

# TODAY'S LEADERS



Profiles of Student-Athletes  
for Patriot League  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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## WHO WE ARE

The Patriot League is a unique collection of highly selective colleges and universities linked by a number of common values. Our institutions are relatively small in size and are focused on providing the highest quality education to our undergraduate students. We believe athletics can play an important role in the overall educational experience, and we are committed to athletics at the highest level of competition, NCAA Division I.

We are determined to admit and graduate scholar-athletes who succeed in the classroom as well as on the field. The Patriot League's full-member institutions, individually and collectively, consistently rank among the top Division I programs in the NCAA Graduation Rates Report. Patriot League teams compete at the highest levels of NCAA competition and numerous Patriot League scholar-athletes are recognized annually as All-Americans and Academic All-Americans.

The Patriot League began as a Division I-FCS football conference in 1986 and became an all-sport conference in 1990. Full League members include American, Army, Boston U., Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh, Loyola (Md.) and Navy. Associate members include Fordham and Georgetown in football, Georgetown and MIT in women's rowing and Richmond in women's golf. These member institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation. Alumni from Patriot League colleges and universities make meaningful contributions to their communities and society in general and have played a leadership role in shaping our country.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

Patriot League institutions value athletic competition because we know it builds leadership, teamwork, decision-making skills and sportsmanship. These characteristics are critical to another of our shared goals: producing graduates who will make strong contributions to the moral and civic fabric of their communities and their nation. For two of our member institutions, teaching such skills is critical to the future success of America's armed forces.

Our primary focus is on the personal development and academic success of individual scholar-athletes. Athletic competition can enhance the physical, intellectual, ethical and social development of the entire higher education community—participants and spectators alike. In addition, Patriot League institutions recognize that highly competitive athletics help sustain strong bonds with alumni by engaging them with their college or university for many years after they graduate.

At a time when the direction of collegiate athletics is under increasing critical scrutiny, Patriot League institutions believe as strongly as ever that academic and athletic values can be – and indeed must be – compatible. For us, there is no contradiction between the concepts of high achievement in the classroom and in athletics.

We acknowledge that reaching this ideal is a constant challenge, even a struggle, between conflicting forces and needs. But that does not lessen its importance.

We believe that athletic programs should be integrated into an institution's campus life and governance structure, and operate with integrity and under presidential control. The Patriot League model includes oversight of our policies at both the League and campus level while remaining focused on the individual development of all of our students.

Patriot League members believe that colleges and universities need to be faithful to their values and need to keep their promises to students. For our members, that means that college athletics derive legitimacy and special meaning only within the context of sound academic values and with the goal of graduating well-rounded students.

## WHAT WE DO

Patriot League institutions only admit athletes who we believe will succeed academically and graduate from our institutions. An academic index is calculated for all student-athletes to ensure that all academic credentials are reflective of their institution's general student body.

Patriot League institutions strive to maintain the same academic standards and values for all students, including athletes, and for all programs, including athletics.

Academics play a primary role in the lives of Patriot League athletes, who receive no special academic privileges or consideration.

The primary focus of Patriot League athletic programs is on the personal development and academic success of individual scholar-athletes. Athletes graduate from their institution well-equipped to become leaders in their personal and professional endeavors.

Control of athletic budgets and priorities is held by the president of each Patriot League institution.



Jennifer Heppel  
Executive Director

## CAMPUS INFORMATION

### AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Location	Washington, D.C.
President	Dr. Cornelius M. Kerwin
Athletic Director	Dr. Billy Walker
Policy Committee Representative	Dr. Gail Hanson
Faculty Athletic Representative	Dr. Robert C. Karch
Senior Woman Administrator	Athena Argyropoulos
Enrollment	7,083
Founded	1893
Nickname	Eagles
Colors	AU Red, White & Blue
Joined Patriot League	2001
School Website	<a href="http://www.american.edu">www.american.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.aueagles.com">www.aueagles.com</a>



### UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Location	West Point, N.Y.
Superintendent	LTG Robert Caslen
Athletic Director	Boo Corrigan
Policy Committee Representative	Col. Cindy Jebb
Faculty Athletic Representative	Col. Cindy Jebb
Senior Woman Administrator	Stephanie Menio
Enrollment	4,294
Founded	1802
Nickname	Black Knights
Colors	Black, Gold and Gray
Joined Patriot League	1990
School Website	<a href="http://www.usma.edu">www.usma.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.goarmywestpoint.com">www.goarmywestpoint.com</a>



### BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Location	Boston, Mass.
President	Dr. Robert A. Brown
Athletic Director	Drew Marrochello
Policy Committee Representative	Todd Klipp
Faculty Athletic Representative	Sara Brown
Senior Woman Administrator	Bethany Ellis
Enrollment	16,496
Founded	1839
Nickname	Terriers
Colors	Scarlet and White
Joined Patriot League	2013
School Website	<a href="http://www.bu.edu">www.bu.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.goterriers.com">www.goterriers.com</a>



### BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

Location	Lewisburg, Pa.
President	Dr. John C. Bravman
Athletic Director	John P. Hardt
Policy Committee Representative	Dr. Mitchell Chernin
Faculty Athletic Representative	Dr. Mitchell Chernin
Senior Woman Administrator	Maisha Kelly
Enrollment	3,600
Founded	1846
Nickname	Bison
Colors	Orange and Blue
Joined Patriot League	1990
School Website	<a href="http://www.bucknell.edu">www.bucknell.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.bucknellbison.com">www.bucknellbison.com</a>



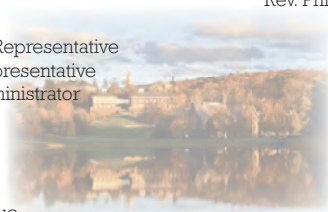
### COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Location	Hamilton, N.Y.
Interim President	Jill Harsin
Athletic Director	Vicky Chun
Policy Committee Representative	Dr. Doug Johnson
Faculty Athletic Representative	Ken Belanger
Senior Woman Administrator	Ann-Marie Guglieri
Enrollment	2,872
Founded	1819
Nickname	Raiders
Colors	Maroon and White
Joined Patriot League	1990
School Website	<a href="http://www.colgate.edu">www.colgate.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.gocolgateraiders.com">www.gocolgateraiders.com</a>



### COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

Location	Worcester, Mass.
President	Rev. Philip L. Borroughs, S.J.
Athletic Director	Nathan Pine
Policy Committee Representative	Dr. John F. Axelson
Faculty Athletic Representative	Dr. John F. Axelson
Senior Woman Administrator	Rose Shea
Enrollment	2,905
Founded	1843
Nickname	Crusaders
Color	Royal Purple
Joined Patriot League	1990
School Website	<a href="http://www.holycross.edu">www.holycross.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.goholycross.com">www.goholycross.com</a>



### LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Location	Easton, Pa.
President	Dr. Alison Byerly
Athletic Director	Dr. Bruce McCutcheon
Policy Committee Representative	Dr. Susan Averett
Faculty Athletic Representative	Dr. Susan Averett
Senior Woman Administrator	Kaity McKittrick
Enrollment	2,486
Founded	1826
Nickname	Leopards
Colors	Maroon and White
Joined Patriot League	1990
School Website	<a href="http://www.lafayette.edu">www.lafayette.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.goleopards.com">www.goleopards.com</a>



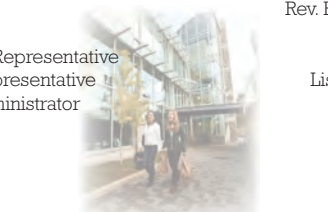
### LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

Location	Bethlehem, Pa.
President	John D. Simon
Athletic Director	Joe Sterrett
Policy Committee Representative	Dr. Bruce Taggart
Faculty Athletic Representative	Jim McIntosh
Senior Woman Administrator	Taryn Gall
Enrollment	4,931
Founded	1865
Nickname	Mountain Hawks
Colors	Brown and White
Joined Patriot League	1990
School Website	<a href="http://www.lehigh.edu">www.lehigh.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.lehighsports.com">www.lehighsports.com</a>



### LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Location	Baltimore, Md.
President	Rev. Brian F. Linnane, S.J.
Athletic Director	James Paquette
Policy Committee Representative	Susan Donovan
Faculty Athletic Representative	Lisa Oberbroeckling
Senior Woman Administrator	Teddi Burns
Enrollment	4,004
Founded	1852
Nickname	Greyhounds
Colors	Green and Grey
Joined Patriot League	2013
School Website	<a href="http://www.loyola.edu">www.loyola.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.loyolagreyhounds.com">www.loyolagreyhounds.com</a>



### UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Location	Annapolis, Md.
Superintendent	Vice Admiral Walter E. Carter, Jr., USN
Athletic Director	Chet Gladchuk
Policy Committee Representative	Dr. Christine Copper
Faculty Athletic Representative	Dr. Christine Copper
Senior Woman Administrator	Loretta Lamar
Enrollment	4,526
Founded	1845
Nickname	Midshipmen, Mids
Colors	Navy Blue and Gold
Joined Patriot League	1991
School Website	<a href="http://www.usna.edu">www.usna.edu</a>
Athletic Website	<a href="http://www.navysports.com">www.navysports.com</a>





## PATRIOT LEAGUE NETWORK

The Patriot League, in collaboration with Campus Insiders, announced the creation of the Patriot League Network (PLN) before the 2013-14 season to greatly expand the video content and reach of its digital programming. All schools are now a part of the package in the 2015-16 season with more than 1,000 events expected to be streamed throughout the year.

High-quality PLN content is accessible on multiple devices, including laptops, smartphones and tablets, and features unique channels for each school as well as the Patriot League page at [www.patriotleague.tv](http://www.patriotleague.tv). In addition, Campus Insiders produces TV-quality basketball and football games for PLN, as well as various other sports and championship events.

## PATRIOT LEAGUE ON TV

The Patriot League is proud to have CBS Sports Network as its exclusive television partner. The 2015-16 season marks the 13th consecutive year of the Patriot League's partnership with CBS Sports Network that includes significant national visibility for men and women's basketball, lacrosse and other League sports. CBS Sports Network provides comprehensive college sports coverage, including hundreds of live games annually as well as in-depth studio and original programming.

The Patriot League has also entered into an agreement with American Sports Network for the broadcast of multiple events throughout the season. American Sports Network is a sports programming initiative of Sinclair Networks Group, a division of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies in the country today.

## PATRIOT LEAGUE INITIATIVES

Fans can stay connected with the League and keep up with all the latest news by following on Twitter or Facebook. The Patriot League has separate Twitter accounts for men's basketball, football, women's basketball and men's lacrosse, allowing fans to follow particular sports more closely. The Patriot League's YouTube page features video highlights and features that are also available on Patriot League Network. The League also hosts the Patriot League Store with a variety of gifts available including apparel and accessories from brand-name companies.

Twitter	<a href="http://www.twitter.com/PatriotLeague">www.twitter.com/PatriotLeague</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/PatriotLeague">www.facebook.com/PatriotLeague</a>
YouTube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/PatriotVideo">www.youtube.com/PatriotVideo</a>
Store	<a href="http://www.patriotleaguestore.com">www.patriotleaguestore.com</a>
Academic Network	<a href="http://www.patriotleagueacademicnetwork.org">www.patriotleagueacademicnetwork.org</a>



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# Billy Hurley



## Persistence Pays Off for Hurley

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

With a spot on the PGA Tour, Billy Hurley III stands among the most accomplished Patriot League alumni in professional sports. His path to that success was undoubtedly more challenging than most as the Naval Academy graduate served his country before embarking on a career on the course.

Hurley showed that he had the ability to excel professionally with a dominant college career. He arrived at Navy for the 2000-01 campaign, and in his freshman season helped the Mids win the Patriot League title while earning first-team All-League honors. Hurley would win All-Patriot League honors again in 2002 and in 2003, when the Mids rolled to the title at the Patriot League Championship by 31 strokes. Hurley capped his career with an amazing senior season that saw him win the individual title at the Patriot League Championship, take home the League's Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year award and earn Academic All-America recognition along with All-America status. He qualified for the NCAA Regionals and had an impressive showing with a 14th-place finish.

"I birdied my first three holes of my first-ever college tournament at the Naval Academy, at our home course, so that was a pretty cool way to start off my career right there," Hurley said when discussing memories of his career at Navy. "Winning the Patriot League title by such a wide margin was a great experience, we had a really good group that won multiple tournaments and probably had one of the better teams in the history of the school that 2002-03 season. I shot 61 as a senior in college (still a Patriot League record) and I won six of 12 tournaments as a senior. Winning the Patriot League individual title my senior year was almost anti-climactic because if I didn't win it would have been one of the bigger upsets, but it was a great experience when I was able to come through."

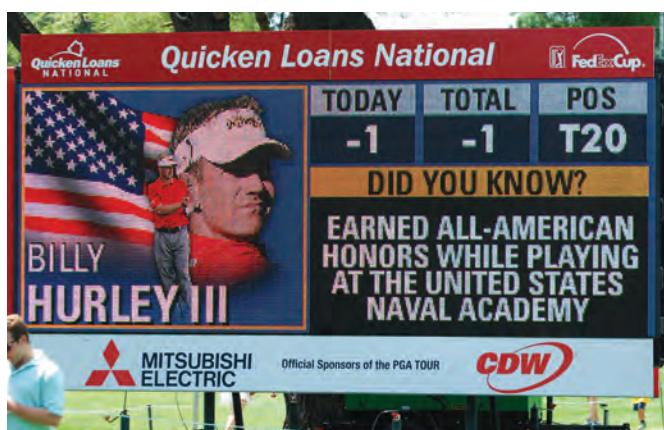
Hurley's amateur career also featured major tournaments and even competitions representing his country. He gained exposure heading into his senior year by finishing second in stroke play qualifying at the 2003 United States Amateur, then was selected to represent his country at both the 2004 Palmer Cup and 2005 Walker Cup, helping the United States to a victory in the latter event which matches the Americans against top amateurs from Great Britain and Ireland.

"The Palmer Cup was a goal to get selected in my senior year and certainly the Walker Cup was a big goal, so to be able to play on those two teams was certainly a highlight of my amateur career."



**Now: Playing professionally on PGA Tour; Lives in Annapolis**





While future pros like Anthony Kim and J.B. Holmes also competed on the United States Walker Cup Team, Hurley had to wait for his professional career to begin. He earned his degree in quantitative economics from the Naval Academy and was commissioned as an Ensign in 2004. Hurley was able to continue his golf game as he played tournaments while teaching at the Naval Academy for two years, but then did a tour of duty on the USS Chung-Hoon from 2007-09. Hurley was stationed at Pearl Harbor and deployed twice during his time on the destroyer.

"I probably averaged playing once a month during those last two years, so at that point in time I wasn't really able to continue working towards my golf game."

Hurley added, "I loved being in the Navy. I loved being at the Naval Academy and I really enjoyed my service time too. If I didn't want to play golf and that was not an aspiration for me I might still be in the Navy. I never seriously considered that because I wanted to give golf a shot. I got to do a lot of things in my time in the Navy that a lot of people just don't get to experience. I traveled a lot to Southeast Asia to Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and a lot of really cool places and gained a lot of life experience just traveling around to a lot of different places. The coolest thing I did was drive the ship to the Suez Canal, which was one of the last things I did within the Navy."

Once he left the Navy, Hurley got back to work on his golf game. It wasn't easy, but he started with daily practice and worked his way into playing tournaments that summer.

"I turned pro in 2006 while I was active duty and played a couple of tournaments while I was teaching at the Naval Academy, and tried to apply for some reserve time but did not get accepted to that so I spent the next two years back on the ship. I got out of the Navy right at the end of June in 2009 and just started practicing and working on my golf from there. I started doing the golf job for five, six, seven hours a day just to get back into it. I played my first couple of tournaments in August and I

wasn't really ready, but knew I had to try and do it some time. I think I played three tournaments in 2009 and missed every cut by a shot and it was quite frustrating to get back into it that way. It took a little while to come back, probably nine months to a year to really get there. I thought it would take about six months so those extra six months or so were really tough."

He added, "The toughest part was just putting 18 holes together and reacting to what would happen when I have a double bogey or three birdies in a row. I had to re-learn the flow of a round of golf. I had all the shots but putting 18 holes together and going through the ups and downs was the most difficult."

After he just missed getting into Q school in 2009, Hurley spent the next year on mini tours. He won an event in the spring of that year, which Hurley said made it feel like "things were going in the right direction." His next step was playing on the Nationwide Tour in 2011, where Hurley had four top-10 finishes with a second-place showing at the Chiquita Classic in July. He entered the 2011 Nationwide Tour Championship in late October needing a good performance to earn his PGA Tour card, and did just that with an 18th-place finish.

"I just got into a good flow that summer. I had conditional status to start the year so I didn't really know what would happen, but I was fortunate enough to make cuts and based on having accumulated earnings was able to keep playing throughout that year. I just got on



a really good run where I finished in the top 20 pretty much every week with some top 10s in there. I played good consistent golf throughout that summer and was able to hang on in the end and finish 25th to earn my tour card right on the number."

Hurley played on the PGA Tour in 2012, competing in 27 events with the highlight coming in a tie for fourth place at the AT & T National in early July. He finished 150th in the FedEx Cup standings, but placed 151st on the money list to miss conditional status for the following year by just one spot.

"The PGA Tour is really hard, and in that year I just did not do anything good for the better part of the first half of the year. I finally did something really good for a couple of weeks in a stretch, but I didn't really finish the season that well and missed a couple of cuts. It was kind of ironic to finish 151st to miss my card after coming in 25th on the number to get it the previous year."

Hurley went back to the Web.com Tour (formerly Nationwide Tour) in 2013, knowing that this time around he was more of a veteran and had a full year to play to get his PGA Tour card back. He made 15 cuts in 24 events on the Web.com Tour with his best finish a playoff loss at the United Leasing Championship in late June.



**Then: Navy Men's Golf (2000-04)**

Hurley played in the Web.com Tour Finals finishing 26th to earn his PGA Tour card for 2014.

"It was tough to go through the tour again, but I knew I could play any tournament that I wanted to play for the most part. I didn't have a great year, and it kind of had all the makings of going back to the Web.com Tour for another year. But I played a couple of nice tournaments in the middle of the Web.com Finals and I knew I needed a great one at the last one and was able to do it. It was really good to know you have to finish in the top 10 to be able to get your card back and to go and pull it off."

Hurley turned the strong finish in 2013 into a fast start on the PGA Tour that fall. He continued the following spring and finished in fifth place at the Honda Classic in early March with a streak of three straight top-40 finishes in late May. Hurley qualified for his first major and placed in a tie for 48th at the U.S. Open, and followed it up with consecutive top-10 showings at the Quicken Loans National and Greenbrier Classic. His tie for fourth place at the latter tournament qualified Hurley for The Open Championship in mid-July where he again made the cut and finished 64th overall. Hurley finished the year with over \$1 million in earnings and made 17 cuts in 26 starts.

"That season was kind of a big steppingstone in my game. It was a bit of a year in proving it to myself, and making the cut at two majors was awesome. I had the chance to win a couple of times and even though I didn't get it done, I had good finishes and kind of went forward in the game. It was my first year of keeping my card so it was a big step forward."

Hurley continues to play on the PGA Tour in 2015, and is using his platform as a professional golfer to give back. Hurley is involved with Birdies for the Brave, a military outreach initiative sponsored by the PGA Tour, as well as the SEAL Legacy Foundation, which provides support to families of wounded and fallen United States Navy SEALs.

"The PGA Tour is an exemplary organization for charity as far as professional sports go, and obviously the military is something that my wife and I want to be a part of still, even though we are not serving actively. The SEAL Legacy Foundation is one of the big ones I'm involved in and wear their logo on my hat when I play on the tour. We do some things individually on a smaller scale as well."

It may have been a little bit of a wait, but Billy Hurley III is achieving success on the course after serving his country and showing that it is never too late to pursue your dream.



# Coleen Lynch



## Family Bond Makes Holy Cross a Special Place for Lynch

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

Coleen Lynch grew up with a father who was an officer in the Navy, and was born in California before moving to Virginia, coming back to California and then ending up in Newport, Rhode Island. While the family moved around a lot in her early years, the Lynch's always had a home at Holy Cross.

"I was the youngest of three, I had an older brother and sister who were 11 and 13 years older and both of them also swam at Holy Cross," Lynch said. "We moved to Newport and I started swimming competitively when I was about seven. I swam for a team at the Navy base in Newport for 10 years called the Newport Navy Blues, since Rogers High School where I attended did not have a swim team. In my junior year my high school added a swim team, so I got to swim for them for a couple of years as well."

When Lynch was looking for a college to continue her swimming career while also challenging herself academically, Holy Cross quickly came to the front of the line for plenty of reasons.

"My father (Hugh) went there too, he is class of '60. My sister (Mary) is class of '82, my brother (Paul) is class of '84 and brother-in-law (William Supple) is class of '81. When I was making a decision I looked at a lot of different schools, and I did not feel compelled or obligated to go to Holy Cross. In the end I was actually deciding between Boston College and Holy Cross, and the idea of being an Eagle was not something that was looked upon well with the rivalry at that time. I loved both schools and I knew BC was a great school and even offered some money, but I knew so many wonderful people from Holy Cross. My sister and brother still had such a wonderful network of friends and they had been out for more than a decade. I think it was the people that drew me there and the

Patriot League had good schools as well as swimming to compete at a high level. The whole picture with academics, community and sport really made Holy Cross a perfect fit for me."

Lynch excelled in the pool for the Crusaders, and was named to the Patriot League Women's Swimming and Diving 25th Anniversary Team this August. She won six individual titles at the League Championship, with three in the 200 free, two in the 100 free and another in the 500 free. Lynch won all three races as a senior in 1995 when she was named the Patriot League Co-Swimmer of the Meet as well as the League's Scholar-Athlete of the Year for the sport.

"The Co-Swimmer of the Year award was a huge honor, since I thought our competition in the Patriot League was top notch. I knew some of the people who had been at the top of their competition in Patriot League and I really admired those women. I was







**Then: Holy Cross women's swimming (1991-95)**

honored to be there with my teammates and it meant the world to me to win the award."

Lynch added, "The Scholar-Athlete award meant a lot to because it was a good combination of focusing on athletics and academics."

Lynch received lasting recognition at Holy Cross when she was elected to the school's Varsity Club Hall of Fame in 2001, which honors outstanding student-athletes for the school and puts Lynch in a group of only six female swimmers honored. While her individual success got Lynch the prestigious spot on the Anniversary Team, her experiences competing for the Crusaders were about more than just awards.

"Some of the training trips were always tough. I loved the people and the team was awesome. One thing that comes to mind was going to National Catholic Championships my sophomore year. It was out at Notre Dame and initially we weren't going, but we made a case to the AD (Ron Perry) to have the opportunity to compete at Notre Dame and it was a great experience. We did the National Catholic Championships in two of my four years, and to go out there and do really well was a great opportunity for those of us who made the trip."

Swimming was not the only part of the Holy Cross experience that Lynch had a chance to cherish.

"I was grateful to have the experience that I did and I was still improving in swimming at that age, but it wasn't my whole life. One of the great things about Holy Cross was that some of my best friends were some of my teammates but I also had a very diverse social group and you could have that kind of well-rounded experience.

She added, "I had a diverse group of friends and being a catholic school we had spiritual exercises, which is a silent retreat. One of the Jesuits who had been at Holy Cross for many years and was a good family friend of mine led those and it was definitely one of the memorable experiences of my time at Holy Cross. I could not do a junior year abroad program

because of swimming, but they had a program where I could do a spring semester after the year was over and I went to Luxembourg for six weeks at the beginning of summer, and it was a great part of my experience. I just went back for my 20th year reunion and it was awesome! It made us realize how lucky we were."

Lynch graduated from Holy Cross in 1995, and continued to swim for another year. She was encouraged to continue her competition by Providence Head Coach John O'Neill as well as Holy Cross' Barry Parenteau, who are both still in their positions to this day.

"John was my coach through the summer time while I was in college, and he and Barry really wanted me to keep going. I trained in Providence and lived at home in Newport, and the idea was to try to qualify for the Olympic trials. I did that for a little less than a year and then I was looking to start my career."

Lynch soon embarked on her career in investment management, taking her to Boston where she worked first with Fidelity for six years and now at Eaton Vance for the past 13. Lynch has worked in account management throughout her career.



"Both companies were great places to work and the person who hired me at Eaton Vance is a Holy Cross grad. I've been in the same line of work for 19 years in working at investment management firms with clients who use our strategies and investment products for their end clients. I talk to clients all day long and travel, and it's a really fun job and I get to meet all sorts of great people."

On her experience at Holy Cross leading to a successful career, Lynch said, "Four years at Holy Cross prepared me well for the business world. The network that exists among alumni is amazing. Holy Cross prepared me to work hard and gave me an opportunity to be successful. The Holy Cross community has always seemed to be there to support me along the way."

While she graduated two decades ago, Lynch's experience with Holy Cross has never really ended as she stays involved with a school that meant so much to her and her family.

"I personally had a terrific experience at Holy Cross. It was a great four years, and I loved the swimming, friends and academics. One group that I started to get involved with after graduation was the Varsity Club at Holy Cross, which helps supports teams and runs the athletic hall of fame. They host the annual Hall of Fame dinner at Holy Cross and really do all of the work around that. That got me involved as a recent grad and it was the primary connection that brought me back to campus a few times a year.

She added, I'm also a class agent, and most recently we have a Crusader Athletic Fund through the development office. Alumni can direct gifts to athletics or specific sports, and it has been really successful in its first couple of years. They asked two grads to be the



national co-chairs in helping getting people involved, and so Gordie Lockbaum (College Football Hall of Famer) and I have been doing that this year."

Not surprisingly, Lynch's family connection to Holy Cross has continued to a new generation. Her nephew, Ned Supple, is a 2013 graduate who swam for the school and now her niece, Maddy Supple, is a junior on the women's rowing team for the Crusaders.

