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Five Senior Guards Earn First-Team Men's Basketball All-League Honors

Lehigh's Austen Rowland & Billy Taylor Claim Player & Coach Of The Year Awards

American Guard Andre Ingram Picks Up Freshman Of The Year Trophy

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. – Senior guard **Austen Rowland** (Hyattsville, Md.), who led Lehigh to its first-ever Patriot League regular-season championship in his first season in a Mountain Hawks uniform, was selected as the 2004 PL Player of the Year in a vote of the League's head coaches. He is the first LU player to earn the award in the 14-year history of the Patriot League.

Rowland is one of five senior guards who were selected as first-team All-Patriot League players this season. He was joined on the first-team All-League squad by American's **Andres Rodriguez** (San Juan, P.R.), Holy Cross' **Jave Meade** (Queensbridge, N.Y.) and the Lafayette duo of **Winston Davis** (Tampa, Fla.) and **Justin DeBerry** (Tucson, Ariz.). Meade earns first-team recognition for the second-straight season while DeBerry moves up from his position on the second-team All-League squad last year.

The second-team All-League team is also dominated by perimeter players, including Bucknell Soph. G **Kevin Bettencourt** (Peabody, Mass.), BU soph. swingman **Charles Lee** (Gaithersburg, Md.), Colgate Sr. G **Mark Linebaugh** (Cleona, Pa.) and Holy Cross Soph. G **Kevin Hamilton** (Queens Village, N.Y.). The only post player to earn All-League recognition in 2004 is Lafayette Sr. F **Mike Farrell** (DeLand, Fla.). Bettencourt was the 2003 PL Rookie of the Year while Linebaugh earns post-season recognition for the third time in his career (Rookie of the Year in 2001; second-team All-League in 2003).

American guard **Andre Ingram** (Richmond, Va.) was chosen as the 2004 PL Freshman of the Year and is a member of what some consider the best set of newcomers the League has ever seen. Ingram is the first AU player to win the Freshman of the Year award in the three seasons the Eagles have been a member of the Patriot League.

In addition to Ingram, the All-Freshman team includes Bucknell center **Chris McNaughton** (Leutershausen, Germany), Colgate forward **Kendall Chones**, Holy Cross guard **Keith Simmons** (Kingston, N.Y.) and Lehigh freshman **Jose Olivero** (Fairfax, Va.).

Post-season recognition also goes to Lehigh's **Billy Taylor**, who is chosen as the Patriot League Coach of the Year for the second-straight season. Taylor guided the Mountain Hawks to a 17-10 overall record, 10-4 in League play. It is the highest win totals for LU men's basketball since the 1991 campaign, when the Mountain Hawks posted a 19-10 overall record, 10-2 in the PL. Lehigh's 2004 regular-season co-championship (with American) and top seed in the PL Tournament are both team firsts.

Taylor is the second coach to win the award in consecutive seasons (Lafayette's **Fran O'Hanlon** in 1998 and 1999) and the fourth PL coach to earn the honor at least twice during his career. Navy's **Don DeVoe** is the only coach to win the award three times.

Rowland, who had one year of eligibility remaining when he transferred to Lehigh from Delaware, leads the PL in scoring with a 16.0 average, including an 18.7 average in League play. He is also the Lehigh leader in three-point goals (57), assists (135), steals (50) and rebounds (4.0). He has 10 games with at least 19 points this season and one double-double, when he contributed 15 points and a season-high 10 assists in a win over Army on Feb. 20.

He scored in double figures in 12 of 14 Patriot League contests and was the team's top scorer in seven League games. Rowland's top game was a 35-point performance, hitting 13-of-23 field goal attempts, including four long-range shots, in a 111-104 overtime loss at Lafayette in the Patriot League's season-opening Friday Night Game of the Week telecast on DIRECTV.

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Rowland is the third player in PL history to win the Player of the Year award in his first season in the League, joining Fordham's **Damon Lopez** (1991) and American's **Patrick Doctor** (2002) in that exclusive group.

The other four members of the All-League first team are multi-year starters for their respective team and have made their marks on the League's career leader lists.

