

SEASON PREVIEW

What's in Store for the Yellowjackets?

Rochester's athletic teams gear up for 2016-17.

By Dennis O'Donnell

The 2015-16 athletic season was a banner year for Rochester. Nine sports were represented at the NCAA championships, and squash finished second nationally. The Yellowjackets hope to do just as well—if not better—this year.

Fall Sports

Men's cross country: Rochester has six of its top seven runners back this year, and three men who finished in the top half of the field at the UAA championships will lead the way: Dan Nolte '17, Eric Franklin '17, and Forest Hangen '19. Rochester will challenge for a top-five finish at UAAs and at the regional meet.

Women's cross country: Rochester finished 14th at the national meet last year, second at the UAAs—the best finish in 25 years—and fifth at the NCAA Atlantic regionals. Look for Anne Peterson '17, Samantha Kitchen '17, Rachel Bargabos '19, and Audrey McCarthy '17 to be among the leaders weekly.

Field hockey: For the second time in school history, Rochester reached the NCAA Elite 8 last year, finishing 18-6. There are 19 veterans on this year's team, 10 of whom played in 20 or more matches. Kiran Sundaram '18 and Gabrielle Cantley '18 will wear the goaltenders' gear. The defense is mostly intact, led by Tiffany White '17 and Lexie Wood '17 as backfielders. The midfield will be led by Sayaka Abe '17, an all-region honoree. Attackers Callie Fisher '17, Claire Dickerson '18, Olivia Denny '18, and Samantha Dow '18 combined for 19 goals and 10 assists last year.

Football: Rochester wants to capitalize on the dual skills of quarterback Dan Bronson '18, who passed for nine touchdowns last year and ran for three more. He'll be throwing to a big cast, including Kyle Alegrini '18, Nick Perpignan '17, David Angie '18, and Dan DiLoreto '19. Shane Saucier '17 will head up the backfield. Trevor Robinson-Grey '17 and David Berry '17 lead the blockers, while Matt Pisano '17 and Ricky Sparks '18 top the secondary. Among the linebackers and defensive linemen, look



ANCHORS AWAY: Ben Swanger '17 will anchor the midfield for the men's soccer team in its 30th UAA season this year.

for David Wolff '17, Peter Crossett '18, and Colin Woods '17.

Men's soccer: Returning to the team is a strong and seasoned nucleus from 2015, including all-UAA honoree Ben Swanger '17, who will anchor the midfield. Tanner Chester '17, Zach Kanaley '17, and Mike Cross '17 form a tough back line, while Jeff Greblich '17 and Alessandro Incerto '17 are seasoned forwards. Rochester leads all UAA schools with 10 men's soccer titles.

Women's soccer: Three all-UAA honorees return in Kim Stagg '17 plus Megan Runyan '19 and McKenzie Runyan '19. The defense will be led by veterans, including Alyssa Raskind '17, Hannah Geitner '17, Sydney Melton '18, and Jenny Sitrin '18. Lee Stagg '17 and Paige Gloster '18 head up the attack. Rochester has 12 UAA titles, ranking first among UAA teams.

Women's volleyball: Rochester returns an all-UAA defensive specialist in Meghan Connor '17, who finished sixth in the league in digs and fifth in aces. Alexandra Goldman '17 led the UAA in solo blocks and was eighth in total blocks. Setter Aimee Kohler '17 was fifth in assists in the UAA.

Winter Sports

Men's basketball: Three starters are back for the Yellowjackets, who last season reeled off a nine-game UAA winning streak that pushed them to a second-place ranking in the region. The backcourt could be one of the best in the East, led by Sam Borst-Smith '17, Mack Montague '17, Jacob Wittig '19, and Michael Mangan '19. Forwards Tucker Knox '18 and Zack Ayers '17 combined for eight points, seven rebounds, and 30 blocked shots last year.

Women's basketball: Rochester was 23-6 and reached the Elite 8 of the NCAA playoffs in 2015-16. All four teams in the Chuck Resler Tournament this year made the NCAAs. Four starters return, led by multi-All-American Al Leslie '18. She's joined by Lauren Deming '18, Sarah Kaminsky '17, and Brynn Lauer '17.

Squash: Three All-Americans will lead the way as Rochester hosts its most ambitious home schedule: seven home matches, plus the Liberty League championships. Visitors include Dartmouth, Penn, Princeton, Cornell, Drexel, Trinity, and Harvard. Rochester finished second in the nation last year to Yale. The returning All-Americans are Mario Yanez Tapia '17, Ryosei Kobayashi '17, and Tomotaka Endo '18.

