

“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!

The leaves have fallen off the trees and the cold weather has taken hold of the Bucknell campus as the men have just finished their 2015 campaign and the women are preparing for their 2016 run at a championship.

The men's season didn't go as well as we had planned. A few key players did not return to the team this season which handcuffed our potential for success this year but the very talented athletes that did return worked as hard as ever to bring success to the orange and blue. The last three seasons the men had returned to the Southern Championship game winning once in 2012 which allowed us to finish 2nd in the Eastern Championship game for the first time since 1992. The two seasons after that we continued to make it to the Southern Championship game but fell short each time placing second. 2015 was supposed to be the year we win it all but unfortunately we finished in sixth place. Now we begin the rebuilding phase, with the new incoming class that should be loaded with talent, and our plan is to get back to the Eastern Championship game and finish as winners and move on to NCAA's.

The women's team has been training hard in their off season and they look very good. We are a very deep team with a lot of talent in all positions. The women played one game in the off season and won in solid fashion. Our expectations are high as we get ready for a very challenging schedule that will give us the opportunity to peak and compete hard when it counts, in April!! The women will be travelling quite a bit this year and as always your help is needed. The schedule set up by the CWPA has us competing all over the map. Your continued support for both the men's and women's programs is vital to our success.

I want to thank everyone that has continued to support us unconditionally. Your commitment to Bucknell Water Polo is admirable and inspirational. We are still trying to raise the money to cover the cost of the men's California trip and with the women's upcoming trip in March we have a lot of work to do. I also want to emphasize how your contributions affect the programs in other ways. I make a promise during recruiting to the athletes that their athletic experience will be one they will never forget because of the tremendous alumni support for Bucknell Water Polo. One of the questions that we get is, "How much do I have to pay for travel and gear when I'm at Bucknell?" When I tell them that there is no additional costs they are typically shocked because at a lot of schools the athletes have to pay something or the coaches have to be creative on lodging, equipment, etc.. which means the athletes are not getting the full Division 1 experience. It is a tremendous feeling as a coach to be able to say that knowing that we have the support that we do. I also want you to know that I remind the athletes how thankful they should be that they have an alumni base like yourselves that give and care as much as they do about not only their success in the pool but also in the classroom. I am confident that we will be able to raise the money based on your support last year which was amazing. 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



MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT COACH BRET LATHROPE

How has your transition from UCLA/Southern California to Bucknell/Lewisburg PA gone so far?



The transition from UCLA and Southern California to Bucknell and Lewisburg has actually been quite easy. Life, in general, is much simpler, which can have its positives and negatives. Everything I need is close, so I don't have to spend my days in a car trying to get everywhere I need to be, which is awesome. The social scene is very different than what I am used to, but I made a good group of friends in the other young assistants. Working with the team during the men's season was a great experience and kept me busy, and I look forward to my first women's season. All in all, life is good.



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COLLEGE ALUMNI TOURNAMENT

It is approximately one month away and we would love to see you attend. If it has been in the back of your mind, yet you are hesitant to go because you are out of Water Polo shape, well then I have news for you, EVERYONE is out of water polo shape. This weekend is more about just getting together and meeting people you haven't seen for a long time even from other teams. You do not have to compete to really enjoy the weekend. Even if you just want to get away and hang out with old friends and provide moral support that would be great. I would recommend, however, you bring a suit just in case you get bit by the competitive water polo bug!! If you want to go please contact John Zeigler '91 at johnzeigler@aol.com.

College Alumni Tournament
Lake Brantley Aquatic Center
991 Sand Lake Road
Altamonte Springs Florida

February 27-28, 2016

SEP WPC would like to invite you to our annual College Alumni Tournament in Central Florida. This event fills up yearly so please confirm early by emailing Nick Gaffey at SEPwaterpolo@gmail.com. The event is hosted at Lake Brantley Aquatic Center and features alumni teams from all over the country. This is a great time to reconnect with old college teammates and enjoy some good water polo and great weather.

Divisions:
Varsity men, Club men, and Open women.

Competition Details: Brackets and advancement formats TBD (4X6 min quarters, 2X1 min T/O's, Shoot-out for advancement in brackets)

Questions: Nick Gaffey
SEPwaterpolo@gmail.com
321-356-9696



STEFAN ALEKSIC & SEAN DALEY EARN HONORABLE MENTION ALL-AMERICA HONORS

For the fourth straight year the Bucknell men's water polo program has two Honorable Mention All-America honorees, and for the third consecutive year senior



Stefan Aleksic (Belgrade, Serbia/Sport Gymnasium) is one of them. The Association of College Water Polo Coaches recognized Aleksic and junior Sean Daley (Mechanicsburg, Pa./Cumberland Valley) as two of the 62 players named All-Americans. There were a total of 22 players on one of the three All-America teams and 40 more in the Honorable Mention listing.

