

COACH'S CORNER



**A Coach's Reflection on the Season...**

Hello from the now lonely lacrosse office! The season is over, exams are all wrapped up and the girls have all made it home safely! So as a coach this is the time I get to sit back and reflect on the season.

Looking back ... we had an awesome season! Going from last place to second place in one year is truly a testament to all the hard work these girls have put forth day in and day out throughout the entire year. I remember my first meeting with this group way back in September. I told them that I believed there was one thing missing that would elevate us to that next level...one little tiny thing that makes that big of a difference and can make you into a champion instantly – believing you will be great! That was our theme for the year.... BELIEVE! If you go

through the motions and don't invest some emotion into it, you will never achieve as much as if you put your heart and soul into it. And your heart and soul doesn't get put into the game itself, but into each of your teammates. Believing in each other and knowing that we are all on the same page is so important to success in a team sport. And THAT is why we went the distance we did this year.

I am so proud of how invested these girls became over the course of eight months. They made the difference and they deserve all the credit! We only won 1-of-6 games in the Patriot League last year and this year we won three and also qualified for the PL Tournament which has never been done at Bucknell. But better than qualifying, we beat Colgate in the semifinals to send us into the championship game against American University (we hadn't beaten Colgate in 13 years)...talk about making history! And to top it all off, seniors Nicole Kallis and Suzanne Raffaele were awarded Defensive and Offensive Players of the League, respectively! And they both went on to be placed on the Patriot League 1<sup>st</sup> Team, while junior Amy Hasler made the 2<sup>nd</sup> team.

Although we were so close to playing in the NCAA's, the girls accomplished much more than they had ever dreamed they would! And the great thing is....they are out with a vengeance for next season. They KNOW that they are fully capable of being the top team in this league and it was so exciting to watch them transform into that powerhouse so confidently throughout the journey. I credit them for taking the time to improve between very strenuous classes and other obligations on campus...they could have refused, but they didn't! They truly are CHAMPIONS in my heart and the fall is going to be as exciting as ever!

Hope to see you this fall...thanks you so much for all of your support!!

Sincerely,  
Randall Flynn

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**\*\* Remember you can always check out what's happening with all Bison athletic programs at:**

[www.bucknellbison.com](http://www.bucknellbison.com)



## 2003 WOMEN'S LACROSSE FINAL RESULTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OUTCOME</u>
3/02	NIAGARA	BUCKNELL UNIV.	CANCELLED
3/05	MONMOUTH	MONMOUTH UNIV.	CANCELLED
3/08	COLUMBIA	BUCKNELL UNIV.	LOST 5-6
3/10	WAGNER	UNIV. OF DENVER	WON 12-9
3/11	DENVER	UNIV. OF DENVER	LOST 8-11
3/15	AMERICAN*	AMERICAN UNIV.	LOST 9-13
3/22	LAFAYETTE*	BUCKNELL UNIV.	LOST 7-8
3/26	LEHIGH*	LEHIGH UNIV.	WON 11-3
3/29	HOLY CROSS*	BUCKNELL UNIV.	WON 10-6
4/01	MT ST. MARY'S	MT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE	WON 7-6
4/05	DUQUESNE	DUQUENSE UNIV.	LOST 10-11
4/09	ST. FRANCIS	BUCKNELL UNIV.	WON 18-5
4/12	COLGATE*	COLGATE UNIV.	LOST 6-9
4/16	LASALLE	BUCKNELL UNIV.	WON 15-6
4/19	VILLANOVA*	BUCKNELL UNIV.	WON 13-9
4/22	DREXEL	DREXEL UNIV.	LOST 9-11
4/26	COLGATE (PL TOURNAMENT)	AMERICAN UNIV.	WON 13-9
4/27	AMERICAN (PL TOURNAMENT)	AMERICAN UNIV.	LOST 6-15

\*DENOTES A PATRIOT LEAGUE GAME

**FINAL RECORD 8 - 8**

### 2003 PATRIOT LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAM	PL	PCT.	OVERALL	PCT
AMERICAN	5-1	.833	11-7	.611
COLGATE	5-1	.833	10-8	.556
BUCKNELL	3-3	.500	8-8	.500
LEHIGH	3-3	.500	10-4	.714
HOLY CROSS	2-4	.333	7-9	.438
LAFAYETTE	2-4	.333	3-13	.188
VILLANOVA	1-5	.167	4-11	.267

### 2003 All-League First Team

**Suzanne Raffaele, Bucknell Sr. Att.**  
 Caitlin Houck, Colgate Sr. Attack  
 Jennifer Stone, Lafayette Jr. Attack  
 Gina Riitano, American So. Midfield  
 Kim Corcoran, Colgate So. Midfield  
 Becky Ortolano, Colgate Jr. Midfield  
 Erin Rowse, Holy Cross Sr. Midfield  
 Erin Gallagher, Lafayette Jr. Midfield  
 Meghan Carolan, Villanova Sr. Midfield  
 Robyn Mincher, American Sr. Midfield  
 Shawn Mattson, Colgate Sr. Defense  
 Rosie Sherry, Lehigh Sr. Defense  
**Nicole Kallis, Bucknell Sr. Goalie**

### 2003 All-League Second Team

Becky Copeland, American So. Attack  
 Katie McVeigh, Colgate Fr. Attack  
 Kelly Winning, Colgate Fr. Attack  
 Katie Britt, Holy Cross Jr. Attack  
 Nadia Harmsen, American Sr. Mid  
**Amy Hasler, Bucknell Jr. Mid**  
 Jana Tencati, Holy Cross So. Mid  
 Barrie Comminsky, Lehigh So. Mid  
 Sue Roth, Holy Cross Sr. Defense  
 Ansley Cox, Lafayette Sr. Defense  
 Lauren Ferrara, Villanova Jr. Defense  
 Kathleen Finnegan, American, Goalie



# Kallis and Raffaele Take Top Patriot League Honors

Seniors Nicole Kallis and Suzanne Raffaele were named the Patriot League Women's Lacrosse Players of the Year and lead the 25 player All League squad, selected by the Patriot League coaches. The co-captains helped lead BU (8-8, 3-3 PL) to its first-ever Patriot League Tournament berth.

