

“Inside the Circle”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BISON FIELD HOCKEY PROGRAM

August, 2011



State of the Program

During the week before preseason we coaches fill our days with seemingly endless amounts of planning, organizing, last minute paperwork, and quality time with family. But above all else, our time is spent thinking about the season, formatting practice plans and developing team strategies. As the title of this article is “State of the Program,” I thought it would be fun to share some of that planning with you!

This season brings with it two interesting and exciting challenges: redefining its personality and rising to the occasion of a tough schedule. Sadly, every year our program has to say goodbye to another senior class. This spring our program graduated one of the most productive classes in Bucknell history (read more about them on page two!) and now we are faced with the task of finding that same kind of competitive drive without them. We have an incoming freshmen class of nine young women (turn the page to read more!) joining our returning fourteen. The freshmen class has a lot to offer on the field and bring along that Bucknellian spirit with them. If you skipped ahead to their write-ups, you may have noticed the theme of speed! We hope to pair that with the tremendous personal growth made by some of our upperclassmen this past spring. Several players developed significantly and we are pumped to see how they have grown since the end of spring season. For you coaches out there, one of the most interesting improvements was the transition from carrying the ball at three o'clock, to carrying it at one o'clock. While this seems like such a small transition, the gains in vision bring a whole new perspective to a player's game. Preseason is always a fun time to watch a new team come together and formulate its new persona. With such an athletic, talented, and skilled group we are working on how best to take advantage of these awesome qualities!

Once again, we have used our schedule to set the bar for the season (check it out to the right). Our opponents include NCAA tournament teams Princeton, Michigan, Penn State, and Syracuse. I tried my best to pack the rest of the schedule with opponents that have beaten us in years past, are Patriot League rivals, or fill both criteria!

We've got a ton of ideas on how to move forward and rise to the challenge of another great Bucknell hockey season. As we look forward to what this fall will bring we hope that you'll come on out for a game and find out just what we've schemed up!



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“The Challenge” 2011 Schedule

August

Friday, 8/26 12:00 PM
Sunday, 8/28 1:00 PM

@ Temple
Boston U. @ Temple

September

Friday, 9/2 6:00 PM
Saturday, 9/10 10:00 AM
Sunday, 9/11 1:00 PM
Sunday, 9/18 1:00 PM
Saturday, 9/24 1:00 PM
Sunday, 9/25 2:00 PM

PRINCETON
Central Mich. @ Michigan
@ Michigan
@ Lock Haven
RIDER
RUTGERS

October

Saturday, 10/1 12:00 PM
Sunday, 10/2 1:00 PM
Saturday, 10/8 12:00 PM
Tuesday, 10/11 3:00 PM
Saturday, 10/15 1:00 PM
Sunday, 10/16 12:00 PM
Saturday, 10/22 12:00 PM
Tuesday, 10/25 6:00 PM
Saturday, 10/29 11:00 AM
Sunday, 10/30 2:00 PM

HOLY CROSS
VILLANOVA
LAFAYETTE
@ Cornell
@ Lehigh
Towson @ Maryland
AMERICAN
PENN STATE
@ Colgate
@ Syracuse

November

Friday, 11/5 TBD
Saturday, 11/6 TBD

Patriot League Semi-Final
Patriot League Championship

High Performing Bison

During May and June this year, four Bison commuted from their hometowns for training here at Bucknell for the Pennsylvania Junior High Performance Team. The program is a big part of USA Field Hockey's Olympic Development Program, and feeds players into the different age groups of our national teams. All four Bucknellians were selected for the travel team and represented PA at the Championships in Virginia Beach at the end of June. All four also made significant contributions to our second place team. Other universities represented on the travel team were Maryland, UConn, Penn State, Syracuse, and Virginia. From my own experience, there is truly something special about putting on a uniform that says USA on the front. I am glad they were able to have this experience, represent Bucknell so well, and hopefully pave the way for more Bison in the future!



