



BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

2004 MEN'S SOCCER NEWS



February, 2004

Volume 10, Issue 3



Notes from "The Ranch"- Happy New Year! 2004 has gotten underway, the student-athletes are back on campus and soon we will begin our off season training. Coach B and I just got back from the National Soccer Coaches Convention down in Charlotte. It was a great weekend for our staff to realize the impact our program is having on Division I soccer. Throughout the weekend dozens of coaches from across the country (college, high school, club and some we did not even know) came up to congratulate us on the season, the awards we received and of course the Maryland win. We have been fighting for national recognition the last few years and it looks like we are starting to get it! January-February is also the time we put the finishing touches on our next recruiting class. So far we are putting together an impressive class to try and replace our six graduating seniors. Looking at the "verbal commitments" to date also shows our national impact. As of now we have recruits coming from Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, and Richmond. Just four years ago our roster was made up of student-athletes from PA, NJ, NY, CT and MD only.

Whenever we start the new year we take some time to reflect on the prior year. In 2003 the program once again put together an impressive season. However, the returning team is different than some of our past teams. The 2004 team wants to put 2003 behind us and look toward the future. They are going to be setting some lofty goals, but the good news is they are already showing the off season work rate to reach those goals. Our first spring match is still two months away (schedule attached) yet we see most of the team working out on a daily basis. That is all from "the ranch" this time. We hope to hear from you soon!

The Herd Gathers to Celebrate and Remember the 2003 Season

Team End-of-Year Banquet Enjoyed by Families and Friends of Men's Soccer

The 2003 Bucknell men's soccer team and their friends and family came together one last time on January 31 to celebrate another successful season both in the classroom and on the field at Bucknell University. The 2003 team had many memorable highlights including the Patriot League's regular season championship, the first undefeated Patriot League season in school history, and its historic 1-0 defeat at #2 Maryland. Highlights of the banquet included the handing out of numerous school and league honors, memories and thoughts on the season shared by Coach Nash, and a highlight video from the season. The seniors were also given the microphone one last time for their senior speeches which contained both reflective and humorous anecdotes from their time spent on the squad. Four team members were also honored through the annual team awards. The recipients were decided by a vote from team members and the coaching staff, and the winners were announced and presented with their awards during the banquet.

David P. Rath Award

Most Valuable Player

Michael Lookingland II, JR, Fallston, MD



Mike had another outstanding year in which he captained the team and led a defense that recorded nine shutouts, including five in Patriot League play. He also added one goal and two assists during the season. For his efforts, Mike was named the Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year, becoming just the second Bison to achieve that honor. Mike was also voted to the 2003 Mid-Atlantic All-Region First Team, one of three Bisons to be named to the all-region teams.

Peter Weidenbacher Award

Most Improved Player

Brian King, SR, Medford, NJ

Brian had another excellent season, anchoring the defensive midfield position. The senior captain scored his first career goal this year and added three assists while helping the team to its regular season championship. In his two years as captain, Brian helped guide the team to 24 wins, the most over any two-year span. For his outstanding play this year, he was named to the All-Patriot League Second Team by a panel of league coaches following the season.



Craig A. Reynolds Award

Sportsmanship and Class

Chris Beekman, SR, Neptune, NJ



Chris saved his best season for last. Moving from forward to midfield, Chris excelled for 90 minutes each game on both sides of the ball. Starting in all 20 games this season, he finished second on the team in both goals and points, tallying six goals and two assists. He was nationally recognized in November being named to Soccer America's Team of the Week and was named to the All-Patriot League First Team following the season.

Rookie of the Year

Andrew Loia, FR, Baldwinsville, NY

Andrew had a stellar freshman campaign, playing in 19 of the team's 20 contests. Andrew started in 14 matches from his right back position and proved to be a valuable part of a defense which recorded a goals against average of 1.07. Andrew also was a large reason for the team's nine shutouts, just one off the school record. He was named the Patriot League Rookie of the Week for the week ending November 3rd.



