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LANDMARK

CONFERENCE

2021-22 YEARBOOK



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ABOUT THE LANDMARK



The Landmark Conference is a Division III athletics conference, formed in December of 2005 in an effort to bring together colleges and universities from the Mid-Atlantic region with similar philosophies regarding the role of athletics as part of the overall collegiate experience. On June 6, 2006 it was announced that The Catholic University of America, Drew University, Goucher College, Juniata College, Moravian College, Susquehanna University and The United States Merchant Marine Academy had formed a soon-to-be-named Division III conference, with the University of Scranton becoming the eighth member in November of 2006. Elizabethtown College officially joined the conference as a full member July 1, 2014. In the summer of 2016, USMMA, departed the Landmark Conference, bringing the total of institutions back to eight. In February 2022, the Landmark's Executive Board confirmed the acceptance of Lycoming College and Wilkes University as the league's ninth and 10th full-time members.

The most literal inspiration for the Landmark Conference's name comes from the many well-known physical landmarks of the Mid-Atlantic region encompassed by the conference. The name also reflects the significance of the institutions' decision to align themselves with other colleges and universities of similar size, educational philosophies and high academic standards. It highlights the Landmark Conference's intention to stand out not only in athletics, but also in academics, emphasizing educational achievement and the important role played by athletics in the undergraduate experience.

Demonstrating the Landmark Conference's dedication to helping student-athletes balance their obligations and excel across disciplines, conference leaders decided to hold long-distance games only on weekends, minimizing the time student-athletes spend away from class. The conference institutions boast some of the best academic reputations in the region, and the eight programs have combined to produce numerous Academic All-Americans and Academic All-District selections in recent years.

The conference sponsors championships in field hockey, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and men's and women's cross country in the fall, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming and diving and men's and women's indoor track and field



during the winter and baseball, softball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's golf, and men's and women's outdoor track in the spring. It will begin sponsoring football in the Fall of 2023.

The Landmark features perennial national powers in nearly every sport including men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, women's lacrosse, and softball, and provides all student-athletes with high-level competition.

The conference's eight institutions are spread throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, stretching from northern Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C. in the south. The geographic diversity creates even greater opportunity for growth for the Landmark's student-athletes. When the conference began competition in the fall of 2007 it marked a new chapter in the history of each of the member institutions as the programs grow together in their unique athletic and academic enterprise.



MEN'S GOLF FRESHMAN IS YOUNGEST ELECTED OFFICIAL IN DC

Catholic University men's golf rising sophomore Diego Rojas dipped his feet into college life and local politics in the nation's capital. At 18 years old, he is believed to be the youngest elected official in Washington, D.C.

Rojas was sworn in on Dec. 9, 2021 as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for District 5A-4, an area that encompasses Catholic University, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Capuchin College.

"It was great to see it all come into fruition," said Rojas. "It was a great day and that day made me thankful for the opportunity I was given."

A native of the Washington, D.C., area, Rojas grew up in South Florida and is majoring in business management and finance. He chose Catholic University for his undergraduate studies because it offered him numerous opportunities, from participating on the golf team to receiving a world-class education experience in and out of the classroom.

"What set apart Catholic for me was number one, the location, being in D.C. And I always wanted to go to a religious school, too," Rojas said. "I also love the business school at Catholic because they teach business in a Catholic way and a Christ-like way. 'Become a Force for Good' is one of the mottos of the Busch School."

ANC Commissioners are elected community representatives in the District of Columbia. The city's 40 ANCs provide local residents a greater voice in issues affecting their neighborhoods.

As a commissioner, Rojas served as the neighborhood's official voice in advising the local government and federal agencies on issues affecting his district, including zoning, streets, recreation, social services, education, planning, budget and health services. Commissioners serve two-year terms without pay.

Since Rojas filled a vacant seat, his term lasted one year and he plans to run again in 2022 for the post. One of his priorities is to support local businesses.

"Being a commissioner is just another way that I can try to continue giving back to the community and try to live what I feel called



to do, which is to make America a better place," he added.

Besides politics and academics, Rojas has independently published two books and is passionate about golf.

As a freshman on the men's golf team, he participated in eight rounds with an 81.00 scoring average. His best round of the season came in his collegiate debut when he shot a four-over par 75 in the Elizabethtown Fall Invitational on Sept. 14, 2021, finishing

16th out of 70 golfers.

He believes anyone can reach their goals and dreams and can contribute to making their communities a better place.

"Our lives here are temporary, but the work that we do, that is what lives on forever. Anybody can go out and do anything, and that is what I try to do every day," Rojas said.

Note: Originally appeared on the University website in February 2022



KREUZWIESER WINS ON UNIVERSITY’S ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY

Catholic University men’s cross country and track & field senior Joel Kreuzwieser was among the winners from Catholic University’s seventh annual Research Day on April 7.

The event, which began in 2016, showcases the array of research being conducted by students, faculty, and staff of Catholic University. After two-straight years of being virtual due to COVID, The event was held in-person for the first time since 2019.

Several members of Athletics were involved in this year’s event that featured 184 presentations, live performances from students from the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art, and six food trucks.

Kreuzwieser was selected as the winner of the Undergraduate Oral Presentation for Photonic Nanoparticles and Laser Lithotripsy for Treating Calcium Oxalate Kidney Stones. It marked the second consecutive year that a student-athlete was selected as the winner.

In 2021, volleyball senior Christina Ciola won for Machine Learning for Detection of Intractable Seizure Location in Pediatric Patients with EEG Data.

“My presentation was about applying nanotechnology and lasers for breaking kidney stones,” said Kreuzwieser. “My topic was a research proposal that I was tasked with testing when I was an undergraduate research intern at the Lerner Research Institute of the Cleveland Clinic during the summer of 2021. The results which were found inspired me to show the world the power and potential that alternative research has in shaping the future.”

Kreuzwieser is a two-time Landmark Conference Fall Academic Honor Roll selection who is a double major in physics and music. A three-sport athlete at Catholic, he made his presentation virtually.

“Pre-recording my presentation allowed me to connect not only just to fellow Catholic University members, but also to anyone curious about the interests and activities of University students,” he added. “It only fueled my excitement for research day and helped me to be more determined to give people the best info during the in-person poster presentation session.”

Last fall, Kreuzwieser posted a personal-best time of 29:43.5 at the 2021 Landmark



Conference Cross Country Championships. On the track, he posted a personal record in the mile indoors at the Susquehanna Invite on Feb. 12 while registering a new PR in the 1,500 meters outdoors at the Bison Classic on Saturday.

“Participating in Research Day allowed me to be myself,” he added. “It truly felt amazing all the success that can be felt from hard work paying off. It made me proud to be a Catholic University student because, to simply put it, Deus Lux Mea Est (God Is My Light).”

Meanwhile, women’s swimming senior Madeline Seeley-Hacker and field hockey senior Claire Flannery presented for the second consecutive year.

In February, Seeley-Hacker earned All-Landmark Conference Second Team honors in the 3-meter diving as Catholic finished second at the 2022 Landmark Conference Swimming & Diving Championships.

Seeley-Hacker has worked in the Suicide

Prevention Lab on campus for the past three years and her presentation was a presentation of her senior thesis research. It revolved around her research into how different aspects of written clinical responses of suicidal adolescents are related to their suicide risk.

Flannery’s presentation, in which she collaborated with former Athletics graduate assistants Hannah Thomas, Caroline Weppner, Tommy Minkler and Megan Hut, was entitled Collegiate Athlete Recommendations for Improving Mindfulness Training.

For the past two years, Flannery has been the undergraduate research assistant in the Mindfulness & Sport Lab advised by Dr. Carol R. Glass, which researches the effectiveness of MSPE for college athletes, as well as the overall role of mindfulness in sport.

A total of 16 student-athletes and one staff member made presentations on Research Day.



DREW

Q&A WITH MICHAEL MCSLOY

Your team at St. Joseph's enjoyed an outstanding season last year, posting its best record in seven years, its first conference playoff berth in five years, and a win over the 15th-ranked team in Division III. To what do you attribute the team's success last year?



Thank you. The credit belongs to the players, they really bought into the idea of playing a very unselfish brand of basketball. The guys never seemed to care who got the credit or who scored the most,

as long as we won they were happy and that was a huge key to our success.

You've had the opportunity to help lead a number of strong programs as an assistant coach, including Gettysburg, NYU, and Vassar. How did some of your previous stops help mold you as a coach?

I believe each school I worked at really helped prepare me to be a head coach. First, working in different athletic departments and seeing how each one operates gave me an even better understanding of what a successful Division III athletic department looks like and also how I can help in that effort. I was very fortunate to work for some amazing head coaches who mentored me and showed me how to be a coach. The thing about each of the above schools mentioned is that each school was targeting a different type of recruit, so I quickly had to adjust and quickly figure out which recruits we could yield that could help our program be successful.