At the Junior High Performance Championships... Coach Jer, Erica Perrine, Tayler Siegrist, Rachel Misko, and Vickie Resh

Bucknellians to Be



Bucknell recruits its first Miss Maine Field Hockey in the form of **Kristen Felt** a four-year varsity letterwinner from Scarborough High School. Kristen grabbed a few well-deserved nods during her high school career including the Faith Littlefield Award as MVP of her league. In 2009 her high school team went 18-0 and finished the season as undefeated Maine state champions. She is a dynamic midfielder who shows real tenacity on defense!

A Buckeye State Champion in 2008, **Hope Obernesser** was a four-year letterwinner in field hockey and track and field at the Hathaway Brown School. Also a member of the Futures Olympic Development program, Hope participated in the Junior Olympics in 2008. A speedy and crafty forward, Hope's energetic and passionate personality shows on and off the field! For her efforts organizing statewide Play 4 The Cure events, Hope won the inaugural Student-Athlete Community Service Award at the Hathaway Brown School.



Kelsey Mucelli is a real renaissance athlete, lettering in field hockey, basketball, and soccer at Kutztown Area High School. As a senior she was named Berks County Division IV Field Hockey Player of the Year and made Second Team All-State. She also received accolades as a soccer player, making First Team All-Division her freshman and sophomore years and First Team All-Country her junior year. Her speed and vision will make her a dangerous attacking threat for the Bison this year!

Liz Wills leaves her impression on the Penn Charter athletic program as letterwinner and captain for the field hockey and lacrosse teams. A four-year starter for the hockey team, she was selected as the team's MVP her senior year. A persistent defender, Liz shines in the backfield as a strong tackler and distributor. Outside of school, Liz won a gold medal with her Mystx Club team at the National Field Hockey Festival in 2010. Liz's older brother Brendan was a member of our swim team here at Bucknell, and graduated this past spring.



Our other New Jersey native **Amie Pritchard** made her mark academically and athletically just a few states away at The Kent School in Connecticut. While there Amie earned four varsity letters in field hockey and lacrosse as well as three in ice hockey. A fleet-footed midfielder Amie uses her speed and athleticism to carve up opponents. Her teammates and coaches noticed this ability and elected her MVP three times! She also participated in the New England All-Star games for both field hockey and lacrosse.



A native of Annapolis, MD, **Cassie Lawrence** was a three-year letterwinner at Broadneck High School. She also participated in three National Field Hockey Festivals with her club team Capitol Pegasus. Cassie brings a ton of speed and will raise our game with exactly the right kind of aggression.

From the Garden State comes **Gabby Palumbo**, a four-year field hockey letterwinner at The Peddie School and a three-time selection to The Trentonian All-Prep Team. She also frequented the Central Jersey Field Hockey Coaches Association's top list as a three-time selection for the Mid-Atlantic Prep League First Team. As a member of the South Jersey Edge club team, Gabby participated in four National Festival Tournaments and three National Indoor Tournaments. Gabby's strength on the ball and tackling ability make her a dynamic teammate.

Pictures starting from top left, going clockwise: Kristen Felt, Hope Obernesser, Liz Wills, Cassie Lawrence, Maggie Murphy, Ellie Riegel, Gabby Palumbo, Amie Pritchard, Kelsey Mucelli.



Also in the New England area, local field hockey star **Ellie Riegel** spent her senior year wisely. As captain of her team she earned First Team All-Conference and All-State honors. Her bold play made her the FCIAC Final MVP and her performance in the classroom gained her the FCIAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month. Ellie's love for the sport shines through in her carefree and joyous play.

Maggie Murphy hails from a storied program at Emmaus High School where she made her own impact on the 2007 and 2010 Pennsylvania State Championship teams. A tough-as-nails midfielder, Maggie's on-field determination provide a noticeable spark whenever she is involved in the play. She comes from

a family of athletes with grandfather and brothers who all participated in college sports, but the most notable of her athletic genealogy is a great-grandfather Charles Teufel, who graduated from Bucknell in 1910 after three seasons of varsity baseball played alongside Christy Matthewson!