Bison Set Record With Seven Players On All-Patriot League Men's Soccer Team

The Bucknell men's soccer team followed up its outstanding season by capturing a record seven berths on the 22-player 2003 All-Patriot League Men's Soccer Team, including five of 11 spots on the first team. The Bison tied a record for most first team picks and set a new mark for most all-stars in one season. The Bison also won three of the four major post season awards (see below). Earning spots on the All-Patriot League First Team were Offensive Player of the Year **Scott Visnic** (*So., Hillsborough, NJ*), Defensive Player of the Year **Michael Lookingland** (*Jr., Fallston, MD*), **Chris Beekman** (*Sr., Neptune, NJ*), **Ori Adrabi** (*Jr., West Hills, CA*), and **Adam Edwards** (*So., Downingtown, PA*). Two other Bison were selected for the second team. Defender **Brian King** (*Sr., Medford, NJ*) and forward **Eric Brunton** (*So., Carmel, IN*) made their first appearance on the squad.



Ori Adrabi '05
1st Team



Chris Beekman '04
1st Team



Eric Brunton '06
2nd Team



Adam Edwards '06
1st Team



Brian King '04
2nd Team

Lookingland Named Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year



Junior defender **Michael Lookingland** (*Fallston, MD*) was named the Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year this past season. Mike capped off an outstanding season in which he captained the team and led the defense to nine shutouts in 20 games, including five Patriot League shutouts. He also helped out on the offensive end, registering the game winning goal against Lafayette and adding two other assists throughout the season. Coach Nash said of Lookingland, "Mike has been the cornerstone of our defense the last three years. Each year we have set higher goals for him and this is yet another one he has met." Mike joins **Bill Epley** ('00) as the second Bison to win the award.

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Visnic Tabbed as Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year



Sophomore forward **Scott Visnic** (*Hillsborough, NJ*) was named the 2003 Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year. Scott had a stellar sophomore campaign, in which he led the league in goals scored (12) and points (27). His twelve goals ranked 26th in the country. Six of these goals were game winners. He is tied for the 10th-highest goal-scoring and point-scoring seasons in the Patriot League. Highlights from Scott's season include a hat-trick in a victory over Philadelphia University and his goal that led to the upset of Maryland. Said Coach Nash, "Having Scott on the field brings us another dimension. He has that special ability to combine with teammates or create goals by himself." Visnic joins **Mark Wrigley** (1993) as the only Bison to have won the award.

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Nash Named Patriot League Coach of the Year

Men's Soccer Coach Brendan Nash was recognized for his efforts this past season by being named the Patriot League Coach of the Year. The award is determined by a vote of the league's coaches. This is Nash's second Patriot League Coach of the Year Award in his five years at the helm of the Bison Program. He is one of only three people to be a two-time recipient of the PL Coach of the Year Award. Nash joins 1993 winner Craig Reynolds as the only Bucknell coaches to win the award.



Nash Earns NSCAA Mid-Atlantic Coach of the Year

Following up his Patriot League Coach of the Year Honors, Brendan Nash was selected as the Coach of the Year for the Mid-Atlantic Region. Nash is one of only eight coaches nationally to earn this recognition. The award comes after the program gained regional and national recognition for the performances this past year against both the Patriot League as well as non-league competition. The Bison compiled impressive victories over NCAA competitors Maryland, St. Peters, and Lafayette this season.

-----detach and return-----

Bucknell Men's Soccer Needs your Continued Support!

Yes, I want to help Bucknell Soccer! Enclosed is \$_____ for Bucknell Men's Soccer.

Helps offset annual operating costs of Bucknell Soccer. Make checks payable to: Bucknell Men's Soccer

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Return to: Men's Soccer Office
Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA 17837



Hemmert Named 1st Team Academic All-American

Junior **Jon Hemmert** received first-team Academic All-America honors for the first time in his career. He is the third player in Bison history to make the national squad, and just the second to be named to the first team. Bucknell's past recipients are Greg Beatty (1993 - 1st team; 1994 - 2nd team) and Ryan Weber (2001 - 2nd team). Jon maintains a 3.91 cumulative GPA while majoring in Political Science. He has been just as successful on the field, recording 17 assists the past two seasons. He is now tied for ninth all-time on the Patriot League assist list with one more season to go. Hemmert also tallied two goals this season, including the game-winner against Monmouth.

