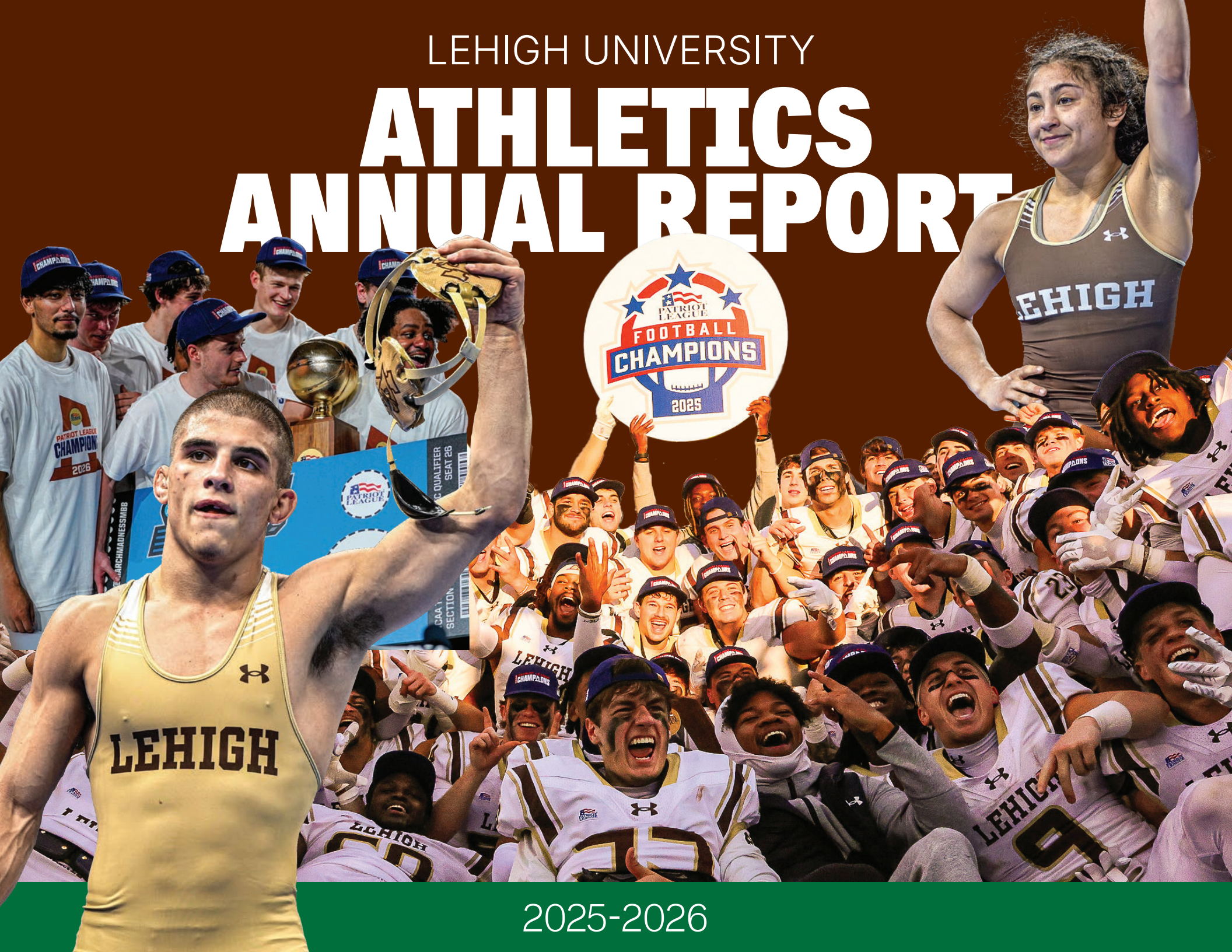
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS ANNUAL REPORT



2025-2026

THE MOMENTUM IS OURS

A year ago, I challenged the Lehigh Athletics community to dare to be great. Today, after watching our student-athletes, coaches, staff, and partners push boundaries over the past 12 months, I can confidently say: The momentum is ours. We are no longer just preparing for the future; we are actively making it.

Lehigh Athletics is growing, evolving, and rising.

Our commitment to competitive excellence has yielded remarkable results. This past year, our programs captured championships, earned national postseason berths, and proved that Lehigh belongs on the biggest stages. Our collective success was punctuated by our highest finish in the Learfield Directors' Cup standings since 2012, a true testament to the competitive depth and comprehensive excellence of our entire department.

We aren't just winning in isolated pockets; we are building a broad-based culture of champions.

But to sustain this trajectory in a rapidly shifting Division I landscape, we must back our ambition with historic action.

Within the final phase of Go Beyond: The Campaign for Future Makers, it is our aspiration to transform facilities, expand resources for student-athlete recruitment and development, and ensure we attract an retain world-class coaches.

The early response to this vision has been inspiring. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our alumni, parents, and friends, we have just concluded one of the most successful fundraising years in the history of our department. Your record-breaking investment proves that the Lehigh community does not just hope for success — it fuels it.

As college athletics landscape continues to evolve, name, image, and likeness (NIL) and the transfer portal remain dynamic forces, but Lehigh is not standing still. We are leaning into our unique strengths: a world-class academic foundation, a fiercely loyal alumni network, and a brand that commands respect across the nation.

Every championship banner, every record-breaking fundraising milestone, and every step we take to strengthen Lehigh Athletics belongs to you. Your presence in the stands, your advocacy in the community, and your financial investment are the engines driving this transformation.

We are a program in motion. We are bolder, stronger, and more unified than ever before. Thank you for standing with us as we shape the future of Lehigh Athletics.

Let's keep rising together!

Jeremy Gibson
Murray H. Goodman Dean of Athletics



DEVELOPING CHAMPIONS

Football, Patriot League Champion
Men's Basketball, Patriot League Champion
Men's Wrestling, EIWA Team Champion
Women's Wrestling, Super Region 2 Team Champion



Krysseah Ravenelle
Super Region 2 Champion
Women's Wrestling



Abbi Cooper
Super Region 2 Champion
Women's Wrestling



Luke Stanich
EIWA Champion
Men's Wrestling



Nathan Taylor
EIWA Champion
Men's Wrestling



Max Brignola
EIWA Champion
Men's Wrestling



Abby Klebe
Patriot League Champion, 800m
Women's Track & Field



Audrey Jimenez
NCAA Champion, NCAA Women's Wrestler of the Year, and Super Region 2 Champion
Women's Wrestling



