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3773 Corporate Parkway • Suite 190 • Center Valley, PA 18034 • (610) 289-1950 • Fax: (610) 289-1951/52

Patriot League Announces Women's Lacrosse Major Awards

American and Lehigh win two awards each, while Holy Cross earns one

Center Valley, Pa. (Apr. 26, 2007) – Megan Orr of Holy Cross was named the Patriot League Goalkeeper for the third consecutive season, while Lehigh's Liz Ota was tabbed as the Patriot League Coach of the Year, Patriot League Executive Director Carolyn Schlie Femovich announced Thursday.

American's Jackie Lane was named the Patriot League Offensive Player of the year, while her teammate, Caitlin Bell, earned Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year honors. Meanwhile, Lehigh's Inneke Carmola won the Patriot League Rookie of the Year award.

A First-Team All-Patriot League pick, Carmola was the leading freshmen scorer in the Patriot League with 44 goals, which ranked second in the Patriot League among all student-athletes. She also led the Patriot League with five game-winning goals among Lehigh's eight victories this season. Her 50 points was fifth best in the Patriot League during the 2007 campaign. She is the fourth Mountain Hawks to earn this honor from the Patriot League (Kristin Gillis – 1992, Jill Altshuler – 1993 and Sara MacIntyre – 2005).

The only goalkeeper to win this award in Patriot League history, Orr led the Patriot League in goal against average (8.63), save percentage (.564) and saves per game (11.25). The Patriot League Goalkeeper of the Year Award was initiated in 2005. Orr, a three-time All-Patriot League selection, is within 16 saves of tying the Patriot League mark of Alison Jones of Lafayette (1995-98). She ranks third nationally in save percentage and 10th in goal against average.

Now in her third campaign at Lehigh, Ota won her first Patriot League Coach of the Year honor in 2007 after the Mountain Hawks finished second in the Patriot League and posted an 8-8 overall record.

Bell, a member of the First-Team All-Patriot League squad in 2007, helped the American defense lead the Patriot League in caused turnovers in 2007 and finished second in the goals against average (10.99 per game). She was among the Patriot League leaders in caused turnovers and also tallied 11 points this season. Bell is the first player from American to win the Patriot league Defensive Player of the Year award.

A First-Team All-Patriot League team member, Lane finished the season among the leading scorers in the Patriot League with 38 goals (fourth), and 50 points (fifth). She also tied for third place in both draw controls (35) and caused turnovers (25).

The Patriot League Championship begins on Friday, Apr. 27 when the top-seeded Crusaders host No. 4 Colgate at 1 p.m., while No. 2 Lehigh and No. 3 American face off in a 4 p.m. contest. The championship game will be held on Sun., Apr. 29 at 1 p.m.

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"Today's Scholar-Athletes, Tomorrow's Leaders" – The Patriot League continually demonstrates that student-athletes can excel at both academics and athletics without sacrificing its high standards. The Patriot League's athletic success is achieved while its member institutions remain committed to its founding principle of admitting and graduating student-athletes that are academically representative of their class. Participation in athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of a well-rounded education.

2007 Patriot League Women's Lacrosse Major Awards

Offensive Player of the Year: Jackie Lane, American

Defensive Player of the Year: Caitlin Bell, American

Goalkeeper of the Year: Megan Orr, Holy Cross

Rookie of the Year: Inneke Carmola, Lehigh

Coach of the Year: Liz Ota, Lehigh

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