

“THE SKIP SHOT”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BISON WATER POLO PROGRAM



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A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH JOHN McBRIDE



Greetings from Lewisburg and the Bucknell Polo program!

We just ended the Men's 2014 campaign and shortly after Eastern Championships we were blanketed with our first significant snow fall of the year. It is that time of the year, when the freshman from warm climates, get to experience what Central PA is all about in the winter!!

The Men's team finished the 2014 season with a fifth place at the Eastern Championships. It was a very young team that played beyond our expectations during the year. They had a successful California campaign in which they went 5-0 at the Santa Clara Rodeo beating four higher ranked teams which helped us garner a national ranking of 12th. This was the highest the team had been ranked since 2007. The team also went to the Southern Championship game for the third straight time and finished in second place.

The Women's team welcomes six new freshman who will all have an immediate impact in the upcoming 2015 season. We added a lot of speed to this class and they had a great off-season which will help to propel us into January as we get ready to make a run at a Sothern Championship and better our third place finish from last year.

Bucknell University and the Water Polo programs also welcomed Lynn Kachmarick into the Bucknell Athletics Hall of Fame. Lynn becomes the sixth member of Water Polo to be entered into the Hall of Fame. There were several Alums who showed up to support Lynn and this amazing accomplishment.

Thank you to all of those that have continued to support us unconditionally. You're commitment to Bucknell Water Polo is admirable and inspirational. Our success is contingent on your support and was shown by the success by both the Men's and Women's programs. If you haven't sent in your annual gift yet, now is the time to do so. Fit in your gift before the tax deadline of December, and know that your gift directly impacts the day to day operations of our programs.

GO BISON!

John McBride
Head Water Polo Coach

FORMER COACH LYNN KACHMARIK INDUCTED INTO BUCKNELL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Former Bucknell water polo coach Lynn Kachmarik was inducted into the Bucknell University Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday, October 31, 2014.



Kachmarik was a true coaching pioneer at Bucknell, mentoring both men and women student-athletes in four different sports from 1982-98. Kachmarik was a world-class water polo player when she came to Bucknell in 1982 as a lecturer in physical education as well as head women's swimming and diving coach. She is the longest-tenured and winningest coach in the history of that program,

See KACHMARIK, pg. 2

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KACHMARIK, cont. from pg. 1

compiling a 120-52-1 dual-meet record in 16 years. She led the Bison to the 1987 ECC team championship and coached 43 individuals and 17 relays to league titles. In 1994, Kachmarik succeeded the legendary Dick Russell as coach of the men's swimming and diving program, and she led the men to a 31-9 dual-meet record and six individual Patriot League gold medals from 1994-98.



In 1984, Kachmarik was appointed assistant coach of the Bison men's water polo team, and following her first year the team picked her as the recipient of the Scott Schulte Award, presented to the "individual who contributes the most to Bucknell water polo." While still serving as women's swimming coach, Kachmarik was named head coach of the men's water polo team in 1987, making her the first woman to coach a men's water polo team in NCAA history. She was named Eastern Coach of the Year in 1987, helped lead the 1988 team to a No. 17 national ranking and posted a four-year record of 56-46. During that time Kachmarik was an avid proponent and advocate for women's water polo, and during the 1998-99 academic year she helped that sport achieve varsity status at Bucknell for the first time. She was named that program's very first head coach while relinquishing her swimming coaching duties after 16 years. As a water polo player, Kachmarik captained the U.S. National Team for six years and was a team member for 10. She was also an assistant coach for two additional years. Kachmarik was named to the All-World Team in 1978 and is also a member of the Slippery Rock Athletics Hall of Fame, Collegiate Water Polo Association Hall of Fame and USA Water Polo Hall of Fame.

