

VILLANOVA



Big East / Big Five



The Big East Conference

In 2006-07, the BIG EAST will be in its second year as the nation's largest Division I-A conference. The first year with 16 members was wrought with curiosity among those in the world of collegiate athletics and in the media, but the league thrived in its new alignment, enjoying significant success in the athletic arenas, on the playing fields and in the classroom.

The goals of the BIG EAST have remained constant throughout its history — to compete at the highest level and to do so with integrity and sportsmanship.

In men's basketball last year, BIG EAST squads secured a league-record eight NCAA bids. Seven BIG EAST women's basketball teams earned NCAA berths. In football, West Virginia garnered the attention of the college football world with its victory over Georgia in the Nokia Sugar Bowl. The Mountaineers were the BIG EAST's representative in the Bowl Championship Series.

In 2005-06, the BIG EAST welcomed five new members to increase its membership to 16: University of Cincinnati, DePaul University, University of Louisville, Marquette University and the University of South Florida. Some were ready to call the new BIG EAST alignment too unwieldy, but the league showed that there can be strength in numbers even when that number is a large one.

BIG EAST institutions reside in nine of the nation's top 34 largest media markets, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Tampa, Pittsburgh, Hartford, Milwaukee and Cincinnati. With its newest members, BIG EAST markets will contain almost one fourth of all television households in the U.S.

Since opening its doors in 1979, the league has won 25 national championships in six different sports and 124 student-athletes have won individual national titles.

In 2005-06, Providence College's Mary Cullen won the NCAA 5,000-meters crown. Also, the Villanova women's cross country team was named the NCAA's Silver Anniversary Cross Country Program. The Wildcats have won seven NCAA team titles since 1981. Former Wildcat standout Carole Zajac was named the top individual performer of the women's cross country era.

The BIG EAST has always been able to boast that some of its best students are also some of its best athletes. More than 350 student-athletes have earned Academic All-America honors. Last year, West Virginia's Joe Herber was named the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American of

the Year in men's basketball.

The BIG EAST has continued its basketball success in the 21st century. In 2003-04, Connecticut became the first school in NCAA history to win the men's and women's NCAA titles in the same season. With the Syracuse men and the UConn women grabbing NCAA crowns the previous year, the BIG EAST became the first conference in NCAA history to win the men's and women's titles in consecutive seasons. In fact, the BIG EAST has won five of the last seven women's basketball crowns and three of the last eight men's titles.

Moving proactively has been a consistent strategy for the conference that was formed in 1979. The BIG EAST has continually turned challenges into opportunities to become stronger.

In the spring of 2001, the BIG EAST added women's lacrosse and rowing to its growing list of sports. The inaugural women's golf championship was held in the spring of 2003.

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.

While the membership has both increased and changed, the focus of the BIG EAST has not wavered. The conference 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 show a balance between intercollegiate athletics and academics.

Any successful organization needs outstanding leadership. Michael Tranghese, the league's first full-time employee, and for 11 years the associate to Dave Gavitt, moved into the Commissioner's chair in 1990. In his first year, he administered the formation of The BIG EAST Football Conference.

The league has long been considered a leader in innovative con-

cepts in promotion and publicity, particularly regarding television. Those efforts have resulted in unparalleled visibility for BIG EAST student athletes. The conference has enjoyed longstanding relationships with CBS, ESPN, Inc. and ABC.

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

More than 550 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. Several athletes earned gold medals in each of the last five summer Olympiads.

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

The BIG EAST Staff

Commissioner	Michael Tranghese
Senior Associate Commissioner	John Marinatto
Associate Commissioner	Nick Carparelli, Jr.
Associate Commissioner	Joseph D'Antonio, Jr.
Associate Commissioner	Donna DeMarco
Associate Commissioner	Dan Gavitt
Associate Commissioner	Tom Odjakjian
Associate Commissioner	John Paquette
Associate Commissioner for Olympic Sports	James Siedliski
Assistant Commissioner	Barbara Jacobs
Assistant Commissioner	Jennifer Condaras
Director of Business Affairs	Susan Eaton
Director of Communications	Jon Gust
Director of Communications	Rachel Margolis
Director of Basketball Operations	Shawn Murphy
Assistant Director of Communications	Michael Coyne
Assistant Director of Compliance	Jason DeAngelis
Asst. Director of Internet Publicity and Promotions	Jason DeAngelis
Assistant Director of Sport Administration	Mia Brickhouse
Assistant Director of Sport Administration	Bobby Weygand
Coordinator of Football Officiating	John Soffey
Assistant to the Commissioner	Lisa Zanecchia
Administrative Assistant for Compliance	Wanda Factor
Administrative Assistant for Sport Administration	Lois DeBlois
Administrative Assistant	Linda Yates
Receptionist	Kathy Kirkpatrick
Administrative Fellow	Keith Lopes
Communications Assistant	Allison Hoehn
Communications Assistant	Thomas Symonds
Football Administrative Intern	Benjamin Tario