"I go to her races and I went to some of his meets, and here they are there 20 years later and it's rewarding to see them enjoy it as much as I did. My nephew loved it, and now my niece loves it and I want them to appreciate it as much as I did."

Lynch made an impact on Holy Cross, and she continues to do so for a school that has meant so much for her and her entire family.



**Now: Works at EatonVance Investment Managers in Boston.**

**Pictured: Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., President of College of the Holy Cross (left), Coleen Lynch (right)**



# Joe Fletcher

## Fletcher's Memorable Season in the Patriot League Caps Unforgettable Career

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

When Loyola University Maryland officially joined the Patriot League for the 2013-14 season, the Greyhounds were entering a conference known for its balance of athletic and academic success. But as it turned out, Loyola was also bringing one of the best student-athletes in the nation in each of those areas in men's lacrosse standout Joe Fletcher.

On the field, Fletcher led Loyola to the No. 1 national ranking for a majority of the 2014 regular season as the Greyhounds entered the NCAA Tournament with a 15-1 record. Loyola had a perfect regular-season mark in the Patriot League before winning the League Tournament title. Fletcher was selected as the Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year, a first-team All-American and the winner of the William C. Schmeisser Award as the Outstanding Defensive Player in the nation from the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA). He also became the second defender in the 14-year history of the Tewaaraton Award to be named one of the five finalists for the trophy.

"The season as a whole was a good experience for us, even though I wish we could have gone a little farther in the NCAA Tournament," Fletcher said of his 2014 team, which fell in the first round in the postseason. "We had a young group of guys and it was pretty cool to see them develop that year. All of the veterans took on the challenge of stepping up and how would we get the younger guys to step up in certain situations. We had some pretty close games early but as the season progressed we saw things really grow and develop and some of the younger guys mature. That younger group made playing lacrosse fun and helped us enjoy and appreciate the game more."





**Then: Loyola men's lacrosse (2011-14)**

**Now: Plays professionally in MLL for New York Lizards; Works at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Baltimore**

Fletcher's accolades for his success in the classroom as well as on the playing field were just as impressive. He started off by earning the Patriot League Men's Lacrosse Scholar-Athlete of the Year honor, and later added the League's Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year award and a second-team Academic All-American nod. Fletcher's most prestigious honor came this past January when he was named one of the winners of the NCAA Today's Top 10 Award. He became just the second Patriot League and first Loyola recipient of the award that has honored student-athletes for their successes on the fields, in the classroom and in the community since 1973.

"I did my best and one thing I was successful with was not thinking about all of that stuff. It was pretty neat just seeing my mom and dad's reaction and other family members to some of my honors, it made me appreciate it more. I know my parents were very appreciative and thankful just to know that all of the hard work from them as well as myself had paid off. It was nice to see the look in my parents' eyes and from people at Loyola as well."

While Fletcher was first introduced to Patriot League fans in his senior season, he came to the conference with a long list of accomplishments from his time at Loyola. He entered the university in the fall of 2010 after playing in high school at West Genesee in suburban Syracuse. From one lacrosse hotbed to another, Fletcher helped the Greyhounds to an 8-5 record in his freshman season in 2011. But he could tell by the end of that year that more was to come for his squad.

"Right when we got back for practice the next year there was a good vibe and environment. We were a little upset and hungry. I will never forget the conditioning that we did during the fall. We had a really good fall and everyone would be on the same page and geared towards a big season."

Loyola opened the 2012 season with four victories, including a neutral-site contest with Bellarmine in Louisville, Kentucky and a trip to Michigan during spring break. The Greyhounds returned home to face Duke three days after the trip, and showed they would be a force all season with a 13-8 victory over the Blue Devils.

"Duke is an unbelievable program so having an opportunity to beat them at home really helped our confidence. Our coaches did a great job helping us balance and not to get too high and not to get too low, especially after that win. We did a lot of traveling especially in that first part of the year and Duke was the last game of a busy stretch. We really dug in for that spring break and we won the game and it helped things to get going."

Loyola won its first 12 games before falling at home in the regular-season finale against local rival Johns Hopkins, which defeated the Greyhounds 10-9 in overtime at Ridley Athletic Complex. While the loss was tough to take, it helped Loyola prepare for the memorable run that would follow.





"Everyone always talks about that loss helping us a lot. We had a chance to reflect on what we were doing and some things we were getting away with and getting a little lucky in some areas. I remember going over the film going into the NCAA Tournament and really evaluating things. It kind of gave us that hunger back going into the NCAA Tournament that we didn't want to lose and would do everything possible to keep winning."

And they did keep winning, all the way to claiming the 2012 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championship, a first in school history. Loyola escaped then conference rival Denver with a 10-9 victory in the quarterfinals, then dominated championship weekend in Foxborough, Massachusetts by defeating Notre Dame 7-5 in the semifinals and Maryland 9-3 for the national title.

"We really played as a unit together on the defensive side. We didn't overthink or overtalk about it so we just went about it like any normal game. We just played lacrosse and were able to keep our composure and play good lacrosse at the right time."

Fletcher earned All-America recognition in 2012 and again in 2013, and with his reputation building became the only collegiate player to compete on the U.S. Men's National Team training roster for the 2014 World Cup.

"That experience was one of the coolest things I've ever done. There are guys at that level that I have looked up to since high school and middle school and really idolize them. It was just great to experience lacrosse at that level and be with that group on and off the field."



Fletcher had also been selected No. 3 overall in the Major League Lacrosse Draft by the New York Lizards heading into the 2014 season. After he completed his senior year at Loyola, Fletcher joined the squad and helped New York to the MLL Playoffs while twice being named Defensive Player of the Week. He took it to another level in 2015, claiming the MLL Warrior Defensive Player of the Year award and leading New York to its first league championship since 2003.

"Playing professionally is a blast. Having the opportunity to keep on playing is something I never thought I would have but now that I have it I am really grateful. We have a lot of fun and it's just nice to be in the locker room again and have 20 or 30 guys that have your back and still have that spirit of camaraderie that we had in college."

In addition to his success in the MLL, Fletcher is working full time in risk assurance at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Baltimore. Even in his professional career, Fletcher continues to display the mix of on and off the field success that made him a legendary name in the Patriot League in just one season.



# Melissa Wharton



## Wharton Leads at Bucknell, Now Does the Same in Business

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

**M**elissa Wharton always knew her way around the volleyball court, and her experiences as a student-athlete have helped shape a successful entrepreneurial career.

Wharton is the founder, President and CEO of The Church Online, a technology, design and publishing company which provides services to help ministries communicate through various platforms.

"Dr. William H. Curtis and I have built the company into what it is today from the ground up," Wharton said. "The company provides live video streaming, video on demand, website development, mobile app development, graphic design services, video production services and book publishing services. Through many years of experiencing the outreach needs of churches, I could see that there was a tremendous need for ministries all over the world to become more effective communicators and to utilize technology more effectively to do so. The Church Online has worked with more than 2,000 ministry leaders and organizations worldwide on more than 10,000 projects and we have helped our ministry partners raise more than \$35 million."

Through her experiences with the company, Wharton has been able to make a significant impact for ministries and people who want to attend services but may have to get creative to do so.

"I enjoy extending the walls of the traditional church to allow people throughout the world, who are not able to attend services physically, to participate online through live and on demand video. We utilize technology to bring traditional worship services to thousands of people on a weekly basis no matter where they may be."

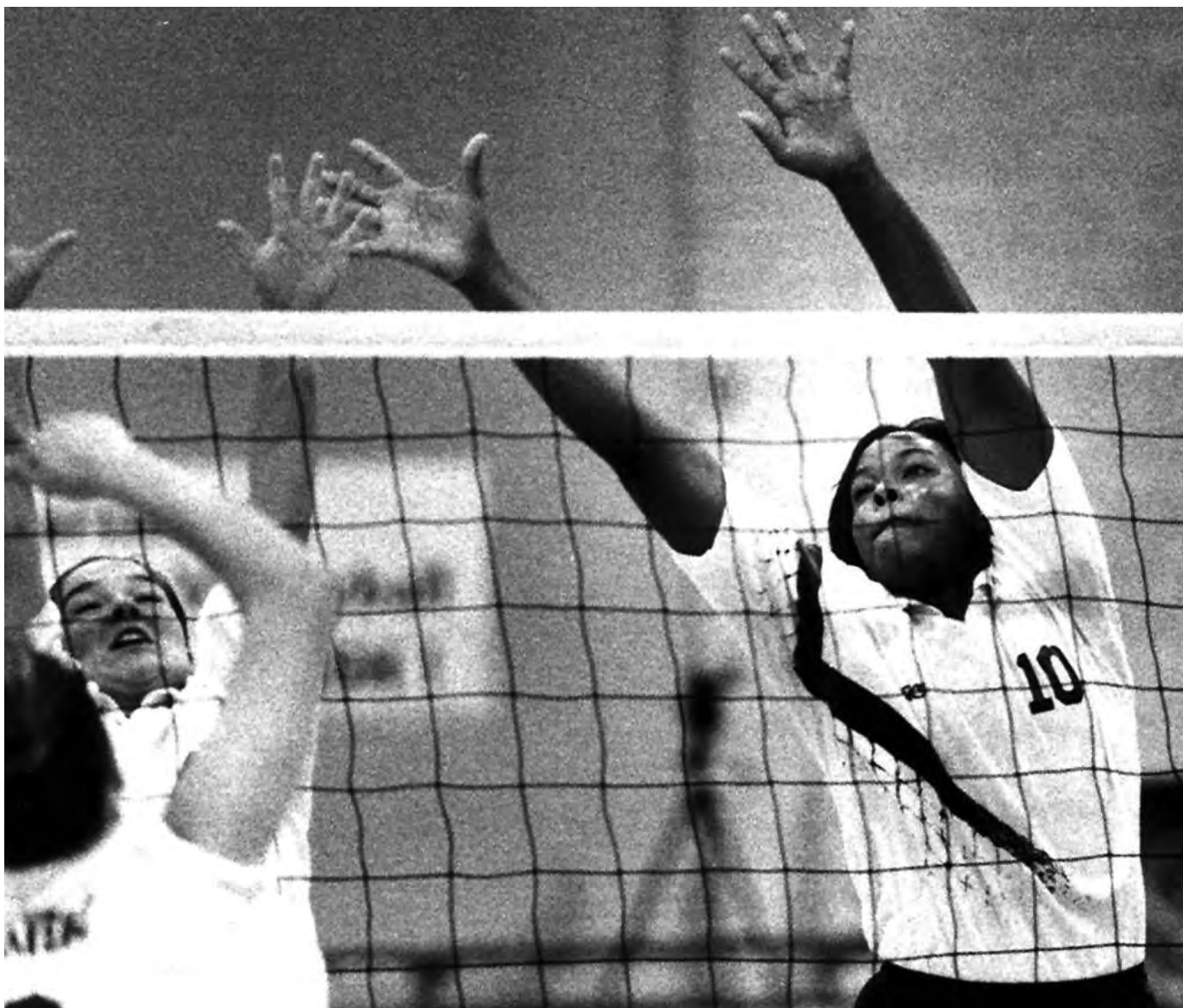
"We have published several books for some of the most influential pastors in the United States. Having the opportunity to work closely with ministries that are making a significant impact in so many lives is not something we take for granted. I have enjoyed building and working with a team of professionals that come in to work everyday with the same goals and understanding that we accomplish everything that we do, together, as a team. This is of course where Bucknell and my time in organized sports truly helped to shape my life."

That time in organized sports, or at least on the volleyball court, started a little later for Wharton than it does for others. She knew nothing about the sport when she began playing volleyball in the eighth grade, but listened to the advice of a teacher to begin a path that would eventually shape her professional career.

"One of the my history teachers, Mr. Dan Brown, was the coach of the high school girls and boys teams. He often told me that I should try out for the volleyball team. As I knew nothing about the sport, I had no idea



**Now: Founder, President and CEO of The Church Online in Pittsburgh**



**Then: Bucknell volleyball (1994-97)**

why he thought I would make a good player. As it turns out, I was very tall for my age, which is an incredibly helpful attribute in the sport! I finally gave in to his prompts and tried out for the team. That decision was one I would not regret!"

As she developed in the sport, the next decision would be on where to attend college. Wharton wanted to play volleyball at a high level, but the combination of athletics and academics at Bucknell was too good to pass up.

"I was being recruited by Cynthia Opalski, Bucknell's coach at that time. I knew the school was incredibly strong academically, however, I was torn between attending a school with a powerhouse volleyball program or focusing on academics. After visiting Bucknell, I felt that the university could provide a top-notch academic experience while

providing athletic opportunities in a growing program that I felt I could fit right in to."

Wharton certainly did fit right in at Bucknell, and in her career from 1994-97 became one of the best players in school and Patriot League history. She helped the Bison reach the Patriot League Tournament title game twice and is the League record holder in career hitting percentage at .400. Wharton posted three of the top four single-season hitting percentages in Patriot League history, including a record .445 in 1995. Wharton also holds the career League mark with 631 blocks and was named to the first-team All-Patriot League squad three straight times. The Bison won the Patriot League regular-season title in both 1995 and 1997, with a perfect 6-0 mark in League action in the latter year. The success Wharton helped bring to the program also brought the Bison in position to win the Patriot League title in two of three years following her graduation.



But while the on-court accomplishments were significant for the 25th Anniversary Team member, Wharton's experience at Bucknell went far beyond what shows up in the box score.

"There are so many memories from matches, Patriot League tournaments, travel and practices, but the athletic department at Bucknell helped to give me what I consider to be four of the best years of my life. They supported me unendingly, in so many ways, and continue to do so. They believed in me. They celebrated the accomplishments of the team and my personal accomplishments athletically and academically. The confidence and support that they poured into me helped shaped my character."

She added, "I will also never forget singing the national anthem before all of our home volleyball matches!"

Wharton had a chance to continue her volleyball career after leaving Bucknell. She was invited to try out for the United States National Volleyball Team as well as the United States Professional Volleyball (USPV) Dream Team, which she made as one of the 20 members of the original squad.

"We frequently competed against and practiced with the US Women's National Team and competed against international opponents including but not limited to China, Japan and the Dominican Republic. I had the opportunity to be coached by some of the best, including Dr. Arie Selinger, Satoshi Matsunaga, Ping Cao and Haruya Indo."

Wharton certainly will not be forgotten at Bucknell. She was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2009, becoming just the second volleyball player to ever earn that distinction.

"That was an incredible honor and one of my proudest athletic accomplishments. To be a part of such a rich athletic tradition, alongside so many



amazing people, at one of the greatest universities in world, is something that I will always truly cherish."

And it wasn't just Wharton's experience in athletics at Bucknell that helped shape who she is today. She was a member of the Bucknell Gospel Choir, and embraced what the school had to offer in academics and social experiences.

"I enjoyed the friendships that I made and the many opportunities I had to participate in the music and other educational programs at the school. I enjoyed knowing that I was more than just a number to all of my professors. The class sizes were small enough that I communicated often with all of them and knew that I had their complete support."

The athletic and academic experience at Bucknell helped Wharton shape her career, and now she is giving back by working with a company that aims to bring positive leadership to people around the world. You can find out more about her work at [www.thechurchonline.com](http://www.thechurchonline.com).

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# Tim & Kate Bieg



## Bieg's Win Titles, Build Relationship at Lafayette

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

**T**im and Kate (Madden) Bieg have the type of love story that most people can only dream of. Date in high school, decide to go to college together, have great success on Division I athletic teams and then build careers and a family in the area of South Jersey where they grew up.

All of which is true, except that Kate, who is one year younger, did not plan on following Tim to go to school and compete in athletics at Lafayette. The two had dated for about a year before Tim came to Lafayette in

the fall of 1997, and Kate did not want to go school with her boyfriend.

"I promise I did not follow him to Lafayette," Kate said. "I applied to about 10 schools, and went on summer visits to see places. I wanted to go down south, and in the competitive college application process I ended up getting in to Lafayette and Loyola. I wasn't even going to apply to Lafayette, but my parents kept saying if Tim wasn't there it would be perfect. And I thought if Tim wasn't there it would be a no-brainer, I would love to go to Lafayette. As it turned out, I chose Lafayette and gave it a shot."

She added, "I had a great sense about the school and it was such a pretty campus. I loved the location that it was somewhat close to home but not enough to come back every weekend. It had a great combination of athletics and academics."

For Tim, the reasons to go to Lafayette were much simpler as he was looking for an opportunity to compete at the highest level following a standout high school career at Camden Catholic.

"Lafayette was one of the only Division I schools that ever really recruited me for basketball," Tim said. "That was my primary overriding reason to go to the school. I never took an official visit, but once I got up





and looked at the campus, once I went to school there it was a perfect combination."

Even though they were together at the same school, Tim's experience with the basketball team and Kate's in lacrosse kept the pair too occupied to spend all of their time together.

"Honestly Tim was so busy with basketball he didn't have that much time for me when I was there, and being on the lacrosse team I had this immediate group of friends on campus which was real nice," Kate said. "So we were able to make it work."

Tim added, "Basketball was really an all-year type of sport. You were doing workouts and playing or doing conditioning every day. There really is no offseason."

Tim came at what turned out to be a great era of success for the Lafayette basketball program. His freshman season was just the third for Head Coach Fran O'Hanlon, who recently completed his 20th season in the position with his third Patriot League title in March. Lafayette had finished with losing marks in O'Hanlon first two years, but the 1997-98 campaign turned into a memorable one as the Leopards went 19-9 overall and shared the regular-season title with Navy by going 10-2 in the Patriot League. The Leopards came just shy of their first League title as they fell to the Mids in the Patriot League title game.

"I consider myself lucky that I was sort of the right fit at the right time," said Tim, who earned the starting point guard spot in 21 games as a freshman, including the final 12 of the season. "One of the things that really struck me when I got there was a quiet confidence that we were going to be successful. The first workout I had with some of the older guys, you could just sense that the program was going in the right direction. Some of those guys had been there when the team won three or four games and lost to a Division III school. There was just this expectation when I got there from Coach O'Hanlon all the way down to all of the guys that we were going to win. I had come from a situation where I was used to winning in high school, and when I got to Lafayette we were at the point where things were really starting to turn."

Kate's situation was different, as the Lafayette women's lacrosse team was already an established force. The Leopards had won four straight League titles and seven of eight overall going into her first season with the squad in 1999.

"It was really fun. Our coach at the time was Ann Gold, who is a Lafayette legend as a field hockey and lacrosse coach for so many years. She was a master recruiter and based a lot of her recruiting in the Philadelphia area and selected great athletes for her teams. So many of the girls at that time played both

field hockey and lacrosse, and Ann led this great family atmosphere with a quiet confidence. She sort of had a low-key style but would speak up and yell when it mattered. Everyone knew Ann was in charge and that she was leading championship teams. The girls on the team really knew how to turn it on and it was a really fun group to be around."

After the Leopards made it to the Patriot League title game in his freshman season, Tim helped his team take the next step as Lafayette won consecutive Patriot League titles in 1999 and 2000. He was named to the Patriot League All-Tournament Team in both seasons, and came up big in the title games with a 15-point, eight-assist effort in Lafayette's 67-63 win over Bucknell in 1999 and 11 points in the Leopards' 87-61 rout of Navy in 2000.

"The experience was memorable," Tim said. "Not many people can say that they won back-to-back championships and played in the NCAA Tournament twice. Those two teams and even the team my freshman year were a team personified. We all had our own role to play, there was no selfishness or one person that wanted to do everything. Everyone had a role and accepted it because we all wanted to win. That was the bottom line for the entire team. Whether you were going to play five minutes or 35 minutes, everyone accepted their role which made it a team and a very successful team. We had very good players, out of the four years I was there we had three of the Player of the Year winners in the Patriot League. We were a very talented team, but talent can only take you so far and we played as a team. It was a wonderful experience that I draw on many times since I've left and something I am extremely lucky to have been a part of."

Lafayette finished in second place in Kate's freshman season in 1999, but then she one-upped her future husband by being a part of three Patriot League championship teams during her four seasons. The Leopards had the success during her era despite a pair of changes at the top.

"Ann Gold decided to stop doing lacrosse and stay on with field hockey for a little bit longer," Kate said. "After that, Jill Redfern took over, who was our assistant coach the year before, and we won the title my sophomore year. Jill did that one year and then Becca (Rebecca Joseph) came in and she had a different mentality and different coaching style. That was my junior year, I had spent the fall semester in Italy and we had graduated a big group of seniors the year before so I came back and wasn't really sure what to expect. I was thinking it was going to be a tough season, but we all adjusted and we had a great group of underclassmen too and an awesome recruiting class. We pulled together like a team and



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**Tim Bieg**  
**Then: Lafayette men's basketball (1997-01)**  
**Now: Partner at law firm Madden & Madden (Haddonfield, N.J.)**

**Kate Bieg**  
**Then: Lafayette women's lacrosse (1999-02)**  
**Now: Works in marketing and communications at Camden (N.J.) Catholic**

trained more intensely than we ever had before and pulled out another League title."

While they each had great experiences in competition, the time at Lafayette was about so much more for both of the Biegs.

"I was playing basketball all year round and was surrounded by a group of 10 to 15 guys that I would literally spend every day with," Tim said. "But even with that I made unbelievable friendships outside the basketball team and guys I am close with today. It was a nice place to meet a wide variety of people from different backgrounds. The academic part of it was very fulfilling. As I've gotten older I've come to appreciate a Liberal Arts education. A lot of different things that I studied, I would probably have never had the opportunity to understand if I went to another school. It's a wonderful institution and it was a perfect fit for me as well as a place that's very close to both of us."

Kate added, "Generally it became my home away from home. Lafayette is a place that today we love to bring our family to and talk about the memories. It's so much fun to go back to the fields and Kirby Sports Center, it just brings back a lot of really fun times. There are memories not just with athletics but in the classroom. I was a Government & Law major and that program at Lafayette is extremely strong and I still pull on that experience today."

The Biegs are back in South Jersey now, making their home in Haddon Heights. After going to law school, Tim works as a lawyer in Haddonfield for Madden & Madden, which is Kate's father's firm. Kate went into a marketing and public relations career and worked for different firms in the area as well as the Philadelphia History Museum. She now works part-time at the couple's alma mater, Camden Catholic, in heading up the school's marketing and communications.

The couple has three young children: Seamus (7), Tess (5) and Cleary (2). Tim and Kate are now able to bring their great memories from Lafayette to their family.

"We go back when we can," Kate said. "This past year we went back for Homecoming and some of our friends were playing at that time in the alumni games. It's awesome to go back and see people that we played with. We brought our kids back and walked



the campus, we went to the Lehigh-Lafayette football game at Yankee Stadium and participate in local alumni events in the Philadelphia and Cherry Hill area when time allows."

Tim even got to experience Lafayette's first Patriot League men's basketball title since his junior season when the Leopards beat American to capture the crown at home in March.

"I was lucky enough to get up for the championship game this year at Lafayette and it brought back a lot of good memories," he said. "After that game I was with Brian Ehlers (1999 and 2000 Patriot League Men's Basketball Player of the Year) and we were able to get in the locker room and address the team. I told Kate when I got home that it was a very unique and wonderful experience to be able to be a part of that."

He added, "When you tell people that you played sports in college, people are impressed that you tell them about playing for Lafayette and the Patriot League. To be compared to something like the Ivy League in terms of the academics aspect of it is pretty humbling. It's a very good feeling to be associated with some of the elite schools academically."

All in all it has been quite an experience from high school sweethearts to raising a family for both Tim and Kate, whose decision to attend the same school as her boyfriend turned out to be a great one.

# Annie Houghton



## Family Ties Houghton to West Point

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

West Point will always have a special place in Annie Houghton's heart. It was where she followed her siblings to a collegiate career in tennis, met her future husband and maybe even will work again someday.

"West Point opened so many doors to serving and getting to travel, I got to meet my husband and best friends there and when I look back I just have great memories," Houghton said. "Bill (Henderson) and I would love to go back and work at West Point and be stationed

there and it would be really rewarding to have the opportunity to work there."

Annie Houghton seemed destined to go to West Point from a young age, where she could follow in the footsteps of her older siblings Kate, John and Rick, who all played tennis for the Black Knights. But between her sophomore and junior seasons, Annie had to deal with something that could derail her collegiate tennis plans when she suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL).

"To this day I still feel like it was one of the biggest challenges that I faced," Annie said. "When you get injured and you wake up and can't walk and bend your knees, it's really tough. It was really hard but it made me learn how determined I was to become a better tennis player. My recovery from that is something I'm really proud of because I was able to push myself where a lot of people thought my career could have been over because it's the prime time to get recruited by colleges. It was a really tough time in my life but it was so rewarding to see the outcome of it."

She added, "I called my coach the day I got out of surgery and said I can't walk or run, but I need to find a way to get on the court. He said let's make it work, and a couple of weeks later I was sitting in a chair and just hitting hundreds of balls for hours. My coach and parents





would watch me and I just had a really good support system.”

Houghton was not able to play in the girls' season her junior year at Quaker Valley High School in Sewickley, Pennsylvania because of the injury, but showed just how talented she was when she had an opportunity to compete in the boys season and became the first girl to win a Pennsylvania boys' singles district championship. With her career on the court ascending and the recruiting letters flowing in, Houghton decided to forego high school tennis after her junior season to play at the USTA level. The college decision was not going to be easy, but West Point had pull for Houghton on and off the court.

“It was a hard decision because tennis was such a big part of my life and looking at it solely for tennis, there were a ton of opportunities to go elsewhere,” Houghton said. “But when you look at the big picture and after visiting my siblings, I saw how West Point builds your character and makes you such a well-rounded person along with the experience of being able to serve your country. It was hard with the tennis aspect of it but after visiting and thinking about the ideal of West Point and everything it brings it made it an easy decision.”

On her older siblings, Houghton added, “They have everything to do with why I was a good athlete just because we pushed each other. My favorite thing was to watch my brother John go out and compete. Having three role models excel at a sport was great and with that competitive drive in me I wanted to go out and prove that I was just as good if not better. We would play every day together growing up and seeing them compete was cool because it's three role models who are also three of your closest friends.”