Aubre Krazer
Super Region 2 Champion
Women's Wrestling



Sheldon Seymour
EIWA Champion
Men's Wrestling



Logan Rozynski
EIWA Champion
Men's Wrestling



Corinn Brewer,
Patriot League Champion, Pentathlon
Women's Track & Field



Laura Reigle
Patriot League Champion, Pole Vault
Women's Track & Field

Athletics Records

199-193-9 Overall Record

101 (out of 366) Learfield Cup Standings

Men 3rd, Women 5th (Overall 5th)
President's Cup

20-10-2 Overall Record Against Lafayette

90-35-3 Class of 2026 Four Year Record Against Lafayette

Academic Accomplishments

23 student-athletes named to Patriot League All-Academic Teams

400+ student-athletes named to Patriot League Honor Roll

119 4.0 GPAs posted in 2025-26 Academic Year

41 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District honorees

Top GPAs

Women's Teams
Lacrosse 3.67
Tennis 3.66
Field Hockey 3.63

Men's Teams
Tennis 3.61
Cross Country 3.53
Lacrosse 3.49

FOOTBALL

Year in Review

- Patriot League Champions
- 5th seed in FCS Playoffs
- NCAA FCS Playoffs 2nd Round Host
- 9th: End of Season Coaches Poll
- 12-1 Overall
- 7-0 Conference

Lehigh Athletics Awards

- **Tyler Ochojski** – John A. Cable Award, presented to the department's outstanding graduating male leader
- **Tyler Ochojski** and **Matt Spatny** – Distinguished Achievement Award, presented to seniors who display scholarship, athletics achievement, and service to the institution

Gifts

Given just 60 days to raise $1 million through a challenge gift from an anonymous donor who matched up to $500,000, Lehigh football reached the goal in only 40 days through 215 donors, raising the single largest current-use gift to the football operating budget in program history.

Andrew F. Vandergrift '79 and **Marybeth Vandergrift** made a lead gift of $2.5 million to name the Vandergrift Family Head Football Coach. When fully realized, the $5 million endowment will fund the position currently held by Richard Nagy.



News



Richard Nagy was elevated from defensive coordinator to serve as the Vandergrift Family Head Football Coach.

Canaan Kimball started playing football in kindergarten and opened his first business at age 7. Today, he's launched an app, *YumEats*, to help parents get their children to eat better, and *Deal and Dink*, a challenge-based pickleball game deck.

Recognitions

- 3 players were named to the National Football Foundation's Hampshire Honor Society for their on-field and academic achievements: **Brycen Edwards, Nick Garrido**, and **Dillon Sheehan**
- 4 players were named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team: **DJ Brown**, **Matt D'Avino**, **Colby Reph**, and **Charles Soska**
- **Tyler Ochojski** secured a fourth All-America honor, ECAC Defensive Player of the Year, and Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year
- All-America Honorees: **Langston Jones**, **Luke Yoder**, and **Matt Spatny**
- **Luke Yoder** was named Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year
- 2 All-ECAC Team: **Tyler Ochojski** and **Langston Jones**
- Coaching Awards: ECAC Coach of the Year, Patriot League Dick Biddle Coaching Staff of the Year, Eddie Robinson Award for top FCS head coach
- Patriot League First Team Offensive Honorees: **Hayden Johnson**, **Geoffrey Jamiel**, **Joseph Marranca**, **Langston Jones**, and **Aidan Palmer**
- Patriot League First Team Defensive Honorees: **Tyler Ochojski**, **TJ Burke, Matt Spatny**, **Aidan Singleton**, and **Mekhai Smith**
- Patriot League First Team Special Teams Honorees: **Connor Poole**
- Patriot League Second Team Honorees: **Jaden Green** and **Brycen Edwards**
- Walter Payton Award Finalist: **Luke Yoder**
- Buck Buchanan Award Finalist: **Tyler Ochojski**

Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Recruiting enhancement
- Technology software
- GPS/Fitness tracking
- Nutritional supplements
- Coaching and Staff salary pool

Capital

- Indoor field facility
- Expanded weight room & sports medicine
- Existing field and venue upgrades

Endowment

- Offensive Coordinator
- Defensive Coordinator
- Assistant Coaching Positions
- Program Excellence Fund

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Year in Review

- Patriot League Champions
- Punched ticket to NCAA March Madness
- 18-17 Overall
- 11-7 Conference

Recognitions

- Second team All-ECAC Team: **Nasir Whitlock**
- College Sports Communicators Academic All-District team: **Hank Alvey**
- National Association of Basketball Coaches Mid-Atlantic District Second Team: **Nasir Whitlock**
- Lou Henson Award Finalist, for top mid-major player in college basketball: **Nasir Whitlock**
- 2 Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Hank Alvey** and **Edouard Benoit**
- Skip Prosser Man of the Year Finalist, for the Division I coach who wins with integrity on and off the court: **Brett Reed**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Nasir Whitlock**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Hank Alvey**



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Year in Review

- 17-15 Overall
- 11-7 Conference
- Returned to Patriot League Championship Game
- Earned program's second NIT bid

Lehigh Athletics Awards

- **Lily Fandre** – Mary O. Hurley Leadership Award
- **Katie Hurt** – Sportsmanship Award

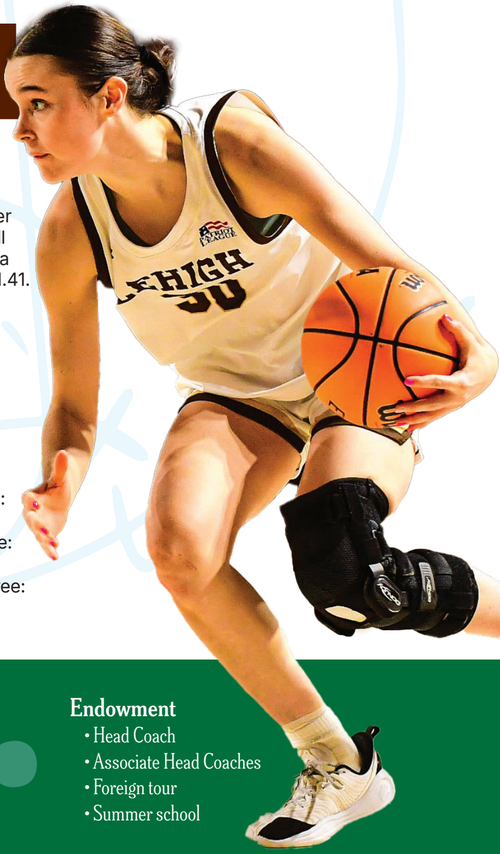
Gifts

Susan F. Sachs '77, a former league champion in women's basketball, has established an endowment for global travel for the women's team. In summer 2026, the team flew to Greece to play two international games, take a cooking class, and visit sites like the Acropolis, the Kallimarmaro Olympic Stadium, and the Giannis Antetokounmpo Court.

Anne E. Tierney '03 MS'04 wore number 41 as a player on the women's basketball team. That number is amplified through a creative annual gift to the team of $4,141.41.

