

“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!

Well we didn't think things around Lewisburg could get any colder than last year but we were sadly mistaken. This past winter was brutal and any time there were temps over forty degrees the students were walking around campus in shorts and t-shirts.

Fortunately the women were able to make their annual trip to sunny and warm Southern California. It was the best trip that we have had since I have been here as far as performance has gone. We played five ranked teams and our very young team, with six freshmen, played exceptionally well. The end of the women's season closed with a seventh place finish at the CWPA Championships. We played five games in one weekend which is the toughest schedule played since my time at Bucknell.

The men had a phenomenal trip to Europe in May, visiting both Serbia and Greece (see more info inside this newsletter). They trained and competed in both countries against some of the best club teams in the world. This trip should set them up for a great 2015 season.

Speaking of 2015, we have added two strong recruiting classes for both programs. Recruiting has become stronger every year due to the success of the water polo programs and the elite education offered by Bucknell University. These classes will continue to bring pride to Bucknell Water Polo's past and present student-athletes.

As we move through 2015 we are always challenged with fundraising to help run both programs and keep us at a very competitive level. Last year we saw recorded the strongest year for giving in program history by raising \$89,000. We have been charged this year with meeting a \$90,000 goal and we are well on our way. I want to thank all of those that have continued to support us unconditionally. Your commitment to Bucknell Water Polo is admirable and inspirational. Our success is contingent on your support. If you haven't sent in your annual gift please know that we still have work to do and I hope that you find comfort in knowing that your gift directly impacts the day to day operations of our programs.

GO BISON!

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

John McBride
Head Water Polo Coach

AQUATICS PROGRAMS REUNITE DURING REUNION WEEKEND

The water polo and swimming and diving programs combined to host a morning coffee followed by a free swim and water polo alumni game during Reunion Weekend here at Bucknell University. Nearly 20 former athletes donned caps and had a blast in the friendly alumni game. Those who returned to campus included: Cody Keffer '05, Randy Ang '10, Nick Donahue '10, former coach John Zeigler '91, Nick Bijur '95, Sean Tierney '95, Peter Mertz '95, Eileen Ketterer '05, Chris Retzler '93, Katie Hartigan '05, Tom Boak '65, Spencer Hallowell '10, James O'Kane '90, Nikki (Seaman) Iselin '09, David Iselin '10, Brett Carey '10, Allie (Fitzpatrick) Carey '10, Abby Paules '10, Abby Atkinson '10, Eliza Massie '10, Lauren Arey '10, Brad Fortin '80, and Megan Mongan '10.



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CAPTAIN'S CORNER

We knew this season was going to be challenging after losing five starters, and that our freshman class would need to make a big impact and returning players would need to step up. Everyone accepted the challenge. Our freshman class adjusted well to the new level of play and learned our style very quickly.



Sayeh Bozorghadad



Hannah Sunday

We started off the season strong at home going 5-1 our first weekend. It was a great way to start out, and it got everyone very excited for what was to come. While the outcome of our second weekend at home was not what we had all hoped for, we played four good games and it showed us what we needed to work on so we could continue to grow throughout the season. We continued to grow playing against some very tough opponents in California, but we knew those games were very important to learn and to continue to gain experience as a team.

Upon returning home to the east coast we worked on our game in a four-game exhibition tournament in Kinney Natatorium, and then captured three of our final five league games before entering the CWPA Championship as the 7th seed.

We won our opening game rather easily before falling to 18th-ranked Michigan in a close contest. We lost 11-8, which was a marked improvement from our 13-4 setback during the final game of the regular season to the Wolverines. While we didn't accomplish our goal of a fifth-place or higher finish at the CWPA Championships (finished 7th), we won 14 games and had our first .500 season or above since 2010. There is much to be proud of, and even more to look forward to.

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
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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 RESULTS

Bison Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.

