



BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY 2002 MEN'S SOCCER NEWS



March, 2003

NOTE FROM COACH NASH

Volume 9, Issue 3



Greetings from snow covered Lewisburg! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and 2003 is off to a great start. Having our awards banquet in January was the perfect time for us to reflect on 2002 as well as look into the future of our program. Our six seniors made the night an incredible evening of memories! Beginning with the opening senior speech from Steve Feather, to the gift presentation to our seniors of their freshman year uniforms, I was proud to see how far this group has come. I have made mention of this fact many times over. When these seniors were being recruited to Bucknell the program was coming off a 4-14 season in which we set the Bucknell record for losses in a season. That first group of recruits had to believe in our vision of not only Bucknell University, but what we could do with the men's soccer program. Leaving the program following a year in which they set the school record for wins (13) in a season is something they worked four long years to achieve. These six seniors were asked to help turn the program around and raise the bar for our future success. As Nick Taylor mentioned in his senior speech; "This year, as a program, I think we finally learned how to win! The next step is to take what we have learned and translate it into a Patriot League Championship!" As you can see the six seniors will sorely be missed. They have raised the bar and want to remain a part of our future success. Which brings us to the future. With spring right around the corner we are thinking about our spring season, finishing our recruiting and then preparing for the 2003 season. Many things have happened at Bucknell recently, which leads me to believe we have a better chance to win a championship than we have in the past. Our new Athletics and Recreation Center is an incredible facility which improves our whole university. We have also hired three strength and conditioning coaches to help all of our varsity sports in the new facility. Last, the whole program is excited about the plans for our new field hockey-soccer facility. The new facility we still be across Route 15 (down by the monkey cages) but the original design will have us rivaling any soccer facility in the east once it is completed. As you can see I am personally excited about what we have done and what I believe we will do in the future. I hope you are too, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Team Receives NSCAA Academic Award



Coach Nash is pleased to announce that the NSCAA recognized the Bucknell Men's Soccer Program for obtaining Team Academic Award at the NSCAA National Convention in Kansas City. This award is given to a program who maintains a team GPA over 3.0. The men's soccer program had a GPA of 3.31, the highest of any Division I Men's Soccer Program for 2001-2002. This is the sixth time in the last seven years that Bucknell has received this award.

Men's Soccer Team Continues to Gain National Recognition

The NCAA recently announced that the Bucknell Men's Soccer Program was the third most improved program in the country this past year. The only two programs ahead of the Bison were New Mexico and Coastal Carolina. The 2002 Orange and Blue squad posted a 13-5-1 record, an improvement of 6.5 games from the 2001 campaign. The improvement is considerable, especially considering that the team returned 19 players from the 2001 roster, and the five newcomers were all freshmen. "It shows the commitment that the players have in this program, and that we continue to mature as a team. We hope that this improvement continues on the field and allows us to capture a Patriot League title in the upcoming season," Coach Nash stated. The 2003 squad will again return a large number of players, with six seniors slated to graduate.

New Facility Planned

Bucknell University is proud to announce plans for a new soccer championship facility. Construction is slated to begin this spring, with the field ready for the fall of 2003. The championship game field will be home to both the men's and women's programs, with the practice fields remaining in place. The complex will also have an astro-turf field for the field hockey team. Once the fields are completed, construction will begin on the stands as well as the fencing and lights. This new facility will be one of the premier complexes in the Patriot League for both soccer, as well as field hockey.

Senior Tribute

Bucknell Men's Soccer Class of 2003



Steve Feather #9, Maryville, TN (Maryville HS) - Steve started in all 18 games that he played in his senior season. Over his career he played in 36 games and tallied one goal and five assists for seven points. His speed in the outside midfield and forward made him a dangerous player and earned him the nickname, "The Flying Southerner." His positive personality made practices an enjoyable experience and he showed the younger players how to compete to win. Off the field he has also been a great role model while completing his student-teaching this semester. He will look to continue teaching upon his graduation. Steve will graduate in May with a degree in English and in Education.



