

"THE SKIP SHOT"

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BISON WATER POLO PROGRAM



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A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH JOHN McBRIDE



Season's Greetings from Bison Water Polo,

As we wind down 2016 and get ready for the holidays it's always a good time to reflect on the year that was! Both the men's and women's season were special in so many ways that I don't want this year to come to a close. Inevitably it does end and players that have given Bucknell four loyal years move on into the next chapter of their lives.

The women's 2016 season had many highlights. The biggest was dominating the Ivies with an unblemished record and technically winning the "southern championship" despite the fact that this championship doesn't exist anymore. The last time

the women won Southern's was under Coach Abdou in 2010 with a win over Princeton in the finals. We also played close games against some of the best teams in the country. We had chances to beat #10 LMU and #12 Long Beach State, but were unable to at the end. The fact that we were beating those teams left the women feeling very good about themselves. We graduated a very strong class but we have reloaded with seven freshmen who will be impactful as they develop into D-I athletes. The women finished in 5th-place at Eastern Championships and ended the season nationally ranked at #20. The women's 2017 season will be a rebuilding year. We are once again a very young team with a tremendous amount of talent, and I have put together a challenging schedule that should make for a good learning curve.

The men's 2016 campaign was tremendous as well. For the first time in 31 years the men made it back to the NCAA Championship tournament by winning the Mid-Atlantic Conference for the first time in as many years. The men had reached the highest national ranking ever for Bucknell, which was #9, and have finished the season ranked 11th overall. The teams record was 9-1 in conference play and 23-5 overall. Many individual records were set and the team won most of the weekly and conference awards. We lose four starters to graduation this year, but recruiting has gone really well due to our success so the team should not skip a beat. 2017 should be another great year for both teams and I know that everyone is excited to get back to training and keep this success train rolling!!

As always none of these accomplishments can be reached without your support. There is a direct correlation between success and giving back. These teams get to truly experience what being part of a D-I program is all about. When they get to travel in nice buses and proudly wear the Orange and Blue uniforms it's all because of your generosity. Your gifts allow the athletes to do exactly what they came here for -- experience a top athletic experience AND one of the top educational experiences available. Last year we raised \$103,000 which was \$13,000 more than our goal of \$90,000. Other programs are envious of the support Bucknell Water Polo receives from our boosters. I hear it all of the time, and it makes me feel very proud of being part of such an amazing tradition that is Bucknell Water Polo. Thank you so much for your ongoing support and let's set another record this year by getting to \$110,000. I know the athletes are very thankful because they have told me themselves how much it means to them to feel supported.

I hope this newsletter finds your family healthy and happy as you prepare for the holiday season. Hopefully you can find time in 2017 to come and support the teams at the pool. If not I always appreciate the great emails I receive from each and every one of you. All my best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McBride".

John McBride --- Head Water Polo Coach

TONY PAXTON '81 ELECTED TO BUCKNELL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Former standout goalie Tony Paxton '81 was inducted into the Bucknell Athletics Hall of Fame at a ceremony during Homecoming weekend.

Paxton began his water polo career at the University of Michigan, but he transferred to Bucknell after the Wolverines discontinued their program. Paxton then became a three-year starting goalie for the Bison, leading the team to three straight Eastern championships from 1978-80. Those teams also placed sixth, fifth and seventh, respectively, at the NCAA Championships and had a combined overall record of 86-10-3. The 1980 team set a school record with 31 wins, and the 1978 squad won a record 21 games in a row.

Paxton backstopped a terrific defense, and he holds Bucknell season (.657) and career (.633) save percentage records. He also graduated as the team record-holder in career saves (833), despite playing only three years. His school record stood for 21 years before being broken in 2001. Paxton was named to the All-East First Team in 1978, 1979 and 1980, and he was an honorable mention AAU All-American in 1980.

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MEN'S RESULTS

Bruno Classic -- Providence, R.I.