Class of 2011

As part of this powerhouse class **Kelly Bruvik** made her mark on the field through her surgical elimination skills and expert goal scoring up front. Kelly's 26 points this season bumped up her career total points to 60, putting her on to the top-ten all-time scorers list. She is a four-time member of the Patriot League honor roll as a double major. Kelly came to Bucknell set on the Environmental Studies major after her enjoyable high school experience in AP Biology and AP Environmental Science. As she puts it, "Bucknell has a phenomenal science department and I knew I had to take advantage of it during my four years here in Lewisburg". Adding to her academic experience, Kelly took Psychology 100 in the beginning of her sophomore year and "absolutely loved it"! She took the chance to double major in Environmental Studies and Psychology, giving her the opportunity to participate in Bucknell in Northern Ireland and the Bucknell Katrina Recovery Team. In Ireland Kelly was able to take a bigger helping of psychology classes and her time spent with the Katrina Team lead her to an exciting capstone course focused on life in New Orleans post-Katrina. Life after field hockey "has been very different because the set schedule I have lived by for the past three and a half years is gone"! With their new found free time, Kelly and Morgan took a Baking 101 course ("I would definitely recommend it") and "enjoying all that Bucknell and Lewisburg have to offer". Working in an integrated Catholic and Protestant School during her time in Northern Ireland inspired Kelly to pursue school psychology post-college. She currently plans to take this year to try-out life outside of school, but plans to apply to graduate school for next fall.

A native of Lancaster County, **Morgan Kauffman** decided to major in biology because "as a kid, it was hard to keep me indoors"! Her love for the outdoors and for sport shined through in her stunning career here at Bucknell. With 38 wins under their belts, the class of 2011 graduates as the second most winning field hockey class of all time. Morgan contributed to that inspiring statistic with 28 career assists, putting her third on the career assists record books, and 20 career goals! A skillful midfielder player, Morgan made her impact by winning tough one-on-one battles and setting up her teammates for success. Outside of hockey there was plenty to keep Morgan busy, working as a teacher's assistant for Biology 122, playing intramural softball, and picking up a minor in English. Life after hockey has it's pros and cons. On the one hand, Morgan now has "free time to catch up with all the friends I've made throughout my four years here", but it is "much more difficult to stay motivated to keep working out". Fortunately, her roommate Kelly is there to keep her fired up! After graduation, Morgan plans on pursuing a career in environmental sciences, ideally "something pertaining to water quality testing". Mostly though, she's "keeping her options open to find something [she'll] really love to do"!



Kelly Bruvik, Morgan Kauffman, Corinne Raczek, Christine Weiss

Small in size, but not in heart, **Corinne Raczek** made her mark by literally doubling up the record books! Her 34 career assists put Corinne second in the record books, and while on her way there, she managed to land herself in both the fourth and first place spots for the single season assists record. During her senior year, Corinne took on a new role moving from outside mid to center mid, and showed her teammates just how tenacious she can be! Her super fast hands sent defenders spinning and her intelligent distribution kept opponents on their toes. Perhaps this new perspective on the field crept into Corinne's academic life as well. She chose to major in biology because "all my life I wanted to become a doctor, so it was most logical to dive right into the pre-health, biology route". However, this year she's decided to forge ahead on a new path and is "currently trying to figure out what it is [she] would like to do". A few ideas include "an internship in South Africa researching great white sharks" or travelling to "a third world country along with my brother to help out in any way possible". Before she dons that graduation cap and gown and gets out into the world, Corinne says that "it's nice feeling like a 'normal' student", the "lovable Jerry Shrek lifts and long hours hanging out in the locker room are now replaced with devoting more time to school work, watching TV, and, of course, a little more socializing"! A member of a class that made it to the Patriot League Tournament three times (only the second class to accomplish this feat), we are sure that Corinne's championship mentality will take her far!