Randy Foye

***2006
Wooden Award
Finalist***

***2006
Consensus
First Team
All-American***

***2006
Big East Player
of the Year***

***2006
Philadelphia
Big Five Player
of the Year***



The Philadelphia Big 5

A Philly Tradition

On November 23, 1954 the administration at the five major Universities in the Philadelphia area agreed to formulate a partnership between their athletic departments. They agreed to participate in a men's basketball round robin, the "City Series", at the Palestra on the University of Pennsylvania's campus. The Big 5 was born. For 50 years, this partnership has remained intact and defines Philadelphia's collegiate sports tradition, with heated rivalries and fierce competition



on the court, partnership and camaraderie off the court. The Philadelphia Big 5 even beat out Rocky Balboa to be named the City's "Best Sports Tradition" in the Philadelphia Daily News!

In a city that is passionate about their sports teams, The Philadelphia Big 5 is the embodiment of collegiate sports...it's the 8,700 fans that repeatedly fill the most storied basketball building in the country, the Palestra ... it's about earning brag-

ging rights when your school wins the City Series... it's some of the most personable and successful coaches in the business... it's students showing up an hour before the game waiting to erupt when their team takes the floor...it's the look on a freshman's face when they get thrown into their first City Series game...it's student athletes collecting canned goods for the poor, mentoring our city's youth, and holding clinics for young players...it's reaching countless fans and alums with something good, something wholesome, something historic.

No other city in the United States is represented by five major Division I Universities.

Only Philadelphia.

2005-06 Philadelphia Big Five Standings

	W-L	All-Time Record	Titles*
Villanova	4-0	106-82	17
St. Joseph's	2-2	107-81	19
La Salle	1-3	72-112	10
Pennsylvania	1-3	74-112	13
Temple	1-3	109-79	23

*Includes shared titles

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
Jason Lawson, 1993-97	2004
Dwayne McClain, 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 Siemionkowski, 1969-72	1988
Rory Sparrow, 1976-80	1986
Jim Washington, 196-65	1975
Doug West, 1985-89	1996
Hubie White, 1959-62	1976

2005-06 Philadelphia Big Five Statistics

Scoring	Average	Total
Randy Foye (VU)	20.5	677
Steven Smith (LSU)	19.7	551
Allan Ray (VU)	18.5	591
Ibrahim Jaaber (UP)	18.2	529
Mardy Collins (TU)	16.8	536

Rebounds	Average	Total
Steven Smith (LSU)	7.9	220
Mark Zoller (UP)	7.3	205
Will Sheridan (VU)	6.3	207
Mike St. John (LSU)	6.1	172
Randy Foye (VU)	5.8	190

Assists	Average	Total
Dwayne Lee (SJU)	4.3	141
Mardy Collins (TU)	4.0	127
Jermaine Thomas (LSU)	3.9	109
Kyle Lowry (VU)	3.7	122
Randy Foye (VU)	3.0	100
Steve Danley (UP)	3.0	84

2005-06 Big Five Awards

Geasey Award (MVP) – Randy Foye (VU)

Jim Barniak Award (Team of the Year) – Villanova

Harry Litwack Award (Coach of the Year) – Jay Wright (VU)

George Paul Award (Most Improved Player) – Antywane Robinson (TU)

Harry Merrill Award (Sportsmanship) – Chet Stachitas (SJU)

Palumbo Award (Top Scorer) – Randy Foye (VU)

Bob Vetrone Award (Loyalty to the Organization) – Al Shrier (TU)