Sept. 3	vs. MIT	W, 15-8
	vs. #20 St. Francis-NY	W, 7-6
Sept. 4	vs. #4 Pacific	L, 15-7

Bison Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.

Sept. 16	vs. Salem International	W, 24-8
Sept. 17	vs. Washington & Jefferson	W, 18-6
	vs. Mercyhurst	W, 14-7
Sept. 18	vs. #14 Brown	W, 9-8

Sept. 24	at Navy*	W, 20-11
Sept. 25	at #16 George Wash.*	W, 16-11
	at Johns Hopkins*	W, 12-11
Oct. 1	at Wagner*	W, 13-11
	at Fordham*	W, 14-11
Oct. 8	vs. George Wash.*	L, 10-9
	vs. Navy*	W, 14-10

Harvard Invitational -- Cambridge, Mass.

Oct. 15	vs. #9 Princeton	W, 8-7
Oct. 16	at #12 Harvard	L, 13-11
	vs. Iona	W, 23-6

Santa Clara Rodeo -- Santa Clara, Calif.

Oct. 22	vs. #17 Cal Baptist	L, 9-7
	vs. #20 Loyola Marymount	W, 11-9 (OT)
Oct. 23	vs. Fresno Pacific	W, 14-4
	vs. Air Force	W, 13-5



Nov. 5	vs. Fordham*	W, 18-13
	vs. Wagner*	W, 11-6
Nov. 6	vs. Johns Hopkins*	W, 17-10

Mid-Atlantic Championship -- Lewisburg, Pa.

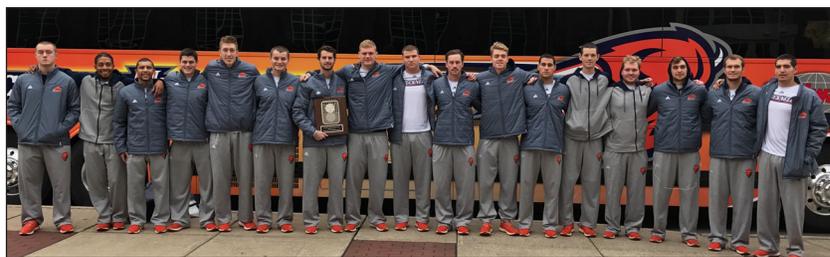
Nov. 18	vs. Connecticut College	W, 24-4
Nov. 19	vs. Fordham	W, 16-5
Nov. 21	vs. #18 George Wash.	W, 11-5

NCAA Play-In -- Cambridge, Mass.

Nov. 26	at #10 Harvard	L, 13-12 (OT)
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* - Conference opponent

STATS & FIGURES FROM 2016 MEN'S SEASON



- Bucknell made its first NCAA appearance since 1985 this year. It was the sixth overall NCAA appearance for the program, which also earned berths in 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980.

- **Bucknell lost to Harvard in overtime in a thrilling NCAA First Round game. The Bison trailed by four goals in the final period before staging an impressive comeback. Rade Joksimovic netted the game-tying goal with 16 seconds left in regulation. Bucknell ended up falling by a 13-12 score in three overtimes.**

- Bucknell finished the season 23-5, marking its most victories since 1985. It was just the ninth time in the 40-year history of the program that the Bison reached 20 victories in a season.

- **Bucknell had a pair of nine-game winning streaks in 2016, equaling the sixth-longest streak in program history.**

- Bucknell captured the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference title with an 11-5 win over George Washington in the championship game at Kinney Natatorium. The Bison outscored their three opponents during the tournament by a 51-14 margin.

- **Bucknell's Mid-Atlantic Water Polo title marked the program's first conference championship since the Bison won the 2012 CWPA Southern Division Championships.**

- Bucknell opened the 2016 season winning 11 of its first 12 games. It was the best start to a season for the Bison since they went 15-1 to begin the 1980 campaign.