Aleksic becomes the first Bison to earn three consecutive Honorable Mention All-America citations since Richie Hyden from 2008 to 2010. No other Bucknell player has ever had more than two All-America awards.

A four-time member of the CWPA Championship All-Tournament Team and a three-time All-CWPA Southern Division honoree, Aleksic finished this season with a career-high 67 goals, 30 assists and 97 points. In addition to leading Bucknell in goals and points, he posted a team-high 68 steals, which place him fifth on the program's single-season ledger.

On a career level, Aleksic, who was the 2012 CWPA Championship Rookie of the Year, will graduate ranked in the top 10 in program history in goals (213, 8th), assists (152, 7th) and points (365, 8th).

Daley was exception in 2015 in his second year as a full-time starter. The utility player tied for fourth on the team with a career-high 34 goals, led the squad with a career-high 56 assists and his career-high 90 points ranked second to only Aleksic. Daley also led the team with 34 sprints won, and his career-high 51 steals ranked second behind Aleksic.



A Second Team All-CWPA Southern Division selection, Daley has 72 goals, 120 assists and 192 points in his three-year Bucknell career. He was one of two Bison along with Aleksic to start all 31 games this past fall.

Aleksic and Daley helped lead Bucknell to an 18-13 record in 2015, its most wins since the 2007 campaign. The Bison were ranked 20th nationally in the final poll.

A WORD FROM THE MEN'S CAPTAINS



Stefan Aleksic



Jedd Thayer



Max Wilder

What is the one thing you will take away from Bucknell as a student-athlete?

Stefan Aleksic:

What I learned from being a student/athlete at Bucknell is how to manage my time, meet my responsibility and work under pressure. That is something I really appreciate, because I think it prepared me very well for the real life after college.

Jedd Thayer:

One thing that I will take away from being a student-athlete at Bucknell University is leadership and cooperation skills. Being a captain this year, it was vital to be an individual that others on the team could look up to, count on, or be approachable if something was ever wrong. Whether it's in the pool, academically, or socially, learning to be an amicable teammate to help with anything, while at the same time be a leader along-side Stefan and Max, was an important skill learned not only this past year, but throughout my four years at Bucknell.

Max Wilder:

Playing a Division I sport for all four years of college is something I will be proud of for the rest of my life. My teammates have become some of my closest and trusted friends.

Your best athletic memory at Bucknell, and why?

Aleksic: Best athletic memory was winning Southern my freshman year, since it was the first time Bucknell did it in the history, and because we almost got knocked out in the first phase, but we were able to win the first game in overtime and then win the entire tournament.

Thayer: Beating George Washington in our first game of Southern Championships my freshman year was my most notable athletic memory at Bucknell. Going back and forth the entire game, they took us to sudden death overtime where Brian Barron scored the game-winning goal. Seeing the excitement on everybody's faces after that game, I think our team knew we were heading to the Eastern Championship Finals. Seeing our team come together to win a game and watching us carry that momentum deep into the playoffs was my most distinct memory at Bucknell.

Wilder: The eastern championship run my freshman year. It was a magical run and I have never been a part of a more cohesive and driven team.

If you were going to give any advice to an incoming freshman student-athlete what would it be?

Aleksic: Be persistent at everything you do. Work hard, and even though it gets tough sometimes, never give up. Learn about what it takes to be a great teammate and leader.

Thayer: Advice that I would give to incoming freshman would be to make the most out of every single year you are apart of the team. Talk to and learn from the older guys about how to help out as a freshman or sophomore. Strive to make a positive impact on the team everyday because, as you will probably hear 1000 times your freshman year, the time you spend at Bucknell goes quickly. Make every second worth it.

Wilder: Enjoy the process no matter how hard the practice or if you are getting playing time. Remember you are playing the sport you love so value that opportunity.

MEN'S RESULTS

Bruno Classic -- Providence, R.I.

Sept. 5	vs. Harvard	W, 10-8
	vs. #17 St. Francis-NY	W, 8-7
	vs. Claremont-M.S.	L, 14-9
Sept. 6	vs. #4 Stanford	L, 20-4

Bison Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.

