FIELD HOCKEY CLAIMS FIRST LIBERTY LEAGUE TITLE; ADVANCES TO ELITE EIGHT

Rochester’s field hockey team claimed its first ever Liberty League title this fall, going undefeated in league play during the season and in the conference tournament.

The league title gave the Yellowjackets a first-round bye in the NCAA Division III tournament, where they advanced to the round of eight before falling to second-ranked Middlebury.

The Yellowjackets won 10 straight games to close out the regular season and the league tournament. They finished the year at 18–4.

WOMEN PICKED TO WIN UAA

With four starters returning, the Rochester women’s basketball team is the preseason favorite to win the University Athletic Association title this year.

The 2017–18 season, which begins in mid-November, marks the first time that the women have been picked to win the conference.

The preseason selections are based on votes cast by the league’s head coaches.

The women finished 8–6 in the eight-team UAA last year, placing third behind champion Washington University and runner-up University of Chicago. Rochester was 18–9 overall, advancing to the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

On the men’s side, the Yellowjackets are picked to finish fourth in the conference. Defending UAA champion Washington University is predicted to repeat.

The men were 10–4 in the league last year, second behind Washington, and 24–5 overall. The Yellowjackets advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAAs before losing to top-ranked Whitman College.

Follow the Yellowjackets at Uofrathletics.com.

FRONT-RUNNERS: Three-time All-American Alexandra Leslie ’18 and the Yellowjackets are preseason favorites to win the conference title; the men are predicted to finish fourth.
The Yellowjackets football team will start the 2018 season with a new coach. That's after head coach Scott Greene announced this fall that he would not be returning to the sideline next year.

Since taking over in 2006, Greene has compiled a record of 50–64, placing him third in career coaching wins behind Elmer Burnham (17 years, 1944–60, 82 wins) and Peter (Pat) Stark (15 years, 1969–83, 69 wins).

During Greene's tenure, Rochester football players have earned a total of seven Academic All-America honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America.

And from the spring of 2011 through the spring of 2017, 38 players were named to the Hampshire Honor Society as announced by the National Football Foundation. In 2014, Rochester had 13 honorees, the most of any college in the nation.

—— Dennis O’Donnell

TOURNAMENT TESTED: For the fifth time in the past six years, the men’s soccer team received a bid to the NCAA Division III tournament.

NCAA

Men’s Soccer Reaches Elite Eight

The men’s soccer team capitalized on its trademark defense to advance to the round of eight in the NCAA Division III tournament for the first time since 2009.

The Yellowjackets fell 2–0 to ninth-ranked Messiah College, ending a tournament run that included victories over Connecticut College in the first round, sixth-ranked Oneonta in the second round, and 16th-ranked Amherst College in the Sweet 16.

The 2017 appearance was Rochester’s 18th NCAA tournament, including five in the last six years. The team finished at 14–4–3, the most victories since 2013, when the Yellowjackets made it to the round of 16.

HALL OF FAME

Yellowjackets Recognized for Achievements

Six people who helped to shape Rochester’s athletics legacy were inducted into the University’s Athletic Hall of Fame at a special ceremony during Meliora Weekend. The 2017 class includes (back row) Peter (Rick) Stark ‘79, three-year starting quarterback on the football team; Philip Newman ‘79, All-ECAC defensive end for the football team; (front row) Andrea Haveman-Semper ‘94, an All-American member of the women’s soccer team; Rebekah Penfold Meeker ‘96, an All-American volleyball player; Tara Carrozza Vinciarello ‘05, three-year captain on the women’s basketball team; and Kirsten Clark ‘97, an All-American swimmer.

—Dennis O’Donnell