Rodriguez, who helped the Eagles finish first or tied for first for the second time in three seasons, ranks third on the team in scoring (9.7) but leads the Eagles in assists (210) and steals (72). The AU point guard broke the League record, and has the highest total in the country this season, when he dished out 19 assists in a win at Navy on Jan. 14. He has been ranked among the top five in the country most of the season in assists per game (7.8) and in just 78 career games, has moved into seventh place on the League's assists list (443) and 12th place in steals (157). No other player in the Top 15 on either list has played less than 83 games.

Meade, the 2004 PL Pre-Season Player of the Year, gained his second-straight first-team All-League nod after contributing 9.5 points and 4.0 rebounds this season. He enters the PL Tournament second in the League in assists per game (5.52) and third in steals (2.00). In addition to breaking the League record for career assists (593) and steals (240), he became the first player in League history to record 1,000 points and 500 assists when he scored his 1,000th point in a win over Bucknell Feb. 27. He currently ranks 45th on the PL career scoring list with 1,018 points.

Davis and DeBerry have been a difficult tandem for opponents to cover the past two seasons at Lafayette. DeBerry's 14.7 scoring average ranks third in the League while Davis is sixth with a 13.6 average. Davis is also fourth in the League with 55 three-point goals while DeBerry has 47 treys, and both are among the PL leaders in three-point shooting percentage (Davis .414; DeBerry .412).

DeBerry, who is also the team leader with 139 assists and 40 steals, enters the PL Tournament ranked 18th in the League in career scoring (1,361), ninth in assists (373), ninth in three-point goals (200) and 11th in steals (158). Davis, who has 886 career points, is tied for 24th on the League's career three-point goals list (133).

The Leopards earned a League-high third all-star berth when Farrell gained second-team honors. Farrell is a workhorse inside for the Leopards, averaging 8.1 points, a team-high 5.7 rebounds and 59 assists, which ranks second on the team. He ranks third in the PL on the boards and enters the Tournament in 25th place on the League's career rebounding chart with 557 caroms.

Bettencourt and Lee give Bucknell two sophomore perimeter players on the second team. Bettencourt, who broke the record for three-point goals in a game ((11) and had a League-best 42 points in a non-League game at St. Francis (Pa.) this season, is the second-leading scorer in the League with a 15.3 average and leads the Bison in three-point goals (69), free throw percentage (.830), assists (79) and steals (42). Bettencourt has already moved into a tie for 26th place on the PL career list for three-point goals (130). Lee is third on the team in scoring (9.7), shares the team lead with 42 steals and is second on the squad with 74 assists, a 5.1 rebounding average, 13 three-point goals and an .814 free throw percentage.

Linebaugh earned his second-straight second-team All-League award after leading the Raiders with a 12.9 scoring average, 51 three-point goals and an .806 free throw percentage. He also chipped in 3.1 rebounds, 79 assists and 31 steals this season. A four-year letterwinner for the Raiders, Linebaugh is 17th on the PL career scoring list (1,367), 26th in assists (252), 24th in steals (137) and 13th in three-point goals (170).

Hamilton is the third sophomore on the second-team All-League squad. He is the only Crusader in double figures in the scoring column (10.7) and is the team leader in three-point goals (50) and steals (70). Hamilton is also second on the team with 67 assists and a .388 shooting percentage from three-point range.

Bucknell tied Lafayette with three post-season honorees when McNaughton earned a berth on the All-Freshman team. McNaughton ranked fifth in the PL in rebounding (5.2), the highest among newcomers, and 10th in scoring. He registered a double-double with 16 points and 10 caroms in a Jan. 25 game vs. Lafayette, and he scored 19 or more points four times this season. He was the PL Freshman of the Week twice during the non-League portion of the schedule.

Chones blossomed during the League season when he started 10 games in place of injured senior **Howard Blue**. In League play, Chones averaged 10.4 points and 5.9 rebounds, including a 10-point, 11-rebound effort Feb. 1 against Lehigh. For the season, Chones contributed 7.6 points and 4.9 rebounds. He was the PL Freshman of the Week three times in February.

Simmons combined with veterans Meade and Hamilton to give the Crusaders a potent perimeter attack. Simmons finished third on the team in scoring (9.1), second in three-point goals (16) and three-point field goal percentage (.400). He scored in double figures eight times during League play and was named the PL Freshman of the Week March 1 after scoring 25 points and grabbing 11 rebounds as the Crusaders closed out the regular season with weekend victories over Bucknell and Lehigh.