MEN'S RESULTS

Princeton Invitational -- Princeton, N.J.			
Sept. 6	vs. Brown	Cancelled	
	vs. Harvard	Cancelled	
Sept. 7	vs. #18 Brown	L, 11-6	
	vs. #19 Harvard	L, 12-10 (OT)	
Bison Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.			
Sept. 13	vs. Washington & Jefferson	W, 13-7	
	vs. Johns Hopkins*	W, 9-7	
Sept. 14	vs. Mercyhurst	W, 12-5	
	vs. Fordham	L, 7-6 (OT)	
Sept. 20	at #16 Navy*	L, 8-4	
	at #18 George Wash.*	W, 14-8	
Sept. 21	at Johns Hopkins*	L, 14-12	
Sept. 27	vs. #20 George Wash.*	W, 11-10	
Sept. 28	at #12 Princeton*	L, 9-6	
Oct. 4	vs. #19 Navy*	W, 12-8	
Oct. 19	vs. Mercyhurst	W, 11-3	
Santa Clara Rodeo -- Santa Clara, Calif.			
Oct. 24	at #15 Santa Clara	W, 9-8	
Oct. 25	vs. #13 Air Force	W, 9-7	
	vs. #19 Cal Baptist	W, 13-10	
Oct. 26	vs. #12 UC Davis	W, 11-10	
	vs. Fresno Pacific	W, 9-8	
Nov. 1	vs. #9 Princeton	L, 10-8	
Southern Championships -- Princeton, N.J.			
Nov. 7	vs. Washington & Jefferson	W, 11-7	
Nov. 8	vs. Monmouth	W, 16-1	
	vs. Navy	W, 14-13	
Nov. 9	at #9 Princeton	L, 12-10	
CWPA Championship -- Annapolis, Md.			
Nov. 21	vs. #19 St. Francis	L, 8-7	
Nov. 22	vs. George Washington	W, 10-7	
Nov. 23	vs. Johns Hopkins	W, 11-5	

* - Conference opponent

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

Bison Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.			
Feb. 13	vs. Notre Dame College	7:00 p.m.	
Feb. 14	vs. George Washington	12:30 p.m.	
	vs. Siena	5:30 p.m.	
Feb. 15	vs. Hartwick*	8:00 a.m.	
	vs. VMI	11:45 a.m.	
	vs. St. Francis	4:45 p.m.	
Feb. 28	vs. Princeton*	10:20 a.m.	
	vs. George Washington*	5:00 p.m.	
Mar. 1	vs. Harvard*	9:00 a.m.	
	vs. Brown*	1:00 p.m.	
Mar. 11	vs. Pomona	TBA	
	vs. Claremont	TBA	
Mar. 12	vs. Long Beach	7:00 p.m.	
Aztec Tournament -- San Diego, Calif.			
Mar. 14	vs. TBA	TBA	
Mar. 15	vs. TBA	TBA	
Bucknell Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.			
Mar. 28	vs. TBA		
	vs. TBA		
Mar. 29	vs. TBA		
	vs. TBA		
April 11	at Gannon*	8:00 p.m.	
April 12	at Mercyhurst*	11:00 a.m.	
April 18	vs. Notre Dame College*	1:00 p.m.	
	at Indiana*	8:00 p.m.	
April 19	vs. Michigan*	11:40 a.m.	
CWPA Championship -- Princeton, N.J.			
April 24	vs. TBA	TBA	
April 25	vs. TBA	TBA	
April 26	vs. TBA	TBA	

* - Conference opponent
All times Eastern

THREE MEN NAMED TO ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

Three Bucknell men's water polo players were named to the CWPA All-Southern Division Teams, the league office announced on Nov. 21. Junior Stefan Aleksic (Belgrade, Serbia/Sport Gymnasium) was a first-team selection, while senior Keegan Williams (Menlo Park, Calif./Menlo School) and freshman Grant Curry (La Jolla, Calif./Cathedral Catholic) landed on the second team. Additionally, Curry was named the division's Rookie of the Year.

This is the 11th consecutive year multiple Bison have been honored with all-conference awards. Curry and Williams were recognized for the first time, while Aleksic moved up from his second-team selection from a year ago.

