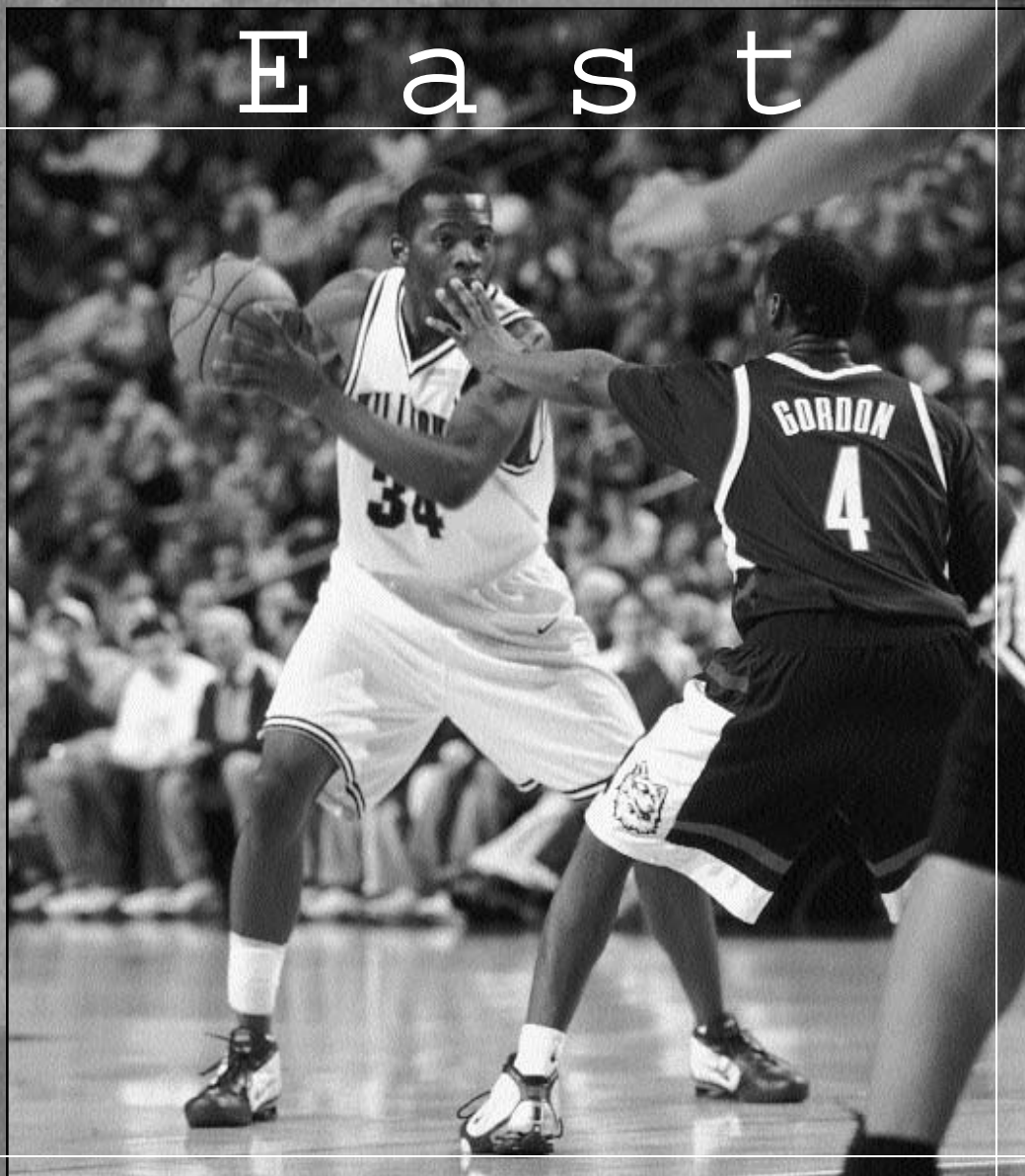


# VILLANOVA

B i g E a s t



2003-04

B i g F i v e



As The BIG EAST Conference celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2003-04, it takes pride in its long list of accomplishments. Providing opportunities to excel amongst the nation's best, both athletically and academically, has always been its mission.

