



Explorers Welcome Five Newcomers, Announce 2009 Schedule

PHILADELPHIA - Falling just short of earning its third Atlantic 10 Championship berth in five years, La Salle Women's Soccer will welcome five newcomers to the squad in 2009, including the Explorers first two international players. These incoming freshmen could challenge for a starting role or will play significant minutes for the team, which tied for sixth place in the A-10s in 2008, but lost out on the postseason due to a tiebreaker.

La Salle has also announced its 2009 schedule, which features its home opener versus University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Sunday, August 30 at 1 PM - which follows its season opener at Sacred Heart on Friday, August 28 at 4 PM. La Salle will host 10 games at McCarthy Stadium, including five A-10 Conference matches.

Below is information regarding the five newest members of the La Salle program.

Diana Allen - Defender

Elmont, NY - Elmont Memorial High School - Patriots FC '92

Allen attended the Super Y League National Camp in 2006 and was a three-year player for the New York Magic Super Y team, while her club team was Region 1 NorthEast Region Premier League Champions in 2008. At Elmont Memorial, Allen was named All-Conference and All-County as both a junior and senior and was an AP Scholar. She earned eight varsity letters - four in both soccer and track - and was an All-Conference performer in track in 2006 and 2008.

Coach Royal: After Diana attended our EGS Academy Camp last summer, we quickly realized how her amazing athleticism and overall 1 v 1 defending could impact our backline. Diana will bring a lot of potential that we feel will give her the opportunity to flourish in our competitive environment. Her drive and will to compete should give her the opportunity to earn some valuable playing time right away.

Lia Blake - Defender

Nepean, Ontario, Canada - St. Joseph's High School - Ottawa Fury

Blake was selected to the ODP National Camp in 2005, 2006, and 2007, and was named to the 2008 Super Y League National Championship U-17 All-Tournament Team. Her teams have also earned a Silver Medal at the Super Y League North American Championships in 2008 and were a Finalist of the U-17 US Club Nationals Cup. She was also a three-year captain of the Ottawa Fury. She led St. Joseph's to a pair of District Championships, and a quarterfinal appearance in the Ontario Provincial in 2007. Blake was a multi-sport athlete, who also competed in basketball - earning MVP honors -

2009 Schedule

August		
Fri. 28	at Sacred Heart	4:00 PM
Sun. 30	UM-BALTIMORE COUNTY	1:00 PM
September		
Tue. 1	at Lafayette	7:00 PM
Fri. 4	LEHIGH	7:00 PM
Sun. 6	at Penn	7:00 PM
Fri. 11	ALBANY	7:00 PM
Sun. 13	VERMONT	1:00 PM
Fri. 18	at Drexel	7:00 PM
Sun. 20	DELAWARE	1:00 PM
Fri. 25	at Saint Louis *	7:00 PM
Sun. 27	RICHMOND *	1:00 PM
October		
Fri. 2	XAVIER *	7:00 PM
Sun. 4	DAYTON *	1:00 PM
Fri. 9	at Massachusetts *	4:00 PM
Sun. 11	at Rhode Island *	1:00 PM
Fri. 16	TEMPLE *	5:00 PM
Sun. 18	SAINT JOSEPH'S *	3:00 PM
Fri. 23	at Fordham *	7:00 PM
Fri. 30	at Saint Bonaventure *	1:00 PM
November		
Sun. 1	at Duquesne	1:00 PM
Thu. 5	Atlantic 10 Championships	
Sun. 8	at Charlotte, NC	

BOLD CAPS - Home Match at McCarthy Stadium
* - Atlantic 10 Conference Match



2009 Quickfacts

Head Coach: Paul Royal (Sixth Season)
Wisconsin-Milwaukee '96

Career Record: 47-60-9

Asst. Coach: Dan Mannella (Sixth Season)
Wisconsin-Milwaukee '98

2008 Overall Record: 9-8-3

Atlantic 10 Record: 5-4-2

Conference Finish: Tied Sixth

Starters Returning/Lost: 11/0

Newcomers: 5

La Salle Women's Soccer



volleyball and softball, and she earned her schools Female Athlete of the Year in 2005.