Men's Soccer Leads the Way in Classroom

The Bucknell Men's Soccer Team once again showed that its players are among the nations best student-athletes. The team was recognized this past month at the NSCAA National Convention for their excellence in the classroom. The team maintained a 3.31 team GPA for the 2002-2003 school year, and was once again awarded the NSCAA Team Academic Award. It is the eighth time in nine years that the team has received this award. Overall, the Bison had the second highest team GPA of any Division I Men's Soccer Program, and the 13th highest team GPA of any men's soccer program at the collegiate level.

Three Bucknell Men's Soccer Players Earn All-Region Honors

Bucknell junior **Michael Lookingland**, and sophomores **Scott Visnic** and **Adam Edwards** have earned themselves a spot on the 2003 Mid-Atlantic Men's Soccer All Region Team. Lookingland landed himself on the first team for the second-straight year, while Visnic nabbed a spot on the second team and Edwards was a member of the third team. "Having three All-Region players is great exposure for the Bucknell Men's Soccer Program on a national level," commented Head Coach Brendan Nash. "It shows that other programs are taking notice to what we are developing at Bucknell. It also confirms that we have been recruiting the right type of student-athletes who can excel on the soccer field as well as in the classroom. All three of these players will be returning next year, so we are very excited about the future of our program."

Lookingland recently concluded his junior season with his second 1st-team selection. Lookingland was also selected the Patriot League Defender of the Year, and has been a starter for every game of his three-year career. Visnic concluded his sophomore season with his first selection to the all-region squad, earning 2nd-team honors. The speedy forward had a team and league-best twelve goals this year, and was also named Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year. Edwards finished his sophomore season with a selection to the 3rd-team all-region. The two-year starter has recorded 18 shutouts over his first two years, moving him into eighth place on the all-time Patriot League list with two seasons to play. The 2002 Rookie of the Year and the 2003 1st-team All-Patriot League goalkeeper excels in big games. This season he allowed a league-low 0.34 goals against average in Patriot League matches, including five shutouts. He also recorded an eight-save shutout against #2 nationally ranked Maryland in College Park this past November. Following that game, Edwards was named NCAAAsports.com's Student-Athlete of the Week.



Beekman and Visnic Honored on National Level in Last Week of Season

Senior **Chris Beekman** and sophomore **Scott Visnic** each were recognized for their performance in the final week of the season. Beekman was named to the *Soccer America* Team of the Week, while Visnic was honored by collegesoccernews.com on their weekly national team. Both awards were for their play during the week ending November 10. During that week, the Bison knocked off #2 Maryland, 1-0. Beekman created the goal, crossing the ball to a cutting Visnic for the game's lone score.



Bison Soccer Camps

The Bison Soccer Camps will be held over two sessions this summer. Last summer sold out, so register early!

High School Teams July 11-15
Residential July 18-22

For more information or to register, please visit our web site at: www.bucknellbison.com.

You may also contact Camp Director Brendan Nash at: 570-577-3083 or bnash@bucknell.edu.

See you this summer at Bucknell University!

Bison Spring Skills Clinic!

Open to boys and girls of all ages!

Monday, March 29 - 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Graham Turf Field

Thursday, April 8 - 4:00 - 6:00 pm
West Fields (BU Soccer Fields)

For more information or to register, please contact Coach B at: 570-577-3051 or at bsuskiew@bucknell.edu.

Probable Spring Schedule

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sun.	April 4	Alumni Soccer Game	TBA
	April 10	Easter Break	OFF
Sat.	April 17	Bison Spring Invitational	All Day
Th.	April 22	vs. Messiah	7:15 PM
Sat.	April 24	@ PSU (vs. PSU and Loyola (MD))	All Day
Sat.	May 1	@ Rutgers (vs. Rutgers and FDU)	12:00 PM

Alumni and Friends Soccer Game to be Held April 4

Alumni, Friends, and Family of the Bucknell Men's Soccer Program are invited to play in the first ever spring alumni game. This game will be open to everyone and will occur on Sunday, April 4 (House Party Weekend). Refreshments will be provided by the Men's Soccer Program. Please notify Coach Nash by returning the form below or contact him directly if you are interested in attending or playing in the game!

-----**detach and return**-----

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Grad Year: _____

Yes, I am interested in playing _____

No thanks, maybe next year _____

Respond to: Brendan J. Nash
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ATHLETIC WEBSITE:
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