Since opening its doors in 1979, the league has won 22 national championships in six different sports and 118 student-athletes have won individual national titles. The BIG EAST has always been able to boast that some of its best students are also some of its best athletes.

More than 300 student-athletes have earned Academic All-America honors, including Connecticut basketball standout Emeka Okafor who earned first team recognition last year. A BIG EAST student-athlete has won the Honda-Broderick Cup as Collegiate Woman of the Year four times, the last by Notre Dame soccer player Cindy Daws in 1997-98.

BIG EAST student-athletes have continued their success after leaving the classrooms and playing fields. Former Connecticut women's basketball standout Dr. Leigh Curl was inducted into the Verizon Academic All-America Hall of Fame in 1999. Former Georgetown men's basketball star Dikembe Mutombo was named a winner of the President's Service Award, the highest honor in the U.S. for volunteer service.

The BIG EAST continued to thrive amongst the nation's elite in 2002-03. It became the first conference to win the men's and women's NCAA titles and the men's NIT Championship in the same year. The Syracuse men won their first national championship, the Connecticut women took home their fourth national title and St. John's won the NIT for the sixth time. The BIG EAST has won each of the last four women's basketball titles.

In the classroom, 21 student-athletes earned 2002-03 Academic All-America honors, including 10 who garnered first team accolades. UConn's Diana Taurasi was the consensus national player of the year in women's basketball. Additionally, she was the women's basketball Honda Award winner.

Whether it's the student-athletes or the league as a whole, moving forward successfully has been the norm for the conference that was formed in 1979. In the spring of 2001, the BIG EAST added women's lacrosse to its growing list of sports and the inaugural women's golf championship was held in the spring of 2003.

When the 1990s began, The BIG EAST Conference had just completed its eighth season with nine members. The league was arguably as healthy as a conference could be.

The BIG EAST was a headline-grabber immediately, especially in men's basketball, its signature sport. The BIG EAST Football Conference did not exist.

The '90s was a decade of enormous change in college athletics with conferences adding new members and new leagues beginning. The BIG EAST was no different than most groups. The BIG EAST Football Conference, with eight members, became a major player in college football immediately after its inception in 1991.

The BIG EAST became a reality on May 31, 1979, following a meeting of athletic directors from Providence College, St. John's, Georgetown and Syracuse Universities. Seton Hall, Connecticut and Boston College completed the original seven school alliance. After one season, Villanova was added and began play in 1980-81. Two seasons later, Pittsburgh joined the group and started competition in '82-83. Miami was admitted in 1990 and began BIG EAST competition in '91-92. Rutgers, West Virginia and Notre



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Associate Commissioner for Sport Administration .....	Donna DeMarco
Associate Commissioner .....	John Marinatto
Associate Commissioner .....	Tom Odjakjian
Associate Commissioner for Communications .....	John Paquette
Associate Commissioner .....	Stan Wilcox
Assistant Commissioner for Sport Administration .....	James Siedlicki
Assistant Commissioner for Compliance .....	Jerome Rodgers
Assistant Commissioner/Women's Basketball Officiating .....	Barbara Jacobs
Director of Business Affairs .....	Susan Scorpio Eaton
Assistant Commissioner for Communications .....	Tammy Donovan
Director of Communications .....	Rob Carolla
Assistant Director of Sport Administration .....	Jamie Maddox
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Coordinator of Football Officiating .....	John Soffey
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Receptionist .....	Kathy Kirkpatrick
Communications Assistant .....	Kristine Olson
Communications Assistant .....	Doug Richards
Compliance Assistant .....	Keli Cunningham

Dame joined in '94 and started to compete in '95-96. Virginia Tech became the league's 14th full member in 2000-01.

While the membership has increased, the focus of the BIG EAST remains unchanged. It is a group that reflects a tradition of broad based programs, led by administrators and coaches who place a constant emphasis on academic integrity. The BIG EAST Conference has enjoyed a leadership role nationally. Its student athletes own significantly high graduation rates and their record of scholastic achievement notably reflect a balance between intercollegiate athletics and academics.