As the 2010 Patriot League Field Hockey Scholar-Athlete of the Year, **Christine Weiss** used her four years to show her stuff on the field and in the classroom. Part of a class of four with a combined 197 points in their career, Christine contributed with her quarterbacking abilities in the backfield and her powerhouse hitting on the corner unit. She worked tirelessly to better herself at every opportunity, was no stranger to extra time on the field for skill work, or in the video room improving her positional play. All business on the field, she spent her classroom hours "taking a breadth of courses that the management degree has to offer", letting out her creativity through graphic arts and marketing while also enjoying "the more strategic, analytical side to business". Christine managed to find a little extra time to get involved "in a variety of things at Bucknell". She spent "a year as the editor of the athletics section of the yearbook and was a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Representative for the field hockey team". Getting out into the community, Christine "worked as a marketing intern for a company in Lewisburg and had multiple freelance graphic design projects". Despite her managerial sensibility, "life after hockey was certainly a big transition... it was strange to have to come up with my own workout routines [and] to find new outlets for my competitive nature"! Somehow she's made it through and is now "enjoying finding new ways to fill her free time". After school Christine plans to pursue a career in marketing. We wish her and all of our seniors the best of luck in their post-college pursuits!

NCAA Coaching Shuffle

This year was an exciting one for the Division I coaching shuffle: Lehigh has welcomed back former Assistant Coach Stacey Blue now as Head Coach after a one year successful stint running a Division III program. Michigan State has promoted Helen Knull from Associate Head to Head Coach after Rolf Van Der Kerkoff departed to take the Head Coach position at the University of Delaware. Helen then hired Shawn Hindy as her assistant taking him away from coaching back-to-back state title games at Lehigh High School. In a three way move, Duke has hired '96 US Olympian, National Team Assistant Coach, and the former Head Coach at Louisville, Pam Bustin, as Head Coach; Louisville picked up Australian Olympian Justine Sowry away from the University of Massachusetts, who in turn hired former US National Team member and Assistant Coach at Northwestern, Carla Tagliente. Carla then picked up Lewisburg native Roz Ellis as her assistant after a stint playing semi-pro over in Ireland. Biggest news of all (at least for us) was our Volunteer Assistant Nate Franks picking up a assistant position at his alma mater, Princeton. Go Nate! (Except of course when we play you.)



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A Scottish Experience

by Senior Sarah Zargarpour



Sarah works on her dance moves.

This spring I had the opportunity to study abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland and be truly immersed in the culture and lifestyle of a new country. While there, I lived in a modern flat in Old Town near the Royal Mile, a cobbled street that leads from Edinburgh Castle all the way to Holyrood Palace. Edinburgh is a fantastically livable city as everything is within walking distance, except for the hockey field unfortunately! My time spent with the Edinburgh University Hockey Team was a great experience, being able to practice with the team gave me a new look at a different style of coaching and playing.

Apart from field hockey I got to travel with my program on day and weekend trips. Over spring break a group of us toured six different countries in continental Europe, including Spain, France, and Italy. While I enjoyed all of my trips, my favorite was a group visit to an outdoor activity center in the Scottish Highlands. We took an all day hike up into the mountains, then slid back down on our bums! We also managed to go kayaking and mountain biking. That night we ate a traditional Scottish dinner complete with haggis, neeps, and tatties. The evening's entertainment included a Ceilidh, a mixture of bagpipe playing, storytelling, and traditional folk dancing. Last, but not least, we learned the very important skill of how to properly pleat a kilt. Although I missed being with the team this spring, my semester abroad definitely helped broaden my perspective on life and allowed me to see and experience so many new things.

Thank you!

We would like to extend our gratitude and give a huge thank you to those that donated to the program this past year. A very tangible outcome of your generosity has been our ability to keep former Graduate Assistant Erin Singleton around for one more season. We are reliant on your donations, and are extremely grateful! A reminder for the upcoming year, simply log in to www.bucknellbison.com and click on the Bison Club tab, then on Make a Gift. When you choose Field Hockey as your designation, that money goes directly into our budget and is used for everything from team travel to sticks.