Aleksic finished the 2014 campaign on an 11-game goal-scoring streak. He led the squad in points (89), was second in goals (53) and ranked third in assists (36). His 268 career points are most among current Bison players.

In his second year as a full-time starter, Williams posted 206 saves and had a career-best .518 save percentage. The owner of eight double-figure save outings this season, Williams ranks eighth in program history with 462 career saves.

Bucknell's first Rookie of the Year since Richie Hyden in 2007, Curry was outstanding this season. He led the squad with 63 goals and his 76 points placed him second. Curry scored at least one goal in all but three games this year and posted 19 multi-goal outings.

A CAPTAINS REFLECTION ON THE YEARS GONE BY



KEEGAN WILLIAMS, Sr., GK
Menlo Park, Calif./Menlo School

This year all kicked off with a team trip to California before school started. There we worked hard to prepare ourselves for the intense season ahead. Once we were at school, everyone gave 110% all year long, impressing me by their dedication and commitment to the team. Even through the week before the Eastern Championship, everyone was giving it their all, and pushing their teammates to be better.

While competitively we started slow this year, we kicked it into overdrive in the second half of the season. We used the momentum from our record breaking trip to California to push ourselves at the end of the season. Everyone continued to work hard towards our goal of the Eastern championship. While we fell short of that goal, we did have the statistically best season since 1985.

After spending four years with Coach McBride as a part of this Men's Water Polo Team, I can say that I am very proud to have been a member of this team. It is a sad feeling leaving the team that I know and love behind, but I know that they will do even better next year. I am proud of the drive our team showed this year, and I am sure that next year will be Bucknell's year to win that championship.



A CAPTAINS PREVIEW OF THE UPCOMING SEASON

SAYEH BOZORGHADAD, Sr., UTL
Los Altos, Calif./Castilleja

Last year was one of the most difficult and rewarding seasons of my Bucknell water polo career. Our off-season training in the fall was rigorous, but it was a great testament to how dedicated our team was to improving our individual skills in order to better serve the team as a whole in the spring. In season, our practices never wavered in difficulty and intensity. And even though our bodies were always exhausted and Coach Gorham's love for Fundamental Tuesdays never diminished, I looked forward to going to practice everyday.

Our team last year was the most positive, hardworking, and enjoyable group of women I have ever played with. I believe that a great deal of our success was simply due to the fact that we got along and worked so well together as a team. I owe a lot of this cooperation to the seniors who just graduated: they were all motivational leaders, dedicated players, and wonderful friends. While we suffered a loss with their departure, they taught and showed me what our team would need this year in terms of successful leadership, teamwork, and a great season.

I believe this is going to be one of our best seasons yet: our incoming class of freshmen is extremely talented and excited to learn, and our returning players (both on campus and abroad) cannot wait to continue training and to compete again. Despite the struggles we've had in the past – and that will surely come in the future – I think this team will be able to persevere, succeed, and ultimately dominate this season. To me, our team was successful last year because we really believed in and relied on each other in and out of the pool. I believe this mentality has already carried over to this year, so I look forward to my final season with Bucknell Water Polo because I know it'll be a great one.



DAN RICHARDS '78 COMPLETES SWIM OF STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

More than 30 years after graduation, former Bucknell swimmer and water polo player Dan Richards '78 has completed another great open ocean swim. Already the finisher of the dreaded English Channel swim,



Dan Richards '78 and Coach McBride

this athlete was not done. This past summer he completed the swim from Tarifa, Spain, to Tangiers, Morocco, across the Strait of Gibraltar in a time of 3 hours 29 minutes. Dan had also completed the 22 mile Catalina Channel in 2008 and the 24 mile Tampa Bay Marathon Swim.

A Miami, Fla., native, Richards and his wife, former Bison swimmer Chris (Petterjohn '76) Richards, provided a \$1.5 million lead gift to endow the Bison men's and women's water polo programs in honor of their former Coach Dick Russell. Richards is also a member of Bucknell's Board of Trustees.