Any successful consortium enjoys outstanding leadership. Michael Tranghese, the league's first full-time employee, and for 11 years the associate of Dave Gawitt, took over the Commissioner's reins in June, 1990. In his first year at the helm, he administered the formation of The BIG EAST Football Conference.

BIG EAST sports attract the interest of followers in the nation's largest media markets including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, D.C., Miami, Pittsburgh and Hartford. The league has long been considered a leader in innovative concepts in promotion and publicity, particularly regarding television. Those efforts have resulted in unparalleled visibility for BIG EAST student athletes. Exclusive long range television



contracts with CBS, ESPN, Inc. and ABC provide BIG EAST basketball and football with more television exposure.

While BIG EAST basketball games are regular sellouts at campus and major public arenas, including the annual BIG EAST Championship in Madison Square Garden, attendance figures also are significant at BIG EAST soccer, women's basketball and baseball games.

More than 500 BIG EAST athletes have earned All America recognition

and dozens have won individual NCAA national championships. The BIG EAST has been well represented in U.S. or foreign national and Olympic teams, with several athletes earning gold medals in the summer Olympiads in Sydney in 2000, Atlanta in '96, Barcelona in '92, Seoul in '88 and Los Angeles in '84.

The BIG EAST has its headquarters in Providence where the conference administers to more than 5,500 athletes in 23 sports.

## Commissioner Michael Tranghese

**M**ike Tranghese opened the office doors of the BIG EAST when the league was born in 1979. He has helped guide the conference to national prominence while adhering to his unwavering commitment to create opportunities for BIG EAST student-athletes to succeed academically and athletically.

The 2003-04 academic year will be Tranghese's 14th as Commissioner. The BIG EAST Conference has flourished under his direction. Tranghese has led the BIG EAST through membership expansions, a significant increase in the number of championships, the formation of BIG EAST football and numerous television negotiations. All of this has been accomplished in the face of an NCAA national landscape that seems to change regularly.

Tranghese has been an active leader nationally since becoming Commissioner on June 21, 1990. In 2000-01, he concluded a five-year term on the NCAA Men's Basketball Committee by serving as chair. Tranghese also has served as chair of the NCAA Men's Basketball Subcommittee on Television. He was on the NCAA's negotiating team that secured a record \$6 billion contract from CBS for broadcast rights to the men's basketball championship.

For the 2002 and 2003 football seasons, Tranghese will oversee the administration of the Bowl Championship Series, the group of major conferences and bowls that helps produce a national championship and the best possible bowl matchups. In addition, he has served as chair of the Division I-A Commissioners and the Collegiate Commissioners Association.

Shortly after being named Commissioner, Tranghese laid the groundwork and put together The BIG EAST Football Conference. In response to the beginning of significant conference realignment nationally, he coordinated an expansion, which included the University of Miami becoming a full league member in 1991-92 and being a key addition to the unique football group. Despite its youth as a league, the BIG EAST was a charter member of the Bowl Championship Series.

After establishing BIG EAST football, Tranghese guided the league through a critical time that many observers felt could have resulted in a permanent split among its members. In March, 1994, the conference added football members Rutgers University and West Virginia University as its 11th and 12th full-time members and maintained its overall structure.

Just four months later, the University of Notre Dame, clearly the nation's premier men's basketball independent, joined the BIG EAST. Rutgers, West Virginia and Notre Dame began BIG EAST competition in the 1995-96 academic year.

In 1999, football member Virginia Tech was admitted to the league as the 14th full member. It began competing in the BIG EAST in all sports in 2000-01.

The league's athletic directors unanimously appointed Tranghese in 1990 after his 11 years of service, the last nine as associate commissioner. As Commissioner, he has led the BIG EAST while maintaining the principles which have marked the conference's explosive rise to prominence — promoting and cultivating intercollegiate athletic programs in an environment of integrity while pursuing excellence at the highest possible level.

