Applied Science, stepping forward to recognize our scholar-athletes."

Each UC Scholar-Athlete of the Month is awarded a clock during the Athletics Recognition Banquet in the spring. Additionally, a tribute to each scholar-athlete is made by the college during a home game of each active sport that month.