Recognitions

- 2 players were named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team: **Gracyn Lovette** and **Whitney Lind**
- Academic All-Patriot League : **Whitney Lind**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Lily Fandre**
- Third Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Whitney Lind**
- Patriot League All-Rookie Team Honoree: **Leia Edwards**



Opportunities for Impact

Annual
- Recruiting enhancement
- Summer tuition
- Technology
- Coaching and staff salary pool

Capital
- Dedicated practice facility
- Enhancements to Stabler Arena
- Locker room and team room upgrades

Endowment
- 2 Associate Head Coach positions
- Assistant Coaching positions
- Director of basketball operations
- Program Excellence Fund

Annual
- Summer courses
- Recruiting enhancement
- Analytical technology and software
- Nutrition support

Capital
- Dedicated practice facility
- Enhancements to Stabler Arena
- Locker room and team room upgrades

Endowment
- Head Coach
- Associate Head Coaches
- Foreign tour
- Summer school

MEN'S WRESTLING

Year in Review

- One All-American
- EIWA Conference Team Champion
- Five Individual EIWA Conference Champions
- 11-7 Overall
- 5-0 Conference

Lehigh Athletics Awards

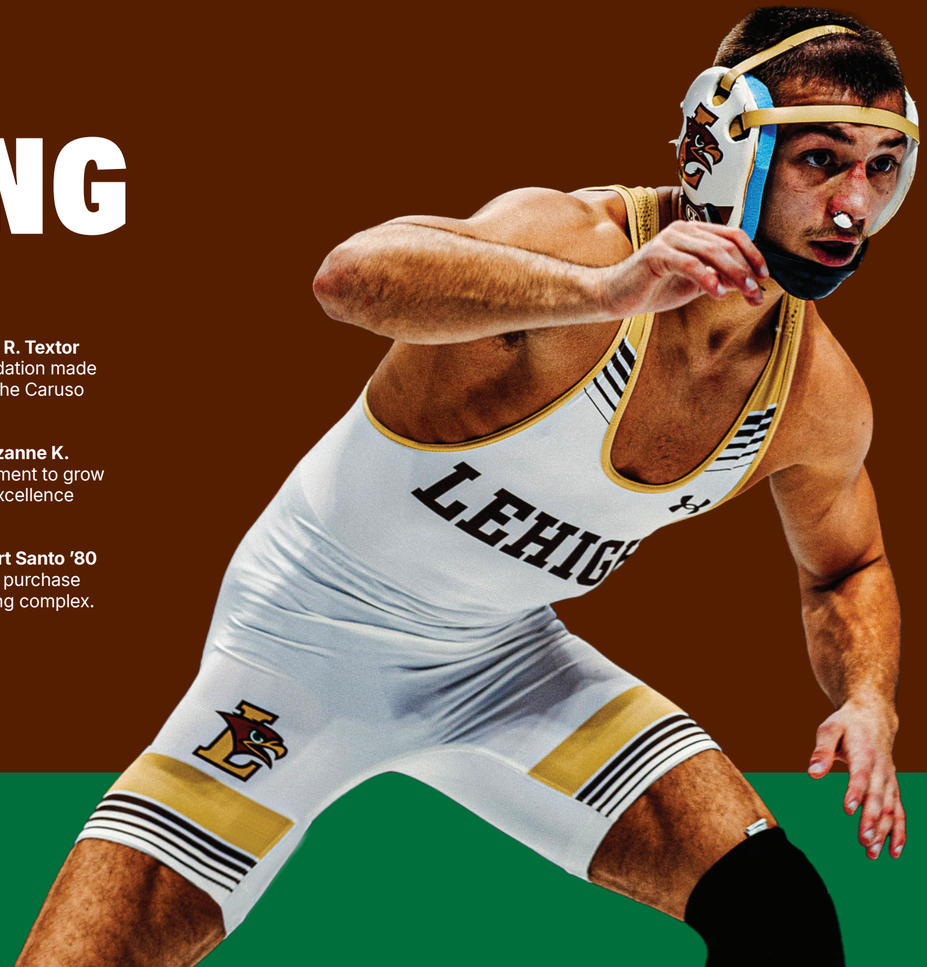
- **Max Brignola** and **Sheldon Seymour** – Distinguished Achievement Award, presented to seniors who display scholarship, athletic achievement, and service to the institution

Gifts

Donald F. Textor '68 and **Elaine R. Textor** through the Textor Family Foundation made a gift to renovate and enhance the Caruso Wrestling Complex.

Ken Voorhees '87 P'28 and **Suzanne K. Voorhees P'28** made a commitment to grow the Thad Turner '61 Wrestling Excellence Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Michael Williams '85 and Robert Santo '80 made commitments that helped purchase new mats in the Caruso Wrestling complex.



News



After more than a quarter-century of service to Lehigh wrestling as a coach, including the last 18 seasons as head coach, **Pat Santoro** announced his retirement as the Lawrence White Head Coach of Men's Wrestling. A seven-time EIWA Coach of the Year, Santoro was named NWCA National Coach of the Year in 2018. In 18 seasons, Lehigh won six EIWA titles and finished in the top two 15 times. The Mountain Hawks won four consecutive team titles from 2018-2021 and are coming off back-to-back EIWA team championships, bringing their league-leading total to 40. Former Lehigh All-American and long time associate head coach **Brad Dillon '04** will lead the Mountain Hawks in the 2026-27 season.



Dontae Hoose joined two other students as panelists at the 2026 Scholarship Celebration, an annual event that unites scholarship recipients with their donors. The students outlined the depth and breadth of their Lehigh experience. Hoose also co-founded the rocketry club that designs, builds, and launches rockets.

Recognitions

- EIWA Wrestler of the Year: **Luke Stanich**
- EIWA Coach of the Year: **Pat Santoro**
- 5 Individual EIWA Champions: **Sheldon Seymour**, **Luke Stanich**, **Logan Rozynski**, **Nathan Taylor**, **Max Brignola**
- 4 National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-Americans: **JT Davis**, **Sheldon Seymour**, **Rylan Rogers**, **Luke Stanich**
- 3rd place NCAA Wrestling Championship: **Luke Stanich**
- EIWA Sheridan Award, for most falls in the fastest time in the championship bracket, and Fletcher Trophy, for career points scored at the EIWA Championships: **Nathan Taylor**
- 200th career victory: **Pat Santoro**

Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Fueling station and nutritionist
- Speakers series
- Assistant Coach salary pool
- Recruiting enhancement

Capital

- Hot and cold tubs
- Recovery equipment
- Stabler Arena competition mats

Endowment

- Coach salary pool enhancement
- Associate Head and Assistant Coaches
- Director of operations
- Nutrition

WOMEN'S WRESTLING



Year in Review

- 6th at NCAA Championship
- Super Region 2 Team Champion
- Three All-Americans
- 4 regional champions
- 15-2 Overall

Lehigh Athletics Awards

- **Aubre Krazer** – John S. Steckbeck Award, presented to the top first-year female student-athlete

