

# NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE ATHLETICS

## FALL/WINTER 2019 EDITION



### Overview

The 2019 fall season for New England College Athletics has come to a close. Each fall team saw tremendous success, which included:

- 17 all-conference honors
- 3 Rookie of the Years
  - Kayla Paquin (Women's Soccer)
  - Wiskens Flavil (Men's Soccer)
  - Haleigh Bilodeau (Cross Country)
- One Coach of the Year
  - Kirsten Morrison (Volleyball)

Dave DeCew was appointed as the Director of Athletics of New England College on July 10th, 2019, after spending 17 years as the men's soccer coach



### Message From The AD

“As the new Director of Athletics, I am humbled to have the pleasure to share our first Community Update with you and all that is happening in Athletics. I am excited to integrate this newsletter as at least a semi-annual production to communicate with everyone the success of all our teams and also focus on department initiatives. Our goals are to collectively enhance all that is happening here in the competitive arena, the academic realm, and within our entire community. It has been inspiring to see first-hand the dedication, commitment, and ability of all our coaches, athletic trainers, administrators, sports communication staff, graduate assistants, faculty mentors, and talented student-athletes. I am excited about what the future holds for all of us.”

- Dave DeCew

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# Cross Country

Head Coach: Colton Ham



The men's and women's cross country teams saw growing success this year. For the women's team, Haleigh Bilodeau (Weare, N.H.) earned first-team all-conference honors as well as Rookie of the Year for the New England Collegiate Conference. Carlie Mallo (Granite Bay, Calif.) earned second-team all-conference honors for the Pilgrims. In the NECC Championship race, Bilodeau came in second place with a time of 22:17 while Mallo finished ninth overall with a time of 24:53. Bilodeau earned both Runner and Rookie of the Week honors twice this past season. On the men's side, Torey Vater (Cohasset, Mass.) picked up two first-place finishes and one third-place finish this season for the men. Vater also picked up a runner and rookie of the week award from the NECC as well as August Student-Athlete of the Month by the Athletic Department.

## DID YOU KNOW

Haleigh Bilodeau is the first Pilgrim since Sarah Neilson to be named conference Rookie of the Year.

## Carlie Mallo Sophomore || Granite Bay, Calif.

"Being a sophomore, starting a new sport was definitely out of my comfort zone. Both coaches Colton Ham and Holly Lindoe were so helpful pushing me to run a personal best every race and show me what I am capable of during practice. They helped me discover a love for this sport that before I never knew I had in me. My teammates showed me what being a family was and I am so grateful to them! The cross country team helped me, both coaches and players had a huge impact on my college experience; I am glad I joined this family."



# Field Hockey

Head Coach: Carly Sweeney



The field hockey team's season came to an end in the conference semifinal. They finished the regular season 4-3 in conference play, tied for third place, and seeded fifth for the playoffs. They traveled to Husson University for a quarterfinal matchup and pulled off the upset with a 2-1 overtime win. They added three players to the NECC all-conference teams. Brittany Tierney (Ottawa, Ontario) picked up first-team honors while Mikayla Vincent (Newburyport, Mass.) and Giuliana Kevlin (Laconia, N.H.) earned second-team honors. Tierney led the conference in both goals and points with 23 goals and 51 points. Tierney also tied the record for most goals in a game in program history this season with five against Dean College on Wednesday, October 30th. Ellie Philben (Havre De Grace, MD) and Tierney also earned NECC All-Tournament Team honors.

## DID YOU KNOW

The field hockey team reached the conference semifinals in back-to-back years. Prior to last year, the last time that the Pilgrims had reached the semifinals was 2012.

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Guliana Kevlin  
Junior || Laconia, N.H.