Men's swimming and diving: Gunnar Zemerling '18 was the Liberty League Rookie of the Year two seasons ago and the Swimmer of the Year last season. He'll be one of the top sprinters in both the Liberty League and the UAA. Distance swimmer Elliot Schwinn '19 reaped Liberty League Rookie of the Year honors last year and set three league records. Max Adler '18 finished in the top eight on both boards at the UAA and Liberty League championships. He was fourth in the UAA on the one-meter, qualifying for the NCAA zone finals.

Women's swimming and diving: Veterans abound for the women, who have won six straight Liberty League titles. Jennifer Enos '17 is a top distance swimmer. Emily Simon '17, Alex Veech '17, and Khamai Simpson '17 are All-American sprinters. Veech competed at NAAs after a second-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke at the UAA meet. Danielle Neu '17 won the UAA three-meter board and qualified for the zone diving finals.

Men's track and field: Rochester will be paced by four highly accomplished performers. Brant Crouse '17 won the New York state and ECAC indoor championship in the 500 meters, breaking a school record in the process. Forrest Hangen '19 was a scorer in the 5,000 meters in both the state and ECAC meets. Thomas Chant '19 broke the school mark in the indoor 60-meter race. Ryan Rosen '18 was ranked 40th in Division III in the javelin throw.

Women's track and field: Three NCAA championship participants are back. Katie Knox '16 competed in the steeplechase outdoors last spring. She won the state indoor title in the 3,000-meter event. Samantha Kitchen '17 won the indoor state title and qualified for NAAs in the 800-meter race, while Kylee Bartlett '19 qualified for the indoor NCAA pentathlon. Audrey McCarthy '17 won two state titles, for the indoor 5,000-meter race and the outdoor 10,000-meter.

FIELD NOTES: Sayaka Abe '17 will lead the midfield for the field hockey team this fall. She's one of 19 veteran players on the team for 2016-17.

Spring Sports

Baseball: John Ghyzel '18 will be a mainstay of the team after a 7-1 season that reaped first-team all-Liberty League and second-team all-region honors. Luke Meyerson '18 was 4-1, with a Liberty League-leading four saves. Aiden Finch '19 supplied power (four home runs and 11 doubles), scored 26 runs, and drove in 31 while hitting .326. Catcher Nolan Schultz '16, who earned first-team all-Liberty accolades in all four years, graduated in May.

Golf: Three of the low scorers from last year are back. Jona Scott '17 fired a 76.7 for 17 rounds, Daniel Luftsprung '17 had a 77.7 for 15 rounds, and Jason Paek '18 shot a 77.9 for 17 rounds. Rochester tied for the Liberty League title last year, finished third of 15 at the Hershey Cup, and sixth out of 18 at the Flower City NCAA Preview. In 2016-17, the Yellowjackets will point to the Liberty League championships in late April, in hopes of securing an NCAA bid.

Lacrosse: The Yellowjackets have a nice scoring combination in Jamie Wallisch '17 and Madeline Levy '18. Wallisch is seventh in career scoring, second in career assists, and eighth in goals scored. Mara Karpp '17

is fifth in career assists. Elizabeth Botto '18 had 20 caused turnovers and 28 ground balls last year. Danielle Diacovo '17 won 11 draw controls and caused 13 turnovers.

Rowing: The women's team returns a strong base of three seniors, nine juniors, and 12 sophomores. Crystal Hoffman '17, Alice Bandeian '17, and Morgan Miller '17 will lead the team. The Yellowjackets will point to the Head of the Schuylkill in Philadelphia in late October as their benchmark heading into the spring season. They'll face some of the nation's best in New England in early April, then defend their Kerr Cup title in Philadelphia in mid-month.

Softball: With three straight Liberty League softball titles under their belt, the team has a veteran cast to challenge for a fourth crown. The pitchers include Eleni Wechsler '17, Elizabeth Bourne '19, Sam Malecki '17, and Gabi Alatorre '18. Top hitters among the field players include catcher Harleigh Kaczegowicz '19, infielder Rachael Pletz '19, and outfielders Jocelynn Blackshear '18 and Shelby Corning '17.

Men's tennis: Rochester will rely on returning singles players Masaru Fujimaki '19, Aaron Mevorach '18, Andy Nunno '18, and Sam Leeman '19. The team's schedule includes two tournaments, the St. Lawrence Invitational and the ITA Northeast Regional Championships at Hobart. The Yellowjackets were 16th regionally at the end of 2015-16.

Women's tennis: Four starters return for the women: Camila Garcia '19, Alex Wolkoff '18, Lauren Zickar '17, and Darby McCall '17. They combined for 39 singles wins last season. The women open the new year at the Mary Hosking Invitational at William Smith College in early September, then return to Geneva for the ITA Northeast Regional Championships. Rochester was ranked 19th regionally last year. **R**