Houghton continued to push when she arrived at West Point with the help of women's head coach Paul Peck, who has brought the program to consistent success with 13 NCAA Tournament appearances in his two decades in the position.

“When I got to West Point, I had visited so many times that I already had a pretty good relationship with Coach Peck. West Point kinds of brings you down a little bit your freshman year, but Coach Peck was great about building you back up and helping with confidence on the court as well as with grades and everything with school. He's a huge mentor and I still talk to him weekly. He's a great guy, he always offers advice and also served in the army. He's the perfect coach for a women's team.”

She continued, “One thing that shows everything about Coach Peck was when I had to get my forehand right, and I would come in at 4:30 in the morning before I started swim class at 7. He never said no, he pushed me as much as I needed it and was just the greatest coach.”



**Then: Army West Point Women's Tennis (2008-11)**

**Now: Active in United States Army; Stationed in Korea**

With that push from her coach and her own drive to succeed, Houghton put up perhaps the best career of any Patriot League women's tennis player. She is the only three-time winner of the Patriot League Player of the Year award, claiming the honor consecutively in 2008 and 2009 and again in 2011 while earning first-team All-Patriot League status in each of her four seasons. Houghton is Army West Point's all-time wins leader in singles play at 98, including 65 as the No. 1 in dual matches.

But for all of the individual success, the team triumphs stick out even more. The Black Knights won the Patriot League title in each of Houghton's four seasons and went 20-0 against League teams in regular-season play over the course of her career.

“I just remember playing against Bucknell in the Patriot League championships, especially as a sophomore and junior. Tennis is an individual sport but when you are in the League Championship it's a really a team effort. If someone loses someone else can make up for it.

Everyone is around the court cheering as loud as they can. Seeing all my teammates have these huge wins, and winning as a team there is really nothing like it. You can share it together, everyone contributes and even for someone like Coach Peck those are his proudest moments. Patriot League championships were a really cool experience."

Houghton's team knocked off Bucknell in competitive League title matches in her first three seasons, but in her senior year it was Navy that awaited the Black Knights in the championship. The Mids were in their second season as a varsity program, and Houghton did not want to go out with a loss to Army West Point's biggest rival.

"It was the first time we played Navy, and I literally was not able to sleep the night before. We had to beat them, we could not graduate our senior year without beating Navy. We all trained so hard coming up to it, we pushed ourselves in the weight room and by the time the match came I felt that we were really prepared. I was really confident but also really nervous."

Houghton won the League Tournament MVP award in that senior championship run, giving her the final honor in an outstanding career. That last step came a few weeks later when Army West Point played at Virginia in the NCAA Tournament, Houghton's fourth trip after the Black Knights previously played NCAA contests at UCLA, Miami (Fla.) and California.

"We would always get a tough draw against a first or second-ranked team, but just being able to travel as a team was a great experience. Coach gave us some time off and at West Point that's huge to just be able to walk around areas like Berkeley. As a team it brings you closer and the trips are always fun. For me it was incredible to have the challenge and experience to compete against some of the best people in the country."

While Houghton had an outstanding career on the tennis court, her husband had a similarly dominant run in men's lacrosse. Bill Henderson won the Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year award in both 2010 and 2011, and earned first-team All-Patriot League status in his final three years as well as third-team All-America recognition as a senior. The West Point Class of 2011 standouts were rewarded for their accomplishments this summer with spots on the Patriot League 25th Anniversary Teams, with Houghton making the women's tennis squad on Aug. 20 and Henderson following on the men's lacrosse list on Aug. 24.

With West Point playing such a huge role in each of their lives, the theme was fitting for the decorated cadet-athletes at their wedding in October.

"We decided to do a military wedding, we are both serving and it's a huge part of our lives," Houghton said.



"It was really cool to see everyone in uniform and it was just beautiful, obviously because I got to marry Bill but it was just a perfect day."

Houghton was first stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington state, then did her Captain's Career Course at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. She and Bill left in August to spend a year in Korea.

"Being able to be over there with my husband and just traveling together and seeing a different part of the world will be really cool. After that we really look forward to hopefully being at West Point and stationed there and being back in this part of the country and closer to our family."

Houghton and her husband would certainly be ideal representatives to carry on the West Point message to future cadets.

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# Kerry Kenny



## Chance Meeting Turns into a Career Path for Lafayette's Kenny

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

**K**erry Kenny spent his first year after graduating from Lafayette in 2007 serving as the national chair of the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee while also working full-time at the Patriot League office. It was the start of a career path that would lead him to the Big Ten Conference as well as the culmination of years of activity in SAAC that would have never started without an illness to one of his men's basketball teammates.

"I was a junior at the time and the way it worked was that coaches would designate who from their teams would attend the SAAC meetings at Lafayette," Kenny said. "One day our captain Andrei Capusan was sick and not able to attend the meeting, so I went and enjoyed interacting on the topics that they discussed there."

The ball began rolling from there, as Kenny found out at the campus meeting that there would be an election to attend the conference meeting, which he put in a nomination for and was selected to attend later that spring. Then he created another opportunity for himself at the Patriot League SAAC meeting.

"They were doing elections for a new Patriot League chair who would be the League's national SAAC rep. I provided feedback and participated in all the discussion during the meeting, and by the end my peers felt that I would have a great role in participating for the League at the national level. SAAC really allows you to find consensus and the sweet spot of how things are going to be. I have always liked interacting with people and it was really just the right place at the right time."

Kenny turned his time as the head of the Patriot League SAAC into the role of SAAC chair at the national level. To do it, he had to perform the balancing act with athletics and academics that challenges all Patriot League student-athletes.







"When there is an election, you get up and give a speech and everyone votes with majority rules. When I ran for vice chair the election was in Orlando, and I was not able to go because we had a home game that night. I gave my speech over the phone, and fortunately I got elected as vice chair and served in that role. At the next year's convention at Nashville I automatically moved to the chair and served in that role from January 2008 to January 2009."

For someone who was focusing on a career in college athletics, the time spent as SAAC chair provided Kenny with invaluable experience to take forward to his future endeavors.

"It was the best internship that I could have asked for to be able to deal with timely issues at the NCAA level. I got to sit in on some of the bigger meetings of decision-makers that really drove the policy back then. I could kind of be the spokesperson for the committee with national media within the association, and really gave me the opportunity to speak about something I was passionate about. One of the bigger things at the time was whether text messaging would be part of the recruiting process. I had an opportunity to speak on the convention floor and to national media about it. It was an unbelievable experience and I got to travel to some great places and meet a lot of great people."

**Then: Lafayette men's basketball (2004-07)**

**Now: Director of Compliance at Big Ten Conference in New York City**

It all turned out to be a great experience for someone who started out by looking for options in his college choice, knowing that a professional basketball career was probably not in the future plans.

"I didn't know a whole lot about Lafayette in my college process, but I came to learn of it a little bit from talking to people. My dad knew John O'Connor, who was a Lafayette assistant, from some of his basketball experience over the years and was able to start the conversation with the coaching staff. I went in as a walk-on since I did not really get recruited at the Division I level out of high school. Once I stepped on campus and learned more about it going to Lafayette was appealing because it was great to be able to have a good relationship with my family being in close proximity. You can't ask for anything more from a college with a top academic program that was as good as you can find from a liberal arts perspective. I knew that Lafayette would be a place where I could have some great options coming out of school and find something I was passionate about."

Though Kenny did not get much playing time and the Leopards did not have a ton of success in his tenure from 2003-07, there were a handful of memories that stick out from his experience on the court.



"The first practice my sophomore year was special since I was one of the team managers as a freshman. We had a really good team my freshman year and I was a walk-on so I didn't make it, but I'll always remember that first practice sophomore year and just the intensity level of it and how regimented it was because of Coach (Fran) O'Hanlon's style. Then senior year, we played against Indiana in the Preseason NIT on ESPN at what was then Conseco Fieldhouse where the Pacers play. Dick Vitale was announcing and just to have him say my name when I checked in the game was really cool. Senior Day against Lehigh we won in double overtime and the game was on ESPNU, and I hit a three-pointer in the first half and made a couple of plays in a game where I played a little more."

He added, "We had a great combination of guys who had a lot of experience from a lot of different backgrounds. A lot of the memories that I have are with them on road trips, doing workouts and conditioning. That's the stuff that people don't really get to see behind the scenes but it's what really makes the collegiate level what it is."

Kenny, who grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs in Richboro, Pa., will also always remember the influence of his coach.

"Coach O'Hanlon is a legend in Patriot League circles, in Philadelphia circles and in basketball at the collegiate and international levels. He's probably one of the best tactical coaches not just in the Patriot League but in the country. Coach O's practices were always meticulously planned out and timed down to the second and we learned a lot of responsibility and structure from him. Off the court he is a great family man and was always there as a player's coach. He was hard when he needed to be but he's also someone that wanted to set you up to succeed both on and off the court."

Kenny's involvement with SAAC was just part of his experience at Lafayette, where the school's size allowed him to become a part of various activities.

"I think the thing I most enjoyed was even though you played high-level Division I athletics, you could still have the full collegiate experience. I was able to cover the Lafayette football team for the school newspaper sophomore to senior year when they won three straight championships. There were a lot of academic related initiatives, with different topics related to academics and business, which was my major. The holistic education and having the ability to really balance everything that we had on campus was special. Without those experiences I would not be where I am as a person or young professional."

Where he is now is working at the Big Ten. Kenny started at the conference as the governance intern in July 2008, shortly after completing his year as the



Media Relations Intern at the Patriot League office. Kenny moved into a full-time position at the Big Ten the following year, and now works as the conference's Director of Compliance in the New York City office.

"Even though it was my second internship, I really thought it was a great opportunity at a place that had a great academic experience as well as a great athletic experience. When I moved into my full-time position in July 2009 it was really compliance heavy and over time the thing I've enjoyed most about the Big Ten other than the people and schools is the ability to grow within the organization. I have been able to take on more projects and responsibilities. I'm still somewhat involved in compliance, but able to get more in public affairs and initiatives like our head injury collaboration with the Ivy League. I oversee the sport of wrestling and have other duties that allow me to work with new issues. It's an interesting time with changes that we've gone through as a conference with the addition of three schools and everything at the NCAA level with litigation and governance. The job has never felt like it's been the same from year to year, and hopefully I'll be in it for a long time."

As Kenny continues his work in college athletics, he remains an ideal representative of Lafayette and the Patriot League, just as he was when serving in SAAC.

"As soon as you mention Lafayette and the Patriot League it gives you an instant level of credibility. The reputation and character of the school and conference are second to none in providing a holistic experience. The Patriot League had eight of the best institutions in the country while I was there and now 10 that have those similar aspect to them. There's a level of credibility and it makes me proud to be a part of."



# Molly Creamer



## Creamer Stands Up to Bullies After Remarkable Playing Career

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

It would be hard to represent the ideals of the Patriot League better than former Bucknell women's basketball star Molly Creamer, who went from a career as perhaps the best player in League history to the leader that all graduates aspire to become.

As a student-athlete, her career accomplishments are second to none. Creamer earned the Patriot League Player of the Year award in three straight seasons from

2001-03, and remains the only three-time recipient of the honor. She made the first-team All-Patriot League squad in each of those seasons after a second-team honor as a freshman in 2000. Creamer is the League's all-time leading scorer with 2,462 points and second in assists with 593.

While the accomplishments are significant, Creamer also remembers her time with teammates and helping lead the Bison to the school's first Patriot League title in 2002.

"We had lost in the opening round of the Patriot League Tournament the year before and were so disappointed from that experience," Creamer said. "After that game we kind of just came together and knew we had to take it to the next level. Our group had played together for a really long time and it was the senior year for seven of my teammates, and we were very determined to get right back into it. Less than a week after the League Tournament we started playing pick-up again and into the summer we just wanted to have a great season. We wanted to send seniors out with a championship or at least a great season."

**Now: Co-Founder, Find the Courage (New York City)**





She continued, "It was just kind of a feeling that if we get an opportunity to advance in the tournament, let's try and not be nervous but just play high-level basketball and see if we can play to our ability. Playing Holy Cross in the finals on the road, we knew they were definitely the best. You know that you have put yourself out there to have a chance against them. We were really excited that we were able to win the championship while still having a tremendous amount of respect for Holy Cross and that program."

Creamer was named Patriot League Tournament Most Valuable Player in 2002, and carried that momentum into her senior campaign. She was already established as a top player in the Patriot League and the nation, and lived up to it with first-team All-America recognition as a senior. Creamer also began to realize that her collegiate career might not be the end of her basketball experience.

"It was probably junior year or maybe going into senior year where I figured I could play professionally. It doesn't seem like it was as big as it is now, but as much as anything I just wanted to get Bucknell on the map. Senior year we had lost the group of seven in the class ahead of us, but had really strong young players that we were with. I wish we could have had a few more wins that year but it was great to go out and pass on what we had learned to the younger players."

After her final season at Bucknell was over, Creamer embarked on the journey to try and play professionally and ended up as the 10th pick of the 2003 WNBA Draft by the New York Liberty.

"It was definitely very exciting. After finishing the season I ended up hearing some talk that I could possibly be drafted, but it was surprising coming from a non-scholarship school like Bucknell. I just felt like it would be a dream come true, and I just tried to train a lot and get ready. I got drafted and was kind of surprised that I was picked 10th but was very excited and figured I would just see where it would take me. I was wide open but had no clue what to expect."

Creamer ended up as the last cut for the Liberty that season, but realized there was another opportunity to experience a career in professional basketball.

"With the Liberty, training camp was a little over a month and it was the hardest, most physically taxing experience I have ever had. I remember learning so much being around the best of the best. Teresa Weatherspoon was on that team, so I was just trying to learn as much as possible. After training camp I came away with so much knowledge and experience, and then I found out that I could continue my career in Europe. I played in Israel right after college which was



**Then: Bucknell women's basketball (1999-03)**

an awesome experience, then went to France for a year and it was high-level basketball while I was also able to learn about different cultures. I also went to Hungary for two years and a year in Italy, and played professional basketball for about six years and felt really lucky to do so."

With her playing days behind her, Creamer came to New York City to begin her next stage in life. She worked with MK Sports & Entertainment Group, which allowed to her to get back in the corporate world. But Creamer had another calling that went back to her days as an education major at Bucknell.

"I pursued my undergraduate in education but I never really had the desire to teach any of the subjects, they never really called to me. I always kind of wondered why they there wasn't a class in dealing with people from a different perspective and just being able to respect each other. When I was working for the sports agency there was one story in particular about a college student being humiliated online and no one spoke up for him. I was just emotionally touched that a lot of people saw



what happened to him and no one really spoke up. So I wrote a letter called Find the Courage and came at it from an athletics perspective, since it takes courage to step up and make a shot or do whatever it takes in sports. I don't know why I was so passionate about it, but I always felt like standing up and sticking up for people is part of leadership. So I wrote that one letter and reached out to different experts in the field of bullying prevention and they were very helpful in trying to set up a program around the idea of Find the Courage. It evolved into this program where we try to teach kids leadership and the ability to stand up for people, and before I knew it we were kind of running a class on how we can all help each other. We've all been kind of working on it the past three and a half years, and that's kind of the path I have gone down since it feels like such important work for what's going on in the world right now."

What started as a letter, or a "mission statement" in the words of Jerry Maguire, led Creamer to her work with Find the Courage. She is the co-founder of the organization along with Erin Rewalt, a former college basketball player and coach who Creamer married last year. The board of directors for Find the Courage features a handful of former collegiate athletes including Liz O'Connor, who competed against Creamer in the Patriot League as a standout player

for Holy Cross. The non-profit organization's mission is to inspire, educate and empower young people to be positive leaders by promoting kindness, inclusion, encouragement, compassion, respect and resiliency in their communities. Find The Courage runs programs with youth, ranging from third grade through college, in schools and extracurricular capacities to help them develop awareness, empathy and skill sets to lead in these capacities.

"We do a lot of our programming in New Hampshire with a great professor (Peter Golder) from Tuck Business School at Dartmouth. He's been helping in our methodology and Hanover High School in the area has let us run the program for three straight years and do research around the program. We are going to try and pilot it in New York next year and also continue it in New Hampshire. We're trying to talk about it in a way to show how kids can make an impact based on their leadership style. It's kind of a primer to grow in studies of equality and multiculturalism and just being aware of how people feel and how behaviors can affect them."

Creamer has found just as much success in her professional life as she did on the basketball court, and her work makes her an embodiment of the leader Patriot League student-athletes thrive to become.



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# Joe Greenspan



## Greenspan Goes Pro After Standout Career at Navy

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

**J**oe Greenspan gave plenty to the Naval Academy in his four seasons as a men's soccer student-athlete, leading the team while also performing as a model representative for the school. After he graduated this past spring, the Navy gave back to Greenspan with an opportunity to continue his career at the highest level. Greenspan has begun his professional career in Major League Soccer (MLS) with the Colorado Rapids after the Navy allowed him to station in the area for an opportunity to pursue a dream.

"Obviously the Navy was kind enough to have me stationed here and serve and play when I was available," Greenspan said. "The Naval Academy keeps you busy and with a packed schedule for a reason. I'm stationed at the recruiting office out here and am playing professionally, and I was trained well by the Navy to handle it. I'm mostly working in a public relations standpoint and giving talks to people to use my platform as professional athlete and Naval officer to maybe inspire some people in my story and what I've gone through."

It is quite a story, and you never would have guessed Greenspan would add his list to the handful of Patriot League alumni playing professionally at the highest level in the United States. He played a lot of sports growing up in Westfield, New Jersey, but was drawn to soccer because of the fluidity of the game and the control he had. When he was looking to pursue the sport he loved in college, having success at Navy was hardly a guarantee as the school had won just five Patriot League games over the past five years. But Greenspan saw something in both the program and the school that made the journey south to Annapolis appealing.

"I didn't really start talking with Coach (Dave) Brandt and thinking about it until after junior year of high school. I was really looking at college to set me up for the future, not only for soccer but overall. I looked at a few schools as well as other Patriot League schools, but when it came down to it the Naval Academy had the most to offer with the academics and athletics and opportunities that it would set me up five and 10 years down the road. With soccer it was an unbelievable environment and it really felt like a family and you could see how tight the group was. All aspects clicked and it was the right place."

Everything did start to click in Greenspan's tenure at Navy, though not immediately. After the Mids made the Patriot League Tournament for the first time in a decade when he was a freshman in 2011, the squad finished in last place in League action the following year with a 1-4-2 record, despite going 7-7-3 overall. Even after the tough season, Greenspan felt good about his team going into the 2013 campaign.



"It was instilled in us to believe in ourselves and what we were doing. Freshman year we proved to ourselves we could compete in the conference and sophomore year was a tough one. Junior year we kind of said we were not going to take no for an answer."

And they didn't, to the tune of one of the best seasons for any team in the history of Patriot League men's soccer. Navy became just the second team to finish with a perfect record in Patriot League contests, and the Mids posted an outstanding season overall with a 16-4-2 mark. Navy won the League Tournament at home with a pair of shutout victories, and Greenspan's defense did it again in the NCAA Tournament with a 3-0 win at VCU before bowing out 2-1 at No. 14 Wake Forest in the next round. Greenspan was named Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year, earned a spot on the All-Tournament Team and received national acclaim as a third-team All-American from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

"Winning the Patriot League Tournament was fantastic. To win the first championship in school history was something special and we just took it to VCU when we went to Richmond for the NCAA game. We kind of didn't get off to the best start, we were 1-3-2 overall

**Then: Navy men's soccer (2011-14)**



and I met with the coaching staff along with a few of the seniors and talked about it not being acceptable and we would not go out like this. We went on a big run from there and won 15 straight games and that kind of goes to the determination that we had."

Navy had plenty of highlights in Greenspan's senior season as well, though the storybook finish did not materialize as the Mids went 11-4-5 overall and 6-1-2 in the Patriot League and fell in a shootout in the semifinals of the League Tournament. Greenspan racked up individual awards in his final year, claiming his second straight Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year honor and a first-team NSCAA All-America nod while also finishing as a semifinalist for the MAC Hermann Trophy as the top player in the nation.

Greenspan finished his career as Navy's all-time leader in career games played with 78, finishing his four-year career at Navy with 75 games started, 42 points, 18 goals, six assists and 6,627 minutes played. He played over 1,900 minutes in each of his last two seasons.

"The awards were fantastic, but we had so many guys that played a role and individuals have to come together. Maybe I was a great defender but we had a great back four and I just played my role."

Greenspan graduated from Navy in May and was awarded the NAAA Sword for Men, which is presented to the man of the graduating class who is considered by the Association's Athletic Council to have personally





**Now: Plays professionally in MLS for Colorado Rapids; Navy Recruiter**

excelled in men's athletics during his years of varsity competition. Even though he had been selected by the Rapids in the second round of the MLS Superdraft in January the future was uncertain. However, the Rapids and Navy soon came to an agreement to allow Greenspan to begin his professional career while also starting his service commitment.

Greenspan played in a couple of games in his first season with the club as he transitions to the professional level. He had previously already trained with the team in two spells, and featured in preseason friendlies against UNLV and San Jose in Las Vegas, prior to officially joining the club.

"It's tough going from the college game to the professional game. Every day presents a new challenge and I am working as hard as I can to do my best and want to do whatever I can on the field and support the guys when I'm not."

For a while, Greenspan had the unique experience of playing alongside another Patriot League alum at the professional level. Boston University's Dominique Badji, who was named the Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year in 2014 while Greenspan won the Defensive Player of the Year award, scored a goal while playing nine games for the Rapids before being transferred

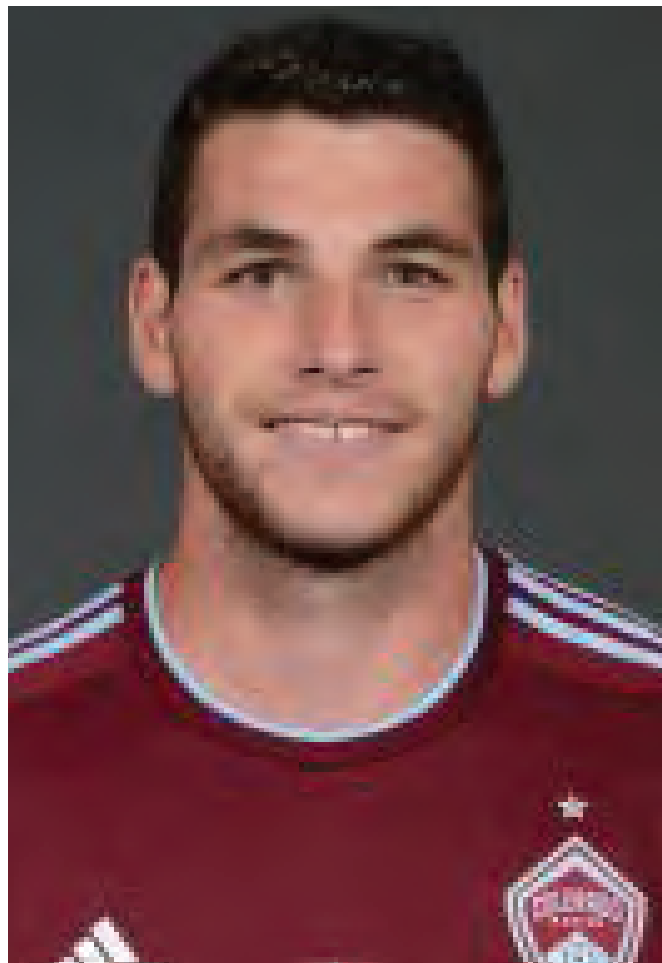
to the Charlotte Independence of the United Soccer League (USL) later in July.

"It was awesome. Dom's a great player, he was one of the best players I played against in college. It was awesome to be out there with a guy that we played against. We have guys from big schools and for the two of us to represent the Patriot League we enjoy it and take a lot of pride in it."

Greenspan has the Navy to thank for his opportunity, though his time at the Academy was thanks enough for his wonderful experience.

"It's such a special place just because of the people you were surrounded by. The roommates who I lived with are some of my best friends and we will always be close. Everyone is going through the same stuff in terms of schoolwork and living with friends and getting through things together allows you to make memories."

Greenspan is making memories now at the professional level, and getting a chance to share his story in the process.



# Vicky Chun



## Chun a Triple Threat at Colgate

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

There have been a handful of people involved with the Patriot League through all of its 25 years, but no one has had the impact of Colgate's Vicky Chun as a student-athlete, coach and administrator.

Chun was named Colgate's Director of Athletics on Jan. 1, 2013, the latest step in her involvement at the school and in the Patriot League. She started off as a star volleyball player for the Raiders who competed in the first two seasons of Patriot League action in 1990-91, would go on to lead the team to two Patriot League titles in her three years as head

coach from 1994-96 and returned to the school in an administrative role in 2005 that would lead to her appointment as Director of Athletics.

It was a pretty amazing journey to Hamilton, New York for someone who was born on New Year's Day in 1969 in Santa Monica, California. Vicky's mother, Susan Chan Chun, swam across Hong Kong Harbor at the age of 13. Her father, Victor Chun, played varsity soccer at Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute and is the author of "American PT Boats of World War II, Volume I" and "American PT Boats of World War II, Volume II."

Luckily for Colgate, Vicky wanted to go back east for her collegiate experience.

"I knew that I wanted to follow in my cousin Joyce's footsteps (who attended Wellesley) and play Division I volleyball at an elite academic institution," Chun said. "Colgate fit all of those things, and I decided that Colgate was the place for me after my on campus recruiting visit."

Chun was recently named to the Patriot League Volleyball 25th Anniversary Team for her success as a student-athlete at Colgate. She ranks fifth in school history for career assists with 2,440, and was selected to the All-Patriot League Team in the League's first two seasons in addition to leading Colgate to the League

**Now: Colgate Vice President & Director of Athletics**





title in 1990 and winning the Player of the Year award in 1991.

