YELLOWJACKETS

A Record-Setting Season

Strong winter performances send track and field teams to conference championships.

By Dennis O’Donnell

The Yellowjackets were set to be well-represented at the ECAC indoor track and field championships in early March. That’s after a series of record-setting performances throughout the winter season.

The team of Laura Lockard ’17, Cameron Edwards ’16, Emily VanDenburgh ’15, and Yvette Igboke ’15 broke Rochester’s 4-by-200-meter relay record by nine one-hundredths of a second in February at Ithaca College, earning a trip to the conference championship meet. The four posted a time of 1:45.91, breaking the ‘Yellowjackets’ previous mark of 1:46.00 set in 2010 at the ECAC championships.

VanDenburgh is also ranked 16th among Division III long-jumpers.

Rochester’s 4-by-400-meter relay of Lockard, Edwards, Brittany Schutrum ’17, and Becky Galasso ’14 broke the school record at Boston University’s Valentine Invitational. They clocked in at 3:56.85, a time that was ranked as high as 10th in NCAA Division III and broke the previous Yellowjacket record of 3:58.35.

On the men’s team, Boubacar Diallo ’16 is one of the premier triple-jumpers in Division III. In late February, he was ranked 15th nationally in the event.

Altogether, 13 men and 17 women have qualified for the ECAC championships, which take place March 7 and 8 in Boston. Rochester’s men and women will run at home twice outdoors in April—at the Alumni Invitational on April 5, and at the Spring Invitational on April 26.

Other highlights from the winter and spring seasons:

Winter

Swimming and diving: Rochester women broke 15 records and posted 11 NCAA provisional qualifying performances, and the men broke nine school records and registered five NCAA qualifying marks at the UAA championships. The NCAA championships will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., in late March.

Squash: Rochester defeated the University of Pennsylvania to claim seventh place at the College Squash Association team championships in February. The Yellowjackets finished 8–7 overall.

Men’s basketball: Nate Vernon ’14 became the 27th man in 113 years to pass the career 1,000-point mark. With three games left in the season, he was 24th in career scoring.

Women’s basketball: As the season came to a close, Loren Wagner was averaging double figures in both points and rebounds for the Yellowjackets (ranked 12th in Division III in rebounds per game) and was ninth in career rebounding. One of Rochester’s key victories was a 72–68 win over Washington University at the Wash U. field house in St. Louis, marking the third straight year the Yellowjackets accomplished the feat.

Spring

Softball: The Liberty League champion
LEADER: Jane Possee received the Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award.

ANTHONY AWARD
Jane Possee Honored by University

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: Jane Possee, a longtime athletics administrator and former women’s basketball, lacrosse, and field hockey coach, received the University’s Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award in February. The award, presented by the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership, recognizes members of the University community who have achieved significant professional stature and have used their experiences and skills to help other women advance as leaders. “We are proud to honor Jane for helping change the landscape for female athletes on our campus and for supporting and guiding countless student athletes over the years,” said Catherine Cerulli, director of the Anthony Center.

leagues urges improvement in the 2013 season with the addition of softball as a sport at Clarkson. With a career home run leader Nina Korn ’14 and other Yellowjackets returning, Rochester is the preseason coachees’ poll choice to win the league title.

Baseball: The Yellowjackets return with a solid, experienced cast of players both in the field and on the mound. Rochester is picked to finish third in the Liberty League race.

Lacrosse: The Yellowjackets will look toward their top three scorers from the 2013 season as they battle for a Liberty League playoff berth.

Golf: In the fall, Rochester secured the top seed for the Liberty League match play championships and will host the finals in late April at the Mendon, NY, Golf Club. Earlier that week, Rochester will compete at Oak Hill Country Club in the University of Notre Dame Invitational.

Rowing: The Yellowjackets won the 2013 Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia, considered the small college national championship, with the first varsity eight boat. All eight rowers, along with the coxswain, return.

Men’s tennis: A four-match trip to the West Coast awaits during spring break. Rochester was 4–0 against Division III opponents early in the season. In late February, the Yellowjackets defeated Oneonta, 9–0, then lost to Division I Colgate the next afternoon.

Women’s tennis: A spring break trip to the West Coast will be a test for a young team that has only two seniors. Rochester’s fall schedule was filled with tournament-style competition.

Dennis O’Donnell is director of athletic communication for the Department of Athletics and Recreation.