

# Fourth Goal

Grove City College football is a family affair for Jordan, Mike, Garret and, now, Kalyn Choby

By Brad Isles

**F**or the Choby family, Grove City College is the epitome of a home away from home.

Jordan Choby graduated in 2003 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Mike Choby is beginning his senior year and will graduate with a physics/secondary education degree. Garret Choby is a sophomore majoring in molecular biology/pre-med. Jordan played football for four years under head coach Chris Smith '72, while Mike returns as one of the top players in the Presidents' Athletic Conference. Garret is also a member of the Wolverines football squad. They will be joined on the sidelines this fall by sister Kalyn, a freshman who is assisting athletic trainer Kay Mitchell-Emigh.

"We've had brothers before," Smith said. "But I don't think we've ever had three from the same family with the program at the same time."

They are the children of Scott, a truck driver, and Cathy, a nurse/housewife, of North Huntingdon, Pa. And there are three more kids at home: Jake, who is in eighth grade in the Norwin School District; Hannah, a seventh-grader; and Jolene, a third-grader. Because of their parents, and the upbringing they provided, the decision to attend Grove City College was an easy one for the Chobys.

"They raised us in a way that this school would be a good fit for us," Garret said.

Playing football was also an easy decision. The kids started off playing soccer, but soon switched to football. Athletics was something their parents encouraged and the children developed while they were growing up.

"They've really pushed us," Mike said of his parents. "They had us working all the time, and it's paid off."

Jordan is a former offensive guard who started each game of his senior campaign after also playing tight end and linebacker. Then last year, Mike led the Wolverines defense in tackles (92) and the league in sacks (9½) and tackles for loss (20).

The outside linebacker opened the season with three sacks in GCC's victory over Hiram. Then, in the season finale, he added 10 stops and three tackles for loss, giving him a school record of 40. He went on to earn All-Region honors from Don Hansen's Football Gazette, Second Team All-PAC and CoSIDA Honorable Mention All-American honors.

This year, Smith expects big things from both Mike and Garret, who

registered three tackles in seven games as a freshman while playing on special teams and as a backup linebacker and safety.



**'CHOBY' IS A FAMILIAR NAME ON THE GROVE CITY COLLEGE CAMPUS, BUT A NEW FACE IS JOINING THE RANKS THIS FALL. FRESHMAN KALYN '08 FOLLOWS IN THE FOOTBALL FOOTSTEPS OF, FROM LEFT, MIKE '05, JORDAN '03 AND GARRET '07.** / Photos by Dave Miller

"Mike is established as one of the premier defenders in the conference," Smith said. "We look for him to continue that level of play. Garret is very much in

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# For Chobys, football is a family affair

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line with where Mike was when he was the same age. We expect him to step up and be a bigger contributor. He has the same potential as his brothers.

“They do anything and everything that is asked of them,” Smith continued. “They are, and were, great people to have in your program.”

As if it wasn’t enough to have three boys being a part of the GCC football team, now Kalyn is too. It makes Saturdays in the fall even more like a family reunion. Already 10 to 15 Choby relatives – from grandparents to aunts and uncles, and even members of their church – travel to Grove City on Saturdays in the fall.

“It’s almost like we have a family away from our family at home,” Garret said.

That was one of the draws of GCC, Garret said, because then his parents wouldn’t have to miss one of his games if they were at one of his brother’s.

“IT’S ALMOST LIKE WE HAVE A FAMILY AWAY FROM OUR FAMILY AT HOME”  
Garret Choby ’07

Likewise, Mike came to Grove City because of Jordan. The same can be said for Kalyn. Grove City was the only school any of the four applied to.

Having a family legacy has helped both on the field and off, the quartet agreed. Mike is the Student Government Association president, and he’s on the college’s strategic planning committee and a member of Phi Tau Alpha fraternity. Garret is also a Phi Tau, like his two older brothers were.

But their legacy is perhaps most evident in the classroom, especially with the demanding majors the Chobys

settled on. For Jordan, his degree paid off in the form of a job with Bloom Engineers in the South Park section of Pittsburgh. Mike will be student teaching this spring. Garret spent the summer interning with two doctors from his hometown. Now Kalyn plans to major in English/communication/secondary education with an eye on one day becoming a school psychologist.

“I have big expectations,” she said. “I’m excited to meet the professors and get to know them as opposed to a bigger college where I would just be a number.”

Little does she realize that she is a number – No. 4 – as in the fourth Choby to take part in Wolverine football Saturdays.

They could put her on the roster, right between Mike, who wears No. 3, and Garret, who wears No. 5.

*(Brad Isles is a newspaper editor in Grove City, Pa.)*

## Students learn to knock out injuries in athletic training class

By Leah Acker ’07

While coaches and players seek the thrill of victory on the field, Grove City College head athletic trainer Kay Mitchell-Emigh sees the agony of injury after far too many games. To help students knock out sports-related ailments, she is teaching Basic Principles of Athletic Training to about a dozen students this fall.

Last fall, the two-credit physical education course debuted with 12 available seats, but student interest in the hands-on lecture format enabled the class to expand to 17 students with diverse interests and majors.

“There were students who wanted to go into coaching, physical therapy (or) medicine,” Mitchell-Emigh said.

The course begins with basic structural anatomy and studies common injuries affecting each body part. The

class also covers concussions and heat-related illnesses.

Students also practice treating injuries with a hands-on section on taping, and Mitchell-Emigh makes sure students get a tour of Phillips Field House at Thorn Field to examine the Wolverine football team’s equipment. The course also touches on protective gear utilized by most NCAA sports.

Each class includes demonstrations, complete with X-rays and photographs of injuries. Mitchell-Emigh also incorporates videos showing treatment methods and injuries as they happen.

Students are also required to observe the College’s athletic training room for at least three hours. From watching Mitchell-Emigh treat athletes, the students see rehabilitation programs as well as intense game-day preparation.

“I teach it in the fall because they get

to see what it’s like to work with the football team on game day,” Mitchell-Emigh said. Prior to home football games, the athletic trainer tapes injuries “for an hour and 15 minutes straight.”

Student reaction to the course has been “very positive” because it is “very practical in nature.” And students like the fact that they can “use it in coaching or medicine,” Mitchell-Emigh noted. The course even benefits those outside the fields of education and medicine because it can help future parents identify sports injuries in their children and give them basic treatments.

Therefore, Basic Principles of Athletic Training provides students with information that they’ll use whether they’re doctors, soccer moms or anything in between.

*(Leah Acker ’07 is an electrical engineering major from Mercer, Pa.)*