What attracted you to Drew University?

The recent success of the program initially generated my interest. Coach Keckler and his staff did an amazing job of building Drew Basketball into one of the better programs in the Landmark Conference. But as I was going through the process a couple of other things stood out to me. First, is the location. Drew is a beautiful campus and just a short train ride away from NYC. The next thing that attracted me to Drew was the players and how much they cared for one another and that the program's culture seems to have a very strong foundation.



What is your vision for Drew Men's Basketball?

My vision is to continue to build upon the strong foundation Coach Keckler laid here. Our immediate goal is to improve every day both on and off the court. I feel like if we do that, we can be successful and hopefully compete at the top of a very competitive Landmark Conference.

How would you describe your coaching style?

I will always try to adapt my style to the strengths of our current roster. With that being said, I think you can expect us to still play an up-tempo style that will be fun to watch. As for me in practice or on the sidelines I try to bring a lot of positive energy in order to give our players the confidence they need to be successful.

How did your coaching career get started?

I had to do a fifth year of school in order to graduate from SUNY Maritime (due to losing credits when I transferred) and during that time, the new head coach, Jake Scott, asked me to join him on staff. He taught me a lot

and I immediately fell in love with coaching. **Who have been some of the biggest influences in your career?**

For starters, my grandfather "Pop" was one of my first coaches and we spent numerous hours together through basketball. Other coaches along the way that helped me tremendously were my high school coaches Brian Carey and Dave Shouler along with the head coaches I worked for - Jake Scott, Tom Satran, BJ Dunne, and Joe Nesci.

What do you like best about coaching?

My favorite part of coaching is the chance to meet so many different people and the opportunity to develop lifelong relationships. The camaraderie portion of being a part of a team is something that I also love.

If you weren't coaching, what would you be doing?

Truthfully, I'm not sure. Basketball is my passion so I would definitely still be involved in the game somehow but I'd probably spend more time working at my below-average golf game, haha.



GET TO KNOW DREW FIELD HOCKEY COACH: SUMMER WASHBURN

After your hiring in January, you had the opportunity to work with your team this past spring. Can you talk about your first impressions so far?

We had a great spring - the team is a fun group with a strong foundation and culture. They did everything I asked of them, put in work on and off the field, and we saw good progress in a short time. I can't wait to get them back on campus, have a season with them, and continue to make progress as a team and a program.

Before arriving at Drew, you helped both Babson and Trinity (Conn.) to a high level of success. How do you feel your previous stops have impacted you as a coach?

I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work at both Trinity and Babson leading up to Drew. The exposure to high-caliber athletes, experienced coaches and mentors, and supportive departments was incredibly impactful early on in my career and opened my eyes to the possibilities these students-athletes can achieve. I coached both field hockey and lacrosse at Trinity and was able to work with and learn from two different coaching styles. At Babson, I was given a lot of responsibility and freedom from the head coach, which helped me grow as a coach and a leader. We saw increasing success each year at Babson, ending with a NEWMAC conference title and a trip to the Elite 8 my final year there.

How would you describe your coaching style?

I like to create an environment for competition. We make everything a competition and play a lot of small-sided games, which I believe helps lead to more focus and purpose with what we are doing.

What attracted you to Drew University?

Drew is in a great location, provides its students with a top-notch education and experiences to prepare them for life after college, and the field hockey program has a strong history of success with an incredible alumni network supporting the players.

You enjoyed an outstanding career as a student-athlete at Salisbury University, earning First-Team All-America honors as a senior. What lessons did you take away from your playing days that have stuck with you as a coach?



Being a collegiate student-athlete is a really special opportunity and experience. The biggest things I took away from my playing days are how important it is to be a team player, accountability, and to enjoy all parts of the ride - the ups, the downs, the wins and the losses.

How did your coaching career get started?

I have been surrounded by sports my whole life and didn't want to give up the team aspect and daily routine of going to practice. My dad is a coach, many of my siblings are coaches, and I was fortunate to have had incredible coaches in high school and college who have all impacted who and where I am today. My college coach, Dawn Chamberlin, played a large role in helping me navigate and get my foot in the door for coaching, leading me to

the graduate assistant position at Trinity as my first stop after graduation.

Who have been some of the biggest influences in your career?

My dad, my high school coaches (Kate Dolan and Martha Fenton), my college coach (Dawn Chamberlin), and the Babson field hockey head coach (Julie Ryan).

What do you like best about coaching?

I love the atmosphere around sports and teams, and the relationships I have built with my players

If you weren't coaching, what would you be doing?

I would probably be a Phys Ed teacher somewhere or working at a boarding school in New England.



SAAC HELD SECOND ANNUAL CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT THE BLUE JAY PANTRY



In the fall of 2021, Elizabethtown College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) partnered with the American Cornhole League Keystone State Cornhole Association to hold its second annual corn hole tournament, raising \$370 for the Blue Jay Pantry, a space on campus dedicated to providing Etown students with free, non-perishable food items sourced by charitable donations from within our community.

A total of 37 teams participated in the first SAAC event of the year, ranging from athletes to students, to staff, and faculty. The

winning team of Ben Watson and Andrew Fisher earned entry into the ACL National College Cornhole Championship in Myrtle Beach, S.C. at the end of the year.

The donations supported Etown's Blue Jay Pantry which is committed to ensuring that all students have regular access to healthy food options. The Blue Jay Pantry was established by Etown's Center for Community and Civic Engagement and joins over 700 College's nationwide that operate an on-campus food pantry as a member of the College and University Food Bank Alliance (CUFBA). CUFBA provides colleges and universities

with support, training, and resources to connect more students with the food and resources they need for educational success.

Student-athletes have a voice in the NCAA through advisory committees at the campus, conference, and national level. Each committee is made up of student-athletes assembled to provide insight on the student-athlete experience and offer input on the rules, regulations, and policies that affect student-athletes' lives on campus. One of the many functions of the SAAC is to organize community service efforts and promote a positive student-athlete image on campus.



ELIZABETHTOWN SAAC HOSTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS SWIM MEET



On Sunday, March 27, the Elizabethtown College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), in partnership with the NCAA and Special Olympics of Lancaster County, hosted a Special Olympics swim meet on campus in the Alumni Pool. Blue Jay student-athletes from all sports volunteered the morning of the meet to ensure the success of the event.

This was the fourth time the Etown SAAC hosted a Special Olympics swim meet and the first time since 2019. 66 athletes from Lancaster, Chester, North Uمبرland Snyder, Lebanon, Berks, and Philadelphia County competed across 34 events.

“It was great to have this event back

on campus for the first time since 2019,” said SAAC Community Service Chair, Will Rhodunda. “The meet was a great opportunity for our group to engage and connect with the athletes competing today. I look forward to the event returning to its annual status and seeing this group next year.”

More than 120 student-athletes volunteered at the meet, making it the largest service project of the year for SAAC. In the fall, the group also lived out the College’s “Educate for Service” motto by hosting its second annual corn hole tournament, raising \$370 for the Blue Jay Pantry, a space on campus dedicated to providing Etown students with free, non-perishable food

items sourced by charitable donations from within our community.

Founded in 1983, Special Olympics of Lancaster County is a year-round sports training and competition program for individuals from ages 6 and up with intellectual disabilities. Lancaster County offers 15 different Olympic-type sports at no cost to the athletes or their families.

Special Olympics sports have specially adapted rules sanctioned by the International Sports Federation of each to make them competitive for individuals with intellectual disabilities.



GOUCHER STUDENT-ATHLETES GET INVOLVED IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT



With a return to campus for Goucher College students last fall, one aspect of student life that had been missing during remote learning was involvement in student government. With the restart of student government last fall, several Gopher student-athletes took advantage of the opportunity to get involved to help serve the Goucher community.

Cam Isaacs, a recently-graduated senior on the men's basketball team, is the most high-profile of that group. Isaacs was elected Vice President in September and served in that role this past year despite no real prior interest in politics.

"I knew how important it was to get involved, especially as a graduating senior and applying to grad school," said Isaacs, a native of nearby Randallstown, Maryland. "I'll be honest I was never into politics but when the opportunity presented itself, I knew it would be a chance to work on my leadership skills, so I went ahead and just went for it and ended up being elected vice president."

Elizabeth Bobo, a women's volleyball junior from Milford, Pennsylvania, had been involved with student government before the COVID pause. She had been approached by a faculty member about serving as club council treasurer and had been shadowing a graduating senior to take over that role when things stopped in 2020.

Now, she serves as the Executive Director of Student Organizations, overseeing the various run student clubs on campus. One of the things she likes about serving in that role is connecting with groups across campus.