"We were the underdogs - Army was the favored team by far," Chun said of Colgate's Patriot League title in 1990. "They had nicer uniforms, they installed the 1984 Olympics volleyball court to practice and play on. Prior to the Patriot League we didn't have a conference and were limited to tournaments so this was the first opportunity for us to win a conference championship."

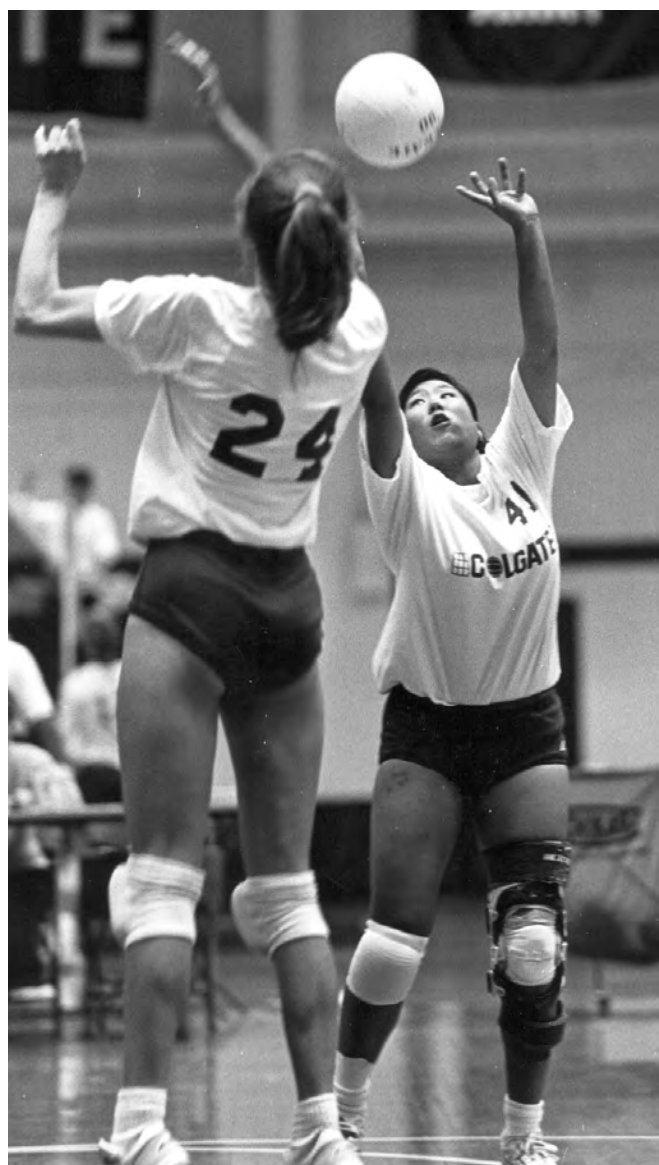
Chun also helped Colgate to an appearance in the League title game in 1991, and came back two years later to serve as an assistant coach at the school in 1993. Chun was named head coach the next season as she took Colgate to another League title-game appearance, and she would lead the Raiders to the Patriot League title in both 1995 and 1996, with the Coach of the Year award in the latter season.

"Winning the Patriot League Championship in 1995 was my most memorable moment as head coach. Years prior, we would be in the championship match but couldn't close so I was so proud of our players when they pulled it out in front of a very loud Bucknell crowd. On the day of the championship, we pulled into Colgate late that evening and I took our assistant coaches and the trophy to the only place that was still open. All of a sudden the whole team showed up and lifted me and the trophy above their heads. I'll never forget how grateful I was to them for their hard work ...and for not dropping me!"

The Raiders finished with three Patriot League titles and two other appearances in the championship in Chun's five seasons as either a student-athlete or head coach. But ultimately coaching would not be her long-term path, and Chun left Colgate for her next two experiences in the working world. She did an administrative internship at the NCAA national office from 1997-00, and worked as commissioner of the New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association from 2001-05.

"Those experiences opened me up to intercollegiate athletics at a national and conference scale. I knew at that time, I wanted to pursue a career in athletic administration, therefore, I was able to work in all aspects of sport at the NCAA...from drug testing to compliance to championships, and more. Most importantly, those two experiences enabled me to meet a lot of people in intercollegiate athletes - which developed into close friendships - which is much needed in this profession."

But it wasn't long before Chun was back at Colgate. She came back as an interim assistant director of athletics in 2005, earned the full-time position the next year and was then promoted to associate director of athletics in 2007 with an added title of senior woman administrator the following year. Chun was selected



**Then: Colgate volleyball (1988-91)**

as the National Administrator of the Year (FCS Division) by NACWAA in 2010, and in June 2011 she received the prestigious Maroon Citation, established in 1955 in recognition of significant and invaluable personal contributions to Colgate. A record of service, rather than a single act or achievement, is the criteria for selection.

"I often joke that I'm a bad penny which turns up when you least expect it. I never thought I would be back at Colgate after graduation, after I was an assistant coach, after I was an assistant AD, Associate AD, etc. Whenever I was ready to leave the nest, an unexpected opportunity would come to me at Colgate...and I am very grateful for that. Colgate is a very special place and I love working here for the same reasons when I was a student-athlete - beautiful campus, in a gorgeous setting, with an elite academic reputation and a highly-competitive Division I athletics program."



Chun's contributions as Vice President & Director of Athletics at Colgate have been invaluable in both the athletic and academic areas. She has led Colgate to the Patriot League title in three different sports while the school's men's hockey team received an at-large bid to the NCAA Championship in 2014. Colgate's student-athletes have excelled in the classroom with a 98 percent graduation rate, which ranks third in the nation, and the majority of teams came in with a perfect graduation rate in the most recent data from the NCAA. Colgate has also approved facility upgrades under Chun's leadership, including a new arena for the school's ice hockey teams as well as Beyer-Small '76 Field, a state-of-the-art soccer facility with a FIFA 2-star certified FieldTurf.

Under Chun's leadership, Colgate student-athletes have raised significant money toward various not-for-profit organizations (Play for Kay, Alzheimer's Awareness, ALS, Autism Awareness and the Cure for Ependymoma).

"Our primary focus is giving our student-athletes everything they need to succeed in the classroom, competition space and in life. I am proud to say that the philanthropy work is initiated by our student-athletes. They understand that not everything is about them and they can make a difference in the bigger picture of things. We have been very proactive in regard to health and safety for our student-athletes and it has been terrific working with our coaches and staff."

Chun is the only female athletics director in the Patriot League. Among 345 Division I institutions, she is one of 29 women and one of eight minority women actively leading an NCAA Division I athletics department (as of the 2014-15 season). She does not take her role as a female and minority leader lightly.

"It's something I am very proud of and gives me the ability to look at things from a different perspective. I

have always received a lot of support from my bosses and colleagues throughout my career which, without their help and mentorship, I would never be where I am today. I also know that I carry a responsibility to always be on my "A" game as I'm representing more than Vicky Chun and I have always taken that responsibility incredibly seriously."

Through her time at Colgate as a student-athlete, coach and now athletic director, Chun has always been an exemplary representative for the Patriot League. She represents the League on a national level on the NCAA Division I Council, and also serves on the Division I Football Oversight Committee.

"It's a true honor as the Patriot League is a conference that really does put student-athlete academic and athletic excellence as its highest priority. Every meeting we have as Patriot League administrators revolves around a positive student-athlete experience – championships, legislation, financial allocation, and more. As we enter into the first year of new NCAA governance, I have realized how much the Patriot League stands out for the better, and I hope to do my very best to make sure our voice is heard."

Chun certainly has made her voice heard throughout the 25 years of the Patriot League, and will continue to do so as one of the League's most influential leaders.





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# Erin Anthony



## First Unsure About Army, Anthony Now Enjoys Military Career

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

**E**rin Anthony is one year older than her brother, Mac, but it was the younger sibling who always knew he wanted to go to a military academy.

"He knew a while before me that he wanted to go to the Naval Academy, probably at 11 years old," Erin said. "He initially wanted to become a pilot but eventually moved to special operations. That was something that he decided that he wanted for himself at a very young age."

For Erin Anthony, the prospect of attending a military academy was less certain. She enjoyed a standout women's basketball career at Parkland High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and kept her options open at first in her college search.

"I looked at a lot of regional schools, including Lehigh and Lafayette. There were a handful of Patriot League schools and their general competitors in my pool as a candidate."

But while the options were open, the visit to West Point sealed Anthony's decision quickly.

"My dad and I took a road trip after I finished my junior year of high school and visited everywhere we could on the east coast. What I really liked when I got up to West Point was that the players there really had a good idea of what they wanted to do in life and they were doing a lot of stuff that you usually don't see as a 19 or 20-year old. The more I talked to them I realized the idea of a five-year commitment was not a bad thing and people had a real good idea of where they were going and how they would get there."

She added, "My mom was not thrilled initially, but my dad really emphasized what a great education it was. He wasn't a service academy grad but he was a Marine and knew the value of it."

Anthony became the epitome of a model cadet both on and off the court, and her upbringing helped her transition better than most in her plebe year.

"It took a lot of discipline, especially that first year. I think because my father was in the military he had already raised us with a lot of discipline so it was easier for me to transition to better time management and all the things that come with being a college freshman and on top of that to have the military discipline that you needed every day. Waking up at 6 a.m. whether you had basketball practice or not, going to meals with everyone and wearing your uniform all the time, that type of stuff can really wear on you if you're not prepared for what to expect."

She added, "It's empowering, when you get through that first year and go home and get to talk to your friends and hear about their experience you realize and appreciate how much you've managed to accomplish."

And Anthony would accomplish plenty in her four years as a standout at Army West Point. Anthony made the All-Patriot League Team in her final three seasons, with first-team recognition in both her junior and senior year. She led the Patriot League in rebounding in three





**Then: Army West Point women's basketball (2007-11)**

straight seasons from 2009-11, and as a senior also led in scoring and blocked shots. She scored 1,429 points and is third in League history with 1,036 rebounds. Anthony also excelled in the classroom, earning three Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors and first-team Academic All-America status as both a junior and senior. A civil engineering major, she also became the first recipient of the David M. Fraser Award for Engineering Excellence and Leadership at West Point.

"I just wanted to keep my nose down and work as hard as I can and I had no idea how I would adjust to college that first year. Fortunately I came out with a very good GPA and was on track as an engineering major like I had planned on. It's basically a five-year degree but at West Point you can finish in four years so I had to perform well that freshman year. Leagues like the Patriot League have it right to make sure people are successful in the classroom, knowing that it's the difference in your life in terms of being able to work and contribute to society. You don't realize it when you're 18, but when you're a little bit older you appreciate that you got pushed and really put in the work to do it. I had amazing instructors, most of whom had served in the military, and were influential in my education and continue to be in my career so far."

In addition to her instructors, Army West Point Head Coach Dave Magarity became an important influence for Anthony and her teammates.

"I had an outstanding coach. He really cared about us as players. The reason he came back to coach at West Point was because he loved it, not because it was a steppingstone or a good career move. He had the opportunity to work in the NBA, but he decided to be at West Point and that meant a lot to us. He was very hard on us on the court, but off the court he was like a grandpa and cared about what we were doing and our families. He knew we were people and that was really important too."

Anthony's post-graduate career began as an intern on Magarity's staff, but there were plenty of twists and turns as well. Shortly after graduation she went to Sapper Leader Course, a course which trains engineer leaders in small unit tactics, leadership skills and war-fighter tactics required to perform as a member of a combined-arms team.

"There are two stages – the first is general studies, and the second is patrolling and each is about two weeks long. You are up at about 4 a.m. in general studies doing PT, and goal is to learn as much as you can and you have to get 700 out of the possible 1,000 points to continue in the schools. They teach you all of the sapper skills





like repelling and doing work with airborne operations, and it's a really tough two weeks mentally as well as physically. In patrol stage you take turns going through the patrols for two weeks. You are out in the woods every day all day for 10 straight days and have to go through the entire process, and the days are extremely long and draining. You are up 18-20 hours a day, and when you sleep there is always someone up keeping guard. They don't actually tell you if you have passed your patrols until the end, and if you pass both then you are able to get your sapper pass."

She added, "I don't know how I pulled it off. It was something that I really wanted and a challenge that I was really looking forward to. Sapper school really prepared me for my deployment. There were long days and it was very uncomfortable but you just have to deal with it."

Anthony left her coaching position with the women's basketball team in February 2012 when she went to basic officer course at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. Four months later she left for Fort Bragg in North Carolina, where Anthony was in charge of about 35 soldiers in her platoon that worked in heavy equipment operations. Her platoon deployed to Afghanistan the following February with the task of looking for

**Now: Active in United States Army; Stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky**



improvised explosive devices (IEDs) while also helping train Afghan forces. Anthony became a company executive officer half-way through her deployment where she had command of about 130 people in what was more of an "administrative" role. She continued to work in that area when she came back from Afghanistan in October 2013, and then Anthony had an opportunity for another challenging experience within the Army.

"When I got back from Fort Bragg, I had the chance to go to school at Jump Masters (United States Army Jumpmaster School) in airborne operations. I was basically the person giving commands to people going out on the operations, and it was probably the most intense month of life in learning how to do it. Jump Masters was the toughest mentally, while sapper was toughest physically."

After she passed Jump Masters, Anthony became head of a battalion of 500 to 600 people in a "very exacting type of administrative job" that she held for about eight months. In September 2014 she moved back to Fort Leonard Wood with her then-fiance Casey Williams, who Anthony (now Williams) married on May 9. Both are finishing Masters degrees, with Anthony completing hers in Engineering Management. At the end of summer Anthony and her husband go to Fort Campbell in Kentucky with the 101st airborne division which works on repelling out of helicopters.

"It's great to get the chance to command a company. It's similar to being a platoon leader, but now I'm in charge of 120-150 people and in a higher position with platoon leaders under me. People tell me it is the most rewarding experience, and following that, we will continue to pursue a career in the Army and a lot of it depends on what we can do together."

Anthony has turned from a model cadet into a model soldier, and it's been quite a path for someone who was not initially sure about attending a military academy.

# C.J. McCollum



## McCollum Continues to Grow as an NBA Player

By Justin Lafleur,  
Lehigh Athletic Media Relations

On the night of April 29, Lehigh men's basketball alumnus C.J. McCollum '13 was the talk of the NBA. In a must-win Game 5 against Memphis, he scored a career-high 33 points to keep his Portland Trail Blazers in the game until the very end. McCollum, who was trending on Twitter, scored his 33 points on 12-of-20 shooting, including 7-of-11 from three-point range.

"I started to play like myself again," said McCollum, when asked about his play down the stretch of the regular season and playoffs. "I played in crunch time. I figured if I'd go out, I'd go out playing my way, being

aggressive, trying to make plays and create shots for myself and my teammates."

That mentality showed, especially in Games 3, 4 and 5 when he combined for 77 points on 28-of-46 shooting and 11-of-17 from three-point range.

McCollum struggled in the first two games of the first-round series, but like he's done many times before, C.J. continued to battle. He responded nicely when the going got tough.

"I didn't play so well in the first two games, but I had some great looks in the playoffs and I knew once I saw the ball go in, I'd be fine," he said.

McCollum was better than "fine" from March 20 onward; he was a key contributor for a Western Conference power. April 29 was perhaps a fitting ending, a culmination of McCollum's second NBA season, which was highlighted by tremendous growth, both on and off the court.

Sports have a funny way of working. McCollum's senior season at Lehigh and beginning of his NBA career were hampered by injuries, but he didn't back down. After another injury early in his second season, it was a banged up Portland roster which gave him the opportunity he needed as winter turned into spring and the playoff race heated up in the NBA. Spring began on March 20, the day he scored 15 points at Orlando to





begin a stretch of 13 double-figure point efforts in his final 20 games.

"As the season went on, I got more comfortable," said McCollum. "I think it's a credit to hard work, the time put in and continuing to put in work on an individual basis. That work translates into games. More opportunities down the stretch allowed me to see more time and I tried to take advantage. I became more confident and the game slowed down a little."

Injuries have only reinforced to McCollum that he won't play basketball forever, so he's continued to build his resume off the court as a journalist. Following Lehigh's historic win over Duke in the 2012 NCAA Tournament, McCollum's stock was sky high. The Journalism major entered the NBA Draft as a junior, but after exploring his options, decided to return to Lehigh to finish his degree. He even detailed his reasoning in the Sporting News article "Why I'm returning to Lehigh for my senior year," highlighting his degree as the primary reason for returning.

That degree has already paid off. In June, McCollum was at the NBA Draft, doing his radio show, writing for the Players' Tribune and more. McCollum worked the NBA Finals as well, interviewing the likes of Klay Thompson and Draymond Green of Golden State to Matthew Dellavedova and Tristan Thompson of Cleveland for the NBA and its Facebook page. The interviews were received exceptionally well.

McCollum has already made a name for himself as a journalist. His reputation is so strong the NBA came to him with the NBA Finals opportunity.

"They talked to my agency and said I was one of the guys they wanted to officially interview players,"

#### **Now: Plays in NBA for Portland Trail Blazers**



**Then: Lehigh men's basketball (2009-13)**

said McCollum. "I had the background and I had interviewed the deputy commissioner and a number of other people (in the past). I went out to Game 1 out in Oakland and went to some shootarounds as well."

McCollum is savoring these opportunities and doing them for the right reasons. As he posted on his Instagram on the night of Game 1, "Enjoying my first NBA finals experience doing some behind the scenes interviews for the NBA, International Media and Facebook Live! Keeping my Journalism degree alive, while living the dream. Interviewing Bron and Dray today on Facebook live."

McCollum's work hasn't gone unnoticed by people back at Lehigh.

"C.J. has continued to grow and apply his academic background even though he's really focused as an athlete," said Lehigh head coach Brett Reed. "He has continued to demonstrate his thirst for preparation, for life after basketball and the utilization of all the things that he learned in the classroom."

There's two-way communication between C.J. and his agency, which helped set up McCollum's radio show with Sirius XM NBA Radio (which has been a big success).

"I want to keep my degree alive and stay sharp with the things I've worked on over the course of my college and professional careers," he said. "My agency presents opportunities to me and I present different ideas to them. I'm just trying to sharpen my resume and take advantage of the whole summer."

"You can only work out so much," he continued. "You have to find hobbies to keep yourself sharp. I enjoy doing the shows and the analysis."

McCollum wrote previews for the Eastern and Western Conference Finals for the Players Tribune, breaking down and analyzing the two series. An X factor McCollum identified was J.R. Smith, who proceeded by scoring a playoff career-high 28 points.

Bringing strong journalistic abilities and basketball IQ to the table, McCollum has become a hot commodity. The Canton, Ohio native credits his foundation to his time at Lehigh.

"Lehigh did a great job of preparing me with a heavy course load and different experiences, doing an internship with Lehighsports.com which has helped," said McCollum. "Getting the experience, writing the articles and doing the recaps was beneficial, so once I got to the NBA, I was able to tell stories about coming from a small school. I'm trying to take advantage of opportunities and use some of the tools and skills I learned from Lehigh and convert them over to the working world."

While he grew as a journalist at Lehigh, McCollum's basketball foundation was enhanced just as much. The aggressive mentality Trail Blazers' fans saw into the playoffs was cultivated at Lehigh.

"C.J. was in a wonderful situation here at Lehigh where he was able to continue growing his game," said Reed. "You could see him playing with confidence, you could see him playing aggressively. A lot of those attributes were built at Lehigh and became a strong part of his game. Because of that, he was confident and comfortable when playoff opportunities presented themselves."

McCollum's success went far beyond his 33 points in Game 5 of the playoff series. He averaged 25.7 points over the final three playoff games, averaged 15.6 points in April and reached double-figure points in 10 of his final 13 games.

Now, McCollum is focused on continued improvement for a Portland team that has been near the top of the tough Western Conference in each of his first two seasons.

"I'm approaching this summer like I do any other summer," he said. "It's a big year for us (the Trail Blazers). I want to control what I can control and become a better player for the team. I definitely look forward to the opportunity, with the increased role this year, to become an even better player. Come back a better shooter and the game should slow down for me even more."

McCollum would have never had the opportunity late in the season if he approached his many setbacks (most notably, injuries) with a poor mindset.

"I was really pleased that C.J. had the right mentality of continuing to prepare himself, maintaining a high



level of confidence, so when an opportunity presented itself, he was physically, emotionally and mentally ready to produce," said Reed. "As the playoffs indicated, with his strong performance, he was doing all those things."

McCollum continues to make Lehigh and Patriot League fans proud.

"Every time I step on the court, it's an opportunity to represent Lehigh and the Patriot League to the fullest, and give back," he said. "Lehigh and the Patriot League are known for academics. There are people who end up working for high-end companies in New York, New Jersey, around the East Coast and world. But to be a professional athlete coming from Lehigh, it's definitely built camaraderie. It's a blessing to be able to represent Lehigh and the Patriot League."

McCollum is a perfect role model, that prototypical student-athlete everyone strives to become.

"I think C.J. is a great illustration of the true balance between being a student and an athlete in your collegiate experience," said Reed. "Because he approached both roles effectively, he is more than prepared for what lies ahead."

Without the experiences learned at Lehigh, on and off the court, McCollum likely wouldn't be an emerging NBA star and without McCollum's impact on the program, the Mountain Hawks wouldn't be in as strong a position as they are today.

"Lehigh has helped me a lot," said McCollum. "Obviously, Lehigh is a prestigious university where academics is a priority. The way I was raised was to always think one step ahead and prepare for life after basketball. I hope to have a very long, lucrative, productive career, but you want to continue to be smart and plan ahead. Keep working on pieces I can work on in the summertime, if the opportunities present themselves."

"I am very thankful for the academic and athletic opportunities at Lehigh. I look at it as not only representing myself, but also where I come from."



# Dr. Kathleen Courtney



## Holy Cross Provides the Right Mix for Courtney

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

**H**oly Cross won two of the first three titles in Patriot League women's basketball, and that success on the court combined with the school's reputation helped influence Kathleen Courtney on a journey that ended up "perfect" for her.

"I grew up in New York and I wanted to play basketball in college, but was also looking for school that was academically strong," Courtney said. "I chose Holy Cross because I fell in love with the team as soon as I met them and the coach (Bill Gibbons) was phenomenal. Combined with the academics it was the perfect fit."

Gibbons, who enters his 31st season as head coach of the Crusaders in 2015-16, was ecstatic to get a girl from New York City away from Holy Cross' chief rival at the time, Fordham.

"She came up and absolutely loved it here at Holy Cross," Gibbons said. "We kind of stole one from them because we didn't have the academic money and they did, but once Kath visited Holy Cross I knew that we would be able to get her here."

Courtney came to the Holy Cross program in the 1993-94 season as a freshman that was not expecting to play much for a team that had just won the Patriot League title and finished 22-7 overall the previous year. But that changed in a hurry, as she was thrown into action and excelled by winning the Patriot League Co-Rookie of the Year award and helping the Crusaders to an appearance in the League title game her first season.

"To be honest I was a little nervous. Going in as a freshman I was thinking I was not going to play and I would just ride the bench and enjoy it. Everyone was welcoming with open arms and right when I got there I saw that everybody got along whether you played or didn't. I had three fellow classmates that I started with and we really got along very well."

She added, "I think I got a little lucky and there were some injuries which allowed me to play right away and it was nice for me and unfortunate for some of my teammates. So I got playing time right off the bat and I gained confidence and I don't think I would have gotten that otherwise. We had a great year even though we started off kind of slow."

Gibbons was impressed by Courtney's ability to come in and contribute, even though she may not have seemed "ready" in all areas.

"The thing about Kath is that she came in and we knew there was potential there and we really thought she could be a terrific player. But she could lift the bar as a freshman and that was about it, so you would think that physically she needed a year to develop. We had an injury to our post player and she kind of responded

**Then: Holy Cross women's basketball (1993-97)**



to a baptism by fire. She never got tired, even though she looked like she was tired she would always just keep going."

Holy Cross lost a competitive title game to Fordham by a 64-60 final in Courtney's freshman campaign, but came back the next year to hold off the Rams by one game in the regular-season standings and beat Fordham 58-51 in the title game. Courtney was named both a first-team All-Patriot League selection and a member of the League's All-Tournament campaign in that 1995 season, but it was the championship victory that she will never forget.

"That championship game win over Fordham was my favorite game ever. Growing up in New York I knew a lot of the Fordham players and I knew the coach. It was a big rivalry, they had beaten us that year in the regular season. It was a great game and came down to the wire and I'll never forget it."

Gibbons said, "We alternated championships with them, and they were our arch-rival. I remember that game vividly and Kath had a great game. Lauren Maney got an outlet pass from Kath and kind of slid into the front row of the bleachers and Kath came down and hugged her and it kind of ignited us to go on for the win. We knew it was our last shot with them leaving the Patriot League after the season and it was a great, great win in that championship.

Courtney suffered an ACL injury in the summer heading into her junior season, but Gibbons was impressed at how she remained the perfect teammate even while going through the painstaking rehab process.

"She had the ACL injury and was out, and the protocol was to do rehab during practice," Gibbons said. "But she always wanted to be at practice to support her team and do the rehab after, and that was just the kind of teammate she was. She came back from the ACL injury and missed some games but not a lot and her determination through everything really showed the type of person she is."

Holy Cross won another title in Courtney's junior season, then went 23-4 overall and 12-0 in the Patriot League in her senior campaign in 1996-97. Courtney was named the Patriot League Player of the Year and Scholar-Athlete of the Year that season while garnering her third straight first-team All-League honor, and also earned national recognition as an Honorable Mention All-American, first-team Academic All-American and NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipient. Even with all of the success and awards, it was Courtney's experience with teammates as a senior that made the season so special.