"I have absolutely loved my time with NEC athletics, and this past field hockey season was particularly special. This season we knew that our team had the potential to do well, but we did not fully understand the potential we had until the Plymouth State game. Beating Plymouth in a shootout was one of the coolest experiences of my entire college field hockey career, and although we hit a rough middle part during the season, we were able to excel again against Husson during the playoffs. Winning against two teams that in previous seasons I had lost against was incredible, it was the reward for all of the hard work we had put in throughout the fall together. I am so proud of all of my teammates this past season because they wanted to do the best they could do. In fact, my teammates impressed me every day this Fall, they showed up no matter what, ready to work their hardest. The 2019 season was special because at the end of the season I knew that we were only going to improve for next year, we excelled on the field and we also made ourselves better as people. I cannot wait to be back on the Don next fall, and to experience another field hockey season as a Grim."



# Men's Soccer

Head Coach: Gerard Miniaci



The men's soccer team's season ended in the conference semifinals after receiving a first-round bye. The Pilgrims have reached at least the conference semifinals for six straight seasons and have made the conference tournament in each of their last nine seasons. They added six players to the NECC all-conference teams. Panagiotis Galatas (Hillsboro, N.H.) and Jackson Easter (Weare, N.H.) earned first-team all-conference honors for NEC. Wiskens Flavil (Boston, Mass.), Tucker Stenger (Enfield, N.H.), Kyle Clements (Weare, N.H.), and Ryder Valinski (Portsmouth, N.H.) all picked up second-team all-conference honors. Flavil was also picked as the Rookie of the Year for the NECC. Clements finished his career having played the most games in the history of the program with 79. They also added two players to the NECC All-Tournament Team in Easter and Galatas.

## DID YOU KNOW

This year's men's soccer team had six all-conference selections. The Pilgrims have never had more than four selections in one year in the program's history.

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Kyle Clements  
Senior || Weare, N.H.

"Being a part of the NEC men's soccer team allowed me to continue playing the sport I love with a great group of teammates and coaches all while getting my degree. Being an student-athlete gave me structure in my daily routine so I was always able to keep on top of my school work. If my classes were stressing me out, I knew I always had a group of guys behind me to help me relax and shift my focus when it was time to train. The environment surrounding my team and the athletics program at NEC was great, my teammates, coaches, and all the other department members made it easy to be both a student and an athlete. I was always given the resources I needed to be successful on and off the field. I am extremely grateful to have been allowed to surround myself with such great individuals over my last four years."



# Women's Rugby

Head Coach: Tom Campbell



The women's rugby team saw their first year as an NCAA sponsored varsity sport at New England College this past fall. In this initial season, they hit various milestones including their first try by Shan-ice Marotto-Potvin (Brentwood, N.H.). The Pilgrims picked up their first win in program history against St. Michael's College on Saturday, September 28th by a score of 29-7. They secured another victory against Castleton University in their last contest. Additionally, Cat Seaver (Belmont, Mass.) earned Student-Athlete of the Month honors for September from the Athletic Department.

## DID YOU KNOW

Women's Rugby splits their season into two separate seasons. In the fall, they play 11 on 11, while in the spring they play 7 on 7.

Kayla Ramsey  
Junior || Woodbridge, VA

"My experience as a student-athlete during the fall season was testing, but in a good way. Women's Rugby at NEC was a club sport before the team was recognized as a varsity program, and at the time was still a struggle. As a team, we knew this and we played and practiced hard to get the word out that even though we are a new sport we still have as much fire and fight in our hearts as every other sport. Our captains did a phenomenal job of making sure the team was okay and ready for any obstacle thrown at us, and our coaching staff was motivated to make us great athletes and students. It wasn't always about the sport with the team, it was about academics and our well being too. Although our record doesn't reflect our efforts, I wouldn't want to play with a different team of girls. Coming into a new sport I was expecting us to be friends or close, but I didn't expect to gain a family. Yes, families have ups and downs, and we had our fair share but at the end of the day, we all knew how to come together and play for each other. We really become one."