"When I came to Goucher I knew I was going to meet a lot of different people, but in this position, I really get into the nitty-gritty of getting to know different people and their

backgrounds. I feel like that I am always just learning about all these different clubs," said Bobo. "I feel a lot closer to certain people, and when I see people on campus, it's more than just small talk, we have specific things that we can talk about."

Men's soccer sophomore Jeff Castro got involved with student government this past semester and currently serves as club treasurer, working closely with Bobo. Although he is a Political Science major, Castro didn't get involved until now between virtual learning and being a member of the men's soccer team, for which he started every game in goal in 2021.

"I was always intrigued about student government on campus, but my freshman year it wasn't really a thing since we were completely virtual, and in the fall I didn't get involved because I was busy with soccer," said Castro, who hails from Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. "The spring rolled around and (president) Ty'lor Schnella let me know the treasurer position was opening up."

"In my role, I'm essentially communicating back and forth with the different student organizations, whether it be Humans Vs. Zombies or the Nomad Student Organization. We just communicate with them about money that they request for events and things like that."

Being an NCAA Division III student-athlete already comes with an intense set of time demands and throwing another time-consuming commitment such as student government certainly isn't for everyone, but it can be manageable with support from those on campus.

"I would say get involved anyway," said Bobo on her advice to someone who doesn't think they have time for student government.

"For me, it comes down to planning ahead of time, and with having such a busy schedule, it makes it hard for me to procrastinate. When I have so many different things to do, it forces me to be more scheduled and more organized."

"It can be a lot and it can creep in on the academic part of your workload, but for me it's been a genuinely amazing experience," said Castro. "I would recommend serving on student government to anyone, but I would warn them that it takes a lot of organization and diligence."

Through his involvement as Vice President, Isaacs had the opportunity to speak at President Kent Devereaux's inauguration last September as the student speaker, someplace he didn't envision himself when he enrolled at Goucher in the fall of 2018.

"Four years ago, I would never see myself doing anything like that. It was a great experience to be a part of that. I had the opportunity to meet several trustees and others who have had a lasting impact on the school. It gave me a lot of knowledge and a lot of insight to take back to student government, and it gave me a lot I can use in life going forward."

Isaacs hopes that by seeing himself and others like Bobo and Castro in leadership roles on student government, it will help more student-athletes want to get involved.

"We want people to get involved because student government is about advocating for all students. We want to make sure that our student-athletes have a voice as well because sometimes all we do is go to practice and games, go to class, and you don't see us. I want to change that narrative and make sure that everyone's involved on campus."



EMILY POSTLETHWAIT NAMED AS GOUCHER'S NCAA WOMAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Emily Postlethwait, a recently graduated member of the Goucher College field hockey team, was announced as Goucher's nominee for the 2022 NCAA Woman of the Year award, it was announced on Friday.

The NCAA Woman of the Year program was established in 1991 and honors the academic achievements, athletics excellence, community service and leadership of graduating female college athletes from all three divisions. To be eligible, a nominee must have competed and earned a varsity letter in an NCAA-sponsored sport and must have earned her undergraduate degree by Summer 2022.

Eligible female student-athletes are nominated by their member school. Each conference office then reviews the nominations from its core member schools (and sponsored sports) and submits its conference nominee(s) to the NCAA. All nominees who compete in a sport that is not sponsored by their school's primary conference, as well as associate conference nominees and independent nominees, will be sent to a separate pool to be considered by a committee. Then, the NCAA Woman of the Year selection committee identifies the Top 30 – 10 from each division – and from there selects three finalists from each division. From the nine finalists, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics then selects the NCAA Woman of the Year, who will be named later this fall.

"It is an honor to be nominated as Goucher's NCAA Woman of the Year. I never would have imagined when I started field hockey eight years ago that I would be here, but I am so grateful for this opportunity and for the athletics staff for selecting me," said Postlethwait. "I owe this nomination to my incredible teammates and brothers, our GA Maya Belin, Coach Eversley, and the athletics staff, especially the trainers, who helped me survive and excel this past season. Thank you all for always believing in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. Truly the best support an athlete can have, and I wouldn't be who I am today, both on and off the field, without you."

Postlethwait was a four-year member



of the Gopher field hockey program. In 41 career games over three seasons (the 2020 season was cancelled due to the CoVID-19 pandemic), Postlethwait was in the starting lineup 31 times, including every game in which she appeared over her final two seasons. She totaled four goals and a pair of assists and was a Landmark Conference Second Team All-Conference selection as a senior.

Postlethwait graduated Summa Cum Laude in May, 2022 with a degree in Psychology. She was a four-time NFHCA National Academic Squad member and was named a NFHCA Scholar of Distinction in the spring of 2022. A member of Chi Alpha Sigma, the national student-athlete honor

society, Postlethwait was also inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa and Psi Chi honor societies this spring.

Off the field, Postlethwait was involved with a mentored research team that developed and administered a study and wrote a manuscript for publication on Zoom's effect on cognitive load. She was involved with the Gophers Vote Initiative in 2020 that encouraged and aided every student-athlete on campus to vote in the 2020 elections as well as with the Gopher Ally Coalition that along with the Black Gophers helped to combat racial and other injustices present on campus in surrounding areas. Postlethwait also served as a supplemental instructor for Statistical Methods in Psychology as a senior.



JUNIATA PRESIDENT JIM TROHA APPOINTED NCAA PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL VICE CHAIR

Juniata College President James Troha was selected to serve as vice-chair of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III President's Council.

"I'm very honored, and excited to have been selected for this national leadership appointment with the NCAA," said President Troha. "I am a fierce supporter of DIII athletics and the role it plays in our institutions. I think the experiences we provide our student-athletes are often transformational and life-changing. I look forward to working with my colleagues in ensuring that we continue to deliver the excellence we all expect and that our students deserve."

The President's Council is the highest governing body in Division III. The Council establishes and directs the general policy of the Division, while also establishing Division III's strategic plan. Presidents Council can make recommendations to the Board of Governors, the Association's highest governing body, on matters related to Division III such as championships, and may approve the use of funds allocated to the Division. The 18 Presidents Council members are elected in balloting open to all presidents and chancellors at member institutions.

"The Landmark Conference is thrilled to see one of our leaders be named to a prominent seat on the NCAA Division III President's Council," said Landmark Conference Commissioner Katie Boldvich. "President Troha has been an integral part of the growth of the Landmark, and we look forward to his larger role on the national committee."

Troha has been president of Juniata College, a national liberal arts college enrolling about 1,300 undergraduates since 2012. He has led Juniata to pursue alignment and influence with national organizations that reflect the College's values. Under Troha's leadership, Juniata has joined the Pennsylvania Consortium for the Liberal Arts, where he serves as chair, and the American Talent Initiative. Troha is treasurer of the board of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania and is a board member of the National Association of Independent Colleges



and Universities. Additionally, Troha is the former chair of the Landmark Conference, the intercollegiate athletic conference affiliated with NCAA's Division III.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Troha earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 1991

and went on to earn a master's degree in counseling in 1993, both from Edinboro University, in Edinboro, Pa. In 2005, he earned a doctorate in educational policy and leadership from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.



AYERS '06 SELECTED TO BE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AT JUNIATA



The Juniata College athletic department was thrilled to announce the return of Nikki Ayers '06 as the Director of Athletics, following a nationwide search. She served as the Associate Athletic Director and the Senior Woman Administrator at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps. Ayers joined Juniata on July 15.

"It is very exciting to welcome Nikki Ayers BACK to the Juniata community. Nikki brings with her a breadth of experience, palpable positive energy, a highly competitive spirit, and a tremendous desire to support our student-athletes in and out of the classroom,"

said President Jim Troha. "I am really looking forward to working with her in this capacity and supporting her in any way that I can."

Ayers is the first full time Director of Athletics to lead the athletics department.

"I am extremely humbled and honored to have the opportunity to return to Juniata as its next Director of Athletics," said Ayers. "This place holds a very special place in my heart, and I am excited to hit the ground running this summer working with the amazing coaches, staff, and student-athletes. It was very clear during the interview process that the campus community is excited about the future of Juniata Athletics, and I firmly believe that our coaches and student-athletes have the passion and ability to take Juniata to the next level."

Ayers returned to Huntingdon after spending the past six years at Claremont McKenna College where she was most recently the Associate AD/SWA, Deputy Title IX Coordinator and in charge of human resources for athletics. She held previous titles within the CMS athletic department, including Assistant AD for Administration and Compliance, Assistant Director of Events and Operations for Roberts Pavilion and was also an assistant women's soccer coach.

Ayers is also heavily involved in the National Association of Collegiate Directors of

Athletics (NACDA), The National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators (NADIIIA) and Women Leaders in College Sports. She was also recently selected for the NCAA Pathway Program, which is a rigorous leadership development opportunity to help senior-level administrators prepare for the role of director of athletics or conference commissioner.