"We had lost three senior starters going into that year. I was wondering how things would go, thinking that we would not be as good as the previous year. But it was awesome, there was a very close bond between the players and we were all best friends for sure. It was





a great end to my career at Holy Cross. Unfortunately we lost to Lafayette in the semifinals of the League Tournament, but the experience was outstanding. I don't really take anything from the awards at all, the memories are all about the experiences and the friendships we had that year."

Courtney finished her career as one of the top players in school and Patriot League history. She earned a spot on the Patriot League 25th Anniversary Team this summer and is a member of the Holy Cross Athletic Hall of Fame. Courtney now ranks second in Patriot League history in field-goal percentage (56.1%), third in blocks (309) and fifth in rebounds (1,011) while also placing in the top 20 in points (1,539).

Gibbons said, "Kath embodies everything that this program stands for and everything that this school stands for. She was very disciplined and driven yet very unassuming. Especially when she was injured she would go to practice, rehab after and get her schoolwork done and be able to be a college student on the weekend. She was quiet and kind of unassuming but she competed and loved to win."

Courtney believes that her experience with Coach Gibbons as well as Holy Cross' assistant at the time, Kelly Greenberg, showed her what it was like to be part of a cohesive team both on and off the court.

"I really can't speak enough for Coach Gibbons and Coach Greenberg," Courtney said. "They were tremendous and supported me and the team and just

**Now: Pediatrician in Winchester, Massachusetts**



built an atmosphere where we would all get along and really support each other and I think that's hard to do. I was so fortunate to have them both as coaches."

While her experiences on the court were a huge part of Courtney's time at Holy Cross, she came to appreciate everything the college had to offer.

"People laugh when I talk about Holy Cross. My four years there could not have been more perfect. The basketball team was a big part of why I was there, but the school itself is wonderful and it really promotes the type of atmosphere and environment that I wanted in a college and I can't say enough about that. The academics obviously were phenomenal and certainly a big reason I was able to go on to medical school."

Courtney graduated with a degree in mathematics from Holy Cross, and after college she spent a year teaching high school math at Cushing Academy in Massachusetts before entering medical school.

"I wanted to take a year off after college before I went to medical school, and it was a great experience. "I got to coach volleyball which I had never played before and was an assistant coach in basketball as well. Then I applied to medical school and ended up going to Georgetown. After my four years I chose to go into pediatrics and I trained at Tufts Medical Center in Boston and have been a pediatrician in Winchester, Massachusetts since 2006."

Courtney works with children in her profession, and also gets plenty of time with the young ones at home as she and her husband, Jeff, are parents of Jack (5), Maggie (3) and Will (10 months).

"The ability to work with kids as something you do every day is something that I love. Being able to share an important part of your life in helping them and being there for them if they need you. Every day is a challenge and every day is exciting. What's nice about kids is they are innocent, hopeful and happy. It's a great job and I like it a lot."

"All she did was get great grades and now become a very accomplished doctor. It doesn't surprise to see me to see her have this success at all," Gibbons said. "She's a great mother, she's a great supporter of me and the program and really embodies everything that this program stands for."

Courtney's journey is not complete, but she appears to have found the right fit in her life just like she did when picking a college over 20 years ago.

# Valentina Cerde Eimbcke



## From Chile to Boston: Cerde Eimbcke a Model Student-Athlete

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

Valentina Cerde Eimbcke's journey from her native country of Chile to Boston started with a passion for her sport, and ended with a Patriot League title and an impact in athletics, academics and her community.

Cerde Eimbcke was standout in goal for the Boston University field hockey team during the school's first two seasons in the Patriot League in 2013 and 2014. It was a sport she picked up because all of her friends were doing it.

"I attended the German School in Chile where the majority of the students are members of the German Sports Club, which is very big on field hockey," Cerde Eimbcke said. "I played a lot of sports when I was little but when I was 10 a lot of my friends played field hockey so I went to try it out and stayed. I started playing as a field player and when I was around 13 I played as a goalie in practice because we didn't have one and my coach thought I should stay in that position. I guess he had a good eye!"

She quickly acclimated to the sport, earning a spot on the Chilean Junior National Team. The squad traveled to tournaments including the 2009 Junior World Cup in Boston.

"In Chile, you play with your club team and the national team coaches go watch the games where they make a list for the national team prospects. I played for the U-14 national team and when I was 15 they called me to the U-21 national team. I had the honor to represent my country in different tournaments one of them being the Junior World Cup. It is always an honor





to be able to represent the university, club or team I'm playing for because there are a lot of people behind the 11 players that are on the field that help us day to day to be the best we can be. There is no exception representing my country, a lot of people would love to have that opportunity and it is a true honor to represent my country doing what I most like."

Cerda Eimbcke stayed at the Boston University campus during the Junior World Cup, and that experience along with a call from Head Coach Sally Starr helped spark her interest in coming to the United States to attend school and compete at the collegiate level.

"Coach Sally Starr called me in February 2011 to see if I was still interested in playing in the U.S. I was already enrolled in a Chilean University starting in March 2011, but I saw the opportunity of doing what I most like while getting a degree from one of the best universities in the world. I had amazing memories from the Junior World Cup especially because we were sleeping in the BU dorms so that definitely helped me to make the decision when I was given the opportunity to attend an amazing university in Boston which I thought was the perfect city."

Even though she had spent some time in the United States, the transition from Chile to Boston was not an easy one at first for Cerda Eimbcke.

"I didn't speak very good English and I am also very close to my family so it was hard to move to a different country by myself, but my coaches and teammates were very helpful, they took care of me from the first minute I landed in Boston. Even though it was hard to adjust they made me feel the support like I was part of the BU family



**Then: Boston University field hockey (2011-14)**

#### **Now: Playing with club and national team in Chile**

from the beginning. This is why I am very grateful for the whole athletic department at BU who made me feel part of the family, I wouldn't have made it if it wasn't for them."

Though the adjustment was hard, you wouldn't have known it with Cerda Eimbcke's play on the field. She won the America East Rookie of the Year award in 2011 and her .778 save percentage and 1.50 goals against average both ranked in the top ten nationally.

"I think the main factor my freshman year was my coaches and team who gave me the support since day one. They trusted me and helped me acclimate to this new experience as fast as possible. I had amazing mentors to look up to so I just tried to improve every day to give the best of me to the program. I was very grateful and the only way I knew how to show my appreciation to the program was giving my best on the field to help my team accomplish our goals."

After another solid season as a sophomore, Cerda Eimbcke excelled in her final two years after Boston University moved to the Patriot League. She was named the League's Goalkeeper of the Year in both 2013 and 2014, and in the latter season helped the Terriers win the League title while capturing the Tournament Most Valuable Player award. In her two seasons within the Patriot League, Cerda Eimbcke posted a 1.47 goals against average that ranks fourth in the League record book and a .770 save percentage that places her seventh in League history. She led the League in save percentage in each of her seasons, and in goals against average once.

But while the individual success was important, Boston University's first League title was what Cerda Eimbcke



will remember most. The Terriers played on the road at top-seed Bucknell and Cerda Eimbcke came up with seven saves in the championship game to help her team to a 2-1 win and also claim the Tournament MVP honor.

"To win the League title means it all. I am never going to forget the faces of all my coaches, teammates and supporters on that last whistle, to see them so happy and celebrating is the best feeling an athlete can feel. That moment is definitely the peak of my career at BU, to see that all the hard work of my teammates come together and we were able to win was incredible. I feel very grateful to have had won Goalkeeper of the year my two years in the league but I am just representing all the staff members, coaches and teammates who support me day to day to be able to play my best on the field. This is why I feel very happy and blessed to have won all these awards for them and give back to BU who have given me so much."

Cerda Eimbcke gave back on the field, and also showed that being a student-athlete is about your performance in all areas. Cerda Eimbcke was one of two Patriot Leaguers nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year award in July, and earned a Scarlet Key at Boston University. Both honors came for her broad success, including community service involvement that helped Cerda Eimbcke give back to BU and those around the university.

"I was an active member of SAAC my four years at BU and I was also involved in the community service

activities at Questrom School of Business. The activities I did the most involved kids. Through these activities we were able to help these kids through different circumstances. Community service is very important for me because I feel very grateful and lucky for all the opportunities I have been given in life but I also know that not everyone has these same opportunities."

She added "One of my favorite activities was on Christmas when we would bring books to local schools and spend some time with the kids reading and talking to them. We also started a project where we collected hats from different professional sports teams and universities to be donated in the oncology center in a local hospital. To see the kids happy faces picking their favorite hat was unbelievable and that's when you realize how happy you can make someone by just giving a little bit of your time."

Cerda Eimbcke has returned to Chile after graduating from Boston University in May. And it's no surprise to hear that her sport and her passion for community involvement will still be integral aspects of her life.

"My plans are to practice with my club and the national team, and I am very excited to play again. I am also going to help coach the younger generations of my club."

With her success on and off the field, Cerda Eimbcke is sure to continue to provide an influential voice for younger generations.



# Rob Esposito Joe Verdi



## Lehigh Bond Spurs Esposito, Verdi to Business Success

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

**I**n an age where internet search engines and video interviews can often define the job-hunt process, Lehigh men's soccer alums Rob Esposito and Joe Verdi got their working relationship started the old-fashioned way.

"I sent an email to the guys on my soccer team one day in the summer to meet for drinks and Joe was the only one who came," Esposito said. "He made a

point to come meet me and we sat together for a few hours and talked and I got to really know him that day. He was always great at taking the initiative and has become an outstanding partner and great friend."

Verdi said, "He sent out an email to people on the team to grab a drink at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It was a hard time to make it, but I figured out a way and we kind of made a connection there. I was 22 at the time so I still did not know exactly what I was setting out to do at the time, but it worked out."

Esposito graduated from Lehigh in 1995, while Verdi followed 12 years later in 2007. Their bond had already formed before that fortuitous meeting at the bar when they met at Lehigh's men's soccer alumni game in the spring following Verdi's senior season. With Verdi working for Ernst & Young in New York City in the summer after graduation, Esposito called on the Lehigh bond to recruit the recent graduate, who was a third-team All-American as a senior, to play for his soccer team in the city.

That exchange over a beer led to Verdi joining Esposito at Fimat, a commodities brokerage which merged with Calyon Financial to create Newedge Group in 2008. The pair was together there for another two years before starting a company called Latium Capital, where Esposito and Verdi worked for three years. With Latium owned by an outside



**Joe Verdi Then: Lehigh men's soccer (2003-06)**



**Rob Esposito Then: Lehigh men's soccer (1991-94)**

company called GFI Group, Esposito, Verdi and partner Michael Cosgrove branched out on their own to start Vectra Capital in January of 2013.

"We decided to start our own business with our own capital, so we brought in Michael who had experience building companies," Esposito said. "The three of us started Vectra Capital (Verdi Esposito Cosgrove Trading). Joe and I focus on trading and marketing and Michael runs the business side."

Esposito continued, "We have 12 employees and we are growing. Joe runs the ethanol trading book which has become one of the largest in the world. I handle a lot of our major clients and bring in customer flow."

Verdi added, "We are arguably one of the largest traders in ethanol right now on Wall Street, and that's kind of where our business started and grew. Now we have employees in other commodity markets that are still focused on energy like natural gas and crude oil."

While their paths in the business world are now parallel, Esposito and Verdi had much different experiences in different eras at Lehigh. Esposito's first season was the second year of Patriot League competition in 1991, and following the year Lehigh hired a young head coach named Dean Koski, who is now in his 24th season with the Mountain Hawks.

"Soccer was important to me, it was a big part of my college experience," Esposito said. "I had a great relationship with Dean and made many good friends over the years. I think Dean and I have a special bond

because I was one of the earliest players. We have stayed close over the years."

Esposito's teams were solid in his first two seasons, with Lehigh making it to the League title game in his freshman campaign in 1991. The experience on the field was a little different for Verdi, who played a key role in the best run in the history of the program. The Mountain Hawks did not win the Patriot League title, falling in the championship game in 2003, 2004 and 2006, but made the NCAA Tournament in the latter season by posting a 15-2-2 record, including a 7-0 Patriot League mark. Lehigh won on penalty kicks at home against Rhode Island to advance to the third round, matching the longest NCAA Tournament run for a Patriot League squad. Verdi was a standout for the squad with a third-team All-America nod to go along with his second straight All-Patriot League honor, and also served as a tri-captain for the successful group. He remains one of three Lehigh players to earn All-America status under Koski's leadership.

"For me it was just a great learning experience," Verdi said. "You come out of high school as more of a kid and then for the four years in soccer at Lehigh you become more of an individual. We had a great time, we won a lot of games and in my senior year we got to the Sweet 16 and had the best year in Lehigh history. That was a special year. The main thing I take away from playing under Coach Koski is just the integrity. We were always working for the next guy like any team situation and we always bought into that."

Of course, both Esposito and Verdi did have the same experience that every Lehigh student-athlete enjoys for four years: huge rivalry games with Lafayette. Esposito's squad beat the Leopards on penalty kicks in the Patriot League Tournament semifinals in his freshman season in 1991, and finished 1-3-1 in his four seasons against the Leopards. For Verdi, the games against Lafayette were one sore spot on the outstanding success for Lehigh in his tenure as the Leopards held a 3-2-1 advantage against the Mountain Hawks from 2003-06, and knocked Verdi's squad out of the League Tournament in two different seasons.

"Lafayette was the big rivalry no matter how good either program was that season, it didn't matter and that game was a battle," Esposito said. "Any team in the Patriot League was an important game but that one was always the biggest."

Verdi said, "There was one year that it got pretty intense, I think there was an on-field altercation. It



**Rob Esposito Now: Partner with Vectra Capital in New York City**





**Joe Verdi Now: Partner with Vectra Capital in New York City**

was definitely passionate, we did not like each other for sure. When I was a sophomore and junior it was extremely physical. It was a serious four years where we really went after each other for sure. They were kind of a thorn in our side and played a hard-nosed style of soccer. They beat us more times than we beat them and it's definitely a pain to even think about."

While their experience at Lehigh came in different eras, the common bond led Esposito and Verdi to try and give back to the program. Knowing how difficult it was to work in summer internships with the soccer season beginning in August, the pair created an opportunity for Lehigh men's soccer student-athletes to gain valuable experience within the confines of their schedule.

"When Joe and I started the business, we talked to Dean about how important it was for his students to get summer internships because it's hard when you are training for soccer all summer and you want to get prepared since it's a fall sport," Esposito said. "When I graduated I didn't have any work experience and it was hard to get a job that way. What Joe and I do is offer internships for the soccer players. We have them come in for a few weeks and get some experience but not take up their whole summer. We've done that for seven years now and have probably had 10-12 guys come through and it is one way we can help the program."

He added, "Every one of them has gone on to get a good job. The internship helps them get into a training program and then a job the next summer. There are

guys at Citibank, Morgan Stanley and in the industry in New York that have come through these doors. I know how well Lehigh prepares you. There are so many Lehigh finance grads that everywhere we go we meet them. It's a very strong degree in New York and on Wall Street."

Verdi said, "I'm big on giving back. I met Rob through the alumni game and we've been working together now for eight years. We valued the connection of being able to network and meet good people through these events. We are grateful to be in the situation we are in now and we wanted to find the best way to give back which is why we started the internship program. We highly value that program and we want to make sure it's done right. I graduated in Accounting at Lehigh and I didn't get as much into Finance because of the way the network was set up. So we thought it would help the Lehigh soccer players to have a better opportunity and a resume that has some experience doing something in business that not everyone can always do."

He added, "There are a lot of different things you can do, but our one passion is to keep increasing that network and getting Lehigh grads into the Wall Street network and helping them succeed. When you can you have to work to give back to the younger group."

It's certainly not the only way either former player has helped the program. Esposito works as the program's Alumni Ambassador in conjunction with the Lehigh Men's Soccer Partnership, and both men are among the biggest financial supporters for a team that brought them so much. And now Lehigh can benefit from them as well by having student-athletes gain a look at an outstanding business model and first-hand experience in the financial world.

# Karla Kucerkova



## Kucerkova Leaves Her Mark at American

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

American University has always been known as a melting pot, with students coming from all over the world for an opportunity to attend school in our nation's capital. It was that reputation that helped bring Karla Kucerkova to the campus, and she paid it back by becoming one of the best volleyball players and overall student-athletes in school and Patriot League history.

Kucerkova is from the Czech Republic, where she says volleyball is a popular sport. She began playing at an early age in fourth grade.

"There was a local club coach going around every and trying to recruit players at that age," Kucerkova said. "He got me started with playing it and really got me into loving the game and to be totally committed to working hard. He was a very charismatic coach and got me to stick with it through college."

It was another charismatic coach that helped Kucerkova decide to come to school and play for American. Barry Goldberg had already produced a winning program at the school for a decade, and wasn't afraid to go outside the box to put his team together and find top-notch student-athletes.

"I ended up at American because of the diversity of the school and the perspective that Coach Goldberg took in his recruiting. He was always looking out for people from abroad because AU is such a broad campus. He could always reach out and he would always be looking out for where volleyball players were. Somebody from my high school had met with Coach Goldberg and through that he reached out and we had a lot of talks and I ended up coming to AU. I'm grateful that I did because it was a wonderful experience."

She added, "I never came for a visit, so the first time I came was when I had my gear packed and was ready to stay for the semester. It was my first time coming to the United States, I had been to Canada before for some international competition but never to the U.S. or the DC area. I got connected through Coach Goldberg's

involvement and it seemed like a good match for somebody of my background coming from a different culture. He was reassuring and was excellent in helping out and he had someone in the Czech Republic that helped me out."

Kucerkova's first season at American was the last for the Eagles in the Colonial Athletic Association in 2000. The Eagles completed an outstanding season with a 26-4 overall record and 11-1 mark in the CAA, but were not able to play in the conference tournament after indicating they would leave for the Patriot League. While Kucerkova and her teammates had to go through that difficult experience and just missed an NCAA berth, she was getting used to being in the United States and her first semester of college at the same time.

"I was probably terrible my first year. I came in my first year and was used to the international travels, but just being here with a new team and learning the coaches and the environment I was coming in was a challenge to learn how things are managed and run in the United States. Coming from the Czech Republic you don't take playing sports as much of a privilege



**Then: American volleyball (2000-03)**



as you would in the United States. I came with a sense of entitlement and it took a while to learn what it would take since I took it more for granted in the Czech Republic. I came with expectation that as long as I play hard enough I would be fine, but that is very different here. It doesn't really matter how much you play it is still something you have to value and I did not have the right appreciation of it my first year."

Kucerkova came back ready to go in her sophomore year, and she and her teammates were motivated by being in their first season in the Patriot League and trying to have success. The Eagles did just that by going a perfect 14-0 in League action and 26-4 overall, and winning the League Tournament title in their first season. Kucerkova was named the Patriot League Player of the Year and Scholar-Athlete of the Year and also earned the League Tournament Most Valuable



**Now: Works for Fannie Mae in Washington, D.C.**

**Pictured: Karla Kucerkova with American Head Coach Barry Goldberg**

Player award. She had a dominant campaign where she led the Eagles with 426 kills and 240 digs, and put up big numbers in League action with 170 kills and 91 digs in American's perfect debut campaign. Kucerkova led the Patriot League in kills during the 2001 season.

"It took us a little bit of time to get over what happened the year before, but we got to refocus and the season turned out great. It was good to see we could compete well and dominate in the Patriot League. We had a lot of seniors in my freshman season, so going in with a much younger team all of a sudden my role on the team was completely different. By then I had a much better sense of how things work and how things fit in. The team was able to play well even though we were not as much of a senior-laden team as we were the year before."

Kucerkova continued to dominate individually and lead the Eagles to outstanding success in the Patriot League over the next two years. She was once again named both Patriot League Player of the Year and Scholar-Athlete of the Year as a junior in 2002 and senior in 2003, and was named the League's Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year each season as well. Kucerkova led the Eagles to undefeated 14-0 records in the Patriot League each year with two more League Tournament titles, and American finished 48-0 against Patriot League opponents in her three seasons. The Eagles were particularly dominant in the League Tournament, dropping a total of only three sets in their six victories.

Kucerkova added a host of national awards in her final two years for both her athletic and academic accomplishments. She was named the CoSIDA Volleyball Academic All-American of the Year in each of the two seasons, and also claimed two Honorable Mention All-America nods.

She posted huge statistical numbers in each of the two seasons. Kucerkova led the Patriot League with 513 kills as a junior in 2002, and still has the best hitting percentage in any single match in the Patriot League Tournament when she totaled 23 kills on 28 attempts with just two errors for a .750 mark in a victory over Army West Point in the semifinals. Kucerkova saved her most dominant campaign for her senior season, leading the Patriot League by a wide margin in both kills (598) and hitting percentage (.338) while recording seven of the League's top 11 single-game kills marks for the year, with 26 in a three-set win over Bucknell to claim a third straight Patriot League title.

Kucerkova currently stands seventh in Patriot League history in both kills (1,537) and hitting percentage (.322), numbers that came despite the Eagles playing numerous three-set matches during her tenure with a



dominant squad. She posted kill marks as a junior and senior that still rank in the Patriot League single-season top 10, and contributed to 42 victories of American's record 62 straight wins in League competition.

"I had such a wonderful time at American and in the Patriot League. The memories of all those years are so positive in my mind. There are moments which were wonderful, but I don't think there is one particular moment and I just remember the whole experience I had at AU. My perspective changed once I kind of figured out how things worked and I just enjoyed the last three years and seeing the team succeed and continue to succeed was just very heartwarming. It was a good challenge and having the opportunity to go forward in the NCAA Tournament was also very special."

She added, "I am proud of the awards for myself and more so for the school. It let me see a different angle since the Patriot League is not a conference that is too broadly known and it's just really nice to see the school could be recognized at that level for both the athletics and academics. For me personally the fact that academics are combined with sports is not something I could have had in Europe and it's unique about the U.S. system. There is not really a viable option to try to do both at a high level outside the United States so just being able to do that was the greatest advantage of it. That a team could do well and could focus on academics creates the right conditions and the right opportunities to succeed. Most people leave that behind and it's an excellent idea to have a combined focus."

Kucerkova has stayed in the area since graduation, working in the finance industry with Fannie Mae. She is raising her family, including a 1-year old son, and has been able to stay involved with the American program.

"I've grown to love the area and I have been blessed to be able to see AU play as much as time allows. I've been able to bring my son to some games and hopefully he'll be able to continue to come and show the support for the team since I have such a great connection to them and I'd like him to appreciate that."

Not surprisingly, this year's American team includes four players from Europe, with two from the Czech Republic. The best player is once again from Kucerkova's homeland, as Monika Smidova has won the League's past two Setter of the Year awards as well as the 2014 Player of the Year honor. Both Czech Republic natives were among five Eagles selected to the Patriot League 25th Anniversary Team in August.

With international stars still playing a key role in Head Coach Barry Goldberg's program, it sure doesn't hurt to have Kucerkova around to detail her experience of becoming a model student-athlete on and off the court.



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# Peter Baum



## Baum Brings Western Influence to Eastern Sport

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

Lacrosse has always been known as an east coast game, popular in hotbeds like Baltimore, Long Island and Central New York but not something that will draw attention beyond its niche markets. But that prospect has changed in the past decade as the sport continues to grow to the west and south, and it's players like Peter Baum that have helped develop the sport to a national audience.

**Then: Colgate men's lacrosse (2010-13)**

Baum was raised in Portland, so he certainly did not grow up as someone you would expect to be a lacrosse star. But the former Colgate standout had eastern roots that helped him develop his passion for the sport as his dad, Richard, was a letterman for the Raiders who graduated in the class of 1978.

"My dad was from Long Island and played at Colgate, but I could not play until sixth or seventh grade in Portland," Peter said. "I played other sports, and I had friends that knew about it as well."

Baum made an impact in the lacrosse world in high school. He concluded his career at Lincoln High with 180 goals and 70 assists, and was named a two-time All-American while also playing in the 2009 Under-Armour All-America game as the second-ranked player in the Western United States.

Baum was a sought-after recruit, ranking No. 37 nationally in 2009 on a list produced by Inside Lacrosse. He had plenty of options for a collegiate choice, but family ties helped him land at Colgate as both his father and mother, Jill, were graduates of the school.

"My parents both went to Colgate and I had a cousin who was one year older there, so I knew a lot about the school already," Baum said. "I originally wanted to go for hockey, but I was fortunate enough to get recruited for lacrosse. It's a beautiful campus and a great mix of academics and athletics."





After being such a highly-recruited player, it was no surprise to see Baum succeed as a freshman. He was a first-team All-Patriot League pick in 2010 while leading the Raiders with 29 goals, a record for a freshman player at the school.

"I had a pretty good season individually, but we didn't have the year we wanted overall with a 3-10 record. I steadily got better and gained confidence and I knew I would always be one of the fastest guys out there."

Baum tallied 34 goals and 15 assists in another first-team All-Patriot League season as a sophomore, and there was team success to match the individual accolades as Colgate went 11-5 overall and 5-1 in the Patriot League, falling to Bucknell in the League title game. While that season was a step forward, no one knew how great the 2012 campaign would be for Baum and the Raiders.

"Even though I came off a good season the year before, I don't think the expectations were too incredibly high going into my junior year. The coaching staff did not want to get in the way too much. We got into the season and started to play well, and as a team we had a really good season with good leaders and started to figure everything out."

The Raiders certainly did figure everything out in 2012, finishing the year with a 14-4 overall record and a 5-1 mark in the Patriot League. They tied for

first place in the League's regular season and hosted the Patriot League Tournament, falling to Lehigh in the championship game. Baum set the League Tournament record with 18 points in Colgate's two games, with a Tournament game record of nine points both in the semifinals against Bucknell and championship versus Lehigh. And even though Colgate did not win the Patriot League title, the Raiders closed the regular season with a 13-11 win over No. 6 Maryland to help seal a spot in the NCAA Tournament and went on to knock off unbeaten and No. 1-ranked Massachusetts by an identical score in the first round of the postseason.