Sept. 11	vs. #13 Brown	W, 8-7
Sept. 12	vs. Penn St. Behrend	W, 14-3
	vs. Fordham	W, 10-1
Sept. 13	vs. Toronto	W, 14-11
	vs. Wash. & Jefferson	W, 20-8

Sept. 26	at #George Wash.*	W, 14-12 (OT)
	at #17 Johns Hopkins*	L, 13-12
Oct. 10	vs. George Wash.*	W, 17-10
	vs. #11 Princeton*	L, 6-4
Oct. 11	vs. Johns Hopkins*	W, 9-4
	vs. Navy*	W, 15-11
Oct. 17	at Navy*	L, 9-7
Oct. 23	at #4 Pacific	L, 15-8

Santa Clara Rodeo -- Santa Clara, Calif.

Oct. 24	vs. Cal Baptist	W, 11-3
	vs. #10 UC Davis	L, 12-4
Oct. 25	at #16 Santa Clara	L, 12-8
	vs. Fresno Pacific	W, 20-11
Oct. 31	at #10 Princeton*	L, 9-7
Nov. 1	vs. Mercyhurst	W, 16-6

Southern Championships -- Lewisburg, Pa.

Nov. 6	vs. Washington & Jefferson	W, 18-9
Nov. 7	vs. Penn St. Behrend	W, 14-6
	vs. Johns Hopkins	L, 8-4
Nov. 8	vs. Navy	L, 15-13 (OT)

CWPA Championship -- Cambridge, Mass.

Nov. 20	vs. George Washington	W, 17-4
Nov. 20	vs. #11 Princeton	L, 11-7
Nov. 21	vs. Navy	W, 15-13
Nov. 22	vs. St. Francis-NY	L, 9-6

* - Conference opponent

2015 MEN'S WATER POLO SEASON STATISTICS

BUCKNELL SCORING

		GP	GS	Shots	Steals	Ejections			SEASON			CAREER			
						Drawn	Sprints	Eject.	Goals	Assts.	Pts.	G	A	Pts.	
3	Stefan Aleksic	31	31	144	68	25	0	0	32	67	30	97	213	152	365
9	Sean Daley	31	31	86	51	19	34	-64	42	34	56	90	72	120	192
11	Ratimir Babic	30	28	113	31	23	0	-1	22	29	33	62	61	50	111
10	Jeff Hagen	31	20	97	21	70	0	-0	11	59	2	61	99	2	101
13	Tommy Stupp	31	27	59	33	12	23	-38	13	26	20	46	30	22	52
8	Marko Djordjevic	29	24	91	21	7	0	-1	38	37	6	43	37	6	43
2	Nate Hunter	28	12	65	12	69	0	-0	19	34	5	39	50	5	55
4	Borna Bolanca	29	4	40	15	13	4	-7	25	17	13	30	17	13	30
5	R.J. Moore	31	11	62	38	8	0	-0	34	21	8	29	48	24	72
6	Max Wilder	27	0	18	3	2	1	-1	10	5	8	13	12	22	34
16	Johnathan Coleman	12	0	13	3	1	1	-1	3	5	3	8	5	3	8
18	Danny Farmer	21	0	18	5	3	0	-1	7	5	2	7	5	2	7
12	Jedd Thayer	17	0	9	7	1	4	-6	3	3	2	5	10	5	15
1	Charlie Niehaus	30	30	2	16	0	0	-0	2	0	3	3	0	4	4
14	Jordan White	12	0	8	1	0	2	-3	5	2	0	2	2	1	3
1A	Patrick McKenzie	3	1	0	0	0	0	-0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2
7	Matt Bresnahan	3	0	0	0	0	0	-0	2	0	0	0	4	2	6
TOTALS				825	325	253	69	-123	268	344	192	536	665	435	1100

GOALKEEPING

	GP	GS	Saves	Min.	Goals		Saves	GA	Save%
					Against	Save%			
Charlie Niehaus	30	30	254	936:25	274	.481	268	284	.486
Patrick McKenzie	3	1	20	67:35	13	.606	48	38	.558
TOTALS	31	31	274		287	.488	316	322	.495