- **Bucknell totaled 388 goals in its 28 games this year for an average of 13.9 goals per game. The 388 goals ranks sixth on the program's single-season list.**

- Bucknell had three players named to the All-Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference Teams. Freshman Rade Joksimovic was named to the First Team, while senior Sean Daley and junior goalie Charlie Niehaus were named to the Second Team.

- **Bucknell had three players named to the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference All-Tournament Team. Rade Joksimovic and Charlie Niehaus were first-team selections, while Jeff Hagen was a second-team choice.**

- Freshman Rade Joksimovic became the first East Coast water polo player to be named Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year in his conference when he was awarded both awards by the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference.

- **Joksimovic was also the MVP and Rookie of the Tournament at the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Championship.**

- Joksimovic won 16 weekly awards this year. He was Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference Rookie of the Week eight times, Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference Player of the Week four times, Bison Athlete of the Week three times and Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference Defensive Player of the Week once.

- **Joksimovic finished his rookie campaign with a team-high 154 goals, tying him for second place on the school's single-season list. He became the first Bison to net 100 goals in a season since 1987 and he tallied at least five goals in a game on 18 occasions.**

- Joksimovic registered a program-record 14 goals against Connecticut College.

- **Senior Sean Daley finished his career ranked fourth in program history in assists (189), fifth in sprints won (61) and sixth in steals (157).**

- Senior Nate Hunter finished his career second on the school's all-time list for ejections drawn (195), while junior Jeff Hagen ranks fifth on that ledger with 170.

- **Junior Charlie Niehaus totaled a career-high 287 saves this year and now ranks eighth in program history with 555 career stops.**



Rade Joksimovic



Charlie Niehaus



Sean Daley

SENIOR PERSPECTIVES FROM THE MEN'S 2016 TEAM



Nate Hunter

1. What was your best memory over your four years as a Bucknell Water Polo player?

I think my best memory will come out of this season, winning the Mid-Atlantic Championship. Seeing the culmination of four years of hard work finally paying off in a trip to the NCAA tournament felt incredibly satisfying and rewarding.

2. What would be the most important piece of advice you would give an incoming athlete about what it takes to play and excel at this level?

I think just having perseverance in sticking through times where you are feeling tired, defeated, or mentally worn out, having the perseverance to keep working hard in practice will eventually pay off for you in the end. Also, just try and take your personal ambitions out of the picture and focus on the team as opposed to yourself. That will benefit not only you, but the team as a whole.

3. What are the impacts that Bucknell has left on you and how will that help you as you move on to the next chapter of your lives?

It has taught me the true meaning of hard work. I can honestly say that my four years here pushed my mental and physical capacities but have molded me into a stronger, more well rounded leader and person.

1. What was your best memory over your four years as a Bucknell Water Polo player?

My best memory from my four years has to be winning the MAWPC as a senior. It is something we worked towards for four years and we finally accomplished it.

2. What would be the most important piece of advice you would give an incoming athlete about what it takes to play and excel at this level?

My advice to an incoming athlete about what it takes to succeed is to learn and embrace your role on the team. Everyone has a different role, and it most likely isn't the same as it was in high school, but everyone plays an important role. That role is as important to the success of the team as a whole.

3. What are the impacts that Bucknell has left on you and how will that help you as you move on to the next chapter of your lives?

Bucknell has hopefully allowed me to build relationships with people that will last throughout my life. It has also taught me how to handle tough situations that could similarly arise in later chapters of my life.



Sean Daley

1. What was your best memory over your four years as a Bucknell Water Polo player?

Winning the Mid-Atlantic conference and entering the NCAA championship tournament

2. What would be the most important piece of advice you would give an incoming athlete about what it takes to play and excel at this level?

You need to have an end goal and be willing to persevere through the good times and the bad.

3. What are the impacts that Bucknell has left on you and how will that help you as you move on to the next chapter of your lives?