Prior to her time at CMS, she worked at Juniata for the first time in the role of assistant women's soccer coach, where she coached under then head coach and current Associate Athletic Director Scott McKenzie. She also made stops at Knox College and Grinnell College. She was the head coach at Knox for four seasons and also oversaw intramural sports and the fitness center.

Ayers is the most decorated soccer player in Juniata's history. In 2018, she was the first soccer player to be inducted in the college's Hall of Fame. This was after a career that saw her make the Middle Atlantic Conference all-conference team four straight years and win the Charles Bargerstock Award, which is presented to the senior female athlete who has made the greatest contribution to Juniata Athletics. She still is the all-time leader in school history in points, goals, and assists. She also holds the single season record for assists.

Ayers graduated from Juniata in 2006 with a POE in Sports Management and earned her master's in leadership from Duquesne University in 2012. She will be joined by her husband Jake and her children, Kennedy and Ben.

"I want to thank President Troha, Matthew Damschroder, Jason Moran, Heather Pavlik, Greta Hall, Ben Grant, Nikole Koenig and Gerry Kruse for their service on the search committee," Ayers continued. "I would also like to thank my colleagues at CMS- Erica Perkins Jasper, Randy Town and Steve Graves for all of their guidance and support over the last six years. My time and experiences with CMS truly prepared me for this next step and I couldn't imagine a place I would rather be than Juniata. My family and I are very much looking forward to being a part of the Juniata community again. Go Eagles!"

NEWS IN BRIEF

LANDMARK MEMBERSHIP TO EXPAND; LYCOMING & WILKES TO JOIN IN '23



The Landmark Conference will welcome two new institutions to its membership, beginning in the summer of 2023, as the Landmark's Executive Board confirmed the acceptance of Lycoming College and Wilkes University as the league's ninth and 10th full-time members.

The Landmark Presidents Council also unanimously voted to add football as a conference-sponsored sport beginning with the Fall 2023 season. The additions of Lycoming and Wilkes brings the total of Landmark football-playing institutions to six as they join Catholic University, Juniata College, Moravian University, and Susquehanna University on the gridiron. Football increases the Landmark's NCAA sport offerings to 23 and marks the first new sport offered by the conference since the league added Women's Golf in 2018.

The introduction of Lycoming and Wilkes to the league concludes a thorough strategic membership process undertaken by the Landmark's executive leadership team that began in February 2020. The conference office, in conjunction with institutional Presidents, Athletic Direct Reports, and

Athletic Directors explored new affiliations for the conference while considering academic data, institutional resources, varsity sports offerings, and geography. After thorough consideration and benchmarking, Lycoming and Wilkes distinguished themselves as ideal candidates to join the Landmark Conference.

Lycoming (Williamsport, Pa.) and Wilkes (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) join member-institutions Catholic (Washington, D.C.), Drew University (Madison, N.J.), Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, Pa.), Goucher College (Baltimore, Md.), Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.), Moravian University (Bethlehem, Pa.), The University of Scranton (Scranton, Pa.), and Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, Pa.).

"This is an exciting time for the Landmark Conference, and I am excited to lead such a strong group of institutions through this historic change," stated Landmark Conference Commissioner, Katie Boldvich. "The additions of Lycoming College and Wilkes University builds on the already strong Landmark brand while also creating new competitive opportunities and strategic

goals for the league. I look forward to working with both institutions during their transition and look forward to building strong relationships with their institutional leadership, athletic department staff, coaches, and student-athletes alike."

This expansion marks only the third change to conference membership in the past 15 years. Lycoming and Wilkes will be the second full-time additions to the league's membership in the past eight years, with Elizabethtown coming as the other addition in 2014.

"The Landmark Conference members are some of our finest institutions of higher education in the nation," remarked Moravian University President and Landmark Executive Chair, Bryon Grigsby. "We all share a common belief about the power of a liberal arts education and the value of being a true student-athlete. Today, the Landmark became even stronger with the addition of Lycoming and Wilkes to our athletic family and the addition of football to our athletic offerings. It is truly exciting to be part of a growing, vibrant conference."

Lycoming sponsors 19 intercollegiate

varsity programs at the NCAA Division III level, of which 17 align with current Landmark sponsorships. The Warriors announced the addition of both baseball and field hockey as varsity sports beginning with the 2022-23 academic year. Along with baseball and field hockey, Lycoming joins men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming & diving, men's golf, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's tennis, and softball as Landmark-sponsored sports.

Wilkes currently sponsors 23 NCAA Division III programs, 18 of which the Landmark sponsors. The Colonels will compete in Landmark-sponsored sports in men's and women's cross country, field hockey, men's and women's soccer, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming, baseball, softball, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's golf, and men's and women's tennis.

Both institutions have enjoyed rich athletics history with success at the conference and national level.

FOR LYCOMING

- 215 All-Americans
- 28 Academic All-Americans
- 4 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipients
- 2 National Final appearances (1990, 1997 Division III Football)
- 43 conference championships
- 10 Individual National Champions
- Final 2019 Learfield Standing: 202nd

FOR WILKES

- 110 All-Americans
- 67 conference championships
- 15 Academic All-Americans
- 11 Individual National Champions

- 1 Team National Championships
- Final 2019 Learfield Standing: 180th

"Lycoming College is pleased to accept the invitation to become a full member of the Landmark Conference, said Lycoming President Kent Trachte. "We have great memories of our rich athletic history in the Middle Atlantic Conference. We also celebrate a future in the Landmark Conference that has great promise and potential to create an exciting next chapter in the history of Lycoming Warrior athletics. We look forward to reinvigorating past rivalries and establishing new ones as we continue the work of developing the characteristics of leadership, grit, sacrifice, self-discipline, and a strong work ethic by affording students the opportunity to compete in intercollegiate sports. We are confident that membership in the Landmark Conference advances Lycoming's identity as a national liberal arts college."

Academically, Lycoming and Wilkes are highly competitive both throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and nationally. According to U.S. News.com National Liberal Arts College Rankings, Lycoming ranks 124th. They join fellow Landmark members Juniata (#75), Drew (#117), Elizabethtown (t-#117), Goucher (t-#117), Susquehanna (t-#117), and Moravian, who ranks 141st.

On the U.S. News.com National Universities ranking, Catholic ranks 136th while Wilkes ranks 241st.

Scranton ranks fifth in the U.S. News.com Regional Universities list.

"Joining the Landmark Conference places Wilkes University in the company of institutions that are similar in size, scope and philosophy and that offer research intensive programs from bachelor's through doctoral levels. The Landmark Conference includes schools that span from Pennsylvania to

Washington D.C., presenting us with an excellent opportunity to enhance the Wilkes brand in these areas while continuing to attract the highest caliber students to our university," said Wilkes President Greg Cant. "Above all else, the move will provide our student-athletes with exceptional academic and athletic experiences."

During the conference's strategic membership exercise, conference leadership explored several academic demographics including; acceptance rates, retention, overall graduation rates, endowment, and other key academic categories. When comparing Lycoming and Wilkes to the current makeup of the conference in these key areas, it was clear their institutions shared the same vision of the current eight Landmark member institutions.

The coming weeks and months will offer an opportunity for the conference and its current and incoming member institutions to assess necessary logistical changes to conference operations such as future schedules, postseason tournament formats, student-athlete, and team award recognition and more. The Landmark will host a membership focused Symposium this spring to afford an opportunity for administrators, support staff and coaches to come together in-person and to share ideas and discuss these forthcoming changes.

Members of the Landmark Conference share a focus on institutional excellence through the emphasis of their academic missions and a belief that athletics competition is an important component of the undergraduate experience. Intercollegiate athletic programs are maintained with a perspective that holds paramount the academic programs of the institution and the academic and personal growth of the student-athlete.

LANDMARK BEGINS PARTNERSHIP WITH SIDEARM SPORTS

The Landmark Conference moved in a new online direction with the announcement of its partnership with SIDEARM Sports, a Learfield IMG College company.

"We were thrilled to join the SIDEARM Sports family," said Landmark Assistant Commissioner Sarah Twiggs. "SIDEARM's reputation and service are impressive and will help the conference take the next step in growing our digital presence."

The new website includes several updated features, including larger photos, enhanced championship pages, and easier navigation between pages. SIDEARM's responsive design provides user-friendly access across desktop, tablet, and mobile platforms.

"During the design phase, our main focus was making our website clean, user-friendly, and wanted to highlight high-traffic pages," said Twiggs. "SIDEARM not only brought our vision to life but exceeded what we had originally envisioned."

The Landmark was previously partnered with PrestoSports.