The team success came amidst Baum putting up the top individual season in Patriot League history. He finished the year by setting Colgate and Patriot League single-season records with 67 goals and 97 points, and gained national acclaim by winning the 2012 Tewaaraton Award as the top player in collegiate lacrosse.

"I have a lot of memories from that year and things that I will never forget. Even though we lost in the Patriot League title game, it was an amazing experience to score nine points in each of the tournament games. That gave me confidence going into our regular-season finale against Maryland, and it was amazing to play at home knowing we would get into the NCAA Tournament with that win. Playing at Massachusetts was kind of a nightmare for me personally but my teammates carried it and it was special to win an NCAA Tournament game with them."

Baum dealt with some injuries in his senior season, but still managed to earn first-team All-Patriot League honors for the fourth time. He stands as one of only three players in League history to receive first-team status in each of his four seasons. Baum is the Patriot League's all-time goals leader (164) and third in points (225).

Heading into his senior season, Baum was selected with the No. 1 overall pick by the Ohio Machine in the Major League Lacrosse Draft. While that distinction would eventually lead him to a professional career in the MLL, Baum began his post-college time by signing with the LXM Pro Tour to help continue the development of lacrosse in the western part of the country.

"I grew up with Adrenaline lacrosse and they were running that program. We got to play in Salt Lake City, Dallas, Phoenix and other western cities while having an opportunity to work with the kids out west and help them develop and see the game. It's incredible how much more savvy the kids out west are now. A lot of the credit goes to the coaches that are cultivating the game, and they have really helped push it over the edge for popularity."



Baum began his career in the MLL in 2014, and has enjoyed two solid seasons with the Machine, which plays in Columbus. He was third in the MLL with 35 goals and tied for the team lead with 50 points in 2014, earning the MLL Breakout Player of the Year award. Baum followed it up by notching 23 goals and 35 points in the past season, and has helped the Machine to the MLL playoffs in each of his two years.

"The MLL is a crazy league, it really takes a commitment and the level of play is so high. I ended my college career on a tough note with an injury-plagued senior season so to have some success and be part of the Columbus lacrosse community has been special."

He added, "We might not have as many guys from the Patriot League as they do from the ACC, but I'm proud to represent the League and see former players from other schools as well as Colgate guys like Ryan Walsh, Bobby Lawrence and Matt Clarkson. When you play lacrosse in the Patriot League you realize that you are in a premier sport in the conference."

**Now: Plays professionally in MLL for Ohio Machine;  
Works at Foxrock Partners in New York City**



It's something I've always been proud of and the Patriot League guys in the MLL have a bond from that experience and a bit of a chip on our shoulder to prove ourselves against players from other conferences."

While playing professionally, Baum has also begun his off the field career as he works for Foxrock Partners. The sports and entertainment marketing agency focuses on brand and business development for corporate, property and nonprofit clients.

"It's cool to create the link between business and sports and we have an opportunity to work with a lot of different athletes, so it's a great opportunity."

Who knows, maybe the next athletes he works with will be the western lacrosse stars Baum has led the way for in the sport.

# Alexis Albano



## Albano Turns Army Balancing Act into FBI Career

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

Alexis Albano had a thrilling sophomore season for the Army West Point women's soccer team in 1993. She earned second-team All-League honors while helping the Black Knights to a 20-1-1 overall record, a 5-0-1 Patriot League mark and the school's first League title, a 5-4 overtime win on the road at a Colgate team that had beaten the Black Knights in the last two League Championship games at West Point. Albano scored the game-winning goal to clinch the title.

"I remember the heart and drive of our team," Albano said. "We would never give up. During that season, we fell behind in several games, sometimes

going into an additional 30 minutes of overtimes, yet we never stopped. Some teammates would be freezing on the sidelines for over two hours, and they would cheer relentlessly the entire time. We came out winning most of those games because we played for each other, not for ourselves."

She added, "The two teams (Army West Point and Colgate) were closely matched for about a decade or so, and because of that, ended up vying for first place at the end of each season. Our age-old rivalry with Navy will always exist across all of the different sports. Both of us want bragging rights. However, as you can sense from the Army-Navy football game, the two service academies are brothers-in-arms. Our rivalry with Colgate was different because we were playing for the Patriot League title."

That was the case the next season, as the Black Knights fell to Colgate in the League title game in Albano's junior campaign. Though she would earn another second-team All-Patriot League nod, Albano came out of the season unsatisfied. Then she found an outlet that would make her into a rare two-sport star at Army West Point.

"I was not satisfied with my overall performance during my junior soccer season, and I wanted to redeem myself somehow. I had a friend from my company who ran track, and I asked her if she thought I could join. I went down to the track one day and that

**Now: Works with FBI in Hawaii**





was it. Initially, I had planned to run track for that one indoor season. Then, Coach (Ron) Bazil asked me to stay for the outdoor season, just until we beat Navy! And, of course, how could I leave midseason? When senior year came around, Coach Bazil asked if I would reconsider staying with the team. I really enjoyed the previous year, and soccer had finished up, so I thought, why not!"

Albano got over her performance from the soccer season by instantly excelling in track and field. She won the 400-meter dash at the Patriot League Indoor Championship as a junior in 1995, then capped her career by claiming the title in the 200-meter at the Outdoor Championship in 1996. She earned All-Patriot League status in all four of her League Championship meet appearances, and helped Army West Point win the team title each time.

"Luckily for me, my soccer and track coaches agreed to let me split practices between the two sports. The two sports had different competitive seasons, so they did not really interfere with one another. While I competed in indoor/outdoor track, soccer was either in offseason or training, with some weekend exhibition games and scrimmages. I probably could have performed a little better with track if I attended every practice my junior year, but both coaches knew that my heart belonged to soccer."



**Then: Army West Point Women's Soccer (1992-95); Army West Point Track and Field (1995-96)**

Albano continued, "Ever since I played tag with my classmates in grammar school, I knew that I could run fast. During the two years that I ran in high school, I won some races and set a new school record for the 200-meter. However, I never expected to be that competitive on the collegiate level. One of the things that I enjoy as a forward/striker, is the foot race during a breakaway. When I decided to join the track team, I just wanted to a chance to run fast. I'm very happy that I was able to contribute to our team's successes during the two years that I ran at West Point."

Albano also posted her best soccer season after starting her competition in track, as she got over her self-described disappointing performance as a junior by claiming the Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year award as a senior in 1995.

"First and foremost, I remember my teammates. Although we already had a close-knit team, my classmates were also my closest friends and helped me through the everyday life at West Point, during happy and sad times."

Albano viewed the two sports as different disciplines that had many of the same principles for success.

"I didn't see the soccer team versus track runner as a distinction between the two sports...maybe it was because we were at West Point, and we learned on day one that we need to help each other out. In track, all of us, boys and girls, sprinters, distance runners and throwers, freshmen and upperclassmen, were always rooting for each other in and around the track.

Of course, we each had our PRs that we were trying to improve upon, but in some ways, so does soccer, especially when you're a forward and/or goalie since statistics are kept on your performance. However, I have always loved soccer; it will always be near and dear to me. It was such a joy watching the USWNT win the World Cup this past summer! It brought back memories of being part of a team that consisted not only of athletes, but of best friends. I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed playing both sports, but I have never particularly liked being the center of attention, whether it was from scoring a goal or winning a race. Don't get me wrong; I loved the feeling from accomplishing both. Ultimately, my performance affected the team's performance. I just tried to do my best – and not make too many mistakes – because I didn't want to let my teammates down."

That everyday life at West Point is a challenge for a group of outstanding cadet-athletes that will go on to become leaders in the military and throughout the country. Albano added to the rigors by playing two sports, but it was something she felt comfortable with due to her past experiences.

"Since the time that I started playing soccer at ten years of age, I was just doing what any other kid was. I would have practices after school and play games on the weekends. Luckily, I had supportive parents and a wonderful coach who were always ready to take me where I needed to go. When I started high school, it was a bit more difficult. For two and a half years, my parents lived in a different state and time zone; I had to learn to take the city bus to practice, games and meets. When I started college, having to do school work and play sports wasn't anything new. Yes, there were more demands on my time with all of the other West Point requirements, but I don't think I ever really thought about that. I just knew that I had to get things done by certain deadlines, so I did them. When I played soccer or ran track, not only did I enjoy pursuing these sports, I also loved the camaraderie that I had with my teammates."

Albano felt her experience at West Point gave her direction for her career that was going to come as she began training to be an FBI agent.

"I feel that all of the rigors of West Point life and being a student-athlete lessens difficulties that we may encounter in post-graduation "real life". I can honestly say that I was a little worried before the start of my New Agent Training (NAT) in Quantico, because I envisioned Cadet Basic Training all over again. However, NAT was a pleasant surprise since we didn't have to make our beds or prepare for room inspections. I realized that aside from the physical and firearms training, NAT was probably what "regular"



college life would have been for me. Additionally, going through leadership training at USMA and in the Army taught me the importance of taking care of soldiers and colleagues as all of us strive to accomplish the mission."

The leadership training, academic and athletic experience all helped Albano thrive and get to the position she is in now.

"I have been investigating National Security matters for the past nine and a half years. Prior to my assignment now in Hawaii, I was working at the FBI Headquarters in DC. At FBI HQ, I was responsible for national-level programs and collaborated with multiple government agencies as well as our many partners in the private sector. I love working for the FBI because our work is about protecting and defending the United States. And, although I am no longer an Army officer, being an FBI employee helps me to fulfill West Point's mission of inspiring each graduate to commit to a lifetime of service to the nation."

Albano's success at West Point and her work experiences have led her into a life that most people can only dream of.

"I am so very thankful for the life I have and count my blessings every day. I have an amazing wife, a crazy (but sweet) puppy, a fantastic family and great friends. In addition to all of that, I get to live in Hawaii where my wife and I hike to beautiful vistas and swim in the sparkling blue ocean. What more could a girl want?"

It's a fitting life for Albano, who has never been afraid to go the extra mile to do what few others could accomplish.



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# Dr. Heidi Caruso



## Caruso Learns to Balance Busy Life at Lafayette

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

**I**n today's youth sports environment, kids are often asked to commit to a sport at a young age and make it their focus for year-round competition. In that context, it's almost unbelievable to think that it was only 25 years ago that Heidi Caruso was deciding on her college of choice while putting an emphasis on having an opportunity to compete in two sports at the Division I level.

"I was recruited by various schools for either soccer or basketball," Caruso said. "Most coaches wanted a full commitment to only one sport. However, I could not see myself playing only one. I was not ready to give up either basketball or soccer. I enjoyed both sports equally, which led to some difficulty with my college search."

The process led the native of Hershey, Pennsylvania to look east in her search for the right fit. Lafayette was going to play its first Division I season of women's soccer in the inaugural Patriot League campaign in 1990, while the Leopards already featured a strong basketball program led by veteran head coach Pat Fisher.

"I actually didn't look at Lafayette until fairly late in the recruiting season. It wasn't until a family friend, Professor Donald Miller, talked to me about the school. I met with Coach Fisher and toured the campus. I had known that I wanted a small school and I liked the feel of Lafayette. And Coach Fisher was agreeable in allowing me to also play soccer. I found a school that I liked and that gave me the opportunity to continue both sports."

She added, "I made it clear from the beginning that I was looking for a school and coaches that would allow me to play both sports. I think Coach (Bill) Best was willing to take any players he could get that first year for the program. I wasn't too worried about making the soccer team. And at that time, the soccer team didn't have a winter or even spring training program that would conflict with basketball."

Caruso found her place to go through with her two-sport plan, and she then carved out a career in Lafayette lore in both sports. She made the Patriot League Women's Soccer 25th Anniversary Team as she enjoyed a fine career that included the League's Player of the Year award as a sophomore in 1991. Caruso was a three-time first-team All-Patriot League selection and is third in Patriot League history in both goals (63) and points (143), and helped the Leopards progress quickly to make the Patriot League Tournament in both 1992 and 1993. On the basketball court, Caruso earned first-team All-Patriot League recognition in her final two seasons and was a member of the League's All-Decade Team (1991-00). She helped the Leopards

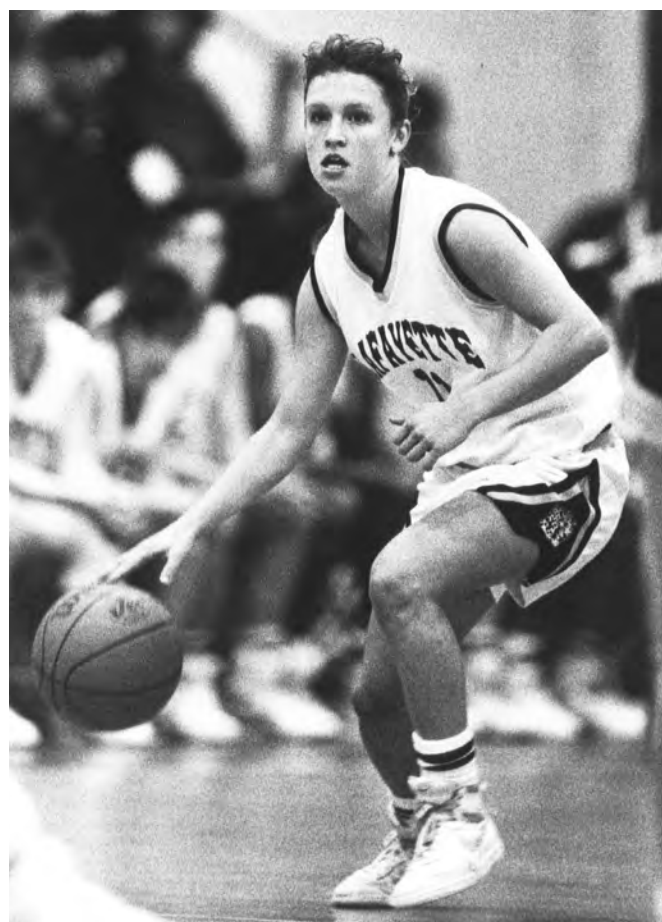
**Now: Emergency room doctor in Doylestown, Pennsylvania**



make it to the Patriot League title game in 1992, and the team had a winning overall and Patriot League record in each of her final three seasons. Caruso is the Patriot League's all-time leader with 532 steals, a total that is nearly 200 more than any other player as she also holds the top three single-season marks in League history including an NCAA-leading 168 steals in 1992-93. The mark of 532 career steals stands third in NCAA women's basketball history.

"I don't know if one helped the other or not," Caruso said of playing both basketball and soccer. "They were just the two sports I fell in love with. They are obviously both team sports, requiring skills in ball control, passing, movement off of the ball, and defense. In both sports, I played the position of the commander or field leader. Point guard in basketball calling the plays and handling the ball. Center midfielder in soccer putting me in the middle of the field, playing both offense and defense, the ball often at my feet. So I think my skills carried across both sports; just one using my feet and the other my hands."

**Then: Lafayette women's soccer (1990-93); Lafayette women's basketball (1990-94)**



Caruso had fond memories from each sport that went beyond the statistics or success that could be found in a record book.

"I have two most memorable moments" from soccer. One is our soccer trip to New York for a tournament. We also got to spend a day at Niagara Falls. The basketball team traveled often for distant games and tournaments, but our soccer team didn't get to do fun trips much at all. We all had so much fun being together. The scores are forgotten but the friendships with teammates are forever. That being said, my other "most memorable moment" is when I scored five goals against Penn State. It felt good to beat up on a big name school!" She continued, "My most memorable moment for basketball would be winning the Syracuse tournament. We were the little underdog school and managed to win the tournament. We all really played well as a team and things just fell into place. I won MVP of the tournament, but I remember most how happy and proud we all were as a team."

While Caruso made it all look easy, she had to balance her athletics with academics and more to succeed at Lafayette.



"Thankfully, between the ages of 18-21, you don't need much sleep. I also carried two campus jobs to earn spending money, working in the library and at the fitness center. Being so busy definitely kept me out of trouble. My parents taught me that getting good grades and succeeding in school would lead to more opportunities later in life. It was never an option in my house to not do homework or fail in school. So I put the time in and did what I had to do to get the work done. Sports are fun, so I never complained about practicing or training. Going to practice every day was a welcome break from studying."

Caruso's ability to balance multiple activities continued into her professional career. After graduating from Lafayette, she attended medical school at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. That experience led Caruso down both a professional and personal path that shaped where she is today.

"I received an Air Force scholarship which paid for my medical school, so after graduating I was active duty in the Air Force as a flight surgeon. I ended up marrying an Air Force fighter pilot. After four years in the Air Force, my husband (John Commins) and I moved back to Hershey, where I grew up, to start our family. My husband continues to this day in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. I completed my residence in Emergency Medicine at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, followed by a job in the emergency room at Harrisburg Hospital. We just recently moved closer to my husband's Air Force base and now live in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. I continue my career as an ER physician. We have two children, both of whom play soccer and basketball.... of course!"

And not surprisingly, she continued to compete in her sports after the college experience had passed.

"Through medical school, Air Force days, and residency I continued to play pick-up basketball in the gym with an occasional three-on-three tournament with friends. However, pick-up basketball is 99% guys. Once I passed my mid-30's, I was getting hurt too much. I never found a women's league after college."

She added, "However, I continue to play soccer. While I was in the Air Force and stationed in Tucson I played for the Air Force team as well as the Arizona team in the Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL). When we moved back to Pennsylvania, I joined a co-ed recreational soccer team and now play in a women's league. I have definitely lost some power in my shot, but I still have some moves."

Caruso's balance of multiple activities has transformed from athletics and academics to working and raising a family (and, to no surprise, coaching

her children in both basketball and soccer). Her experience at Lafayette helped Caruso learn that balance, and showed time for fun had to be mixed in as well.

"I talk to my husband and kids about my days at Lafayette all of the time. My closest friends were made on the soccer field and basketball court. We spent so many hours together practicing, traveling, and hanging out. We became so close and made so many great memories. We were together 18 hours a day, 7 days a week."

She added, "I go to the men's basketball Final Four every year with three girlfriends. I wear my Lafayette t-shirts proudly. More and more people are definitely recognizing Lafayette and the Patriot League. I am proud of the league's academic standards as well as athletic accomplishments."

Everyone in the Patriot League is just as proud of Caruso for being an exemplary representative of the League's motto of "today's scholar-athletes, tomorrow's leaders" in her time at Lafayette and into her career as a doctor.



# Ted Bettencourt



## Bettencourt Leads Hometown After Experience at Holy Cross

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

Few graduates can apply the Patriot League motto of "Today's Scholar-Athletes, Tomorrow's Leaders" as literally as Ted Bettencourt, who is now the mayor of his hometown after gaining valuable tools at Holy Cross two decades ago.

Bettencourt became mayor of Peabody, Massachusetts when he won his first election in the fall of 2011, and has served a pair of two-year terms as he prepares to run once again this November. He knew he wanted to serve his community at a young age.

"I did have an interest in politics during high school and certainly into college," Bettencourt said. "My dad was a union organizer and that was something I grew up with and experienced from a very early age. My years at Holy Cross were an important area of growth for me: mentally, emotionally, educationally and in terms of developing self-confidence. I wanted to be a part of helping my community. Peabody was an important city for me, it's my hometown and where I was raised and I wanted the opportunity to give back to the city and be a part of moving Peabody forward. I went to law school at Suffolk University and practiced law in downtown Peabody for about 12 years and during that time I served on the city council, but it was always my intent to run for mayor and it was something I knew back in college and law school that I wanted to do."

He continued, "I was on city council for eight years before I made the decision to run for mayor in 2011. The seat was open at the time since the previous mayor was retiring and I just felt it was the right moment for me and I had the opportunity to have success. My campaign message at the time was teamwork. I talked about my years as an athlete and to achieve success people need to work collaboratively towards a common goal. I don't have all the answers or solutions, but what I do well is bring people together and work as a group to make things happen. I ran on education and public safety. We are building a brand new middle school right now which was the first order of business that I pursued when I became mayor, and we are on schedule to complete the school next May. I talked about the importance of quality of life issues, in particular parks and community centers. We built two new parks in the city and are expanding our community center. We wanted to make Peabody a place that people are proud of like I have always been proud of the city. It was a very difficult campaign, for eight months of my life I knocked on doors, went to neighborhood meetings and just devoted myself to it. To achieve your dream you need to be dedicated and disciplined and work as a team and that philosophy helped me become mayor."

The concepts of teamwork and pursuing a dream were instilled in Bettencourt from a young age through his experience in athletics.

"I was very fortunate to have my father coach me all the way through Little League to high school in both baseball and basketball. My two younger sisters and brother played different sports as well and it was something that was a very important part of our family. From a very early age I learned the importance of teamwork, hard work and discipline and those were lessons that carried me all the way through life."

Bettencourt was looking for a balance of an outstanding academic school that also had high level athletics, and that made nearby Holy Cross a perfect fit. He came to the school in the fall of 1992, and got to experience instant success on the basketball court as Holy Cross won its first Patriot League title in Bettencourt's freshman campaign in 1993.

**Now: Mayor of Peabody, Massachusetts**







**Then: Holy Cross men's basketball (1992-96)**

"One of the highlights if not the major highlight of my basketball career at Holy Cross was winning the Patriot League. We defeated Bucknell to go to the NCAA Tournament. I was a role player and played a few minutes a game spelling the three guys that were seniors at the time. It was such a strong close-knit team. I didn't think we were always the best team in terms of skill but we played well together and everyone sacrificed themselves. We played Arkansas in the NCAA Tournament at the time when they had the 40 minutes of hell defense with Nolan Richardson and had Corliss Williamson, Scotty Thurman and guys that went on to NBA careers, and that team won the NCAA title the next year. We hung with them for a while but eventually their athleticism wore us down. Playing in front of 15,000 people on national television was a great moment for me."

Bettencourt would not be fortunate enough to win another Patriot League title, but he had great moments in his career. Holy Cross made trips out west to play against a Santa Clara team that featured future NBA star Steve Nash and a California squad with Tony Gonzalez, who went to an outstanding NFL career. Bettencourt has fond memories of playing against "future Hall of Famers in the NBA and NFL", as well as Holy Cross' games

against in-state rival Massachusetts that was led by Marcus Camby and Lou Roe and went to the Final Four in Bettencourt's senior season. As a captain of the 1995-96 Holy Cross squad, Bettencourt was proud of the way his team went out after a tough start.

"My senior year we started out really slow and struggled, but we really gelled as a team and put together a great run to finish 17-12. We lost in the Patriot League final to Colgate who was led by Adonal Foyle, but it was very gratifying to end on a positive note even though we lost before achieving our goal of the NCAA Tournament. To get to the championship after a rough start meant a lot."

While a professional career on the court would not be in the cards, Bettencourt used his time at Holy Cross to develop relationships and learn valuable lessons that could be applied later on.

"Holy Cross had everything for me in terms of professors who care and took an interest in their students. I remember a couple of professors in particular who would meet with me and discuss issues and things that were going on in my life even outside of the classroom. I really felt like I got to know my professors and had friendships with them, along with the relationships with my teammates and friends at Holy Cross that are lifelong friends to this day. It was so important in my development and maturity to have everything and it was a wonderful environment to go to school and be a part of a great college."

As Ted was beginning his professional career back in his hometown, his brother, Kevin, was readying for a similar college experience as a standout basketball player who would graduate from high school in 2002. While Kevin followed his brother's lead to the Patriot



League, he did not go in the path of Ted or sister Karin, who ran track at Holy Cross and graduated in 1999.

"Kevin and I have always been very close," Ted said. "Because of the age difference it was in some ways a father-son relationship. I could tell very early on that he was going to be a special athlete and even at a young age I felt he was destined to play a very high level basketball. It was important for me to be a good role model to him and to be there to give him advice and just lead him down a proper path. I definitely wanted him to go to Holy Cross to continue our family experience there and he did look at it, but ultimately he went to Bucknell which was a tremendous experience for him. Coach Pat Flannery is someone I really admire. We had my mother's family down in the Bucknell area that would come to Kevin's games and he had a terrific college experience with all that Bucknell was able to achieve in his time there."

Both brothers had careers that placed them in the Patriot League record book. Each is part of the 1,000-point club, with Kevin scoring 1,577 at Bucknell and Ted finishing with 1,035 at Holy Cross. Ted also has a spot on the Patriot League's all-time assists list with 302 in his career, while Kevin cracks the League's leaderboard in steals with his career total of 157.

The Bison and Crusaders would have a great rivalry in Kevin's four years. Holy Cross won the League title in his freshman campaign in 2003 before Bucknell won a matchup between the schools in the League championship game in 2005 and 2006, with the Bison then going on to win a game in the NCAA Tournament each year.

"The first game Kevin played at Holy Cross, it was a big crowd and they were chanting 'Teddy's better' whenever Kevin had the ball. I love Holy Cross but I was rooting 100% for my brother. I was a Bucknell guy for those four years, but then I went back to Holy Cross right after he left."

That family bond has always been a huge influence for Ted Bettencourt, and the affection for his hometown came in part because of his connection to his family growing up.

"Peabody is a very blue-collar city. We used to be an old leather capital, at one point we were the leather capital of the world. About 50,000 people live in Peabody, and when the leather industry kind of moved on in the 1970s the city had to re-invent itself. My family was a part of that and worked in the leather factories, which was a very difficult living at the time with physical labor and long hours. My father and a couple of my uncles got involved as teachers and police officers in the city of Peabody. From a very early age I felt a deep connection to the city. My mother moved here



from Pennsylvania when she was 11, my father grew up here and I really wanted to make a difference and leave a mark on my community."

Bettencourt certainly has made that mark, first as a lawyer and city council member and now as the mayor for the past four years. He cherishes his role now for the ability to lead the direction for his hometown.

"The most fulfilling part of being mayor is the opportunity to make change and to lead efforts towards making positive change. When I took office I felt that investment needed to be made in our school system and we needed to add policemen and firefighters, and also invest in our downtown which had been struggling for decades. As mayor you have a unique opportunity to make that happen. I work with our city council, school committee and a variety of professional people every day, but as mayor I really get to bring forth my vision for the community and to affect the way things happen. To do that and to do something positive for your hometown is very rewarding and that's what drives me every day."