At Bucknell one of the main lessons that I have learned is that I represent more than just myself. My actions and demeanor reflect upon the groups that I associate with whether it be my family, my team, my organizations, or my school. With this in mind, I try to work and conduct myself in a manner which will affect my reputation and the reputation of those I associate with in a positive way.



RJ Moore

1. What was your best memory over your four years as a Bucknell Water Polo player?

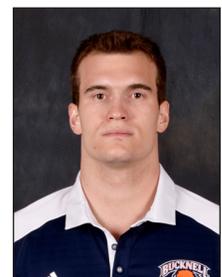
I think that the best memory is definitely winning MAWPC and finally seeing the smile on Coach McBride's face. It represented a culmination of everything that I and the rest of the team, along with staff, have worked towards during the past four years and was a great conclusion to this saga of my life.

2. What would be the most important piece of advice you would give an incoming athlete about what it takes to play and excel at this level?

Always leave everything in the pool and never hold back. That is how you contribute the most to the team and that is how the team gets better. Even though sometimes things don't go as planned, giving everything you've got is always the way to go, and maybe next time you do so, things will go our way. So never stop trying.

3. What are the impacts that Bucknell has left on you and how will that help you as you move on to the next chapter of your lives?

I will always remember Coach McBride's words: "You come here a boy, but you leave here a man." This is the best representation of what Bucknell has taught me. I have learned specific skills and gained factual knowledge that will be useful in the next chapter of my life, but most importantly, Bucknell has made me a grown up and taught me how to deal with day to day things and how to rely on myself which are the attributes that I did not possess before I came here.



Ratimir Babic

2016 MEN'S WATER POLO SEASON STATISTICS

BUCKNELL SCORING

		GP	GS	Shots	Steals	Ejections			SEASON			!	CAREER			
						Drawn	Sprints	Eject.	Goals	Assts.	Pts.		G	A	Pts.	
22	Rade Joksimovic	28	28	264	76	36	23	-141	24	154	30	184	!	154	30	184
9	Sean Daley	28	28	65	77	16	3	-8	29	27	69	96	!	99	189	288
11	Ratimir Babic	28	28	111	27	13	1	-15	12	35	18	53	!	96	68	164
2	Nate Hunter	28	18	77	22	66	0	-0	19	42	5	47	!	92	10	102
10	Jeff Hagen	28	11	78	19	62	0	-0	6	38	9	47	!	137	11	148
8	Marko Djordjevic	26	21	50	30	8	3	-10	26	20	21	41	!	57	27	84
3	Tommy Stupp	28	7	35	35	6	14	-29	8	14	23	37	!	44	45	89
6	Cooper Dolan	28	1	56	23	1	0	-1	14	19	11	30	!	19	11	30
5	R.J. Moore	28	25	33	25	4	0	-0	16	16	3	19	!	64	27	91
1	Charlie Niehaus	28	28	4	18	0	0	-0	0	0	17	17	!	0	21	21
12	Logan Schofield	17	0	28	3	9	0	-2	3	15	1	16	!	15	1	16
16	Johnathan Coleman	10	0	8	11	0	0	-0	4	3	2	5	!	8	5	13
7	Cullen Jacuzzi	11	0	8	4	0	0	-2	7	3	2	5	!	3	2	5
18	Danny Farmer	10	0	5	5	0	2	-4	4	0	5	5	!	5	7	12
14	Jordan White	10	0	3	2	0	0	-0	3	2	2	4	!	4	3	7
1A	Alex Pullin	10	0	0	1	0	0	-0	0	0	0	0	!	0	0	0
TOTALS				825	378	221	46	-112	175	388	218	606	!	797	457	1254

GOALKEEPING

	GP	GS	Saves	Min.	Goals		Saves	GA	Save%
					Against	Save%			
Charlie Niehaus	28	28	287	828:07	219	.567	555	503	.525
Alex Pullin	10	0	24	75:43	23	.511	24	23	.511
TOTALS	28	28	311		242	.562	579	526	.524