ABOUT SIDEARM SPORTS

In 2014, SIDEARM Sports was acquired by LEARFIELD. LEARFIELD is the leading media and technology services company in intercollegiate athletics. The company unlocks the value of college sports for brands and fans through an omnichannel platform with innovative content and commerce solutions for fan engagement. The LEARFIELD suite of services includes licensing and multimedia sponsorship management; publishing, audio, digital and social media; data analytics; ticketing, ticket sales and professional concessions expertise; branding; campus-wide business and sponsorship development; and venue technology systems. Headquartered in Plano, Texas, the company has long had the privilege of being an advocate for intercollegiate athletics and the student-athlete experience.

NEWS IN BRIEF

LANDMARK HOSTS MEMBERSHIP SYMPOSIUM



For the first time in over five years, the Landmark Conference hosted a league-wide Symposium for its membership at the Hershey Country Club in Hershey, Pa.

The one-day symposium brought various constituents together for the first time in this setting since 2016 to discuss the Landmark membership as a whole and share best practices on how to better support student-athletes and athletic programs.

The timing presented an ideal platform for coaching groups and Landmark support staff to discuss logistical changes the conference needs to adopt as the league transitions to a ten-member makeup beginning in 2023-24.

Conference Commissioner Katie Boldvich started the morning with a “Year in Review” of the 2021-22 academic year and presented the Landmark Presidents’ Trophy to Susquehanna University. Accepting the award were SU President Jonathan Green and Director of Athletics, Sharief Hashim. The membership also heard from President Bryon Grigsby of Moravian University, who served as the Chair of the Landmark Presidents, and The University of Scranton’s Dave Martin, the chair of the Athletic Directors.

“We’re excited and thankful to receive this year’s Landmark Presidents Trophy and to be able to have staff present to receive the award,” said Susquehanna Director of Athletics Sharief Hashim. “Our student-athletes embody the resilience and togetherness that allows

our programs to compete at a high level. I’m honored to work with a group of head and assistant coaches who recruit quality young people from great families and support their student-athletes to achievements on the playing surface and in the classroom.”

The group was joined by NCAA staff members from the Academic and Membership Affairs department, Tiffany Alford and Sarah Turner, presenting updates from the national office. Topics of discussion included social media, eligibility, and potential new legislation at the NCAA Convention.

After the NCAA presentation, the membership had the opportunity to have breakout sessions with their respective sport and administrative committees. The opportunity allowed for groups to have face-to-face interaction and discuss the changing landscape of the conference after the Landmark announced the addition of Lycoming College and Wilkes University.

“The Landmark Symposium was a great way to end the year and recharge for next year,” said Moravian University Director of Athletics and head women’s basketball coach, Mary Beth Spirk. “It was wonderful to see all the coaches and staff in person, the buzz in the air was palpable. The bonus was the information session with NCAA staff, Sarah and Tiffany. They gave us valuable updates and hot topic subjects to prepare

us for the upcoming season.”

Following lunch, Dr. Arman Taghizadeh, a Johns Hopkins trained Board Certified Adult, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist who also specializes in Sports Psychiatry, served as the keynote speaker.

“In today’s climate around the mental health of student-athletes, there is so much discussion around awareness,” said Taghizadeh. “However, awareness is only effective if there is education and action. The Landmark Conference has made the commitment by investing in educational programming for its athletes, coaches, and administrators. I am humbled and honored to have been chosen as an expert to present to a very well-attended event and look forward to continuing my relationship with this organization.”

Known as “Dr. T.”, Taghizadeh is actively involved in mental health support and initiatives as a physician on the Gilman School Health Committee, a member of the #SameHere Psych Alliance, and has spoken on behalf of “Positive Strides” and “Sidelined” programs. He previously served on the board of “Catch a Lift Fund” and currently serves on the board of “The Hidden Opponent” improving mental health support for student-athletes. Dr. T has also partnered with USA Lacrosse to integrate mental health education including an Athlete-Mindset seminar series.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ALL EIGHT LANDMARK SCHOOLS RANKED IN FINAL LEARFIELD DIRECTORS' CUP STANDINGS

The NCAA Division III final Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup standings were announced in June with an impressive all eight Landmark schools among the rankings.

Catholic University led the league with 254 points and finished the year ranked 68th. The Cardinals were followed by The University of Scranton with 206 points (89th), Susquehanna University (96th, 194.5), Juniata College (188th, 83), Elizabethtown College (193rd, 82.5), Drew University (202nd, 75), Goucher College (241st, 50), and Moravian University (280th, 32).

The Cardinals won both men's and women's lacrosse for the second straight season and competed in both the baseball and softball postseasons. The baseball squad made history this spring as the team finished the season with a program-record 34 wins, its first regionals title, first Super Regionals title, and first NCAA Division III World Series appearance. In the winter, Catholic won its sixth men's swimming and diving championship. Nathan Ober represented the Cardinals at the NCAA Championships where the sophomore earned All-America honors in the 100-yard breaststroke. Another winter Cardinal student-athlete, men's track & field freshman Christian Di Nicolantonio became the first Cardinal to qualify for the national championships in the pole vault. He cleared 4.80 meters which was good enough for 10th place. The first men's track and field athlete to compete at the NCAA indoor meet for Catholic since 2004, Di Nicolantonio qualified with the seventh-best mark in Division III after breaking a 41-year-old program record at 4.91m. Additionally, the women's basketball team, which earned runner-up status in the conference tournament, earned an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament. The Cardinal's lone fall title came in men's soccer.

The Royals took home three Landmark Championships this year that included field hockey, women's soccer, and women's basketball. Field Hockey put together a historic fall, winning a program-best 18 games and capturing the first NCAA Tournament victory in program history. Women's soccer advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 and won a league-best eighth Landmark title, and volleyball earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. Additionally, Jessica Hoffmann represented the Royals women's cross country program at the NCAA Championships. This winter, the women's basketball team won its seventh straight conference title and made it to the Sweet 16. Scranton competed in six of the all the spring team sports this postseason and finished in the top-four in men's and women's golf.

Overall, SU won six Landmark championships. These included women's cross country, men's basketball, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's outdoor track and field, and softball. The women's cross country team won their third Landmark title and sent a pair of runners, Kallan Carter and Marissa Kleman to the NCAA Championship. Carter finished the race with a personal-best time, breaking her previous best of 22:54.5 ran back at the NCAA Mideast Regional back in 2019 as she posted a time of 22:36.3. Kleman took home 244th on the day with a 23:32.2. SU men's basketball won their opening NCAA game but fell to Christopher Newport, 81-67 in the second round. The River Hawks sent Bryce Ellinger to the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field Championships. At the indoor meet, Ellinger tied with Sam Beatty of Central College for eighth place to earn All-American honors. Softball won its third conference title, and the River Hawks volleyball program earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. SU volleyball made it to the Regional Final.

Juniata women's volleyball won the program's 14th straight Landmark Conference title and 40th straight overall league championship in 2021. The Eagles earned the automatic qualifier for the conference and made a trip to the Final Four. Setter Olivia Foley was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Regional Freshman of the Year. Additionally, the men's basketball team earned a spot in the Landmark Men's Basketball playoffs. The Eagles were edged by conference champion Susquehanna, 76-68.

The Blue Jays had a strong showing in the Landmark in the fall, earning runner-up finishes in men's cross country and women's soccer. Nicholas Garrett was named the conference Men's Performer of the Year and finished 187th for the Jays in 25:23.3 at the NCAA Championships. Teammate Christian Schaaf joined him, and in his final collegiate cross country race, took 251st in 25:52.8. The women's basketball team played in its first NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship since the 2000-01 season after earning an at-large bid to the tournament. The spring season saw Etown capture the baseball title and had three NCAA Outdoor Track & Field qualifiers in Erin Miller (javelin), Kelty Oaster (800m), and Christian Schaaf (5,000m). The Blue Jays were also the runner-up in men's lacrosse.

Drew won a total of four conference titles that included women's swimming and diving, men's and women's golf, and women's tennis. Kayla Diaz of the women's golf team tied for 17th among 151 competitors at the NCAA DIII Championships.



She became the first Drew women's golfer to make the final cut at NAAs, and her 17th-place finish marked the best showing in team history by a Ranger at the event. As a team, Drew tied for 26th among 29 teams, shooting a 54-hole score of 1028 (355-332-341) at the tournament.

Goucher won a conference title in men's tennis to earn the automatic qualifier for the NCAA Men's Tennis Tournament. Additionally, Carter Hinton-Ayodele of the women's track and field team qualified for both the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships. At the indoor meet, they finished 10th in the women's triple jump and was 19th at the outdoor meet. Hinton-Ayodele was the first track and field Gopher to qualify for nationals.

The Greyhounds won two Landmark titles and had multiple programs with top-five finishes this year. Moravian's team titles came in men's cross country and women's outdoor track and field. Shane Mastro of the men's track and field team, competed at the NCAA Outdoor Championships for the first time in his career, finishing fifth in his flight and 15th overall in the shot put with a toss of 15.42 meters (50-7.25).