Brian Johnson #4, Creamridge, NJ (Notre Dame HS) - Brian notched an assist in the team's final game this season, a 1-0 victory against Patriot League foe Army, bringing his career total to six. He played in 66 games, starting 22. He scored points in each of his final three seasons. More importantly, Brian brought an outstanding work ethic to both practices and games, and led the team by example. He received the Peter Weidenbacher Award during his sophomore season. Brian also was the recipient of the Warren Weber Scholarship. Brian is a Dean's List student and will be graduating in May with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.



Elliott Maruffi-Cowley #12, North Branford, CT (North Branford HS) - Elliott played in 61 games, starting 36 over his four seasons. By the end of his senior year, he tallied seven goals and three assists while playing a variety of roles for the Bison. He was the one player who could be counted on to bring a smile to everyone's face with his exuberance and love of the game. Off the field he was a member of the social justice college, and was able to spend a semester abroad in Italy his junior year. Elliott will be graduating in May with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Religion.



Tom Ryan #7, Pine City, NY (Elmira Southside HS) - Tom scored his first career goal in his final season during a victory over Niagara. He finished with one goal and five assists for seven points. He started 16 of the 18 games he played as a senior, and saw action during 42 games in his career. Tom always put the needs of the team before himself, and for this reason was elected captain for his final year. Tom led by example and was the emotional heartbeat for the program. He was the men's soccer representative his final two years in the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Tom will graduate in May with a degree in Management and a minor in Philosophy.



Nick Taylor #19, Fairview Park, OH (St. Ignatius HS) - Nick was the MVP of the team for his last two years, and was elected to the All-Patriot League team for his sophomore and senior years. He finished with 10 goals and 12 assists for 32 points, and cracked the Bucknell career top-10 list for assists this season. He played in 69 career games, and started all 53 games that he played in over his final three seasons. His competitive attitude and drive to win had a tremendous impact on his teammates. Nick will graduate in May with a degree in Biology.



Chip Witte #21, Wall, NJ (Wall HS) - Chip played in 44 games, starting 25 over his first three seasons with the Bison. He was an athletic and tough defender who did whatever was needed to win. Unfortunately he suffered a season-ending injury prior to his senior season, but elected to stay with the team as a student-coach. His knowledge and passion for the game allowed him to teach his younger teammates and be a valuable asset this year. He is as much a part of the successes of the defense as any other player. He was a perennial Dean's List student. Chip will graduate in May with a degree in both Chemistry and the Classics, focusing in Latin, and will be certified to teach both of these subjects upon graduation.

Banquet Recap



The Men's Soccer Awards Banquet was another great success. Close to 100 supporters traveled in from all over the country to be at the event. The program had a chance to reflect on the successes of the season, both on and off the field. Every player received the Varsity letter, and some other players came home with other awards and recognition. Twelve of the 24 players earned PL Honor Roll (GPA \geq 3.20) and eight of the players made the Dean's List (GPA \geq 3.5). **Greg Buzzell** ('05, DuBois Area) and **Jon Hemmert** ('05, St. Charles Prep) were both recognized for receiving a perfect 4.0 this semester, highlighting a great team semester in the classroom with a team GPA of 3.32. Hemmert also received his award for being named to the Academic All-District Team. In addition, the entire Bucknell team was recognized for having the highest GPA for any D-I Men's Soccer Program in the country for the year 2001-2002.

Many players were recognized for their success on the field as well. **Adam Edwards** ('06, Downingtown HS), **Mike Lookingland** ('05, Loyola Blakefield HS), and **Nick Taylor** ('03, St. Ignatius HS) were all given their Patriot League awards for being named to the All-PL Team. Edwards was given his plaque for being named Rookie-of-the-Year in the PL. Taylor and Lookingland also received recognition for being named to the All-Region team. In each of these cases, the awards are voted on by all our opponent's head coaches.