Feb. 13	vs. Notre Dame College	W, 15-4
Feb. 14	vs. George Washington	W, 16-11
	vs. Siena	W, 10-7
Feb. 15	vs. #19 Hartwick*	L, 13-7
	vs. VMI	W, 14-12
	vs. St. Francis	W, 13-3

Feb. 28	vs. #11 Princeton*	L, 9-6
	vs. George Washington*	W, 11-4
Mar. 1	vs. Harvard*	L, 12-5
	vs. Brown*	L, 6-4

Mar. 10	vs. Cal Baptist	L, 11-5
Mar. 11	vs. Claremont	W, 11-6
	vs. Pomona-Pitzer	L, 11-9
Mar. 12	vs. #14 Long Beach	L, 10-3

Aztec Tournament -- San Diego, Calif.

Mar. 14	vs. #20 UC San Diego	L, 13-6
	vs. #12 San Diego State	L, 9-2
Mar. 15	vs. #15 Pacific	L, 5-2
	vs. Whittier	W, 11-7

Bucknell Invitational -- Lewisburg, Pa.

Mar. 28	vs. West Chester (exhib.)	6-3
	vs. Penn State (exhib.)	12-8
Mar. 29	vs. Carnegie Mellon (exhib.)	6-3
	vs. Pittsburgh (exhib.)	10-5

April 11	at Gannon*	W, 14-10
April 12	at Mercyhurst*	W, 11-8
April 18	vs. Notre Dame College*	W, 15-7
	at #18 Indiana*	L, 18-10
April 19	vs. #16 Michigan*	L, 13-4

CWPA Championship --

Princeton, N.J.

April 24	vs. Connecticut College	W, 14-4
	vs. #18 Michigan	L, 11-8
April 25	vs. Mercyhurst	W, 10-5
	vs. Harvard	L, 14-7
April 26	vs. George Washington	W, 9-6

SUNDAY NAMED TO ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM



Junior Hannah Sunday earned her second consecutive first-team CWPA All-Conference citation, becoming Bucknell's first player to be named first-team all-conference in back-to-back years since Kandis Canonica in 2010 and 2011.

Just a three days later, she earned her second award from the CWPA when she was named to the CWPA Championship All-Tournament Second Team.

A two-time CWPA Championship All-Tournament Second Team selection, Sunday totaled seven goals during Bucknell's five games in the championship. She finished the season with a team-high 56, establishing a new career high.

Sunday is the first Bison to be named All-Tournament at the CWPA Championship in back-to-back years since Kandis Canonica in 2010 and 2011.

Sunday started all 28 games this season and 55 over the last two years and her career-high 57 points ranked second on the team. She now has 125 career goals to rank 15th in program history. Sunday also led Bucknell with 90 ejections drawn this year.

Q & A WITH FORMER BISON HALLIE KENNAN '12



1. What do you miss most about your Bucknell Water Polo experience?

My most memorable moment was probably one of my favorite moments as well. It was the day we beat Princeton on ESPN-U my freshman year. The cards definitely weren't in our favor for that game; not only were we playing at Princeton's pool, but our starting goalie was out with a concussion and there was the additional distraction from friends enjoying Houseparty Weekend back on campus. Despite everything, the team was completely at ease, and we played with more confidence than we had all season. Losing that game wasn't an option, and we all felt it. We beat Princeton by two points, the first time in years that we'd come out on top by more than a goal. I can't remember a happier, more satisfying bus ride back to Bucknell.

2. Have you continued to play the game since graduation?

I feel like I will always have the 'athlete bug' so exercise has stayed a big part of my life even after Bucknell. Most often this means going to the gym, though I take every chance I can get to swim in an outdoor pool (which can be hard to come by in a big city). There are a couple masters water polo teams in the area that I should really check out one of these days.

3. What advice would you pass on to the current Bison polo players?

The lessons I learned from being a student-athlete have proven more valuable than nearly anything else I gained during my four years at Bucknell. It taught me how to take criticism (as well as give it in a constructive, effective way), how to turn every mistake into a learning opportunity, and how to make sacrifices for the betterment of the whole. I think most importantly, it showed me the absolute limits I am able to go when I am passionate about something. Years later, I'm still astounded by the things I was capable of as a student-athlete, many of which I don't think I'd be able to handle as well (if at all) today. Knowing all the physical and mental 'tests' I was able to overcome is what motivates me and inspires me today, and probably will for years to come. So my advice to current Bucknell athletes is to recognize all the hard work you put in during your time as a student-athlete. Take your four seasons at Bucknell as an opportunity to see how far you can push yourself and find out what you can accomplish, knowing that it may be a benchmark for yourself the rest of your life.