Individual Season Highs

Goals:	5, Stefan Aleksic vs. Washington & Jefferson (9/13), Jeff Hagen at George Washington (9/26), Stefan Aleksic at Johns Hopkins (9/26), Jeff Hagen at George Washington (9/26)
Assists:	5, Sean Daley vs. Navy (10/11), Sean Daley vs. Mercyhurst (11/1), Ratimir Babic vs. George Washington (11/20)
Points:	8, Sean Daley vs. Mercyhurst (11/1)
Steals:	7, Stefan Aleksic vs. George Washington (10/10), Sean Daley vs. Cal Baptist (10/24)
ED:	7, Jeff Hagen at George Washington (9/26), Nate Hunter vs. Navy (11/8), Nate Hunter vs. Navy (11/21/15)
Saves:	14, Charlie Niehaus, vs. Navy (11/8)

Team Season Highs

Goals:	20, vs. Washington & Jefferson (9/13), vs. Fresno Pacific (10/25)
Assists:	14, vs. George Washington (11/20)
Points:	31, vs. George Washington (11/20)
Steals:	26, vs. George Washington (11/20)
ED:	20, vs. Navy (11/8)
Saves:	14, vs. Navy (11/8)

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	OT	OT	OT	FINAL
Bucknell	92	82	86	81	3	0	0	0	344
Opponent	70	76	80	58	1	2	0	0	287



A WORD FROM THE WOMEN'S CAPTAINS



Eleanor Marrs



Hannah Sunday

You have been training all fall for the upcoming spring season. How do you feel the team looks at this point, and what are your expectations for the season?

The team looks really strong as a whole. We have a lot of strong returning players and some first years who are extremely promising. We expect us to start season with a confident season and to place higher in Eastern championships than we have in the past few years. We expect to be a more consistent team than we have been in the past.

As captains, what advice do you have for the first-years as they prepare for their first varsity season?

We advise the first years to not be afraid to play in their first college games and not be afraid to make mistakes. They should be willing to try new things rather than stick to old habits, because they all have the skills and knowledge to succeed at this level.

How will you approach this season differently as one of the Bucknell team captains?

As captains, we are conscious that we need to be setting a good example for our teammates at all times. We will make sure to communicate with everyone effectively so everyone feels that their voices are heard.



What is the most rewarding aspect of being a member of the Bucknell Women's Water polo team?

The most rewarding aspect of being a member of the Bucknell Women's Water polo team is having the unwavering support and friendship of seventeen other girls

and being able to learn from them both in and out of the water.

WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

Bruno Classic -- Providence, R.I.

Feb. 6	vs. Marist	9:00 a.m.
	vs. Hawaii	5:10 p.m.
Feb. 7	vs. St. Francis-NY	9:10 a.m.
	vs. Wagner	12:40 p.m.
	vs. VMI	W, 14-12
	vs. St. Francis	W, 13-3

Princeton Invitational -- Princeton, N.J.

Feb. 13	vs. Wagner	11:30 a.m.
	vs. Iona	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	vs. Cal Lutheran	8:30 a.m.
	vs. Villanova	2:30 p.m.

Bison Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.

Feb. 27	vs. George Washington	10:00 a.m.
	vs. Gannon	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 28	vs. Wagner	9:30 a.m.
	vs. VMI	2:00 p.m.

Wolverine Invitational -- Ann Arbor, Mich.

Mar. 5	vs. George Washington	11:30 a.m.
	vs. Long Beach State	6:20 p.m.
Mar. 6	vs. Loyola Marymount	8:20 a.m.
	vs. UCLA	4:40 p.m.

Aztec Invitational -- San Diego, Cal.

Mar. 12	vs. UC San Diego	12:00 p.m.
	vs. Chapman	5:45 p.m.
Mar. 13	at San Diego State	5:00 p.m.
Mar. 14	at Cal Lutheran	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 15	at Claremont-M.S.	6:00 p.m.
Mar. 17	at Long Beach State	10:00 p.m.
Mar. 26	vs. Mercyhurst*	TBA
Apr. 9	vs. Hartwick*	9:30 a.m.
	vs. Brown*	5:00 p.m.
Apr. 10	at George Washington*	10:00 a.m.
Apr. 16	vs. Michigan*	12:40 p.m.
	vs. Harvard*	6:00 p.m.
Apr. 17	vs. Indiana*	11:40 a.m.
	at Princeton*	5:00 p.m.

CWPA Championship -- Cambridge, Mass.

April 29	vs. TBA	TBA
April 30	vs. TBA	TBA
May 1	vs. TBA	TBA

* - Conference opponent
All times Eastern



Water Polo Office
Bucknell University
One Dent Drive
Lewisburg, PA 17837

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.

Our fundraising goal this year, as set by the administration, was \$90,000. Thanks to the support of many parents, alumni and friends, as of the end of December we sat at \$65,000, or 72% 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.