In addition to the league honors, the 2002 team awards were presented. These are voted on by the Bucknell players as well as the coaches. *Rookie-of-the-Year* was given to **Adam Edwards**. The *Peter Weidenbacher Award*, given to the *Most Improved Player*, was given to sophomore defender **Otto Tancraitor** ('05, Norwin). His physical play in the back helped to lead the defense to a national ranking and a team record for shutouts. The *Craig A. Reynolds Award* is given to the player who best displays sportsmanship and class. This year the recipient was sophomore **Greg Buzzell**. His attitude, work ethic, and contributions on and off the field have made him a shining example of what the Bucknell Men's Soccer Program is all about. Finally, the *David P. Rath* award was handed out to the team *M.V.P.* This year marks the second straight year the award has gone to senior **Nick Taylor**. His play for the past two seasons has been magnificent, earning him the respect of people he played with and against. His shoes will be tough to fill in the coming season.

The final event of the evening were the senior speeches. Each of them were written from the heart, and each had a special message for the team. Many in the audience were visibly moved to both tears and laughter by their words and descriptions of their experiences during their four years with the program. For those who were there, it was a night that will not be forgotten. It is our hope that more people will continue to share in these events in the coming years, and that we have just as much to celebrate.

Bucknell Men's Soccer Spring Schedule 2003

March 30	@ Penn State University	3:00 PM
April 5	@ Bloomsburg University vs. Bloomsburg University vs. Muhlenberg College	12:00 PM 1:15 PM
April 12	Bucknell University Tournament vs. Lock Haven University vs. York College vs. St. Francis (PA) Semifinals Finals	9:30 AM 12:00 PM 12:50 PM 2:45 PM 3:45 PM
April 15	@ Messiah College	7:30 PM
April 26	@ Lafayette College Tournament vs. Monmouth University vs. Oneonta State Semifinals Finals	10:00 AM 12:00 PM TBA TBA

MEN'S SOCCER



TENTATIVE 2003 SCHEDULE - Some dates and times have changed

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sat. Aug. 30	HARTWICK COLLEGE (NY)	2:00 PM
Sat. Sept. 6	@ Duquesne University (PA)	3:00 PM
Tues. Sept. 9	ST. PETER'S COLLEGE (NJ)	4:00 PM
Sat. Sept. 13	@ Niagara University (NY)	1:00 PM
Tues. Sept 16	LA SALLE UNIVERSITY (PA)	4:00 PM
Fri. Sept. 19	@ Air Force Tournament (CO)	
Sun. Sept 21	vs. Air Force Academy (CO)	3:00 PM
	vs. Loyola Marymount University (CA)	12:00 PM
Fri. Sept. 26	@ US MILITARY ACADEMY (NY)	7:30 PM
Sun. Sept. 28	@ Monmouth University (NJ)	2:00 PM
Sat. Oct. 4	@ COLGATE UNIVERSITY (NY)	7:00 PM
Wed. Oct. 8	@ University of Pittsburgh (PA)	7:00 PM
Sat. Oct. 11 (Fall Break)	LAFAYETTE COLLEGE (PA)	2:00 PM
Tues. Oct. 14	@ Philadelphia University (PA)	3:00 PM
Sat. Oct. 18 (Homecoming)	LEHIGH UNIVERSITY (PA)	3:00 PM
Tues. Oct. 21	ST. FRANCIS UNIVERSITY (PA)	3:00 PM
Sun. Oct. 26	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (DC)	2:00 PM
Sat. Nov. 1 (Parent's Weekend)	@ US NAVAL ACADEMY (MD)	7:00 PM
Tues. Nov. 4	@ University of Maryland (MD)	7:00 PM
Sat. Nov. 8	COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS (MA)	2:00 PM

PATRIOT LEAGUE GAMES ARE IN BOLD ITALICS - ALL GAMES ARE TENTATIVE

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