Bettencourt is married to his wife, Andrea, and the couple has three young daughters: Taylor (11), Allyson (9) and Avery (6). He coaches all of his children's soccer and basketball teams, and has even somehow found time for another interest between his work and home life.

"I enjoy writing and just completed my novel. It's a fiction that's kind of a political and legal thriller. Writing has always been my way to unwind and relax and something I enjoy doing."

Bettencourt is sure not going to relax for long as he looks to continue to lead the way in a community that has always meant so much to him and his family.



# Lisa Sweeney



## Sweeney Starts Coaching After Mentor's Advice

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

Lisa Sweeney is perhaps the most accomplished player in the history of Patriot League softball, leading Lehigh to great success both within the League and on the national level while also earning multiple individual awards during her career from 2006-09. But while she still loves her alma mater, Sweeney now leads a program that goes up against the Mountain Hawks every year.

Sweeney, who is now known as Lisa Van Ackeren after marrying former Lehigh football student-athlete

**Now: Head Softball Coach at Princeton University**

Brendan Van Ackeren, recently finished her third season as the head softball coach at Princeton. She has led the Tigers to a 62-69 overall mark and 31-28 Ivy League record in her three years, and the Tigers have finished second in the Ivy League's South Division each season. Princeton has also faced Lehigh three times, with the Mountain Hawks winning each contest with a sweep on the road in 2013 and another win in New Jersey last season.

"It is weird being in the other dugout and it's weird seeing the girls in uniforms and numbers that aren't my teammates when we play Lehigh," Sweeney said. "It's very cool though when you have such high respect for that program and it's really good to be a part of that, but of course I want my team to win."

The Tigers almost did knock off the Mountain Hawks last season, with Lehigh pulling out a 7-6 victory in 11 innings on April 15. Princeton's scheduled trip to Lehigh at 2014 was cancelled, but Sweeney has come back to watch her alma mater in the Patriot League Tournament the past few years. And it's no surprise she stays close, because Sweeney maintains a unique bond with long-time Lehigh Head Coach Fran Troyan.

The bond grew immediately when Troyan, who won his 10th Patriot League championship in his 20 seasons as head coach at Lehigh in 2015, started recruiting Sweeney.





**Then: Lehigh softball (2006-09)**

"In the recruiting process I was mostly looking at academically-related schools in the Northeast. Fran came to see me play the summer before my senior year and invited me on campus for an official visit," Sweeney said. "Once I got on campus I knew it was going to be the right place for me. Meeting the team really solidified that, they were just my type of people. The rest is history, I never really thought of any other place after I visited Lehigh. It was my first visit so it was tough, but none of the others really compared and Lehigh was the absolute right place."

Lehigh's history as a program with dominant pitching influenced Sweeney's decision as well, and it was something that encouraged her before coming to Bethlehem when she watched Emily Ling dominate the Patriot League in 2005.

"Emily graduated the year before I came in, and after being introduced to Lehigh she was one that I followed closely. She was just a fantastic pitcher. It was great because knowing what she did for Lehigh and for the program, I wanted to walk in and continue that tradition and maybe even make it better. There was nothing that was said by any of the coaches, but having that pitching is just one of the things that they really pride themselves on. Fran and Stephanie Covelle (Lehigh pitching coach) do a fantastic job of bringing in the right pitchers and developing them from there."

It was clear immediately that Sweeney would be the right pitcher for Lehigh. In her freshman season, she won the Patriot League Pitcher of the Year award and added the League Tournament Most Valuable

Player honor as Lehigh allowed just one run in its three Tournament contests. The Mountain Hawks then went to new heights for a Patriot League team at the NCAA Regionals, twice beating Texas A & M by a 4-3 final to make it to the regional championship against host Massachusetts.

"My freshman year when we beat Texas A & M, it was the first time we felt we could really do something special and not just get to the NCAA Regional but really compete there. Kate Arico pitched six shutout innings against the No. 12 ranked team in the country and it was like a "we can do this" moment for us. That experience as a freshman really set the tone for my career and all of our class. We wanted to carry that forward and not just be satisfied with just getting there and participating. We wanted to let people know who was wearing the Brown and White, and to be a name that was known as being a great softball school."

The one blip in that run for Sweeney and her teammates came in 2007. Lehigh went 17-1 in the regular season in Patriot League competition and Sweeney again won the Pitcher of the Year award, but the Mountain Hawks could not finish the job as they were shut out twice by Colgate in the Patriot League Tournament.

"I think that really gave us an appreciation for what we were doing and not to take anything for granted. We expected to win and came prepared, but we just couldn't get it done and it lit a fire for those of us coming back the next year. We were not happy with how things were left and we wanted to make sure that would never happen again."

It never did happen again, as Sweeney and her teammates won the Patriot League regular-season and Tournament titles in both 2008 and 2009. Lehigh made another trip to an NCAA Regional final in Sweeney's senior season when the Mountain Hawks beat Florida A & M and Texas A & M to move on and face host Florida. Sweeney finished her career by winning the Patriot League Pitcher of the Year award in all four of her seasons, and also claimed the League's Player of the Year honor in 2008. She was named League Tournament MVP for all three of Lehigh's title-winning teams. Sweeney is the League's all-time leader in victories (104), strikeouts (928) and shutouts (31), and ranks third in League history with a 1.64 ERA.

Sweeney was in the five-year Master's program at Lehigh, so she was still around in 2010 as she completed her degree in secondary social studies education. Sweeney spent that season as a volunteer assistant at Lehigh, but still did not see coaching as a part of her long-term future. That changed when she got a call from her former head coach about an open position for an assistant job at Penn, close to Sweeney's hometown in South Jersey.



"I wasn't really sure that it was something that I wanted to do. The opportunity at Penn came up kind of mid-year. Fran actually called me to see if I was interested to try it out and that Penn needed a pitching coach. I was living at home in South Jersey at the time so it seemed like a great fit. I was giving lessons at home here and there, I didn't know about the collegiate level but that opportunity for me was everything. After a couple of weeks I fell in love with it and realized it would be for me."

The call from Troyan may have been unexpected, but he felt that Sweeney would make a good coach even at a younger age.

"My sophomore or junior year, Fran asked me if I ever thought about coaching and I said no way. But he was right, he saw the qualities I had and knew it would be a good fit for me."

Sweeney added, "Since I'm still in coaching he is really a mentor for me. He's is as friendly and as dedicated to his athletes as he seems. Playing for him meant that you were a sought-after athlete because you knew he was recruiting people who were successful and well-rounded and wanted to be part of a community. Those were some of the most formative years in my life and I think he really established a family-like environment that everyone craves from a college environment. He preached a family atmosphere and he practiced a family atmosphere. Our alumni base is so bonded and a lot of that has to do with Fran. He was the center of it all that gave us that opportunity."

And even though going up against her old head coach is difficult, Sweeney sees the value in having her team face off against Lehigh each season.

"Looking back even to my own playing career, we used to really look forward to our mid-week games because Fran always scheduled us really tough. The Princeton series was always a big one, we knew it was another school with academic-minded athletes and we wanted to make sure we beat them. It was a healthy mid-major rivalry that was really exciting as a player and now on the other side it's so cool to see the program and stay in touch."

Lisa isn't the only one to make the Lehigh-to-Princeton journey. Her husband works as the school's Assistant Manager of Business and Ticket Operations, and the positions are fitting for a couple that was always together in college.

"It was one of those things where we both got jobs independently of each other and kind of started around the same time. Going back to being at Lehigh, we felt that this was a great cultural fit for us at Princeton. Gary Walters who was the athletic director at the time was looking for someone who really valued the student-athlete experience. That felt really comfortable for us

and we would want to work here because it was so similar to Lehigh."

Sweeney added, "There was a group of four of us at Lehigh, my college roommate Ali Torborg who was on the softball team and Brendan and his roommate Nick Johnson who played football. The four of us were inseparable, we did everything together and they got married one year before we did. Brendan is from Bethlehem so he knew everything about the whole area and grew up around the school."

Sweeney may be on the other side now, but she will always have a special place in her heart for Lehigh as the place she met her husband as well as a professional mentor.



# Mike Muscala



## Muscala Beats the Odds for NBA Career

By Matt Dougherty,  
Patriot League Assistant Executive  
Director for Communications

After helping his Atlanta Hawks team whittle down a 20-point deficit with under three minutes to play in Game 3 of last year's NBA Eastern Conference semifinals against the Washington Wizards, Mike Muscala completed the comeback by nailing a three-pointer with 14.8 seconds left to tie the score and send the Twitter world on fire to salute the former star from Bucknell and the Patriot League.

"Guys like Dennis Schroeder, Shelvin Mack and Mike Scott were making big plays to cut it down to 3 with around 20 seconds left," Muscala said. "We took

**Then: Bucknell men's basketball (2009-13)**

the ball out under their basket and Dennis raced it down, but slipped as he got close to the baseline. I was trailing the play, and he made a great pass from the floor to me outside the 3-point arc. Gortat was sagging in to help so I shot it and it went in."

Though a buzzer-beater by perennial All-Star Paul Pierce took down Atlanta on that night, Muscala made his impact felt to help the Hawks win the series and advance to the NBA Eastern Conference Finals. Muscala averaged 4.9 points and 3.0 rebounds per game in his first full NBA season in 2014-15, helping the Hawks to the second-best regular-season record in the league at 60-22.

Playing a role on one of the top teams in the NBA could have only been a dream when Muscala first arrived at Bucknell as a lightly-recruited student-athlete from Minnesota.

"I decided on Bucknell mainly because I wanted an elite-level combination of academics and athletics. On top of that, I got along great with the coaching staff and the campus was beautiful. The only other university I strongly considered was Santa Clara."

Muscala went on to great individual and team success in his four seasons at Bucknell, but it did not happen right away as he went through the usual adjustments of a freshman at the collegiate level.

"I felt confident at beginning of my freshman year, but the physicality and pace of the college game was





a big adjustment for me. I struggled at the beginning of the season, but my confidence grew a lot after a big game against a talented Cornell team that made it to the Sweet 16 that year. I think our team's confidence grew a lot that night too, despite losing in OT. We had a very balanced scoring attack, and we finished second in the Patriot League regular season."

That would be the lowest regular-season finish in Muscala's career at Bucknell, as the Bison finished in sole possession of first place in the standings in each of his final three years. Bucknell won the Patriot League title in his sophomore campaign in 2010-11 as Muscala claimed both the Patriot League Player of the Year and Tournament MVP award.

"Sophomore year was a lot of fun for me. We went to Italy as a team the summer after my freshman year, and I think the experience helped us to improve not only our skills, but more importantly our chemistry. We didn't start non-conference play particularly strong, however, and I remember having a meeting with Coach Paulsen after we dropped to 2-6. He was calm, and said it wasn't time to panic, but that it was gut-check time. I remember pulling off two tough, defensive-minded wins over Boston University and Columbia at home right after that which proved to us how good we could be defensively. Our offense became really tough to guard as we entered into Patriot League play, with the great play-making of Darryl Shazier at point guard and shooters like Bryson Johnson, G.W. Boon, and Joe Willman. Add in Bryan Cohen and Stephen Tyree as defensive stoppers and we had a really great team."

The success continued the next season as the Bison won their first 10 Patriot League games and started with a 20-6 record overall. Bucknell made it back to the Patriot League title game, but this time it was not to be as the Bison lost 82-77 at home against Lehigh. It was one of the most memorable games in Patriot League history and featured great performances by two future NBA players as Muscala had 30 points and 14 rebounds while C.J. McCollum notched 29 points to lead the Mountain Hawks.

"We had high expectations heading into the season, knowing that Lehigh would be our biggest challenge in the Patriot League and for us to get back to the NCAA Tournament. We split games in League play, but we won the regular-season title. Lehigh came out very aggressive in the championship game and we could never get a lead, always seeming to be down 2, 3 or 4 points. Gabe Knutson and CJ McCollum had really big games for them, and they pulled off the win on our home court."

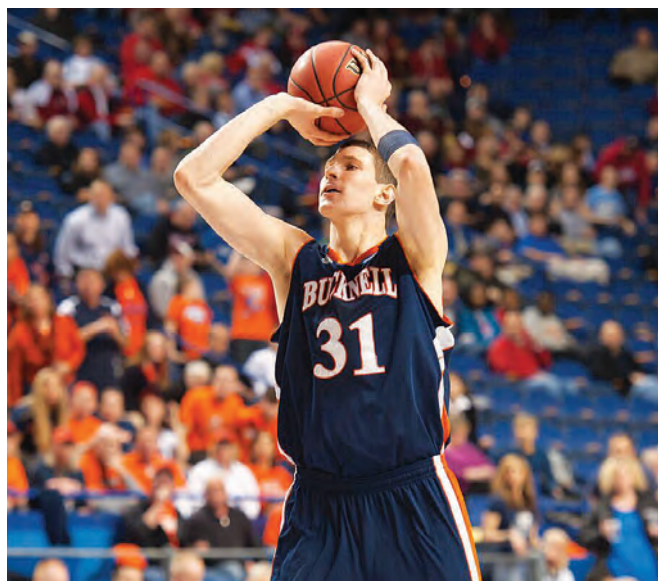
However, that was not the end of the season for Muscala and his teammates. Just a week after the Patriot League title game, the Bison went on

the road and defeated Arizona 65-54 in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) as Muscala had 20 points and nine rebounds. The Bison lost a competitive game at Nevada in the next round, with Muscala again excelling with 25 points and 15 rebounds.

"Although it was heartbreaking to lose to Lehigh in the Patriot League Championship, we stayed positive heading into the NIT and were able to knock off Arizona on their home court. We also played Nevada pretty tough in the second round despite the loss. I think our performance in the NIT, combined with Lehigh's win over us in the Patriot League Championship and their upset over Duke in the NCAA Tournament, really motivated us in the offseason as we prepared for the next year."

Muscala and his teammates saved the best for that next season. The Bison finished the regular season at 25-5 overall and 12-2 in the Patriot League, and had a handful of non-League highlights including a win at Purdue to open the season and narrow two-point loss at then No. 12 Missouri right before Patriot League play. The Bison won the Patriot League Tournament when they beat Lafayette at home in the championship game, and Muscala finished his career with a pair of titles as well as two Patriot League Player of the Year and Tournament MVP awards.

"I entered my senior year with high expectations, both personally and for the team. We got an #11 seed for the NCAA Tournament, facing Butler in Lexington, Kentucky. The game was low-scoring and hard-fought. Joe Willman played great and Steven Kaspar showed a lot of poise at point guard, but we came up short. I was really frustrated after the game because I missed a lot of shots I thought I usually made. I felt I let the team down, and that if we would have won we could have kept winning in the tournament. But I had



a great four years with my classmates Bryson Johnson, Joe Willman, and Colin Klebon. We achieved a great deal and I made some lifelong friendships. “

Muscala had a great senior season individually that earned him national attention from media as well as NBA scouts. He went through the pre-draft process knowing that the chance to play in the NBA was within reach.

“I definitely had a lot more to prove being from a smaller school. I think my NCAA Tournament performance against Butler hurt my stock quite a bit, too. But I did well in most of my pre-draft workouts for NBA teams, and I ended up working out twice for the Hawks.”

Muscala was immediately traded to Atlanta after being selected by the Dallas Mavericks in the second round (44th overall) of the 2013 NBA Draft. But he didn't earn the chance to play in the NBA right away. With the Hawks hoping to give him playing time to develop, Muscala started his professional career overseas in Spain.

“I was disappointed when I first found out that the Hawks wanted me to play overseas, but I quickly came to the realization that I could either embrace the opportunity to improve and develop my game, or not. I was able to get a lot of playing time against really good competition, and it was nice because we only played one game a week. This allowed for a lot of training time, both for my skills and body.”

The Hawks came calling for Muscala late in the season, and he ended up playing 20 games in the regular season for Atlanta in 2013-14 while averaging 3.8 points and 2.6 rebounds per contest. While Muscala can still be a force on the post, boards and defensively, the player who is fourth in Patriot League history in scoring and second in rebounding and blocked shots knew he had to broaden his game to succeed at the NBA level.

“There are a lot of areas of my game that have changed since playing in college. The biggest adjustment for me has been not being the main focus of the offense, but still learning how to be aggressive within the flow of our offense with the Hawks. Essentially, not looking to score every time I touch the ball, but still being aggressive and making good passes, setting good screens, spacing the floor well, and shooting good shots. Defensively, defending without fouling has been my biggest challenge, and that comes from being solid and showing my hands as much as possible.”

Muscala has company in the NBA out of the Patriot League as McCollum just finished his second season with the Portland Trail Blazers. Both players had key moments in last year's NBA playoffs and developed in

the second half of the season to show that there may be more to come in 2015-16 and beyond.

“It's really great to see,” Muscala said. “I'm happy for CJ, and for two players from the Patriot League to be playing in the NBA at the same time is unprecedented. Our rivalry with Lehigh pushed us to get better each year at Bucknell, and more specifically he pushed me to be better as an individual player. He's a great player and I know he will have a long career in the NBA.”

As he looks for continued success in the NBA, Muscala is also representing his roots from Bucknell and the Patriot League.

“Bucknell will always be very special to me. I'm from Minnesota, so I was far from home while at Bucknell, but it became a second home for me. Basketball aside, I learned so much from amazing professors, and developed some lifelong friendships with other students. I always enjoy going back to relive my time there and look forward to going back in years to come.”

“I'm proud to have played in the Patriot League. It represents an elite level combination of academics and athletics. Playing in Atlanta, not many people know of Bucknell or the Patriot League, but I'm always proud to tell them about both.”

#### Now: Plays in NBA for Atlanta Hawks





## Men's Soccer

Cristobal Soto, American (2010-13)  
 Winston Boldt, Army (2011-14)  
 Tony Parilli, Army (1993-96)  
 A.J. Florkowski, Army (1994-97)  
 Conor O'Brien, Bucknell (2006-09)  
 Michael Lookingland, Bucknell (2001-04)  
 Mayowa Alli, Bucknell (2010-13)  
 Brendan Burgdorf, Bucknell (2009-12)  
 Bobby Newman, Colgate (1992-95)  
 David Cappuccio, Colgate (2005-08)  
 Stephen Miller, Colgate (2007-11)  
 Matt Ney Holy Cross (1999-02)  
 Brian Petz, Holy Cross (1992-95)  
 Josh Trott, Holy Cross (2003-06)  
 Rusty Guidici, Holy Cross (1999-02)  
 Mark Dutkewych, Lafayette (1992-95)  
 Andrew Mittendorf, Lehigh (1995-98)  
 Kevin Jackson, Lehigh (1996-99)  
 Evan Bruno, Lehigh (1999-02)  
 John O'Reilly, Lehigh (2003-06)  
 Kevin Strunk, Lehigh (2008-11)  
 Joseph Greenspan, Navy (2011-14)  
 Brian Steckroth, Navy (1998-01)  
 Michael Paisant, Navy (1997-00)  
 Jono Halverson, Navy (1991-92)



## Women's Soccer

Friederike Engel, American (2007-10)  
 Anette Scott, American (2004-07)  
 Holly Pedley, Army (1994-97)  
 Molly McGuigan, Army (2010-13)  
 Tara Williams, Army (1990-93)  
 Lisa Gibbons, Bucknell (1991-94)  
 Jennifer Dervarics, Bucknell (2005-08)  
 Christa Matlack, Bucknell (2007-10)  
 Nicole D'Orazio, Colgate (1994-97)  
 Jennifer Hughes, Colgate (1993-96)  
 Franny Iacuzzi, Colgate (2004-07)  
 Kate Barrett, Colgate (2000-03)  
 Kaitlyn Lynch, Colgate (1991-94)  
 Jessica Tuthill, Colgate (1992-95)  
 Jillian Kinter, Colgate (2009-12)  
 Kate O'Shaughnessy, Holy Cross (1998-01)  
 Heidi Caruso, Lafayette (1990-93)  
 Gina Lewandowski, Lehigh (2003-06)  
 Erin Iwaskiewicz, Lehigh (2001-04)  
 Jade Seabrook, Navy (2011-14)  
 Nicole Aunapu, Navy (1995-98)  
 Shelly Moeller, Navy (2006-09)  
 Stacy Finley, Navy (2000-03)  
 Justine Fisher, Navy (1998-01)  
 Lizzie Barnes, Navy (2005-08)

## Volleyball

Karla Kucerkova, American (2001-03)  
 Rubena Sukaj, American (2005-08)  
 Monika Smidova, American (2011-14)  
 Cutrina Biddulph, American (2002-05)  
 Christina Nash, American (2005-08)  
 Ariana Mankus, Army (2009-12)  
 Maureen Bannon, Army (2006-09)  
 Caitlin Machon, Army (2000-04)  
 Deanna Machlan, Army (1992-95)  
 Abby Casciato, Army (2002-05)  
 Melissa Wharton, Bucknell (1994-97)  
 Katie Steele, Bucknell (1992-95)  
 Vicky Chun, Colgate (1990-91)  
 Julia Civardi, Colgate (1993-96)  
 Becca Galves, Colgate (1990-93)  
 Autumn McKenzie, Colgate (1993-96)  
 Judy Culhane, Colgate (1996-99)  
 Katrina Zawojski, Colgate (2005-08)  
 Jackie Adlam, Colgate (2005-08)  
 Megan Lynch, Holy Cross (2009-12)  
 Kim Freedman, Lehigh (1995-98)  
 Rochelle Healea, Lehigh (1999-02)  
 Katherine Schullian, Navy (1991-94)  
 Rachel Shropa, Navy (1996-99)  
 Jen Williams, Navy (1996-99)



## Patriot League 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Teams



## Field Hockey

Javiera Villagara, American (2002-05)  
 Camila Infante, American (2003-06)  
 Denise Infante, American (2004-07)  
 Irene Schickhardt, American (2005-08)  
 Christine Fingerhuth, American (2007-10)  
 Maureen Daniel, American (2002-05)  
 Shelly Montgomery, American (2010-13)  
 Sofi Laurito, Boston University (2013-pres.)  
 Lauren Campbell, Bucknell (1998-01)  
 Almira Baldwin, Bucknell (1990-93)  
 Amanda Faust, Bucknell (2005-08)  
 Hilary Meyer, Colgate (1995-98)  
 Annie Lavigne, Holy Cross (1997-00)  
 Michelle Gagne, Holy Cross (1991-94)  
 Tara Welch, Holy Cross (2003-06)  
 Erin Singleton, Holy Cross (2005-08)  
 Liz Tutella, Holy Cross (1999-02)  
 Suzi Farrell, Lafayette (1990-91)  
 Deanna DiCroce, Lafayette (2009-12)  
 Megan Monahan, Lafayette (1999-02)  
 Jennifer Stone, Lafayette (2000-03)  
 Andrea Dagostino, Lafayette (1990-93)  
 Mary-Alice Zavocki, Lehigh (1991-94)  
 Amy Earley, Lehigh (1990-92)  
 Kandiss Kulp, Fairfield (1996-99)



## Women's Basketball

Jen Dumiak, American (2011-15)  
 Lisa Strack, American (2008-12)  
 Alexis Dobbs, American (2010-14)  
 Kelsey Minato, Army West Point (2012-pres.)  
 Katie Macfarlane, Army West Point (2000-04)  
 Cara Enright, Army West Point (2004-08)  
 Erin Anthony, Army West Point (2007-11)  
 Alex McGuire, Army West Point (2005-09)  
 Lisa Russell, Army West Point (1991-95)  
 Molly Creamer, Bucknell (1999-03)  
 Desire Almind, Bucknell (2000-04)  
 Hope Foster, Bucknell (2004-08)  
 Vicki Quimby, Bucknell (1998-02)  
 Emily Braseth, Colgate (2001-05)  
 Amy O'Brien, Holy Cross (1995-99)  
 Kathy Courtney, Holy Cross (1993-97)  
 Lauren Maney, Holy Cross (1992-96)  
 Anna Kinne, Holy Cross (1996-00)  
 Norinne Powers, Holy Cross (1990-93)  
 Anne Tierney, Lehigh (1999-03)  
 Erica Prosser, Lehigh (2007-11)  
 Jessica DePalo, Lehigh (2001-05)  
 Jade Geif, Navy (2010-14)  
 Courtney Davidson, Navy (2000-04)  
 Becky Dowling, Navy (1994-98)

## Men's Basketball

Derrick Mercer, American (2005-09)  
 Garrison Carr, American (2005-09)  
 Patrick Doctor, American (2001-02)  
 Mark Lueking, Army West Point (1992-96)  
 Mike Muscala, Bucknell (2009-13)  
 Charles Lee, Bucknell (2002-06)  
 Chris McNaughton, Bucknell (2003-07)  
 Mike Bright, Bucknell (1990-93)  
 Patrick King, Bucknell (1990-92)  
 Cameron Ayers, Bucknell (2010-14)  
 Adonal Foyle, Colgate (1994-97)  
 Tucker Neale, Colgate (1992-95)  
 Pat Campolieta, Colgate (1998-02)  
 Rob Feaster, Holy Cross (1991-95)  
 Kevin Hamilton, Holy Cross (2002-06)  
 Keith Simmons, Holy Cross (2003-07)  
 Tim Szatko, Holy Cross (1999-03)  
 Brian Ehlers, Lafayette (1996-00)  
 Stefan Ciosici, Lafayette (1995-00)  
 C.J. McCollum, Lehigh (2009-13)  
 Bob Krizansky, Lehigh (1990-92)  
 Austen Rowland, Lehigh (2003-04)  
 Greg Sprink, Navy (2004-08)  
 Hassan Booker, Navy (1994-98)  
 Damon Lopez, Fordham (1990-91)



## Men's Cross Country

Brendan Fennell, American (2004-07)  
 Pat MacAdie, American (2001-04)  
 Steve Hallinan, American (2004-07)  
 Matt Seymour, American (2001-03)  
 Scott Goff, Army (1995-98)  
 Mike Bernstein, Army (1991-94)  
 Dan Browne, Army (1993-96)  
 Will Wyche, Army (1998-01)  
 Michael Ross, Army (1995-98)  
 Josh Stubbs, Army (1993-96)  
 Michael Baskin, Army (1998-01)  
 Jason Stewart, Army (1990-93)  
 Matt Deardorff, Bucknell (1990-91)  
 David Bronfenbrenner, Bucknell (1996-99)  
 Bryan Johnston, Bucknell (1999-02)  
 Norbert Berenyi, Bucknell (1990)  
 Ray Appenheimer, Colgate (1990-93)  
 Chris Johnson, Colgate (2009-12)  
 Michael Hanlon, Colgate (2003-06)  
 David Robinson, Lafayette (1994-97)  
 Tyler Mueller, Lehigh (2010-13)  
 Evans Kosgei, Lehigh (2008-11)  
 Ryan Mahalsky, Lehigh (2011-14)  
 Andrew Hanko, Navy (2007-10)  
 Steve Schroeder, Navy (2012-pres.)