Coach Royal: Lia's exceptional leadership qualities and personality will give her an immediate opportunity to compete for a starting spot. Her obvious presence and ability to win flighted balls should compliment our highly talented backline. Lia also possess an outstanding ability to read the game as well as organizing and communicating to her backline. We are fully expecting Lia to make a big impact on the future of our program.

Zovel Hyre - Defender

Scarborough, Ontario, Canada - Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute - Wexford Jaguars

Hyre has two years of National Team experience - her first as the Jamaican National Under 17 Team Captain and the other on the Under 20 squad - and each of those qualified and competed in the CONCACAF competitions. With the Wexford Jaguars, Hyre helped them to the 2007 league and cup championships. She also helped her high school to a pair of third-place finishes in the Ontario Provincials in 2006 and 2008. Also, while at BPCI, she was a three-time Academic Honors student, was on the school's track team - 100m, 200m, and long jump events - and was active in community service programs.

Coach Royal: Zovel brings in a wealth of experience having played for the U-20 & U-17 Jamaican National teams. Her tenacious 1 v 1 defending will immediately improve our overall team's defensive mentality. We feel that with her commitment to becoming the best defender on the field that it will give her the opportunity to compete for starting spot right away. We also feel very confident that with the addition of Zovel's speed, athleticism and defensive presence she will have the potential to not only impact our program, but also the Atlantic 10 Conference.

Jourdan McVicker - Defender/Midfielder

Metuchen, NJ - Metuchen High School - PDA Pride

McVicker has been successful at every level of competition. McVicker was a 2007 NSCAA/Adidas High School All-American, a three-time East Regional All-American and All-State player, and a four-time All-Division and All-Conference selection. Also as a member of the New Jersey State Team from 2003-07, she helped the ODP squads to a 2007 National Championship and back-to-back (2006-07) Region 1 Championships. Her Club team was 2006 National Finalists and Region 1 Champions, as well as a 2007 State Finalist. At Metuchen, the team was the 2007 State Champions, 2006 State Finalist and in 2005 and 2008, was a State Semifinalist. She is also an Honors Society member and is active in community service and outreach programs.

Coach Royal: We are extremely excited to have someone of Jourdi's winning pedigree join our evolving program. Having won an ODP National Championship, a State HS Championship, and a club Regional Championship shows us that Jourdi is a proven winner at every level. Jourdi's competitive drive and amazing understanding for the game will give her the opportunity to earn a starting spot from day one. We are very confident that her high level experience and development with the PDA Club should greatly benefit our team while in search for an A-10 Championship.

Gabrielle Pakhtigian - Goalkeeper

North Wales, PA - North Penn High School - FC Bucks Vipers

Pakhtigian has been a Region 1 Team Goalkeeper twice (2006 and 2008), was the 2007 Adidas ESP All-Star goalkeeper, and is currently on the Region 1 Team Russian International Tournament Roster for 2009. She has five years experience on the EPYSA ODP State team, three years in the Region 1 ODP Player Pool, and was a two-year attendee at the SoccerPlus Advanced National Training Center. She played 10 years for the MUSC Rage before netminding for the nationally-ranked Vipers. At North Penn, Pakhtigian has guided the team to a pair of conference championships and a state semifinal, and has earned a number of accolades including 2007 Rookie of the Year and all-league First Team in 2008.

Coach Royal: We are very honored to have landed one of the premier goalkeepers in the country. We personally feel with the addition of Gabby that we have two of the top flight keepers in the A-10 Conference. Gabby's experience at the National and Regional levels will make her transition to the college game a smooth one. Her overall professionalism, maturity and confidence are something that is very rarely seen from a player her age. We are also extremely excited about solidifying our goalkeeping position for many years to come.