Recognitions

- **Audrey Jimenez** was awarded the 2026 USA Wrestling Anthony-Maroulis Trophy, presented to the nation's best college women's wrestler
- **Audrey Jimenez** was named NCAA • Women's Wrestler of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association
- NCAA Championship at 110 pounds: **Audrey Jimenez**
- NCAA Women's Wrestling Championship Outstanding Wrestler Award and the Most Dominant Wrestler Award: **Audrey Jimenez**
- 5 wrestlers qualified for inaugural National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships: **Audrey Jimenez**, **Abbi Cooper**, **Aubre Krazer**, **Kryssceah Ravenelle**, and **Genevieve An**
- National Wrestling Coaches Association NCAA Super Region 2 Coach of the Year: **Brazel Marquez**
- National Wrestling Coaches Association's Super Region 2 Wrestler of the Year: **Audrey Jimenez**
- National Wrestling Coaches Association's Super Region 2 Rookie of the Year: **Aubre Krazer**
- 7 National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-Americans: **Genevieve An**, **Abbi Cooper**, **Audrey Jimenez**, **Aubre Krazer**, **Makynna Loepp**, **Hattie Mack**, **and Sydney Thompson**
- 4 individual champions at NCAA Super Region 2: **Audrey Jimenez**, **Abbi Cooper**, **Aubre Krazer**, **and Krysscеah Ravenelle**

Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Nutrition support
- Team space upgrade
- Team-building activities
- Wellness

Capital

- Dedicated locker room
- Hot and Cold Tubs
- Recovery Equipment

Endowment

- Head Coach
- Assistant Coaches
- Program Excellence Fund

MEN'S LACROSSE



Year in Review

- 8-8 Overall
- 4-4 Conference
- PL Tournament
- 14-12 victory over Lafayette

Lehigh Athletics Awards

- **Richard Checo** – Graduating Male Athlete Award
- **Finn Morgan** – J. Daniel Nolan Award, presented to the top first-year male athlete
- **Richard Checo** – Distinguished Achievement Award, presented to seniors who display scholarship, athletic achievement, and service to the institution

Recognitions

- **Richard Checo** was named an honorable mention All-American by the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association, an honorable mention All-American by Inside Lacrosse, and an honorable mention All-American by *USA Lacrosse Magazine*.
- Coach Liam Gleason Humanitarian Award Honoree: **Peter Theodoropoulos**
- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Kasey Heath**
- Patriot League Rookie of the Year: **Finn Morgan**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Richard Checo** and **Luke Breslin**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Finn Morgan**, **Luke Winkler**, **Luke McAuliffe**, **Kasey Heath**

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Year in Review

- 6-10 Overall
- 1-8 Conference

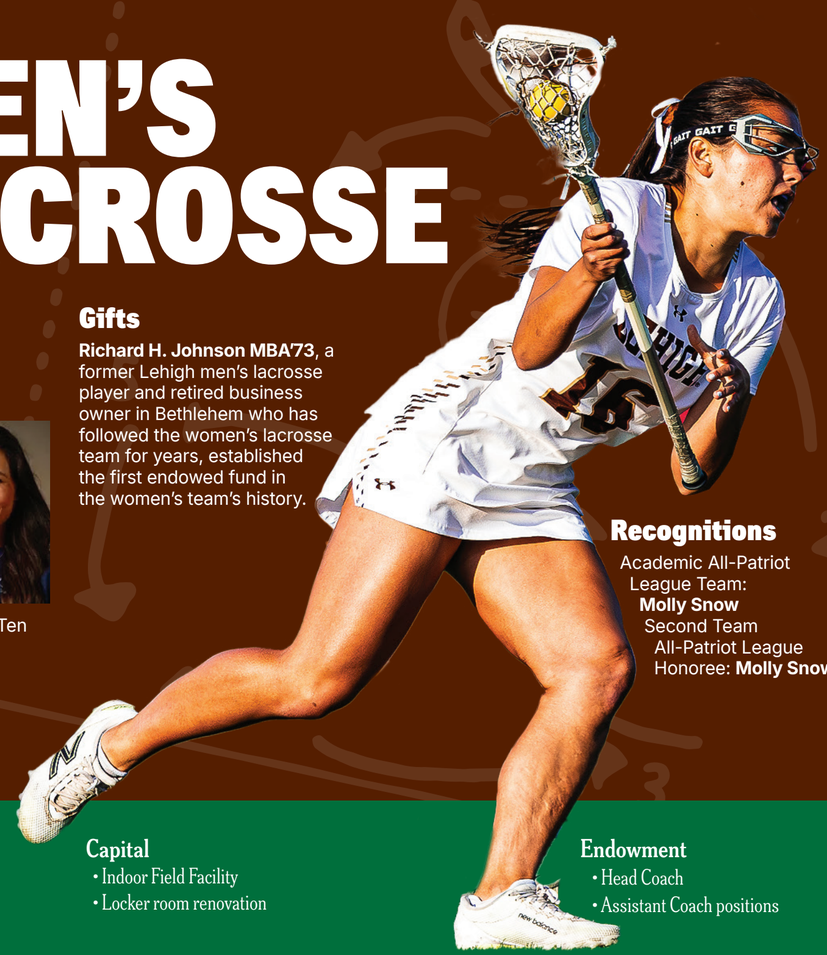
News



Steph Lazo joined Lehigh to lead the Mountain Hawks' women's lacrosse program, as the ninth head coach in program history. Lazo came to Lehigh from Temple University and was a standout player at Penn State where she was named Big Ten Attacker of the Year.

Gifts

Richard H. Johnson MBA'73, a former Lehigh men's lacrosse player and retired business owner in Bethlehem who has followed the women's lacrosse team for years, established the first endowed fund in the women's team's history.



Recognitions

Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Molly Snow**

Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Molly Snow**

Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Equipment
- Assistant Coach salary pool
- Technology

Capital

- Banko Field Enhancements
- Indoor Field Facility
- Expanded weight room and sports medicine

Endowment

- Associate Head Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Coaching supplemental endowment

Annual

- Recruiting enhancement
- Nutrition support
- Fall season training budget

Capital

- Indoor Field Facility
- Locker room renovation

Endowment

- Head Coach
- Assistant Coach positions

SOFTBALL

Year in Review

- 26-28 Overall
- 5-13 Conference

Records

- **Kelly Fricker** set a new Lehigh single-season hitting record

Recognitions

- All-ECAC Team: **Kelly Fricker**
- College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team: **Sydney Parlett**, **Holly Lovett**, and **Peyton Sward**
- NFCA All-East Region second team: **Kelly Fricker**
- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Holly Lovett** and **Peyton Sward**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Kelly Fricker** and **Peyton Sward**



BASEBALL

Records

- The Mountain Hawks broke two NCAA Division I records and a Patriot League record in a 38-6 seven-inning victory over the Coppin State Eagles.
- 20 runs scored in the first inning, breaking a record set over 50 years ago.
- **Aidan Quinn** drew seven walks, making him stand alone in NCAA history for most walks drawn by a single player in a game.
- 38 runs are the most runs ever scored in a game by a Patriot League team.