Dan Richards '78 on his swim

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2014 MEN'S WATER POLO SEASON

- Bucknell finished the season with a 17-9 overall record and a 4-4 mark in CWPA Southern Division play. The Bison equaled their most wins since 2008 and finished a campaign with single-digit losses for the first time since 1985. Bucknell had not finished at least eight games above .500 in a season since going 25-9 1985.

- Bucknell advanced to the Southern Championships title game for the fourth time in five years and earned its third runner-up finish over that span.

- Bucknell qualified for the CWPA Championship for a 15th consecutive season and posted its 11th straight top-five finish at the event.

- Bucknell made a mid-season trip to California and came home with a 5-0 record on the trip. It marked the first time a Bison squad had returned from California without a loss. The Bison defeated four nationally ranked opponents on the trip.

- Bucknell faced 14 nationally ranked opponents and posted a 7-7 record against them. The Bison were 7-1 against nationally ranked foes during one mid-season stretch.

- Bucknell climbed as high as 12th in the nationally rankings. It was the highest ranking for the Bison since 2007 and was the second-highest in-season ranking in program history.

- Junior Stefan Aleksic led the Bison with 89 points (53g, 36a) and will enter his senior campaign with 146 goals and 122 assists in his career.

- Freshman Grant Curry led Bucknell with 63 goals. He totaled 18 multi-goal games and his seven goals against Navy in the semifinals of the Southern Championships marked the most by a Bison player since 2012.

- Junior Nick Hale and sophomore Sean Daley finished the season with more than 100 career points. Hale has 131 (49g, 82a) career points, while Daley has 102 (38g, 64a).



Junior Stefan Aleksic, 1st Team All-CWPA



*Freshman Grant Curry
CWPA Rookie of the Year*



Junior Nick Hale

- Senior Keegan Williams started all but two games this season and eclipsed 200 saves for the second consecutive year. He finished his career with 462 stops to rank eighth on the Bison career list.



Senior Keegan Williams, 2nd Team All-CWPA

- Aleksic was named First Team All-CWPA Southern Division, while Williams and Curry were second-team selection. Curry earned the conference's Rookie of the Year award, becoming the first Bison honoree since Richie Hyden in 2007.



Sophomore Sean Daley

- Aleksic followed his all-conference honor with a First Team All-CWPA Championship award after scoring seven goals and dishing out three assists at the tournament.

- Bucknell outscored its opponents in every quarter this season with the second period being its most dominant as the Bison held an 85-57 scoring advantage in that quarter.

2014 MEN'S WATER POLO SEASON STATISTICS

BUCKNELL SCORING

		GP	GS	Shots	Eject.			SEASON			CAREER			
					Drawn	Sprints	Eject.	Goals	Assts.	Pts.	G	A	Pts.	
3	Stefan Aleksic	24	24	117	19	0	0	23	53	36	89	146	122	268
15	Grant Curry	25	22	143	28	7	-30	29	63	13	76	63	13	76
9	Sean Daley	26	26	85	16	14	-16	29	28	44	72	38	64	102
4	Nick Hale	26	26	80	11	22	-42	11	20	37	57	49	82	131
10	Jeff Hagen	26	13	64	38	0	-0	3	40	0	40	40	0	40
11	Ratimir Babic	26	8	70	12	2	-6	16	17	8	25	32	17	49
5	RJ Moore	25	23	43	4	1	-1	17	17	7	24	27	16	43
2	Nate Hunter	26	13	22	58	2	-2	16	10	0	10	16	0	16
13	Tommy Stupp	24	0	12	1	0	-0	1	4	2	6	4	2	6
6	Max Wilder	14	0	5	0	0	-0	2	0	6	6	7	14	21
17	Brett Cleary	17	0	7	3	0	-0	4	5	0	5	6	2	8
1	Keegan Williams	24	24	0	3	0	-0	2	0	5	5	0	10	10
12	Jedd Thayer	12	0	8	3	0	-0	0	4	0	4	7	3	10
7	Matt Bresnahan	21	1	11	2	0	-2	5	2	0	2	4	2	6
8	Ken Wattana	19	0	5	1	0	-0	2	1	1	2	4	7	11
1B	Charlie Niehaus	3	2	0	0	0	-0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
14	Jordan White	12	0	2	0	0	-0	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
1A	Patrick McKenzie	3	0	0	0	0	-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTALS				674	199	48	-99	162	264	161	425	443	357	800