Q & A WITH FORMER BISON MIKE KIMBLE '14

1. What do you miss most about your Bucknell Water Polo experience?

The thing I miss the most about Bucknell Water Polo is the comradery and sense of community that comes with being a Bison athlete. We developed very strong friendships throughout our four years at Bucknell and although my team does a good job of keeping in touch, we all still miss the inherent team atmosphere that we had previously thrived on. You come to rely on your teammates like family and this is hard to let go of. Even though this is something I miss dearly, it is also a part of me that I truly cherish. I know I have life long friends and I must thank Bucknell for this; it was a honor to spend my four years with such an amazing group of friends and teammates.

2. Have you continued to play the game since graduation?

There are a few ways that I get my water polo fix. I am fortunate enough to live in the San Francisco area where there is high level water polo being played constantly. For example, last weekend the USA Water Polo's National League Championship was played at the local high school and I went and saw a lot of young talent honing their skills with current college and Olympic athletes. Additionally, I have started coaching again for my local club team. I had coached previously and I was excited to pick it back up again and contribute my experience to the development of the sport. I know water polo will always be a very relevant part of my life and it has helped shaped me into the man I am today. I am excited to pass on my love of the sport and passion for competition to the next generation of athletes.

3. What advice would you pass on to the current Bison polo players?

There is a lot of advice I wish to tell the current team but the most important piece is to cherish every second of your journey. I think all alumni can agree with me when I say that you won't understand how fast it goes by until it's gone. Soon you will all be at different jobs in different cities and you will wish for one more practice or game with your best friends. Secondly, leave it all in the pool everyday. Coach McBride always said that "even if you make a mistake, make it at 100%" and I think this is a phenomenal lesson not just for sports but also in life. This type of determination will be a valued skill in years to come. Lastly, water polo will teach you many things in life so take advantage of every opportunity you have to learn and better yourself. Being a bison athlete is a phenomenal gift and is a privilege that will follow you for your entire life.



2015 WOMEN'S WATER POLO SEASON STATISTICS

BUCKNELL SCORING

		GP	GS	Shots	Steals	Ejections			Field	Turn-	SEASON			CAREER			
						Drawn	Sprints	Eject.			Blocks	overs	Goals	Assts.	Pts.	G	A
16	Eleanor Marrs	28	28	120	34	7	24	-39	19	2	8	48	32	80	84	79	163
12	Hannah Sunday	28	28	95	30	90	0	-0	6	4	11	56	1	57	125	9	134
9	Taylor Barnett	28	22	96	28	11	6	-17	13	2	3	44	11	55	136	24	160
10	Sayeh Bozorghadad	28	28	32	28	3	0	-0	26	1	7	8	34	42	26	58	84
7	Kendyl Johnson	28	27	44	20	6	5	-16	20	5	18	16	18	34	16	18	34
3	Tegan Stanbach	28	28	46	36	5	0	-1	27	1	6	16	11	27	25	22	47
11	Colleen Barron	28	0	35	9	5	15	-23	10	1	6	14	7	21	14	7	21
4	Shyla Lintz	28	0	43	10	24	0	-0	3	2	15	18	1	19	18	1	19
14	Martine McCarthy	28	0	42	8	3	0	-0	6	0	15	12	7	19	18	8	26
5	Gigi Joudire	27	7	25	11	5	0	-0	21	0	6	8	5	13	8	5	13
17	Marta Considine	25	0	15	10	6	2	-2	3	1	13	6	6	12	6	6	12
13	Katherine DeRuff	20	0	10	2	1	0	-0	4	0	2	2	4	6	4	9	13
6	Julia Ingersoll	13	0	5	3	0	0	-1	6	0	0	3	1	4	5	3	8
2	Julia Ulrich	8	0	4	0	0	0	-0	2	0	0	1	2	3	1	2	3
1A	Manuela Herrera	17	13	0	2	0	0	-0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	3
1	Haley Derrod	15	15	0	6	0	0	-0	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	3	3
TOTALS				612	237	166	52	-99	167	19	110	252	146	398	486	257	743