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Olivero completes the All-Freshman team and complimented the scoring and playmaking skills of backcourt mate Rowland. Olivero contributed an 11.4 scoring average this season, which ranked second on the team and second among freshmen in the PL. He also knocked down 27 long-range shots and grabbed 2.5 rebounds per outing. He scored 17 or more points nine times this season and earned PL Freshman of the Week honors twice in December.

All eight teams will be in action Saturday (3/6) in the quarterfinal round of the PL Tournament at The Show Place Arena. Top-seeded Lehigh (17-10, 10-4 PL) opens play at noon against eighth-seeded Navy (5-22, 2-12 PL). At 2:30 p.m., fourth-seeded Bucknell (13-14, 9-5 PL) looks to hand fifth-seeded Holy Cross (13-14, 7-7 PL) its first PL Tournament loss since 2000. The 5 p.m. matchup features second-seeded American (16-12, 10-4 PL) against seventh-seeded Army (6-20, 3-11 PL) in the first-ever post-season meeting of the two teams. Closing out Saturday's action (7:30 p.m.) will be third-seeded Lafayette (18-9, 9-5 PL) facing sixth-seeded Colgate (14-13, 6-8 PL) in the first round of the PL Tournament for the third-straight year.

The Patriot League, an NCAA Division I athletics conference founded on the principle of admitting athletes who are academically representative of their class, is in its second decade of academic and athletic excellence. Participation in intercollegiate athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of the undergraduate experience. A successful Division I-AA football conference since 1986 and an all-sport conference since 1990, membership includes American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh and Navy, while seven additional institutions hold associate membership. Patriot League member institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation, graduating alumni who are well prepared for life with the ability to make meaningful contributions to their community and society in general. In the most recent NCAA Graduation Rate Report of student-athletes, the Patriot League ranked FIRST among NCAA Division I conferences.

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2004 Patriot League Men's Basketball Postseason Awards

<i>Name, School</i>	<i>Yr.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Ht.</i>	<i>Hometown/Last School</i>	<i>Previous Honors</i>
All-League First-Team					
Andres Rodriguez, American	Sr.	G	5-11	San Juan, P.R./Colegio San Ignacio	
Jave Meade, Holy Cross	Sr.	G	6-1	Long Island City, N.Y./Christ The King	1st '03; R '01
Justin DeBerry, Lafayette	Sr.	G	6-3	Tucson, Ariz./New Hampton	2nd '03
Winston Davis, Lafayette	Sr.	G	6-6	Tampa, Fla./Tampa Prep	
Austen Rowland, Lehigh	Sr.	G	6-1	Hyattsville, Md./St. Vincent Palloti	
All-League Second-Team					
Kevin Bettencourt, Bucknell	So.	G	6-2	Peabody, Mass./Peabody	ROY '03, R '03
Charles Lee, Bucknell	So.	G/F	6-3	Gaithersburg, Md./Quince Orchard	
Mark Linebaugh, Colgate	Sr.	G	6-2	Cleona, Pa./Annville-Cleona	2nd '03, ROY '01, R '01
Kevin Hamilton, Holy Cross	So.	G	6-4	Queens Village, N.Y./Archbishop Molloy	
Mike Farrell, Lafayette	Sr.	F	6-8	DeLand, Fla./Father Lopez	
All-Freshman Team					
Andre Ingram, American	Fr.	G	6-3	Richmond, Va./Highland Springs	
Chris McNaughton, Bucknell	Fr.	C	6-11	Leutershausen, Germany/Dientzenhofer Gym.	
Kendall Chones, Colgate	Fr.	F	6-7	Orange Village, Ohio/Fork Union Mil. Acad.	
Keith Simmons, Holy Cross	Fr.	G	6-4	Kingston, N.Y./Kingston	
Jose Olivero, Lehigh	Fr.	G	6-1	Fairfax, Va./W.T. Woodson	

Player of the Year: Austen Rowland, Sr., guard, Lehigh

Freshman of the Year: Andre Ingram, Fr., guard, American

Coach of the Year: Billy Taylor, Lehigh (second-straight year)