Lehigh Awards

- **David Andolina** – Marlene "Linny" Fowler Service Award, presented as the department's top service award

Recognitions

- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Cole Leaman** and **Owen Walewander**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Aidan Quinn**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Sam Fairhurst** and **Owen Walewander**



Year in Review

15-31 Overall
8-18 Conference

Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Assistant Coach salary pool
- Non-conference regional travel
- Technology and athletic performance
- Nutrition support

Capital

- Lights at Leadership Park

Endowment

- Head Coach

Annual

- Assistant Coach salary pool
- Non-conference regional travel
- Technology
- Equipment and gear

Capital

- Indoor pitching and hitting facility
- Outfield turf
- Lights at Walker Field

Endowment

- Associate Head Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Excellence Fund
- Facility upkeep

FIELD HOCKEY



Year in Review

- 4-13 Overall
- 1-5 Conferencee

Records

- Lehigh Athletics Awards **Kiki Mes** – Distinguished Achievement Award, presented to seniors who display scholarship, athletic achievement, and service to the institution

News



Lehigh University Athletics has named **Corey Mayer** as the new head coach of the Mountain Hawks' field hockey program. The 10th head coach in Lehigh field hockey history, Mayer joins Lehigh following five seasons as an assistant coach at Villanova.

Recognitions

- Mideast Region Second Team: **Kiki Mes**
- NFHCA Collegiate Senior Team: **Kiki Mes**
- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Kiki Mes** and **Annie Bibus**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Kiki Mes** and **Zoe Day**

VOLLEYBALL



Year in Review

- 12-14 Overall
- 6-10 Conference
- Patriot League Tournament

Lehigh Athletics Awards

- **Cristian Matos** – Phillip J. Sclar Award, presented to an underclass student manager who exemplifies quality spirit and character

Recognitions

- Patriot League Scholar Athlete of the Year: **Madison McCartney**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Natalie Luscomb**
- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Olivia Lasee**

Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Equipment
- Nutrition support
- Technology

Capital

- Ulrich Field enhancements and upgrades
- Locker room enhancements

Endowment

- Head Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Program Excellence Fund

Annual

- Annual
- Regional travel
- Recruiting enhancement
- Technology

Capital

- Locker room renovation
- Scoreboard upgrade

Endowment

- Head Coach
- Associate Head Coach
- Assistant Head Coach

MEN'S SOCCER

Year in Review

- 9-5-6 Overall
- 5-1-3 Conference
- Patriot League Championship Match

News

The team traveled to Germany, where it visited Olympiapark in Munich, host of the 1972 Summer Olympics, and held training sessions, played several matches, visited the Bayern Munich campus, explored cities, and enjoyed the local cuisine. More importantly, their team bonds grew stronger and their worldview expanded.

Gifts:

The Lehigh Soccer community came together and raised close to $250,000 to upgrade the Ulrich Sports Complex, which included enhanced fencing, landscaping and the addition of bench shields and a scorers table. Lead donors to this campaign included **Nick DiCello '98** and **Shannon DiCello**, **Peter Martin '88** and **Kristen O'Rourke Martin '90** in honor of **Reinhold** and **Josephine Martin P'88 P'93** and **Bill White '72 G'82** and **Eva White**.

Recognitions

- NCAA Division I All-Region Second Team: **Thomas Robertson**
- NCAA Division I All-Atlantic All-Region Team: **Giacomo Zizza**
- 3 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Honorees: **Noah Levy**, **Thomas Robertson**, and **Trey Sheeler**
- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Thomas Robertson**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Thomas Robertson** and **Giacomo Zizza**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Noah Levy**
- Third Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Yusef Gueye**, **Trey Sheeler**, and **Sam Davis**



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Year in Review

- 3-11-3 Overall
- 1-7-1 Conference

Recognitions

- 3 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team Honorees: **Faith Dobosiewicz**, **Cyndea Labissiere**, and **Sophia Lis**
- Academic All-Patriot League Team: Sophia Lis
- Third Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Faith Dobosiewicz** and **Aminah Baruwa**

Gifts

Michi Matter Jigarjian '02 and **Charles C. Jigarjian '02** created the first alumna athlete-funded coaching endowment for a women's sport in Lehigh's history. Called the Michi Matter Jigarjian '02 and Charlie Jigarjian '02 Women's Soccer Endowment, the gift will serve as a starting point toward a goal of fully funding the head coach position.

News

The team traveled to Germany, where players explored the city, trained, played and defeated FC Wacker München, enjoyed local culture and sites, tried traditional foods like schnitzel, and went to a basketball game. Players formed new bonds and gained a global perspective.



Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Recruiting enhancement
- Preseason training
- Non-conference regional travel
- Technology

Capital

- Enhancements to practice facility
- Continued enhancements to Ulrich Sports Complex
- Locker room

Endowment

- Assistant Head Coach
- Associate Head Coach
- Program excellence fund.

Annual

- Preseason training
- Technology
- Nutrition support

Capital

- Enhancements to practice facility
- Continued enhancements to Ulrich Sports Complex
- Locker room

Endowment

- Head Coach
- Health and Performance Lab

MEN'S GOLF

Year in Review

- 3rd place Patriot League Championship: **Ryan Cronin**
- Men's team defeated Lafayette in the annual Presidents Cup

Gifts

Paul R. Knollmeyer '87 and **Phyllis Knollmeyer** made gifts to support the development of the Center for Peak Performance as well as support towards the Saucon Valley Performance Center at Saucon Valley Country Club to create dedicated practice facilities for Lehigh student-athletes at one of the nation's premier golf clubs.

Recognitions

- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Matthew Quinn**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Jake Roth**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Ryan Cronin**



WOMEN'S GOLF

Year in Review

- 3rd place Patriot League Championship: Women's team

Recognitions

- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Reese Hannon**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Reese Hannon**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Yuki Zhu**

News

Lehigh Athletics began a partnership with Saucon Valley Country Club to create the Saucon Valley Performance Center, a new facility that features a hitting bay and private team room dedicated to the men's and women's golf teams. This home will provide full access for the teams to practice, compete, and reach their full potential.



Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Regional travel
- Equipment
- Assistant Coach salary pool

Capital

- Team van
- Practice facility enhancement
- Saucon Valley Performance Center

Endowment

- Director of Golf

SWIMMING AND DIVING



Year in Review

Men
- 6-4 Overall
- 3-2 Conference

Women
- 7-3 Overall
- 3-2 Conference

Lehigh Athletics Awards

Mairin Ludwig – Distinguished Achievement Award, presented to seniors who display scholarship, athletic achievement, and service to the institution

Records

- **Jack Deppe**: 200-yard breaststroke, 200-yard individual medley,
- **Ben Kisker**: 100-yard backstroke
- **Jack Deppe**, **Chase Bearley**, **Ben Kisker**, and **Spencer Ridge**: 400-yard medley relay
- **Frankie Prekop**, **Braeden Roach**, **Jack Deppe**, and **Will Moon**: 800-yard freestyle relay
- **Eliza Johnson**: 100-yard backstroke
- **Clara Moschella**: 100-yard butterfly
- **Zoe Davies**: 100-yard breaststroke

Recognitions

- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Jack Deppe**, **Caitlin Deitch**, and **Mairin Ludwig**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Eliza Johnson**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Jack Deppe**, **Caitlin Deitch**, **Mairin Ludwig**, and **Clara Moschella**

Opportunities for Impact

Annual
- Assistant Coach salary pool
- Training trip
- Winter training meals

Capital
- Pool renovation
- Video and timing systems upgrade

Endowment
- Head Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Training trip

TRACK & FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY

Year in Review

Women's Track and Field
- 2-0 Overall

Women's Cross Country
- 1-0 Overall
- 5th place Patriot League Championship

Men's Track and Field
- 1-1 Overall

Men's Cross Country
- 1-0 Overall
- 8th place Patriot League Championship

Lehigh Athletics Awards

- **Abby Klebe** – Karen A. Adams Graduating Female Athlete Award
- **Laura Reigle** – Joseph D. Sterrett Graduating Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award
- **Wil Jaques**, **Abby Klebe**, **Laura Reigle** – Distinguished Achievement Award, presented to seniors who display scholarship, athletic achievement, and service to the institution.

Records

- **Maggie Scalzo**, **Harper Glennon**, **Faith Schiffer**, and **Gianna Mangili**: 4x100-meter relay
- **Abby Klebe**: 1500 meter
- **Grace Aggen**: shot put
- **Alex Heidemann**: 800 meter



Recognitions

- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Kaitlyn Highduch**, **Corinn Brewer**, **Laura Reigle**, **Andrew Clark**, **Dan Malatesta**, and **Joseph Nowakowski**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Grace Hughes**
- U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named both the men's and women's cross country teams as All-Academic Teams
- **Abby Klebe** captured her seventh Patriot League title in the women's 800m
- **Laura Reigle** won her fifth Patriot League pole vault title

Opportunities for Impact

Annual
- High-performance meet
- Cross country preseason
- Nutrition
- Assistant Coach salary pool

Capital
- Throwing cage & sector adjustments
- Fueling station
- Rauch conference room naming
- Cross Country Course Improvements

Endowment
- Head Coaching positions
- Associate Head Coach
- Winter training
- Program Excellence Fund

MEN'S TENNIS



Year in Review

Men's
- 15-9 Overall
- 6-1 Conference
- Patriot League Championship Match
- #1 Patriot League Tournament Seed – first time in program history

Recognitions

- 1 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team Honorees: **Alex Van Lumich**
- Patriot League Rookie of the Year: **Aleksandar Daskalovic**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Alex Van Lumich**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Sean Jaeger**
- 18th in the Division I Northeast Regional final singles rankings: **Alex Van Lumich**

News

During winter break 2026, **Nate Raney** traveled to Guatemala with a dozen members of his home church in Houston for a week-long mission trip to work with disadvantaged youth.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Year in Review

Women's
- 9-14 Overall
- 4-3 Conference
- Patriot League Tournament

News

Head coach **Sophia Geier** attended the NCAA Women Coaches Academy, which brings together 122 women coaches representing 20 sports for a multi-day leadership development experience.

Recognitions

- 1 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team Honorees: **Maggie Forkner**, **Giselle Vlassis**, and **Ronit Khromchenko**
- First Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Maggie Forkner**
- Second Team All-Patriot League Honoree: **Lena Dogadalski**



Opportunities for Impact

Annual
- Spring break training
- Equipment and team gear
- Regional travel
- Recruiting enhancement
- Nutrition support

Capital
- Video streaming
- Indoor facility expansion and enhancements
- Locker room upgrades

Endowment
- Head Coach
- Spring break
- Assistant Coach
- Operating budget

WOMEN'S ROWING



Recognitions

- Academic All-Patriot League Team: **Grace Ioffe**
- 3 boats qualified for grand finals in the Patriot League Women's Rowing Championships
- The Mountain Hawks earned silver in the women's 4+ at the Head of the Housatonic.

Gifts

Edward G. Feitzinger '89 and **Kristin Feitzinger** and an anonymous donor established an endowment supporting a new coaching position.

News

Nick Iliadis was appointed assistant coach and operations coordinator for both the men's and women's programs.

Opportunities for Impact

Annual

- Fleet replacement
- Cold weather team gear
- Regional travel
- Winter training trip

Capital

- Trailer towing truck
- Boat house upgrades
- Small boat replacement

Endowment

- Assistant Coaching staff
- Fleet management
- Training trips

CLUB VARSITY

Men’s Rowing

News

Steven J. ‘69 and **Karen A. Lee** head rowing coach Peter Costas named **Wayne M. Berger** as the first full-time men’s rowing head coach and rowing camps director in program history.



Matthew “Marcello” Haynes ’00 turned his love of rowing at Lehigh into a college summer job as a gondolier of a Venetian boat he rowed through Providence, Rhode Island. Today, he owns that company and has expanded operations to a second location in Naples, Florida.



Recognitions

Lehigh men’s rowing competed at the MARC Championships in first varsity eight, second varsity eight, and first varsity four races. The Mountain Hawks claimed first in the men’s Director’s Cup 8+ at the Head of the Housatonic.

Men’s Ice Hockey

News

This season coach **Josh Hand** surpassed the 100-win milestone as head coach, becoming the winningest coach in program history.

Recognitions

The team earned the 2025-26 American Collegiate Hockey Association Men’s Division I Community Service Award. Over the course of the season, the team supported Lehigh Valley Phantoms youth hockey, volunteered at the Bethlehem Running Festival and Dewey Fire Company, organized a youth leadership experience, and welcomed a special needs athlete as an honorary team member.



DEAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jeremy L. Gibson P'28, Murray H. Goodman Dean of Athletics, formed a dean's advisory council of alumni and parents who will support, advise, and advance the mission of Lehigh Athletics.

It serves a vital role in the department's strategic objectives. Its members are key stakeholders and legacy builders who provide invaluable knowledge, ideas, and networks and are recognized as leaders, passionate fans, and ambassadors for Lehigh.

The council will build on Lehigh's successes while helping it navigate an increasingly complex national landscape for collegiate athletics. Each member will serve as an advisor to the dean and athletics leadership team, helping strengthen alumni engagement, student-athlete success, philanthropy, and the overall future of our athletics programs.