Tranghese's career in college athletics began at American International College in his hometown of Springfield, Mass.

He was the sports information director at Providence College where he garnered publicity for the immensely successful Friar teams of the 1970s under Dave Gavitt. As the media focus on Eastern college basketball and the growth of sports events on television increased, Gavitt and Tranghese were ready to take advantage. Gavitt became the BIG EAST's first Commissioner in 1979 and served until 1990 when Tranghese assumed the helm.

Under Tranghese, the BIG EAST championship slate has expanded from seven men's championships in 1979 to 20 men's and women's events in 1993. The recent addition of women's lacrosse increases the number of sports to 21. His negotiating expertise also has resulted in a long-term partnership with Madison Square Garden, host of the BIG EAST Men's Basketball Championship since 1983. The league and the Garden have agreed to be partners through 2011.

Today, Tranghese is an acknowledged leader in the area of television, including negotiation and technical production. The BIG EAST has been a long-time partner with CBS Sports and ESPN and has enjoyed multi-year agreements with both entities in basketball and football. Tranghese negotiated a new television package for football with ABC. That contract began in 2001.

Additionally, Tranghese was the force behind The BIG EAST Television Network which, for 10 years, was a benchmark for regional network television. In 1995, the league awarded ESPN, Inc. exclusive rights to all of its basketball and football games not broadcast on a national network.

Tranghese is a 1965 graduate of St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vt. He is married to Susan Huntemann.



*Michael Tranghese*



2002-03 Philadelphia Big Five Standings

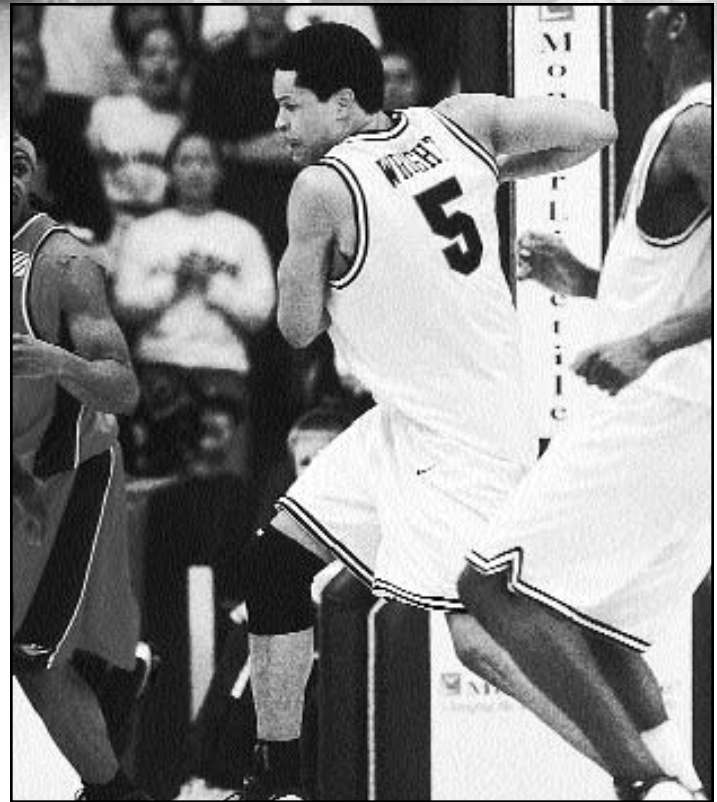
School	W-L	All-time Record	Titles*
1 Saint Joseph's	4-0	98-78	18
2 Pennsylvania	3-1	70-104	13
3. Villanova	2 - 2	96 - 80	15
4 Temple	1-3	103-73	22
5 La Salle	0-4	71-101	10

\*Includes shared titles

2002-03 Big Five Results		Villanova 58
Villanova 74, La Salle	7 1	Villanova 70, Temple 6 2
Pennsylvania 71, Temple 46		Saint Joseph's 65, Temple 55
Pennsylvania 72,		2002-03 Big Five Results