## Women's Cross Country

Keira Carlstrom, American (2002-05)  
 Octavia Rinehardt, American (2008-11)  
 Samia Akbar, American (2001-02)  
 Catherine Gaffigan, Army (1991-94)  
 Jessica Jones, Army (1996-99)  
 Ashley Urick, Army (2002-05)  
 Erin Miller, Army (1993-96)  
 Rosa Moriello, Boston University (2013-14)  
 Becki Marshall, Bucknell (1998-01)  
 Julie Sweitzer, Bucknell (1995-98)  
 Theresa Dennis, Bucknell (1999-02)  
 Leanna Nastase, Bucknell (2002-05)  
 Carla Graytock, Bucknell (1996-99)  
 Betsy Cunningham, Colgate (1993-96)  
 Elise DeRoo, Colgate (2008-11)  
 Stacy Marion, Colgate (2007-10)  
 Molly DeMark, Colgate (1996-99)  
 Megan Smith, Lafayette (1993-96)  
 Elizabeth Weiler, Lehigh (2012-pres.)  
 Gretchen Repasky, Lehigh (1990-93)  
 Jen Schappert, Lehigh (2003-06)  
 Jess Palacio, Navy (2008-11)  
 Annie-Norah Beveridge, Navy (2011-14)  
 Amy Watson, Navy (2005-08)  
 Lauren Gubicza, Fordham (1990-92)



## Patriot League 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Teams



## Men's Track & Field

Sean O'Brien, American (2002-03)  
 Sean Duffy, American (2002-05)  
 Dustin Emrani, American (2004-07)  
 Dan Browne, Army West Point (1994-97)  
 Domonick Sylve, Army West Point (2008-11)  
 Jeff Weaver, Army West Point (2001-04)  
 Clay Schwabe, Army West Point (1998-01)  
 Gerald Ingalls, Army West Point (1993-96)  
 Adam Burke, Army West Point (2001-04)  
 Brian Gebhardt, Army West Point (1997-00)  
 Mike Bernstein, Army West Point (1992-95)  
 Jason Stewart, Army West Point (1991-94)  
 Rich Peters, Boston University (2014-15)  
 Leonard Joseph, Bucknell (2010-13)  
 Ron Hess, Bucknell (1997-00)  
 Noel Powell, Bucknell (2000-03)  
 Robert Arent, Bucknell (2009-12)  
 Ray Appenheimer, Colgate (1991-94)  
 Tyrone Russell, Colgate (2000-03)  
 Cleveland McCray, Lehigh (1991-93)  
 Greg Keller, Navy (1993)  
 Paul Harris, Navy (2004-07)  
 Zack Duncavage, Navy (2011-14)  
 John Mentzner, Navy (2005-08)  
 Jay Stell, Navy (2013-pres.)



## Women's Track & Field

Keira Carlstrom, American (2003-06)  
 Samia Akbar, American (2002-03)  
 Tiffany Martin, Army West Point (2002-05)  
 Ebony Thomas, Army West Point (2006-09)  
 Sara Fields, Army West Point (2001-04)  
 Yolanda McCray, Army West Point (1995-98)  
 Allison Barwise, Boston University (2014)  
 Gemma Acheampong, Boston University (2014-15)  
 Rosa Moriello, Boston University (2014-15)  
 Tameka Hinton, Bucknell (1992-95)  
 Amy Mantush, Bucknell (2007-10)  
 Melanie Buczko, Bucknell (2004-07)  
 Maria Garcia, Bucknell (2001-04)  
 Marjorie Grap, Bucknell (2004-07)  
 Elise DeRoo, Colgate (2009-12)  
 Stephanie Okpoebo, Holy Cross (2011-14)  
 Kristen Kalinowski, Lafayette (2005-08)  
 Joelle Nelson, Lafayette (2009-12)  
 Justina Barone, Lehigh (2000-03)  
 Brooke Astor, Lehigh (2011-14)  
 Jess Palacio, Navy (2009-12)  
 Tiniesha Davis, Navy (2002-05)  
 Kirsten Andrews, Navy (2004-07)  
 Joanna Helm, Navy (1998-01)  
 Lauren Gubicza, Fordham (1991-93)



## Men's Lacrosse

Jeremy Boltus, Army West Point (2008-11)  
John Walker, Army West Point (2003-06)  
Tim Pearson, Army West Point (1999-02)  
Bill Henderson, Army West Point (2007-11)  
Adam Fullerton, Army West Point (2005-08)  
John Glesener, Army West Point (2012-15)  
Garrett Thul, Army West Point (2010-13)  
Chris Cara, Bucknell (2002-05)  
Justin Zackey, Bucknell (1991-94)  
Justin Sussman, Bucknell (2000-03)  
Peter Baum, Colgate (2010-13)  
Brandon Corp, Colgate (2006-09)  
Derek Laub, Colgate (1991-93)  
Chris Eck, Colgate (2005-08)  
Dan Taylor, Lehigh (2012-15)  
David DiMaria, Lehigh (2010-13)  
Joe Fletcher, Loyola (2014)  
Justin Ward, Loyola (2014)  
Matt Russell, Navy (2004-06)  
Billy Looney, Navy (2004-07)  
Ian Dingman, Navy (2004, 2006-07)  
Mitch Hender, Navy (2004-05)  
Jordan DiNola, Navy (2005-08)  
Jon Birsner, Navy (2004-06)  
Steve Looney, Navy (2004-06)



## Women's Lacrosse

Jackie Lane, American (2005-08)  
Suzanne Raffaele, Bucknell (2000-03)  
Shari Krasnood, Colgate (1991)  
Angela Chongris, Colgate (1995-98)  
Courtney Miller, Colgate (2009-12)  
Kate McVeigh, Colgate (2003-06)  
Hilary Meyer, Colgate (1996-99)  
Patricia Sutton, Holy Cross (2004-07)  
Megan Orr, Holy Cross (2004-07)  
Andrea Dagostino, Lafayette (1991-94)  
Heather McClelland, Lafayette (1999-02)  
Stephanie Tinney, Lafayette (1999-02)  
Suzi Farrell, Lafayette (1991-92)  
Loren Berkheimer, Lafayette (1997-00)  
Liz Bagley, Lafayette (1991-92)  
Lauren Dykstra, Lehigh (2008-11)  
Jill Altshuler, Lehigh (1993-96)  
Liz Brode, Lehigh (1992-95)  
Annie Thomas, Loyola (2014-15)  
Maddy Leshner, Loyola (2014-pres.)  
Taryn VanThof, Loyola (2014-15)  
Marlee Paton, Loyola (2014)  
Jasmine DePompeo, Navy (2010-13)  
Loren Generi, Navy (2012-15)  
Erin Rawlick, Navy (2008-10)

## Men's Swimming & Diving

Mark Liscinsky, American (2001-03)  
Ethan Bassett, American (2001-04)  
Val Fomenko, American (2002-06)  
Chris Nguyen, Army West Point (2009-13)  
Joe Novak, Army West Point (1995-99)  
Chris Szekely, Army West Point (2011-15)  
Daniel Downs, Army West Point (1999-03)  
Connor Stuewe, Boston University (2013-15)  
Jay Gross, Bucknell (1990-93)  
Mike Nicholson, Bucknell (2010-14)  
Alex Johnson, Bucknell (1995-99)  
Mike Colvig, Colgate (1992-96)  
Greg Sobo, Colgate (1990-94)  
Andrew Rutherford, Lafayette (1990-94)  
Jeff Cline, Lehigh (1992-96)  
Ken Johns, Lehigh (1992-96)  
Chris Scheier, Lehigh (1995-99)  
Mac Anthony, Navy (2008-12)  
Kevin Teague, Navy (2003-07)  
Adam Meyer, Navy (2006-10)  
Justin Vagts, Navy (2009-13)  
Thomas Duvall, Navy (2012-pres.)  
Joe Smutz, Navy (2003-06)  
Michael Linn, Navy (2003-06)  
Olaf Olson, Navy (2007-11)



## Patriot League 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Teams



## Women's Swimming & Diving

Meghan Thiel, American (2004-08)  
Dory Isaacs, American (2007-11)  
Chelsea Haviland, Army West Point (2002-06)  
Colleen Criscillo, Army West Point (1991)  
Rachel Pick, Army West Point (1993-97)  
Lindsay Adao, Army West Point (2006-10)  
Heidi Borden, Army West Point (1997-01)  
Carolyn Harris, Army West Point (1995-99)  
Stephanie Nasson, Boston University (2013-pres.)  
Jennifer Myers, Bucknell (1994-98)  
Margaret Grunow, Bucknell (1990-93)  
Emma Levendoski, Bucknell (2012-pres.)  
Emma Santoro, Colgate (2009-13)  
Caren Guyett, Colgate (2007-11)  
Colleen Lynch, Holy Cross (1991-95)  
Kim Rinaldi, Holy Cross (1999-02)  
Lauren Ayres, Lehigh (1998-02)  
Laura Gorinski, Navy (2008-12)  
Tara Chapmon, Navy (2006-10)  
Darcy Stuart, Navy (1993-97)  
Thuy-Mi Dinh, Navy (2006-10)  
Kelly Zahalka, Navy (2005-09)  
Julia Mason, Navy (1995-99)  
Heidi Fearon, Navy (1992-96)  
Melissa Hawley, Navy (1998-02)



## Men's Golf

Pat Mullin, Army West Point (1990-91)  
Peter Kim, Army West Point (2013-pres.)  
Cullen Barbato, Army West Point (1992-96)  
Matt Krembel, Army West Point (2007-11)  
John Lyons, Army West Point (1990-92)  
Trey Owen, Army West Point (1990-94)  
Mike Sessa, Army West Point (1992-96)  
Marcus Plunkett, Army West Point (2012-pres.)  
Charlie Waddell, Bucknell (2003-07)  
Andrew Cohen, Bucknell (2006-10)  
Rick Gregson, Colgate (1990-94)  
Eli Zackheim, Colgate (1997-01)  
Matt Czarniecki, Holy Cross (2004-08)  
Tyler Ostrovsky, Lafayette (2007-11)  
Rob Robertson, Lafayette (2008-11)  
Henry D'Alberto, Lehigh (1993-97)  
Bowen Osborn, Lehigh (1998-02)  
Timothy Johnson, Lehigh (1995-99)  
Matt Oshrine, Loyola (2013-pres.)  
Billy Hurley, Navy (2000-04)  
Aaron Wright, Navy (1994-98)  
Brian Crum, Navy (1999-03)  
Ryan Draginis, Navy (1996-00)  
Erich Schoen, Navy (2004-08)  
Pete Lauder, Navy (1996-00)

## Baseball

Nick Hill, Army West Point (2004-07)  
 Cole White, Army West Point (2005-08)  
 Milan Dinga, Army West Point (2004-07)  
 Schuyler Williamson, Army West Point (2002-05)  
 Chris Rowley, Army West Point (2009-12)  
 Steve Reich, Army West Point (1991-93)  
 Clint Moore, Army West Point (2008-11)  
 Kevin McKague, Army West Point (2008-12)  
 Ben Koenigsfeld, Army West Point (2008-11)  
 Jason Buursma, Bucknell (2005-08)  
 Kyle Walter, Bucknell (2003-06)  
 Jim Sweeney, Holy Cross (1998-00)  
 Matt Perry, Holy Cross (2007-10)  
 John Colella, Holy Cross (2010-13)  
 Adam Rosenberg, Lafayette (2001-04)  
 Matt McBride, Lehigh (2004-06)  
 Jesse Novalis, Lehigh (2001-04)  
 Marcus Lee, Navy (1993-94)  
 Toph Lake, Navy (1995-98)  
 Shane Groover, Navy (1997-00)  
 Mitch Harris, Navy (2005-08)  
 Steve Mauro, Navy (1993-95)  
 Brian Bernth, Navy (1993-96)  
 Toby Moore, Navy (1993-95)  
 Santy Gallone, Fordham (1991-92)



## Softball

Nicki Robbins, Army West Point (1999-02)  
 Amanda Nguyen, Army West Point (2011-14)  
 Shauna Evans, Army West Point (1999-02)  
 Sheri Schweiker, Army West Point (1991-94)  
 Lindsey Gerheim, Army West Point (2004-07)  
 Colleen McCabe, Army West Point (1991)  
 Lisa Fink, Bucknell (1991-93)  
 Lauren Wible, Bucknell (2003-06)  
 Jenny Snyder, Bucknell (1996-99)  
 Kristen Zahn, Bucknell (2012-15)  
 Dorothy Donaldson, Colgate (2002-05)  
 Melissa Rawson, Colgate (2000-03)  
 Tara McGoff, Colgate (1996-99)  
 Natalie Rawson, Colgate (2002-05)  
 Genoa Grosch, Holy Cross (1996-99)  
 Jen Rothrock, Lafayette (1994-97)  
 Christina Giambrone, Lafayette (2006-09)  
 Lisa Sweeney, Lehigh (2006-09)  
 Kim Miller, Lehigh (1993-96)  
 Julie Fernandez, Lehigh (2009-12)  
 Emily Bausher, Lehigh (2012-15)  
 Emily Ling, Lehigh (2002-05)  
 Morgan Decker, Lehigh (2013-pres.)  
 Kate Marvel, Lehigh (2005-08)  
 Jennifer Colquhoun, Lehigh (2009-12)

## Men's Tennis

Bence Hamori, American (2002)  
 Asika Isoh, Army West Point (2011-14)  
 Arnoldo Albornoz, Army West Point (2000-03)  
 John Sabia, Army West Point (2001-04)  
 Carl Fisher, Army West Point (2003-06)  
 Marshall Clay, Army West Point (1998-01)  
 Alex Van Velzer, Army West Point (2012-15)  
 Ricky Michalski, Army West Point (1994-97)  
 Phil Muhawi, Army West Point (2006-09)  
 Nick Bybel, Bucknell (2013-pres.)  
 T.K. Kelly, Bucknell (1997-00)  
 Ira Reibeisen, Bucknell (2005-08)  
 Reed Hagmann, Colgate (2002-05)  
 Luke Gensburg, Colgate (2011-14)  
 Martin MacIntyre, Colgate (2006-09)  
 Eric Wiley, Lafayette (2007-10)  
 Troy List, Lehigh (2008-11)  
 Ryan Gelrod, Lehigh (1991-93)  
 Ben Gilman, Lehigh (2012-15)  
 Mitch Koch, Navy (1997-00)  
 Nate Nelms, Navy (2006-09)  
 Calvin Mark, Navy (2012-15)  
 Owen Bullard, Navy (2008-11)  
 Silas Bouyer, Navy (1995-98)  
 Guy Gebbia, Fordham (1993-96)



## Patriot League 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Teams



## Women's Tennis

Katrina Kollarova, American (2002-04)  
 Olga Mikhailova, American (2002)  
 Annie Houghton, Army West Point (2008-11)  
 Jennifer Blatty, Army West Point (1997-00)  
 Marissa Limsiasco, Army West Point (2002-05)  
 Lillian Lien, Army West Point (1997-00)  
 Melanie Bundoc, Army West Point (2001-04)  
 Elizabeth Scherer, Army West Point (1996-99)  
 Jamila Paul, Army West Point (2011-14)  
 Erin Colton, Army West Point (2010-13)  
 Anne Collier, Army West Point (2000-03)  
 Johanna Hyoty, Boston University (2014-pres.)  
 Lauren Davis, Boston University (2014-pres.)  
 Tania Varela, Bucknell (2007-10)  
 Nada Curcic, Bucknell (2002-05)  
 Lauren Lucido, Bucknell (2008-11)  
 Jackie Couture, Colgate (2004-07)  
 Elise Derose, Colgate (2007-10)  
 Sam Kohn, Colgate (1994-98)  
 Leslie Frank, Colgate (1992-96)  
 Alex Finio, Lafayette (1992-96)  
 Kristi Kungl, Lehigh (1990-93)  
 Kristen Nowicki, Lehigh (2000-04)  
 Emani Decquir, Navy (2010-13)  
 Erin Snook, Navy (2011-14)





## PATRIOT LEAGUE ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC SUCCESS

Now in its third decade as an all-sport conference combining academic and athletic excellence, the Patriot League sponsors championships in 24 men and women's sports. Initially started as an NCAA Division I-AA football conference in 1986, the Patriot League became an all-sport conference in 1990 and includes American, Army, Boston University, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh, Loyola and Navy as full members, and Fordham, Georgetown, MIT and Richmond as associate members. These institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation and their alumni have and continue to play leadership roles in shaping our country. The Patriot League will celebrate its 25th Anniversary as an all-sport conference during the 2015-16 season.

Since 1998, the Patriot League has ranked first each year among all Division I conferences awarding athletic aid in the NCAA Graduation Rate Report. The League also had 92 percent of its teams score above the national APR average in the most recent data, and 101 Patriot League teams earned NCAA Academic Performance Program Public Recognition Awards after posting academic progress rate scores in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports.

The Patriot League's mission is simple: to provide successful competitive athletic experiences while maintaining high academic standards, and to prepare its student-athletes to be leaders in society.

During the 2014-15 academic year, Patriot League student-athletes and teams accomplished the following:

- \* 101 Patriot League teams earned NCAA Public Recognition Awards for ranking in the top 10 percent of their sport in Academic Progress Rate (APR), with 88 of those squads earning perfect scores.
- \* The Patriot League ranked second among all conferences in Public Recognition Awards, while Bucknell, Lafayette and Colgate all placed in the top six nationally.
- \* 92 percent of Patriot League teams scored above the national average in APR, while more than 70 percent had at least a 990 score in the multi-year rate.
- \* Eleven student-athletes earned Capital One Academic All-America recognition, including first-team accolades for Navy's Tom Buffone (Track and Field) and Ellen Bradford (Swimming and Diving), American's Jen Dumiak (Women's Basketball) and Fordham's Brett Biestek (Football).
- \* Navy's Tom Buffone (Track and Field) and Loren Generi (Women's Lacrosse) and Lafayette's Cory Spera (Baseball) earned NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships.
- \* Buffone and Dumiak were named the Corvias Patriot League Male and Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year honorees, respectively.
- \* Thirty-four student-athletes received Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-District recognition.
- \* There were 2,745 student-athletes on the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll in 2014-15, including 217 with a semester GPA of at least 4.0.
- \* Bucknell's Ryan Frazier (Men's Basketball) and Andrea Siefert (Women's Rowing) each received the Patriot League Award of Outstanding Leadership and Character, while Lehigh's Ashley Blanks (Women's Soccer) was named the League's Sportsmanship Award winner.
- \* Four Patriot Leaguers were named Senior CLASS Award finalists, with Colgate's Caroline Brawner (Women's Soccer) and Army West Point's Sam Somers (Men's Lacrosse) earning first-team recognition.
- \* Brawner was also one of the League's nominations for the NCAA Woman of the Year award along with Boston University's Valentina Cerda Eimbcke (Field Hockey).
- \* Navy won the Corvias Patriot League Presidents' Cup for the third time in the last four years.
- \* The Mids also won the men's title while Boston University repeated as women's champion.
- \* Loyola won a pair of NCAA Tournament games to become the first Patriot League women's lacrosse team to advance to the quarterfinal round, and also finished in the top 10 of the IWLCA Coaches Poll.
- \* Fordham (Football) and Lehigh (Softball) also won NCAA Tournament contests in 2014-15.
- \* Fordham running back Chase Edmonds won the Jerry Rice Award as the FCS Freshman of the Year.
- \* Edmonds was also named the ECAC Offensive Rookie of the Year, while Bucknell's Evan Byers was selected as the ECAC Defensive Player of the Year.
- \* Twenty-four Patriot Leaguers were named All-Americans in team sports, with first-team status for Byers and Fordham's Mason Halter in football and Navy's Joseph Greenspan in men's soccer.
- \* Four Patriot Leaguers competed at the NCAA Cross Country Championships, and Lehigh's Elizabeth Weiler became the League's first female All-American since 2005.
- \* Lehigh's Ryan Mahalsky became the first Patriot Leaguer since 2007-08 and sixth all-time to compete at the NCAA Championships for both cross country and outdoor track and field in the same season.
- \* Bucknell's Emma Levendoski competed in both the 100-meter and 200-meter backstroke at the NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championship.
- \* A League record nine student-athletes were selected in the Major League Lacrosse (MLL) Draft entering the 2015 season, with Army West Point's John Glesener, Loyola's Nikko Pontrello and Colgate's Ryan Walsh among the top 11 picks.
- \* Navy's Joseph Greenspan and Boston University's Dominique Badji were both selected in the first four rounds of the Major League Soccer (MLS) Draft.
- \* Five Patriot Leaguers were taken in the Major League Baseball (MLB) First-Year Player Draft, with Lehigh's Justin Pacchioli and Navy's Stephen Moore each selected in the 10th round.

**PATRIOT LEAGUE PRESIDENTS' CUP CHAMPIONS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>MEN</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>MEN</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>
1990-91	Bucknell	Bucknell	Lafayette	2003-04	Bucknell	Bucknell	Bucknell
1991-92	Bucknell	Lehigh	Lafayette	2004-05	Army	Army	Army
1992-93	Bucknell	Army	Bucknell	2005-06	Bucknell	Lehigh	Bucknell
1993-94	Army	Army	Army	2006-07	Bucknell	Bucknell	Bucknell
1994-95	Army	Army	Bucknell	2007-08	Bucknell	Navy	Bucknell
1995-96	Bucknell	Army	Bucknell	2008-09	Bucknell	Army	Bucknell
1996-97	Army	Army	Colgate	2009-10	Bucknell	Bucknell	Bucknell
1997-98	Bucknell	Army	Bucknell	2010-11	Bucknell	Bucknell	Bucknell
1998-99	Bucknell	Bucknell	Bucknell	2011-12	Navy	Lehigh	Navy
1999-00	Bucknell	Army	Bucknell	2012-13	Bucknell	Lehigh	Navy
2000-01	Bucknell	Bucknell	Bucknell	2013-14	Navy	Army	Boston University
2001-02	Bucknell	Army	Bucknell	2014-15	Navy	Navy	Boston University
2002-03	Bucknell	Bucknell	Bucknell				





## PATRIOT LEAGUE HISTORY

- 1986 The Colonial League is founded and begins full round-robin play in football only; Lafayette College associate professor Alan Childs is named the Executive Director.
- 1989 Carl Ullrich is appointed as the first full-time Executive Director.
- 1990 Colonial League changes its name to Patriot League.
- 1990-91 Patriot League becomes an all-sport conference, sponsoring 22 sports, 11 for women and 11 for men. Membership includes Bucknell University, Colgate University, Fordham University, College of the Holy Cross, Lafayette College, Lehigh University and the United States Military Academy.
- 1991 The United States Naval Academy joins the League as a full member.
- 1993 Constance (Connie) H. Hurlbut is named Executive Director of the League, becoming the first woman and youngest person to be selected as the leader of an NCAA Division I conference.
- 1995 Fordham University resigns its full membership but remains in the League as an associate member in football.
- 1996 Change in League policy adopted to allow basketball scholarships beginning with the class entering in the fall of 1998.
- 1999 Carolyn Schlie Femovich is selected as the fourth Executive Director of the League.
- 2000-01 Patriot League celebrates its 10th Anniversary; League policy regarding merit aid expanded to include all sports except football, beginning with the class entering in the fall of 2001. John Feinstein publishes *The Last Amateurs*, which chronicles the 1999-00 Patriot League Men's Basketball season.
- 2001 American University joins the Patriot League as a full member; Georgetown University joins as an associate member in football.
- 2003 United States Naval Academy increases participation from 12 sports to 18 by joining Patriot League in men's lacrosse, men's swimming & diving and all cross country and track & field programs.
- 2004 Women's rowing is added as the Patriot League's 23rd sport.
- 2008 United States Naval Academy adds women's lacrosse as its 19th Patriot League sport.
- 2009 United States Naval Academy adds women's tennis as its 20th Patriot League sport; Patriot League enters into agreement with CBS College Sports Network to televise regular and postseason men and women's basketball games as well as men's lacrosse tournament.
- 2010 Massachusetts Institute of Technology joins as an associate member in women's rowing.
- 2010-11 Patriot League celebrates 20th anniversary as an all-sport conference.
- 2012 Patriot League Presidents approve merit aid for football, beginning with the class entering in the fall of 2013; Women's Golf added as the Patriot League's 24th sport, with first championship set for spring 2013.
- 2013 Boston University and Loyola University Maryland officially join the Patriot League as its ninth and 10th full members; Georgetown expands its associate membership to include women's rowing, effective with the 2013-14 season; The Patriot League Digital Network, which includes both live event coverage and video on demand, launched in partnership with Campus Insiders.
- 2014 United States Military Academy adds women's lacrosse as its 20th Patriot League sport; Richmond joins the Patriot League as an Associate Member in Women's Golf.
- 2015-16 Jennifer Heppel is selected as the fifth Patriot League Executive Director; League celebrates its 25th Anniversary

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## **PATRIOT LEAGUE 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