Individual Season Highs

Goals:	14, Rade Joksimovic vs. Connecticut College (11/18)
Assists:	6, Rade Joksimovic vs. Salem International (9/16)
Points:	15, Rade Joksimovic vs. Connecticut College (11/18)
Steals:	8, Rade Joksimovic vs. Salem International (9/16)
ED:	6, Nate Hunter at Harvard (10/16), Jeff Hagen at Harvard (11/26)
Saves:	18, Charlie Niehaus at Johns Hopkins (9/25), Charlie Niehaus vs. George Washington (10/8)

Team Season Highs

Goals:	24, vs. Salem International (9/16), vs. Connecticut College (11/18)
Assists:	18, vs. Salem International (9/16)
Points:	42, vs. Salem International (9/16)
Steals:	28, at Fordham (10/1)
ED:	16, at Harvard (10/16), vs. Loyola Marymount (10/22)
Saves:	18, at Johns Hopkins (9/25), vs. George Washington (10/8)

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	OT	OT	OT	FINAL
Bucknell	107	98	97	81	3	2	0	0	388
Opponent	61	60	58	59	2	1	1	0	242

TONY PAXTON '81 ALSO TABBED FOR CWPA HALL OF FAME



In addition to his selection to the Bucknell University Athletics Hall of Fame, Tony Paxton '81 was also selected to the Collegiate Water Polo Association Hall of Fame. We caught up with him when he was back for his induction at the Mid-Atlantic Championship.

1. What is your greatest memory as a Bucknell Student Athlete?

I think going to NCAAs three years in a row, pushing Pepperdine to the last second, that was something I'll always remember...but nothing compares to beating NYAC (the first time BU ever beat NYAC) my junior year, 3-2. The fans were hanging from the rafters, and it was so loud, we couldn't even hear the whistle, even the one that said the game was over. How many times can you say your team only scored three goals and you still won. I think both old teams that played in that game remember what a slugfest it was.

2. How has Bucknell impacted your life after graduation?

I think the friendships developed during my time there have stayed with me and always will. I always feel like I have someone I can talk to, about anything.

3. How did it feel to be recognized this year for all of your efforts by the CWPA and Bucknell HOF?

The BU Hall of Fame ceremony was awesome! They made it so special and having eight teammates (and my wife) there to celebrate with me was such a bonus. It brought back some really great memories. When I saw all the other inductees and what they did, it did confirm what an honor it was. The CWPA award was a nice touch as well. The highlight was having my parents and wife there and then watching BU play that night. It was with great pride that I got to join many of my friends, teammates and competitors in the HOF.

STATS & FIGURES FROM 2016 WOMEN'S SEASON

- Bucknell finished the 2016 season 18-15 and finished in fifth place at the CWPA Championship. It marked the most wins for the Bison since 2009 and was their best postseason finish since 2010.

- **2016 graduate Hannah Sunday was named First Team CWPA All-Conference for the third straight year last season. She was also named an Honorable Mention All-American.**

- Bucknell head coach John McBride earned his first career CWPA Coach of the Year citation last spring.

- **Bucknell's leading returning scorer this year is sophomore Emily Konishi. She totaled 36 goals and 35 assists for 71 points. Juniors Colleen Barron (37) and Marta Considine (27) as well as senior Tegan Stanbach (29) also return after netting more than 20 goals a year ago.**

- Bucknell opens its 2017 season at Brown's Bruno Classic the first weekend in February. The Bison will be home Feb. 10-12, Feb. 25, and April 1-2.



Hannah Sunday



Emily Konishi



Marta Considine



Colleen Barron

SEVEN NEW FACES TO DOT WOMEN'S WATER POLO ROSTER IN 2017

Seven new faces will appear on the Bucknell women's water polo roster in 2017 as Bison head coach John McBride announce the program's latest recruiting class. It is a true national class as four players are from California, while one each are from Nevada and Texas, as well as one from Pennsylvania.