For the 11th straight year, Tufts University has finished in the top-10 of the LEARFIELD Directors' Cup standings, this time as the overall champion with 1080.00 total points. This is the first Cup win for Tufts, having scored in 16 total sports, including 13 teams with top-10 finishes. Tufts' highest finish came in women's lacrosse where it finished second overall.

The Learfield Sports Directors' Cup was developed as a joint effort between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and USA Today. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in up to 18 sports -- nine women's and nine men's.



MORAVIAN

JOHN BYRNE CALLS IT A CAREER AT MORAVIAN AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS AS A GREYHOUND

John Byrne arrived at Moravian in the fall of 1978 as a freshman baseball student-athlete, and after 44 years on the Bethlehem campus that has seen the school go from a College to a University, Byrne has called it a career, retiring as a Greyhound after spending the last 29 years as Head Softball Coach.

"After 40 years of service to Moravian College and University, I have decided to step down from my current position of Head Softball Coach, which I have held over the past 29 years," stated Byrne. "Including my four years as a student, I have spent the last 44 years on this campus in various administrative and coaching positions. Time has certainly passed by quickly. It seems like only yesterday I was playing baseball on

an emergency fill in during the fall of 1988. I helped with football during the early 1990's as kicking coach/recruiter before I had the opportunity to take the reins of the softball program in 1994."

Byrne steps away after he became the fifth active and ninth overall NCAA Division III coach to reach 900 career victories, hitting the milestone back on March 2 with a 2-1 win over No. 11 Milwaukee School of Engineering. He finishes his career with an overall record of 923-257, a .782 winning percentage that ranks as the eighth best in NCAA Division III history. Byrne guided Moravian to the postseason in 27 seasons including three NCAA Division III Championships appearances with the program playing for the national championship in 2004,

18 NCAA Division III playoff berths, 25 conference playoff appearances and 17 conference championships during his tenure. He posted a 46-39 record in NCAA Tournament action. The only two seasons that Byrne failed to coach the Hounds into the postseason was his first year in 1994 and in 2020 when the postseason was cancelled by the pandemic.

"It is a difficult task to express in a few sentences

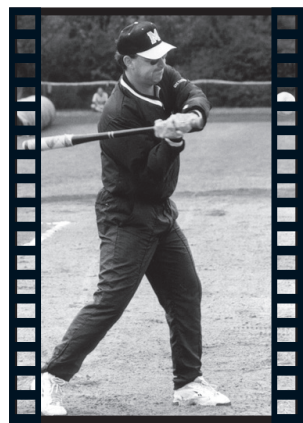
Over the years, Byrne has coached eight players to a total of 12 NFCA Division III All-America honors, an NFCA Division III Catcher of the Year and 56 student-athletes to a total of 98 NFCA All-Region accolades. His tutelage also includes 16 Conference Pitchers of the Year, 11 Conference Players of the Year, 10 Conference Rookies of the Year and 191 All-Conference selections including 122 First Team honorees.

"For the last 29 years, I have had the pleasure to work with some of the best student-athletes a coach could ask for," Byrne said. "Their talent, dedication, and love of the sport of softball made this livelihood so fulfilling and enjoyable every day. There are so many players, assistant coaches, and support people to thank. It takes all these folks to create a championship culture both on and off the field. I am very proud of our former players who have become so successful both in their professional and personal lives. My former assistant coaches that have moved on to their own successful head coaching careers is very gratifying. My longtime and loyal assistants have been the heart and soul of our program. No program succeeds without support staff that works tirelessly behind the scenes. Thank you all!"

Byrne, a 1982 graduate of Moravian, served as Athletic Recruiting Coordinator from 1985 to 1998. He also served as Associate Athletics Director for the Greyhounds. A four-year starter on the baseball team, Byrne was an assistant baseball coach from 1983 to 1992, head volleyball coach in 1988 while leading the Hounds to a 24-16 record with a pair of First Team All-Middle Atlantic Conference Southeast League selections and assistant football coach from 1989 to 1997.

Byrne served as associate head coach of the Philadelphia Force in the National Pro Fastpitch League in 2007 and worked as an associate scout for the Cincinnati Reds.

"As I transition to the next chapter, which will include being able to watch my daughters, Rachel and Jamie, compete in their collegiate careers, I leave with my health, a softball program that is in a great place and many fond memories! The years have been filled with both tears of joy and tears of sadness. I have always taught my players to respect the game and the game will pay you back. I tried to give everything I had to this program and hopefully I have been able to make a positive difference in some small way in the lives of the people I have coached. The number of wins and championships pale in comparison to the number of exceptional people I have had the opportunity to coach, work with and compete against. I thank you all for this amazing ride," finished Byrne.



Gillespie Field for legendary coaches Gus Garcsar and Rocco Calvo.

"I was hired by President Herman Collier in July of 1982 to work in the Admissions office as a recruiter," Byrne continued. "It was at that time that my coaching career began as a volunteer assistant baseball coach under Coach Garcsar and Coach Ed Little. During that time at Moravian, I also had the opportunity to work with two of the finest coaches any young person could learn from, Track Coach Doug Pollard and Football Coach Scot Dapp. Coach Pollard was the best recruiter I have ever been around, and Coach Dapp was the best teacher and x-and-o coach I have seen. The lessons I learned shaped my coaching career forever. These two coaches along with my father and North Penn High School Coach Carl Guirrana were the biggest influences in my development as a coach. Also, during that time, I was able to secure a position as an Associate Scout for the Cincinnati Reds under scout Bo Trumbo. This experience was invaluable in learning how to evaluate and recruit talent. My first head coaching position was as Head Women's Volleyball Coach for one season as

what John Byrne has meant to Moravian University, the Athletic Department and our softball program over the past 40 years," commented Director of Athletics & Recreation and Head Women's Basketball Coach Mary Beth Spirk, who has worked with Byrne for over 35 years. "The love for the institution is clear and his dedication for the softball program is evident. He is an exceptional recruiter, excellent teacher and knows how to motivate his players to achieve success on and off the field. I am grateful to have had John as a colleague all these years. I know I speak for all the coaches and staff in the Athletic Department that we wish John all the best, we are thankful to have had him as a colleague and we all realize that his retirement is a huge loss for all of us."

Byrne and his staff were named the Landmark Conference Coaching Staff of the Year in 2008, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021, and Byrne and his staff were named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Regional Coaching Staff of the Year in 2003, 2004, 2007 and 2010. Byrne was the Commonwealth Conference Coach of the Year four times, and he was the ECAC Division III South Coach of the Year in 2016.



MORAVIAN LED NCAA DIII FOR 14TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN 2022 PLAY4KAY WITH \$18,050 RAISED



The Moravian University women's basketball program was named as the NCAA Division III winner of the 2022 Kay Yow Cancer Fund Play4Kay fundraiser with \$18,050 raised in 2022, the 14th consecutive year the Greyhounds led NCAA Division III schools in Play4Kay.

"The coaching staff and players were delighted to hear the news that we topped NCAA Division III for the 14th consecutive year," commented Head Women's Basketball Coach and Director of Athletics & Recreation Mary Beth Spirk. "We are proud to support the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. It was extra special this year to have Jenny Palmateer, VP of Program Development from the Fund and Jennifer Montoya, Director of Play4Kay join us for our game and reception after the game. We are fortunate to be able to have the means to raise money because of our loyal alumni, parents, faculty, staff and fans from Moravian."

"I would also like to personally thank Sara Steinman and the Springfield Athletic Association in New Jersey who have been a huge part of our efforts over the years," Spirk continued. "Together our team and the Kay Yow fund hope to continue to contribute to find a cure for this horrible disease."

Play4Kay is the grassroots fundraising initiative of the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. Its primary fundraising support comes from women's basketball teams across the country that dedicate an event to raise funds and awareness for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, an organization committed to funding women's cancer research and supporting projects that assist the underserved community.

Last winter, Moravian raised \$18,050, the top amount from an NCAA Division III school, to give

the program a total of \$198,076 donated to the Kay Yow Cancer Fund over the last 14 years. The Greyhounds raised \$6,683 in 2021, \$19,053 in 2020, \$19,480 in 2019, \$19,657 during 2018 and \$21,662 in 2017, the most raised by the Hounds in a single year. Moravian was also the top NCAA Division III team in 2016 with \$18,520, in 2015 with \$17,038, in 2014 with \$12,573, in 2013 with \$16,210, in 2012 with \$12,025, in 2011 with \$5,825, in 2010 at \$6,100 and a first-year total of \$5,200 in 2009.

"To be the Division III Play4Kay Fundraiser winner for the 14th consecutive year showcased the importance of the cause to the Moravian community," stated senior forward Kayla Yoegel. "I am grateful to be a part of a team and university that was committed to raising funds to help find a cure for such a fantastic organization!"