GOALKEEPING

	GP	GS	Saves	Min.	Goals		Saves	GA	Save%
					Against	Save%			
Haley Derrod	15	15	93	408:00	116	.445	121	140	.464
Manuela Herrera	17	13	96	488:00	133	.419	96	133	.419
TOTALS	28	28	189		249	.432	217	273	.443

Individual Season Highs

Goals:	7, Hannah Sunday vs. VMI (2/15)
Assists:	5, Kendyl Johnson vs. Notre Dame College (2/13), Eleanor Marrs vs. George Washington (2/14)
Points:	8, Eleanor Marrs vs. George Washington (2/14)
Steals:	5, Hannah Sunday vs. St. Francis Brooklyn (2/15), Kendyl Johnson vs. Princeton (2/28), Tegan Stanbach at San Diego State (3/14)
ED:	8, Hannah Sunday at Pomona-Pitzer (3/11)
Saves:	11, Haley Derrod vs. Siena (2/14)

Team Season Highs

Goals:	16, vs. George Washington (2/14)
Assists:	15, vs. George Washington (2/14)
Points:	31, vs. George Washington (2/14)
Steals:	18, at San Diego State (3/14)
ED:	15, at Gannon (4/11)
Saves:	15, at Gannon (4/11)

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	OT	FINAL
Bucknell	70	64	55	63	0	0	252
Opponent	58	65	66	60	0	0	249



Bison scoring leader, Eleanor Marrs, had 48 goals and 32 assists during the 2015 season.

MEN'S POLO TEAM VISITS BELGRADE, SERBIA & GREECE

The Bucknell men's water polo team recently completed a training trip to Europe in May. The Bison spent most of their first week in Belgrade, Serbia, and then traveled to Greece. Below are a few journal entries written by junior utility player Matt Bresnahan as well as some photos from the trip.

May 11, 2015

After a long day of travel, the Bucknell Men's Water Polo team arrived in Belgrade, Serbia, where we were met by the families of team members Rasa Babic and Stefan Aleksic, who are native to the city of Belgrade.

Later that evening, we had our first official game of the week against Red Star. The game was hard-fought and goals came from an array of players including Rasa Babic, Max Wilder, Nate Hunter and Jeff Hagen.

May 13, 2015

The Bison headed back to the Tasmajdan Pool for another game against Starigrad this morning. Unlike the first game, each team came out firing, and there were a barrage of goals scored by each squad. Grant Curry caught the goalie by surprise with a shot from the outside for the first goal of the game, and Rasa Babic was soon to follow with a goal of his own. The goals from outside opened up centers Jeff Hagen and Nate Hunter for goals from the middle. Contributions came later from Tommy Stupp, Max Wilder and RJ Moore.

The team then boarded the bus and drove out to the country to visit the home of Rasa Babic for a wonderful lunch. The Babic family could not have been nicer, and served a roasted lamb and pig. After lunch, the team relaxed by the pool and played a few games of tennis before heading back to the city.

That evening, the Bison attended the Serbian Water Polo National Championship game between powerhouse clubs, Partizan and Radnicki. Partizan took an early two-goal lead and Radnicki wasn't able to balance the score until halftime. In the second half, Radnicki jumped ahead by two, and Partizan evened the score with less than a minute left, and almost won the game on a final-second shot attempt that flew over the crossbar. The game then went into a penalty shootout, where Partizan came out on top.



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BUCKNELL WATER POLO NEEDS YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Looking to make an end of the fiscal 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, was \$90,000. Thanks to the support of many parents, alumni and friends, as of the end of May we sat at \$92,867, or 103% of goal. If you have not yet made your contribution this year you can do so now and help us close in on \$100,000 in support of 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.