BIG FIVE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Dec. 9-*Ricky Wright (Villanova)*, Dec. 16-Ugonna Onyekwe (Pennsylvania); Dec. 30-Alex Wesby (Temple); Jan. 6: Jameer Nelson (Saint Joseph's); Jan. 13-Delonte West (SJU), *Ricky Wright (VU)*; Jan. 20-Delonte West (SJU); Jan. 27-Steven Smith (La Salle); Feb. 3-Tim Begley (Penn), Alex Wesby (TU); Feb. 10-Delonte West (SJU); Feb. 17-Ugonna Onyekwe (UP), Delonte West (SJU), Feb. 24-Gary Neal (LaS); Mar. March 10-Jameer Nelson (SJU).



*Ricky Wright was named first team All-Philadelphia Big Five in 2001-02.*

BIG FIVE HALL OF FAME (VILLANOVA MEMBERS)

Alex Bradley, 1977-81	1987
Chris Ford, 1969-72	1977
Stewart Granger, 1979-83	1990
Keith Herron, 1974-78	1984
Jim Huggard, 1958-61	1978
Tom Ingelsby, 1970-73	1979
Harold Jensen, 1983-87	1995
Johnny Jones, 1981	1981
Wali Jones, 1961-64	1973
Jack Kraft, Head Coach	1987
Dwayne Mc Clain, 1981-85	1993
Bill Melchionni, 1962-66	1974
Jake Nevin, Athletic Trainer	1985
Ed Pinckney, 1981-1985	1991
John Pinone, 1979-83	1989
Howard Porter, 1968-71	1981
Harold Pressley, 1982-86	1992
Joe Ryan, 1956-59	1991
Al Severance, Head Coach	1994
Hank Siemiontkowski, 1969-72	1988
Rory Sparrow, 1976-80	1986
Jim Washington, 196-65	1975

2002-03 Philadelphia Big Five Leaders

10. D. Bell (LaS) 4.8 spg	
<b>Scoring Leaders</b>	<b>Assists Leaders</b>
1. Jameer Nelson (SJU) 19.7 ppg	1. Jameer Nelson (SJU) 4.7 apg
2. Gary Neal (LaS) 18.6 ppg	2. J. Thomas (LaS) 4.3 apg
3. Delonte West (SJU) 17.3 ppg	3. <i>Derrick Srawden (VU) 3.5 apg</i>
4. David Hawkins (TU) 16.9 ppg	4. Delonte West (SJU) 3.2 apg
5. U. Onyekwe (UP) 16.5 ppg	5. Tim Begley (UP) 2.9 apg
6. <i>Gary Buchanan (VU) 15.4 ppg</i>	
7. Steven Smith (LaS) 14.5 ppg	<b>Steals Leaders</b>
8. Brian Polk (TU) 12.9 ppg	1. David Hawkins (TU) 2.5 spg
9. Alex Wesby (TU) 12.5 ppg	2. Jameer Nelson (SJU) 2.2 spg
9. <i>Ricky Wright (VU) 12.5 ppg</i>	3. Maurice Collins (TU) 1.9 spg
	4. <i>Derrick Srawden (VU) 1.7 spg</i>
<b>Rebounding Leaders</b>	5. J. Thomas (LaS) 1.6 spg
1. Steven Smith (LaS) 8.1 rpg	
2. <i>Ricky Wright (VU) 7.8 rpg</i>	<b>Blocked Shots Leaders</b>
3. U. Onyekwe (UP) 6.4 rpg	1. Dwayne Jones (SJU) 2.0 bpg
4. <i>Jason Fraser (VU) 6.3 rpg</i>	2. Keith Butler (TU) 1.9 bpg
5. D. Jones (SJU) 6.3 rpg	3. <i>Jason Fraser (VU) 1.3 bpg</i>
6. Alex Wesby (TU) 5.8 rpg	4. Alexander Sazonov (SJU) 1.1 bpg
7. A. Robinson (TU) 5.4 rpg	5. <i>Andrew Sullivan (VU) 0.9 bpg</i>
7. Keith Butler (TU) 5.4 rpg	
9. Jameer Nelson (SJU) 5.1 rpg	