Other 2022 Play4Kay Divisional winners were the Illinois State University (NCAA Division I BCS), Illinois State University (NCAA Division I non-BCS), Anderson University (NCAA Division II), Faulkner (Ala.) University (NAIA), Dawson (Mt.) Community College (JC/CC) and Grace Christian (Raleigh, N.C.) High School (National 4-12). Illinois state is the first mid-major to win both the BCS and Non-BCS national awards.

All the award winners were honored at the Wow4Yow Appreciation event and the closing session of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's nation convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Women's Basketball Final Four weekend.

Last year is extra special as all award recipients were repeat winners, signifying each community's

ongoing commitment to impacting the lives of women battling cancer.

"We were most appreciative of our divisional winners, who embodied the true spirit of Play4Kay to serve others," said Stephanie Glance, CEO of the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. "What an incredible impact each of these teams made in the fight against cancer and in the lives of the survivors they inspired and uplifted each year in their own communities."

Moravian is the only 14-time winner in the 14-year history of the contest.

Since the Fund's inception in 2007, more than \$7.88 million has been allocated in support of women's cancer research and related projects.

For more information about the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and its annual Play 4Kay® initiative, visit www.kayyow.com and follow #Play4Kay and #KayYow.

About the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and Play4Kay Campaign

The Kay Yow Cancer Fund was officially founded on December 3, 2007, from the vision of the organization's namesake, Kay Yow, former NC State University head women's basketball coach. Coach Yow was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987 before succumbing to the disease on January 24, 2009. The Kay Yow Cancer Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to being a part of finding an answer in the fight against ALL women's cancers through raising money for scientific research, assisting the underserved, and unifying people for a common cause. To date, the Kay Yow Cancer Fund has awarded \$7.78 million in the fight against ALL women's cancers. For more information on the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, or to donate, please visit www.kayyow.com.



SCRANTON



Q&A WITH BRYSON ELDRIDGE, ROYALATHLETICS CONTENT CREATOR

Prior to the start of the 2021-22 academic year, sophomore Bryson Eldridge joined The University of Scranton athletic department with the primary hope of taking the department's content creation on the RoyalAthletics social media platforms to the next level.

"The impact that Bryson had on our social media channels with the video content that he has provided throughout this year is immeasurable. His top notch work ethic and creative ideas present a very exciting opportunity for the department and we look forward to working with him even more in the future," said Sports Information Director, Joe Fitzhenry.

RoyalAthletics: "You joined The University's Athletic Department back before the fall 2021 season, what was your favorite part of the year?"

Bryson Eldridge: "The people in the department and also the student-athletes that I've been able to make a connection with. That has made me feel like I'm not only part of the department as a whole, but also a part of each individual team."

RoyalAthletics: "It was a pretty successful year for the department with four teams in the NCAA Tournament including three in the Sweet 16 (Field Hockey, Women's Soccer, Women's Basketball), what was it like to cover those teams?"

BE: "When I came here, I never thought I would be doing something like that that quickly, but to be able to capture those locker room moments and behind the scenes content has been very surreal and special for me and I look to continue to do it more in the future."

RoyalAthletics: "I know it's probably tough to pick just one, but do you have a favorite memory from this year?"

BE: "I have three favorite moments that are all tied for first: The women's basketball celebration after a comeback win at Catholic on Dec. 4 as they trailed by nine points with 6:10 left, the field hockey comeback from down 2-0 to defeat Ursinus in overtime in the NCAA Tournament was one of the best games I watched all year and the five NCAA Tournament games I've been able to shoot as a whole, those moments have all been extremely special for me."

RoyalAthletics: "You also spearheaded the creation of a Media Day for all student-athletes and teams in the department, can you talk about what that has been like to be able to get to see some people be able to express themselves?"

BE: "I know we are a Division III program, but I want to bring Division I level content creation to the department. Even though D3 may be seen by some as off the radar a bit, we have some extremely talented

student-athletes here that deserve to be highlighted as such and I've taken on that role of raising the standard to mimic that of a Division I program."

RoyalAthletics: "How did you initially get involved in videography and content creation?"

BE: "I got into it initially during the pandemic because I was looking for something to do, my dad had a camera and I was playing around with it taking some pictures of my brother playing basketball in the driveway. It was something that I really enjoyed and I got a call from Hoop Group asking if I wanted to come to a tournament in Massachusetts, I learned so much and met some great people that taught me things that I've been able to bring back to Scranton. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work in the Athletic Department at such a prestigious University."

"To have Bryson here at The University doing what he does is a truly special thing. He is one the most creative people I've ever met and his work is simply amazing. From his cool video edits that lets every student-athlete relive the most hype moments from their game, or the photo shoots he does with each team that make us feel even more special. Myself and everyone here at Scranton are lucky to have him!" — Sophomore Katie Redding, University of Scranton Field Hockey



HIGHLIGHTING CONNOR HARDING'S CAREER



During his final season as a member of The University of Scranton baseball program, Connor Harding excelled both on the diamond and in the classroom. The Vestal, N.Y., native broke a pair of all-time program and Landmark Conference records and also became the first student-athlete in Scranton history to earn CoSIDA Academic All-American honors on four occasions.

Harding was named a CoSIDA AAA First Team selection for the third time in his career. Previously, the Vestal, N.Y., native earned First Team honors in 2019 and 2021 as well as Second Team honors in 2020.

In fact, Harding was one of two players honored across all three divisions to

earn CoSIDA Academic All-America honors for a fourth time along with SUNY Oswego's Ryan Enos.

The Royals' primary center fielder for the past five seasons, he excelled on the diamond and in the classroom during his time at Scranton. As a Business Administration major, he boasted an impressive 3.97 GPA as an undergraduate and a 4.0 GPA as a graduate student.

"Connor is the true example of what a student-athlete should be, on the field he made everyone around him better with his incredible work ethic," Royals' head coach Mike Bartoletti said.

This spring, Harding broke both the

program and Landmark Conference records in hits (219) and runs scored (166). In 156 career games at Scranton, Harding hit .398 with 34 doubles, 14 triples, nine home runs, 126 RBI and 69 stolen bases.

The outfielder ranks as the Royals' all-time leader in triples, hits (238) and runs scored (167), while also ranking in the top five all-time in stolen bases (2nd), batting average (3rd) and RBI.

During his career, Harding helped lead the program to its first ever Landmark Conference title and NCAA Tournament appearance in 2021 as well as a single-season program record 28 victories in 2022.



COACHING MILESTONES SHOW CONTINUITY BREED SUCCESS AT SU



DENNY BOWERS



RANDALL SWOPE



KUIIPO TOM

It is often said that the best teams can pass the baton of continuity down through the generations. Here at Susquehanna, the continuity that is in place in the coaching staff has allowed for positive culture and direction to continue from class to class. This year Susquehanna saw three of its head coaches earn milestone victories in their career, as that ability to forge their identity into their programs has been a continuous action through the years.

2021-22 saw head volleyball coach Kuiipo Tom earn his 400th win at Susquehanna University, while head women's lacrosse coach Randall Swope picked up her 100th victory, and head baseball coach Denny Bowers secured his 300th win this past spring. While all hugely impressive, it's interesting to see how differently each coach has gotten to this point in their careers.

Tom came to Susquehanna nearly two decades ago and has slowly and surely built the Susquehanna volleyball program into a perennial region and national power. The River Hawks have won 20 or more matches eight straight seasons, earned three NCAA Tournament bids and made the Sweet 16 in 2021.

Tom did not play collegiate volleyball but came to SU after serving as a sergeant in the Pennsylvania State Police. Despite not having an extensive collegiate background in coaching prior to his appointment, he has been able to instill a culture of winning, togetherness, and cohesion at SU. With all of his SU wins over the years, his 400th came against a new foe as the River Hawks took down Drew University October 2 in five sets to get to his milestone. Tom now sits in the NCAA Division III Top 50 for wins and winning percentage among active coaches.

Later in the year, Swope became the next head coach at Susquehanna to pick up a major win milestone as she chalked up her 100th career victory with a 21-6 win over rival and future Landmark opponent Lycoming College on March 16. Unlike Tom who has earned all his collegiate wins at Susquehanna, Swope's wins have been spread around.

A former USA national team member, World Cup winner and three-time Division III national title winner, Swope spent three years at Franklin & Marshall College, along with eight years at Division I Bucknell University. Those 77 wins along with the 27 now at Susquehanna have her with 104 over her career, as one

of the most respected lacrosse minds and ambassadors in the country.

The final milestone win came from someone that has been at Susquehanna for the good part of the last 25 years. Bowers was a two-sport star at Susquehanna, being inducted into the SU Sports Hall of Fame in 2009 thanks to his baseball and football accolades. Once he graduated, he has only worked at SU as a strength coach, assistant coach, and equipment manager.