Jeff Bosland '88, P'23



Mike Caruso '67



Cliff Chapman '91



Kevin Clayton '84, P'13



Chris Hite '89, P'20, P'24



Frank Ingrassia



Michi Matter Jigarjian '02



Mary Kush '88



Doug Lane '67, P'90 & Gay Lane P'90



Hector Martinez '95



Mark McGowan '89



Shannon Portell '01



Dan Smith '71, H'14



Dave Thomson '83, G'84, P'13, P'18



Andy Vandergrift '79 & Marybeth Vandergrift

Athletics Partnership joins Development and Alumni Relations

Lehigh's Athletics Partnership team, focused on engaging alumni and fans to support Athletics, is now part of the university's Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) team. Now called "Athletics Development and Alumni Relations," this new alignment ensures Lehigh Athletics is fully integrated into DAR, with access to enhanced resources, operational support, collaboration opportunities, and professional development. The team continues to be located in Taylor Gym, working with coaches and administration to maximize engagement and philanthropic support for all athletic programs.

RECORD-BREAKING SUPPORT

Lehigh Athletics helps to bolster the university's national reputation and footprint. This past school year, our accomplishments in football, women's basketball, men's basketball, women's wrestling, and men's wrestling shined a spotlight on who we are as programs and how we as a university are unique in a marketplace. The intersection of disciplines. The intersection between academics, research, and athletics. The intersection between teams and alumni. These are powerful synergies and make Lehigh stand out.

Investing in Lehigh Athletics supports our mission, vision, and impact. 11% of all students compete on a Division I stage, and more than 3,500 students are involved in sports on campus. Athletics is a vital component of the Lehigh experience and alumni traditions. Nearly 400 student-athletes receive scholarships or financial aid, and nearly half benefit from direct support from Lehigh. Your commitment to student success helps our players compete, our students learn, our pride grow, and our institution thrive. You are growing today's competitors and scholars and tomorrow's leaders and benefactors.

2026 Fiscal Year

$11,829,908
in athletics giving

Annual Fund

$5,034,965
in athletics annual fund

5,575 donors

Giving Day + March Mania

$1,711,480 raised

2,652 unique donors

3,004 gifts

$650,000 in challenge
and match dollars unlocked

Athletics Alumni Participation Challenge

Women's Soccer **46.1%**

Women's Basketball **27.6%**

Softball **21.6%**

Men's Lacrosse **19.6%**

Men's Wrestling **17.7%**

Top Donors

371 Cross Country and Track & Field

Top Dollars

$266,442 Football

ALUMNI SUCCESS AND PRIDE

Vandergrift Family Name Head Football Coach Position

In high school, **Andy Vandergrift '79** excelled academically and demonstrated success on the football field and the track. Following up on a recruiting visit to Lehigh, offensive line coach **John Whitehead P'86** came to the Vandergrift home one evening to meet with his parents. He earned a four-year need-based scholarship that helped make Lehigh possible, and he became the first in his family to go to college.

Lehigh's investment in him left a lasting impression on Vandergrift and helped motivate him and his spouse, Marybeth, to make a $2.5 million lead gift to name the Vandergrift Family Head Football Coach. When fully realized, the $5 million endowment will fund the position currently held by Rich Nagy.

To remain competitive, Lehigh, like many NCAA and Patriot League programs, is creating endowed head coaching positions to help attract, develop, and retain exceptional coaches. This endowment will



serve as a linchpin to the program's long-term success.

Success is something that Vandergrift has experienced in all facets of his life — academically, athletically, professionally, and personally.
As a Lehigh football player over Vandergrift's four years, the team compiled a 35-13 record, including a 3-1 mark in the Rivalry. It won the Lambert Cup, as the best small college football team in the East, twice. During his junior year, Lehigh went on to win the Division II National Championship.

Vandergrift began his career in Delaware at the Department of Transportation. One fateful day, as Lehigh played the University of Delaware, a chance introduction to **Ralph Fortney '52 P'80**, DuPont's director of human resources for corporate research and development, led to an interview.

Vandergrift landed a job at DuPont, where he held various sales, product management, and sales management positions over the next 14 years. It was the beginning of a successful 40-year career in the medical devices and diagnostic imaging industry. After leaving DuPont, Vandergrift spent the next 12 years at FujiFilm Medical and the final 14 years of his career at NVIDIA, where he was responsible for building the medical device business.

Over the years, tailgating at the Rust Family Football Pavilion provided Vandergrift meaningful opportunities to reconnect with alumni, stay engaged with the football program, and enjoy a game with his family. But in spring 2024, he was invited to attend a football alumni event by teammate Tom Giordani '78 to learn more about The Nest, a tight-knit community among players, coaches, and alumni.

Alumni involvement ranges from holding career nights for seniors and mentoring players to attending spring practices and participating in some team meetings. This approach has come at a critical moment, as collegiate athletics continues to evolve amid name, image, likeness opportunities and the transfer portal. Player decisions are increasingly influenced by coaches, facilities, equipment, financial aid, and alumni engagement.

For the Vandergrift family, their investment in Lehigh reflects the relationships forged on South Mountain, gratitude for their good fortune, a belief that philanthropy inspires impact far beyond oneself, and confidence that Lehigh offers the football program and coaches what today's scholar athletes need.

Wider Aperture: Women's Basketball

Winning the Patriot League championship and returning to the NCAA Tournament last year was more than a breakthrough season for the Lehigh women's basketball team. It was momentum.

And momentum, for **Susan Sachs '77**, is something you build on.

The success spurred Sachs to make a gift last year that created an endowment for an international travel program for the team, the first of its kind for Lehigh Athletics. The Mountain Hawks went to Greece in the summer of 2026.

"This could be someone's first trip to Europe, much less to Greece," Sachs says. "That falls into the bucket of experiences as a student-athlete that will stay with you forever. It creates a different mindset and provides a wider aperture.



Second Super Bowl Victory

As a quarterback behind **Mark McGowan '89** and **Jim Harris '89**, **Todd Brunner '90** waited for his time to shine. As a senior, he led the offense, writing his name in the Lehigh record books for completions, touchdown passes, and passing yards. Although he hung up his cleats years ago, he still channels his passion for football as a scout who, in his 14th year with Seattle, just won another Super Bowl with the Seahawks.



Raising the Floor: Women's Soccer

Kicking off its inaugural season in 1992-93, women's soccer has more than three decades of history where the team members put in the work and continued to build on a foundation laid by some pioneering women. Today, the collective power and wisdom of those players can serve as a catalyst for transformative growth and an opportunity to venture into new frontiers.

Calabrese's work has been made easier though, thanks to an alumnae partner, **Michi Matter Jigarjian '02**, whose knowledge, leadership, mentorship, and support have proven transformative. She has created the first female-funded coaching endowment for a women's sport in Lehigh's history.

The gift serves as a starting point toward a goal of fully funding the head coach position. The endowment comes at a critical moment, and once it is fully funded, the head coach's position can be permanently named.

A coach's job has become that much harder — spotting talent, aligning fit, selling an institution, creating an ecosystem of support, and developing and retaining players. For **Lauren Calabrese '07**, head women's soccer coach, the work is akin to serving as a CEO of a small startup.

