



BIG EAST CONFERENCE

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.

BASKETBALL SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

2003	Emeka Okafor (Connecticut), Alicia Ratay (Notre Dame)
2002	Carlton Carter (Virginia Tech), Nicole Conway (Boston College)
2001	Ruben Boumtje-Boumtje (Georgetown), Ruth Riley (Notre Dame)
2000	Lavor Postell (St. John's), Cal Bouchard (Boston College)
1999	Rob Hodgson (Rutgers), Rebecca Burbridge (West Virginia)
1998	Pat Garrity (Notre Dame), Raquel Nurse (Syracuse)
1997	Ya-Ya-Dia (Georgetown), Kristyn Cook (Syracuse)
1996	Adrian Griffin (Seton Hall), Jennifer Rizzotti (Connecticut)
1995	Marc Molinsky (Boston College), Rebecca Lobo (Connecticut)
1994	Arturas Karnishovas (Seton Hall), Rebecca Lobo (Connecticut)
1993	Arturas Karnishovas (Seton Hall), Erin Kenneally (Syracuse)
1992	Darren Morningstar (Pittsburgh), Wendy Davis (Connecticut)
1991	Greg Woodard (Villanova) , Carla Wenger (Boston College)
1990	Stephen Thompson (Syracuse), Angela Alston (Syracuse)
1989	Ramon Ramos (Seton Hall), Geraldine Saintilus (Seton Hall)
1988	Mark Plansky (Villanova) , Vera Jones (Syracuse)
1987	Harold Jensen (Villanova) , Kathy Sweet (Boston College)
1986	Ron Rowan (St. John's), Joannie Powers (Providence)
1985	Michael Moses (St. John's), Leigh Curl (Connecticut)



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BIG EAST STAFF

Commissioner	Michael Tranghese
Associate Commissioner for Football	Nick Carparelli, Jr.
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
Director of Business Affairs	Susan Scorpio
Assistant Commissioner for Sport Administration	James Siedliski
Assistant Commissioner for Compliance	Jerome Rodgers
Assistant Commissioner/Women's Basketball Officiating	Barbara Jacobs
Assistant Commissioner for Communications	Tammy Donovan
Director of Communications	Rob Carolla
Assistant Director of Sport Administration	Jamie Maddox
Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officiating	Art Hyland
Coordinator of Football Officiating	John Soffey
Assistant to the Commissioner	Lisa Zanecchia
Administrative Assistant for Sport Administration	Lois DeBlois
Administrative Assistant for Compliance	Wanda Factor
Administrative Assistant	Linda Yates
Basketball & Football Assistant	Shawn Murphy
Receptionist	Kathy Kirkpatrick
Communications Assistant	Kristine Olson
Communications Assistant	Doug Richards
Compliance Assistant	Keli Cunningham

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 Dame joined in '94 and started to compete in '95-96.

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 Gavitt, took over the Commissioner's reins in June, 1990. In his



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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.

MICHAEL A. TRANGHESE, COMMISSIONER

The BIG EAST Conference is celebrating its 25th year of existence in 2003-04. No one has had more of an impact than Mike Tranghese. He opened the league's doors for business in 1979 and has provided the conference with unwavering leadership and integrity. The BIG EAST is a major force in collegiate athletics, in large part because of the efforts of Tranghese, who believes his job is to create opportunities for BIG EAST student-athletes to succeed academically and athletically.

Now, in his 14th year as Commissioner, the BIG EAST has thrived under Tranghese's guidance. He has navigated the BIG EAST through a steady increase in the number of sport championships, the formation of BIG EAST football and numerous television negotiations. All of this has been accomplished in an NCAA climate that seems to change on a regular basis.

Tranghese has been an active leader nationally since moving into the Commissioner's chair on June 21, 1990. For the 2002 and 2003 football seasons, he is the lead administrator of the Bowl Championship Series, the group of major conferences and bowls that produces a national championship game and the best possible bowl matchups.

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.

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.

BIG EAST CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER'S TROPHY RESULTS



<u>Year</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
2002-03	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
2001-02	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
2000-01	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1999-00	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1998-99	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1997-98	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1996-97	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
1995-96	Notre Dame	Villanova
1994-95	Georgetown	Connecticut
1993-94	Georgetown	Villanova/UConn (t)
1992-93	Seton Hall	Villanova
1991-92	Georgetown	Villanova
1990-91	St. John's	Villanova
1989-90	Georgetown	Villanova
1988-89	Georgetown	Villanova
1987-88	Georgetown	Villanova
1986-87	Villanova	Villanova
1985-86	St. John's	Villanova/Syracuse (t)
1984-85	St. John's	Villanova
1983-84	Villanova	Villanova
1982-83	Villanova	Villanova
1981-82	Villanova	
1980-81	Villanova	
1979-80	St. John's	



PHILADELPHIA BIG FIVE

WOMEN'S ALL-BIG FIVE (FIRST TEAM)

Katie Davis (Villanova)
 Trish Juhline (Villanova)
 Jewel Clark (Penn)
 Irina Krasnoshiok (Saint Joseph's)
 Stacey Smalls (Temple)

WOMEN'S ALL-BIG FIVE (SECOND TEAM)

Erin Brady (Saint Joseph's)
 Katie Kilker (Penn)
 Kat Foley (La Salle)
 Jill Marano (La Salle)
 Courtney Mix (Villanova)

COACH-OF-THE-YEAR:

Harry Perretta (Villanova)

PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR:

Trish Juhline (Villanova)

ROOKIE-OF-THE-YEAR:

Davineia Payne (La Salle)



2002-03 BIG FIVE STANDINGS

Team	Big Five	Overall
Villanova	4-0	28-6
Saint Joseph's	3-1	19-11
Temple	2-2	14-15
La Salle	1-3	15-14
Pennsylvania	0-4	15-12

ALL-TIME BIG FIVE STANDINGS

Team	Record	Titles	Shared Titles
St. Joseph's	76-19	10	4
Villanova	70-25	5	4
La Salle	48-48	2	3
Temple	35-61	3	1
Pennsylvania	10-86	0	0

PHILADELPHIA BIG FIVE 2002-2003 ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Mikaelyn AustinUniversity of Pennsylvania
 Christena HamiltonTemple University
 Stephanie GraffSaint Joseph's University
 Kelly NashVillanova University
 Chrissy WalkerLa Salle University

Villanova 65 Penn 54	Saint Joseph's 73 Temple 68
Villanova 59 Saint Joseph's 44	La Salle 63 Penn 57
Temple 78 Penn 71	Saint Joseph's 70 Penn 60
Villanova 72 La Salle 57	Saint Joseph's 83 La Salle 80 (2OT)
Villanova 66 Temple 54	Temple 67 La Salle 63