Once taking over the reins in 2006, Bowers has earned three Landmark titles along with six 20-win seasons. The all-time winningest baseball coach at SU, Bowers has bled orange and maroon for and saw his 300th win come on Saturday, April 9 in a doubleheader sweep of Drew University. He would go on to help SU to an appearance in the Landmark title game in 2022.

These coaches are more than coaches, but mentors and leaders for young people to see that hard work and perseverance goes a long way. As we look forward to 2022-23 for SU, four more coaches are within striking distance of win milestones as the River Hawks look to continue its trend of winning and creating positive experiences through athletics.



WHY I BECAME A STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH



Susquehanna's Head Strength and Conditioning Coach David Kitchen chose his profession because of the valuable life lessons the weight room taught him as a football player, lessons he hopes to pass down to the student-athletes he coaches today.

The strength coaches, led by Coach Kitchen, typically arrive in the Chris Vialonga Sports Performance Center at 5:30 a.m. each day for the first team lift at 6 a.m. They spend the next three hours training teams and athletes.

At 9 a.m., the strength coaches get a well-deserved break before resuming their coaching responsibilities at 11 a.m.

"The rest of the afternoon is usually dedicated to programming, running reports on teams, making sure we're handling our sports science stuff. We've also implemented student-athlete wellness surveys, so we make sure we complete those reports during the day," Kitchen said.

Starting at around 3 p.m., teams begin to flow into the weight room once again until 7 p.m., when the last team lift usually concludes.

"They're long days but every day is different, and you get to spend time with the student-athletes, the majority of your day is

spent coaching kids and that's the fun part," Kitchen said.

An essential function of a strength coach is programming workout plans for teams.

"Every team we look at, we'll sit down and do a needs analysis based on the sport," Kitchen said. "That can look at things like: What energy system is it primarily played in from a conditioning standpoint, whether it's a strength and power sport, whether it's a speed dominant sport."

The strength staff then programs backwards from a team's biggest competition date, usually championships.

"Every team has an annual plan that's broken up into different structures, then we reverse engineer the process.

If we want strength and power to be our most strong qualities at a certain date then we need to breakdown what qualities go into making those strength and power gains most evident at the end," Kitchen said.

2021 Landmark Conference Field Hockey Defensive Player of The Year Annalee Smith has made the transition from athlete to coach, as she accepted Coach Kitchen's internship offer to be an assistant strength coach this semester.

Smith claimed the decision was easy once Kitchen extended his offer. "I really love his coaching philosophy; he constantly pushes everyone to become better and better, even if failure is a step along the way," she said.

Going from an athlete to a coach has shown Smith all the work done by strength coaches that goes unseen.

"We meet weekly to discuss different aspects of this job and what it entails, which is more than I ever thought. It is challenging to learn all the very important details and planning behind what needs to happen for this program to function," she said.

Smith claimed one of her favorite parts about her internship is working with athletes from Susquehanna's women's teams.

"I enjoy working with all student-athletes, but especially the athletes on the women's teams. Many times, female athletes are overlooked and are put on the back burner when it comes to strength and weight training, but I think Coach Kitchen does a great job pushing his women's teams to become stronger every day," she said.

One example of a Susquehanna woman succeeding in the weight room is Olivia Brandt, a 2022 All-Landmark Second Team women's basketball player who was named a National Strength and Conditioning Association All-American in early April for her dedication to effort and excellence in off the court workouts.

Nominated by Coach Kitchen, Brandt said she was not aware of the award prior to receiving it, but claimed it was an honor to be recognized. "I contribute a lot of my success on the court to the work I put in in the weight room and the mentors I had that pushed me in strength and conditioning," she said.

According to Brandt, Coach Kitchen and strength coaches pushed her to work as hard as possible each day she stepped into the weight room. "Coach Kitchen's best quality is that he will never let someone take a day off. If the weight on the bar or in your hand looks too easy, he calls you out," she said.

From a strength coaches' standpoint, Kitchen claimed the intelligence and adaptability of all Susquehanna athletes are the best part of being a River Hawk.

"The student athletes here on campus are really unique and for me it's special because I was an athlete here. Our kids are so coachable, our kids are smart and that's a testament to the academic standards here. Our kids want to know the 'why' they want to understand why we're doing what we're doing. I can talk about the ins and outs of the program, I can also talk about leadership, accountability and our kids are absolute sponges, and they just soak it up," Kitchen claimed.

Coach Kitchen and the strength staff have contributed greatly to the athletic success of so many teams on campus and at the same time, implemented important life values through the arena of strength and conditioning.

CHAMPIONS GALLERY



FIELD HOCKEY, SCRANTON



MEN'S SOCCER, CATHOLIC



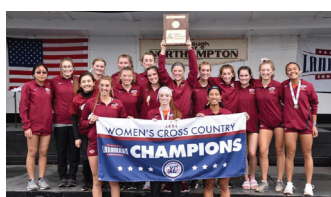
MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY, MORAVIAN



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL, JUNIATA



WOMEN'S SOCCER, SCRANTON



WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY, SUSQUEHANNA



BASEBALL, ELIZABETHTOWN



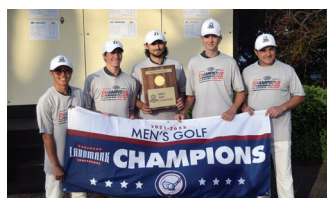
MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD, SUSQUEHANNA



MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD, SUSQUEHANNA



MEN'S BASKETBALL, SUSQUEHANNA



MEN'S GOLF, DREW



MEN'S LACROSSE, CATHOLIC



MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING, CATHOLIC



MEN'S TENNIS, GOUCHER



SOFTBALL, SUSQUEHANNA



WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD, SUSQUEHANNA



WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD, MORAVIAN



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, SCRANTON



WOMEN'S GOLF, DREW



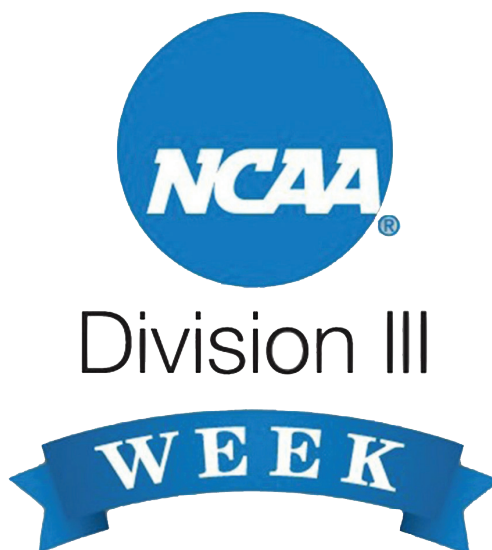
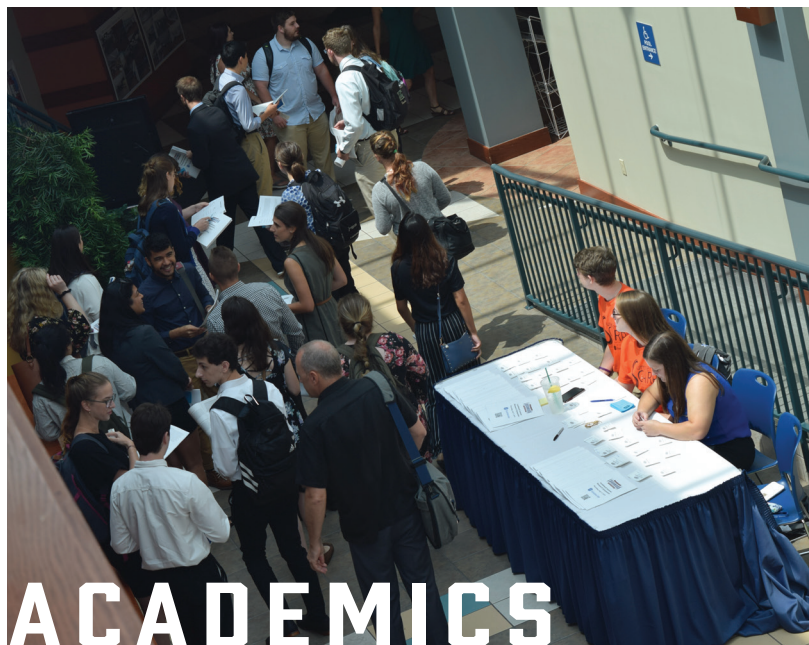
WOMEN'S LACROSSE, CATHOLIC



WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING, DREW



WOMEN'S TENNIS, DREW



LEADERSHIP



Division III Week is a positive opportunity for all individuals associated with Division III to observe and celebrate the impact of athletics and of student-athletes on the campus and surrounding community. During the week, every Division III school and conference office is encouraged to conduct a type of outreach activity that falls into one of three categories: academic accomplishment; athletic experience; or leadership/community service/campus involvement.