"Their grit is a key value in our program's DNA," says Calabrese. "Our mentality is to raise the floor."



According to the coach, as the team commits to doing the simple things well and maintains that grit, respect, and joy that come from playing, its profile will rise. A raised profile and raised floor mean achieving more and shortening any falls.

As fans would know, Lehigh has never made the league playoffs more than three years in a row. That's a pattern Calabrese seeks to break. "We want sustained competitive success," she says. "That requires resourcing and infrastructure — exactly the kind of stuff that Michi's gift will make possible."

It helps student-athletes to have mentors like Matter Jigarjian. Alumnae play an important role in player support and development. Calabrese has seen a broader community being built by former players.

"Michi is a true pioneer," says Calabrese. "The way she leads herself and moves through space models humility and leadership, drive and excellence. She has high standards that are balanced by collaboration and empathy. She inspires and empowers others."

Mission matters to Matter Jigarjian. She wants to ensure her gift aligns with the institution's goals. In this case, alignment was perfectly synchronized.

The endowment will increase access and support, develop female athletes, and support female coaches.

"Lauren is a strategic partner," says Matter Jigarjian. "I want to assist her, the team, and Lehigh to elevate the level of play and recruitment and bring some financial stability so the program can focus on growing and winning. Without resources, it is very hard to compete in this market."

"Michi wants to see the team culture thrive," says Calabrese. "Our collective intelligence can and will support the entire ecosystem of women's soccer and help raise the floor. It is a spark that we know can catch fire."
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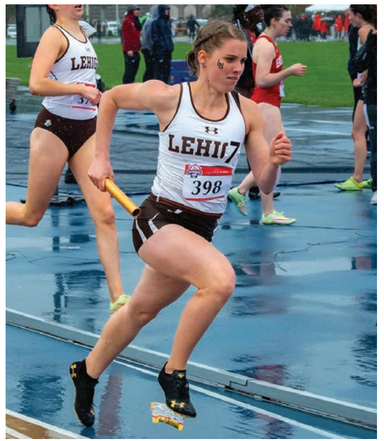
Cultivating Talent

Christopher D. Hite '89 '20P '24P excelled on the gridiron, while **Madison Hite '20** and **Allie Hite '24** made their own mark at the Brown and White. The Hite family is now creating a lasting impact for others through two endowed scholarships that support Lehigh students in athletics and journalism.



Found Her Stride

Kaja Skerlj '21 M.Eng.'22 told her father on the first day of high school in her native Slovenia that she wanted to study in the U.S., earn an athletics scholarship, and get a good education. Her ambition brought her to Lehigh, where she earned an undergraduate degree in product design and a graduate degree in technical entrepreneurship while competing as a hurdler and sprinter. That ambitious path has continued as she works as a product designer at a startup developing an AI-powered code generation platform in Berlin, Germany. She credits her success to her track and field scholarship.



Taking His Lehigh Game Plan to the NBA

Noel Hightower M.Ed.'20, an NBA player development coach for the Golden State Warriors, made a pivotal stop at Lehigh. His journey began as an undergraduate when Hightower worked at the Lehigh basketball camp under camp director **Joey Knight '07**. The relationships he formed with the staff and head coach **Brett Reed** led to a call to become Lehigh's director of basketball operations. After a year, he was promoted to full-time assistant coach, the youngest in Division I basketball. Now, he works with two NBA starters, creating a holistic game plan on offense and defense for opponents, tracking stats, cutting film, and playing ball.

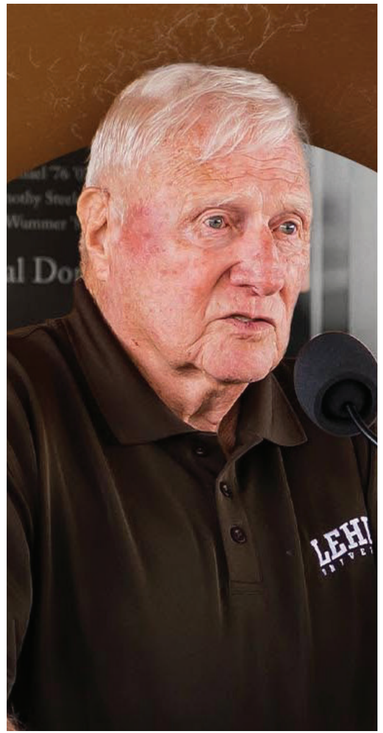


IN MEMORIAM

This year, we mourned the loss of cherished Lehigh Athletics alumni and friends whose contributions helped shape our history and community. We extend our sympathies to their families.

John Covert

Coach John Covert, a member of the Roger S. Penske/Lehigh Athletics Hall of Fame, led the Lehigh cross country and track and field programs from 1967-1992. Over his career, Covert's men's teams captured six ECAC championships and six IC4A titles. His men's teams went 23-2 on the trail versus rival Lafayette.



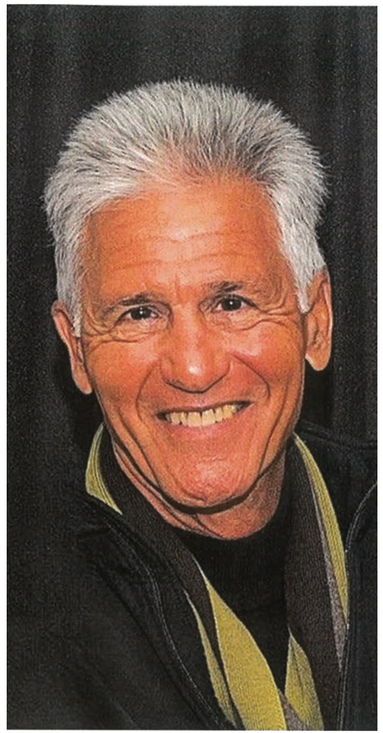


Kem Widmer '63

Kem Widmer '63 MS'65 was a dual degree graduate of Lehigh, earning a bachelor's and master's in industrial engineering. After serving as a captain company commander in the United States Army, he began his career, eventually moving to Gastonia, North Carolina, where he founded and served as CEO of H&W Turbo Conveyor. His son **Kem Widmer III '96** played basketball for Lehigh. Widmer's philanthropy to Lehigh supported Men's Basketball, the Dean's Fund for Athletics Excellence. and the Lehigh Fund.

Joe Peritore '67

Winning three high school wrestling titles in Ohio, Joe Peritore '67 MS'69 earned a wrestling scholarship to Lehigh, where he was part of the legendary wrestling "Terrific Trio." Peritore earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial engineering and was inducted into the Roger S. Penske/ Lehigh Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003. Hired by Boeing in 1969, Peritore spent his entire 29-year career there, retiring in 1998 as the vice president of human resources and operations development. His philanthropy to Lehigh supported the Men's Wrestling, George E. Kane Memorial Scholarship in industrial engineering, and the Lehigh Fund.





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