"This is a deep and talented class which I am looking forward to coaching," commented McBride, the 2016 CWPA Coach of the Year who ranks second on the program's all-time wins list with 68. "We have improved each of the last few years and this class can help us continue on that upward trajectory in the league. We lost a strong senior class - which included our top two scorers - to graduation, but we have a good group coming back and these new players will make their push for playing time."

The women's water polo Class of 2020 will need to adjust to life away from home. The seven members of the class will be attending school an average of 2,106 miles from home. The six non-Pennsylvania residents live an average of 2,437 miles from Bucknell.

Bucknell is coming off an 18-15 record this past spring, its most wins since 2009. The Bison finished in fifth place at the CWPA Championship, its best showing at the prestigious event since 2010. Bucknell's win total has increased in each of the last three years.

Bucknell Women's Water Polo Recruiting Class

Nina Benson - Henderson, Nev./Green Valley
 Arianne Evans - Laguna Nigel, Calif./Deerfield Academy (Mass.)
 Katie Nedrow - Irving, Texas/Carroll
 Hayley Pogue - San Diego, Calif./Torrey Pines
 Gigi Rojahn - Palo Alto, Calif./Palo Alto
 Savannah Weaver - San Jose, Calif./Summit Public School Rainier
 Matylda Zaklicki - Shillington, Pa./The Hill School

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

Bruno Classic -- Providence, R.I.

Feb. 4	vs. Azusa Pacific	10:20 a.m.
	vs. McKendree	7:40 p.m.
Feb. 5	vs. Marist	10:20 a.m.

Bison Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.

Feb. 10	vs. Gannon	8:15 p.m.
Feb. 11	vs. Mercyhurst	11:15 a.m.
	vs. St. Francis (N.Y.)	4:15 p.m.
Feb. 12	vs. Wagner	2:15 p.m.

Mercyhurst Invitational -- Erie, Pa.

Feb. 18	vs. George Wash.	1:30 p.m.
	at Mercyhurst	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	vs. VMI	8:45 a.m.
	vs. Gannon	1:45 p.m.

Feb. 25	vs. Hartwick*	2:00 p.m.
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Wolverine Invitational -- Ann Arbor, Mich.

Mar. 4	vs. Santa Clara	2:50 p.m.
	vs. UC Irvine	7:40 p.m.
Mar. 5	vs. UC Davis	10:20 a.m.
	vs. Arizona State	3:00 p.m.



Aztec Invitational -- San Diego, Cal.

Mar. 11	vs. UC San Diego	11:00 a.m.
	vs. Chapman	2:45 p.m.
Mar. 12	vs. Whittier	2:45 p.m.
	at San Diego State	6:30 p.m.

Mar. 15	at Pomona Pitzer	5:00 p.m.
	at Claremont-M.S.	10:00 p.m.

Mar. 16	at Long Beach State	10:00 p.m.
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Apr. 1	vs. George Wash.*	2:30 p.m.
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	vs. Princeton*	7:00 p.m.
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Apr. 2	vs. St. Francis (N.Y.)	9:00 a.m.
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	vs. Michigan*	3:00 p.m.
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Apr. 8	vs. Harvard*	10:00 a.m.
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	vs. Indiana*	4:30 p.m.
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Apr. 9	vs. Brown*	10:30 a.m.
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CWPA Championship -- Bloomington, Indiana

April 28	vs. TBA	TBA
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April 29	vs. TBA	TBA
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April 30	vs. TBA	TBA
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* - Conference games
 All times Eastern
 Home Game **BOLD**

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BUCKNELL WATER POLO NEEDS YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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.

We have established a fundraising goal this year of \$95,000. Thanks to the support of many parents, alumni and friends, as of the end of November we sat at \$46,000, or 48% of goal. If you have not yet made your contribution this year you can do so now and help 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.

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.