GOALKEEPING

	GP	GS	Saves	Min.	Goals		Saves	GA	Save%
					Against	Save%			
Keegan Williams	24	24	206	751	: 10	192	462	464	.499
Patrick McKenzie	3	0	13	46	: 0	13	28	25	.528
Charlie Niehaus	3	2	14	48	: 0	10	14	10	.583
TOTALS	26	26	233			215	504	499	.502

Individual Season Highs

Goals:	7, Grant Curry vs. Navy (11/8)
Assists:	4, Stefan Aleksic vs. Navy (10/4), Stefan Aleksic vs. Cal Baptist (10/25), Nick Hale vs. Fresno Pacific (10/26), Max Wilder vs. Monmouth
Points:	7, Sean Daley vs. Monmouth (11/8), Grant Curry vs. Navy (11/8)
ED:	7, Nate Hunter vs. Fordham (9/14)
Saves:	15, Keegan Williams at Princeton (9/28)

Team Season Highs

Goals:	16, vs. Monmouth (11/8)
Assists:	11, vs. Monmouth (11/8)
Points:	27, vs. Monmouth (11/8)
ED:	14, at Navy (9/20)
Saves:	15, at Princeton (9/28)

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	OT	OT	FINAL
Bucknell	57	85	63	59	0	0	0	264
Opponent	43	57	58	54	2	0	1	215



Freshman center Jeff Hagen scored 40 goals for the Bison in 2014

BUCKNELL WATER POLO NEEDS YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Looking to make an end of the year charitable tax deduction?

Please consider supporting Bison Water Polo.

The student-athletes in our water polo program benefit from a top-notch, highly competitive, Division I experience. In addition to competing at the highest level in one of the finest facilities in the nation, our student-athletes will graduate from a prestigious academic institution with all the tools they will need to be successful in life. *None of this is possible without your continued annual support.*

While endowments such as the Russell Endowment and the Canonica Family Water Polo Endowment provide resources to allow Bucknell to maintain the polo programs, it is the annual support that provides on average 40% of our yearly operating budget each year. Those funds provide for many of the essentials of the daily operations for both the men's and women's teams, and if we do not meet our fundraising goal each year our student-athletes will not have the quality experience that has come to be expected from the Bucknell program. In our case, our California trips become jeopardized which hurts our recruiting and prevents an opportunity for many of our student-athletes to compete in their home state in front of family and friends.

Our fundraising goal this year, as set by the administration, is \$90,000. As of the end of November we sat at \$29,000, or 32% of goal. If you are looking to make a end-of-year charitable deduction now is a perfect time to support YOUR BISON WATER POLO program. Our student-athletes appreciate what you do for them, and your support makes the entire program one we can all be very proud of. Thanks in advance for your support, and happy holidays from Bucknell and your Bison Water Polo program.

Methods of Giving

Check or Cash: This is the most common way to give. When writing a check, make it out to Bucknell University and in the memo section note "Water Polo," or "Men's Water Polo," or "Women's Water Polo."

By Credit Card: The university accepts most major credit cards.

Gifts of Stock/Securities: To arrange a stock transfer, call the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 570-577-3200.

Pledges: You can set up a payment schedule when you make a pledge, and payment reminders will be sent to you.

Corporate matching gifts: Many corporations match their employees' charitable donations to nonprofit institutions. Check with your benefits department for matching gift information and to see if they will match gifts to athletics.

You can give on-line: www.BucknellBison.com.