Earning her fourth-straight All-League nod, including her second-consecutive season as a first-team all-star, Raffaele becomes the first Bison to be named PL Offensive Player of the Year. This comes three years after she was just the school's second PL Rookie of the Year. She finished second in the PL this season in goals (40) and points (50). Her 40 this season marks her fourth-straight season with at least 30 scores. Raffaele recorded seven hat tricks on the year, including three consecutive and five in her final six games. She was only held without a point once in 16 games this season, and has tallied multiple goals on 12 occasions.

Fellow classmate, Nicole Kallis, received the Defensive Player of the Year Award, joining 1995 graduate Laura Hagen as the only other Bison to claim the league's top defensive award. In addition, she earned her first-ever nod on the All-League First Team. Kallis had been a member of the second team her first three seasons. This year, she completed her fourth year as a starter in goal, and was second on the team with 36 groundballs, and third in caused turnovers with 12. The goaltender maintained a national ranking in both save percentage and goals against average for nearly the entire season, including her most recent ranking of sixth in save accuracy (.563) and 17th in GAA (8.79). Kallis led the conference in those two categories, as well as saves per game (11.27).

## Trio lead Bison to RECORD Changes..



Junior Meredith Wright set a new single season record for total assists during the Patriot League championship game versus American University. The new record of 27 was formerly held by 2002 graduate Melissa Montefusco. Wright had an amazing season, leading the team in total assists per game (27), and was second in total points (47). Wright played a crucial low attack position, and was often overlooked by other teams, a challenge she stepped up to with great dedication and enthusiasm. Her hard work definitely paid off, as she led the Patriot League in assists as well. Wright will play a huge role in inuing this year's success into the 2004 season!!



Senior Suzanne Raffaele also enters the Bucknell record books this year as the all-time scoring leader with 173 points. She also holds the Bison record for career goals (144), which place her 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the Patriot League career records. Michelle Manion ('89) and Heidi Hammes ('99) fall to second place, respectfully in these two catergories



Senior Nicole Kallis, has her name engrained into the Patriot League record books. She stands at #5 on the career saves list with 711. By adding 131 saves in her final season with the Bison, she was able to move to the 5<sup>th</sup> spot on the all- time list.

## Congratulations Meredith, Suzanne, and Nicole

## A Player's Perspective

*By: Suzanne Raffaele*

As May 18th rapidly approaches, I still cannot believe that what have been the best four years of my life (thus far) are coming to an end. I also still cannot believe that I played in my last lacrosse game at Bucknell University. It is sad to imagine not being on the team next year. I will miss wearing my lucky number seven, the inside jokes and laughs with my teammates, the indescribable feeling of glory from a well fought Patriot League victory and the feeling that I could accomplish anything with twenty-six girls carrying me. Lacrosse has been such an instrumental part of my happiness here at Bucknell and words cannot really describe how much I will miss it. However, I am leaving this team with not a feeling of sadness, but instead a feeling of pride in what was accomplished this past year. Expected to finish second to last in the Patriot League, this year we truly were a team with nothing to lose and everything to prove.

This prediction more than underestimated our ability. We worked through fitness tests, morning lifts, grueling 6:00 am practices, sub-degree weather, snow, rain, and injuries to prove ourselves. We earned a place in the Patriot League tournament with our over Villanova. Our win over Villanova was not only memorable because it was my last home game and it secured us third place in the tournament, but because it was a hard fought win, a "pretty" game of lacrosse and a total team effort. When we arrived at the Patriot League tournament we showed Colgate what we were really capable of. Every pass, shot, check and save was deliberate and calculated. We controlled the game from the opening minutes and never let Colgate respond. Beating Colgate for only the third time in Bucknell history, there was not a single person on the team who didn't play the game of their life or play an active role in our victory. While we did not play "our game" against American the next day to capture the Patriot League title, we exceeded everyone's expectations and showed everyone (including ourselves) how truly talented we were.

With that said, I have many things to be proud of. I am proud to have been a part Bucknell's first ever women's lacrosse team to make an appearance in the Patriot League tournament. I am proud to have played every day against the Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year. I am proud to have received passes from the new holder of the Bucknell's season assist record. I am proud to have a teammate who never missed a practice or a game despite a season ending injury. I am proud to play against Bucknell's nationally ranked defense. I am proud of every player on the sideline who has never stopped cheering or sat down during a game. I am proud to have been taught by two very talented coaches. I am proud that we have parents supporting us at every game (some that have never even missed a game in four years). Most of all, I am proud to call all the members of the Bucknell women's lacrosse team my teammates and my friends. Next year, I will proudly take my seat in the stands beside my former teammates and cheer for a team that should be the next Patriot League champions.



# THANKS FOR A GREAT SEASON!!