# Women's Soccer

Head Coach: Paul Vazquez



The women's soccer team season ended another successful season in the conference semifinals. The Pilgrims have made the conference tournament for the last nine seasons and have reached the finals in three of the past five seasons. They added three players to the all-conference teams including Leeann Demirjian (Needham, Mass.) and Madison Wheeler (Benton City, Wash.) to the second team. Kayla Paquin (Pembroke, N.H.) picked up first-team honors as well as Rookie of the Year for the NECC. The Pilgrims finished the regular season 5-1-1 in conference good enough for third place as they hosted a quarterfinal game which they won 3-1 against Bay Path. They also added two players to the NECC All-Tournament Team in Paquin and Emily Wightman (Deering, N.H.). Senior Molly Bieksha (Norton, Mass.) was selected to the New England Women's Intercollegiate Soccer Association (NEWISA) Senior Bowl.

## DID YOU KNOW

Kayla Paquin is the 26th member of the New England College women's team to be named to the first-team all-conference.

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Madison Wheeler

Sophomore || Benton City, Wash.

"If someone was to ask me what I think about when I think of New England College it would be family, safety, understanding, and home. My team is my family. They are part of the reason why I chose this school. The other part, and one of the biggest reasons, was Coach Paul Vazquez. When I first visited the school, the first thing I noticed, when walking into coach Paul's office, was a picture on the corner of his desk of him and one of his players hugging, after what looks like a big win. When I looked around his office more, I noticed pictures all over the walls, but for some reason, I felt safe. The more we talked I felt safe and comfortable. When my mom and I laid out all the pros and cons of each program, that evening, nothing stood out. So, she asked me one question, "If everything hit the fan right now, this moment, being this far from home; who would you feel comfortable going to?" It was obvious, Coach Paul and the NEC Women's soccer team. Knowing that I would be somewhere so far from home, I would still be okay. Today I am halfway through my second year of school and be with my team for 2 years. Yes, we have our ups and downs. Show me a team that doesn't. But the feeling of family, safety, understanding, and home are still stronger than ever. From New England College's beautiful campus, the mentors in my department and the team I now call my family, I couldn't have made a better choice than to come all the way to New Hampshire and become an NEC Pilgrim. Go Grims!"



# Women's Volleyball

Head Coach: Kirsten Morrison



The volleyball team ended their season in the NECC championship game, the first time in the brief program history. They added four to the NECC all-conference teams including Maggie Dadmun (Cape Elizabeth, Maine) who was picked for the third-team. Jaycie Kodama (Pauoa Valley, Hawaii) was placed on the second-team, while Tihani Ehia (Kaneohe, Hawaii) and Shirita Wimberly (Waipahu, Hawaii) earned first-team honors. Kirsten Morrison earned Coach of the Year honors for the NECC as she led them to a 6-1 record in conference and the best season in program history. They also added two players to the NECC All-Tournament Team in Ehia and Kodama. This season also saw several milestones as Kodama broke the digs record (34) for a single game, Ehia hit the 200 mark in both kills and digs this past season and was the first player in program history to do so. Additionally, Wimberly broke the season record for service aces with 62. They also set several other program records including fewest points allowed (1,246.5), highest hitting per-centage (.126), and most total blocks (128.5).

## DID YOU KNOW

Women's Volleyball is now 3-0 at home in the playoffs. In three short years, the Pilgrims have picked up one home playoff win in each season.

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Shirita Wimberly  
Freshman || Waipahu, Hawaii

“ My experience here with my team was one to remember! I had a fun time getting to know each of them through the season and sharing my passion for volleyball with them. Coming from Hawaii and being so far away from home, the team did a really good job of making me feel comfortable. The coaches did a great job in pushing me to better myself as a player and as a student here at New England College. The support we get at games from the students here at NEC is amazing, they always help build the momentum on our side when we are in a game and that is irreplaceable. The classrooms are small but I like it like that because I feel as though I learn better that way. The professors here are awesome! They do want us as students to succeed in all we do and that helped in giving me a strong mindset as a freshman.”



# Alpine Skiing

Head Coach: Robert Millard



Through their first 10 games, they have recorded six wins and four losses. Three of those games were against nationally-ranked opponents including the program's first win against a nation-ally-ranked opponent. The win came against No. 16 WPI by a score of 78-73. They also saw a narrow 107-104 loss to No. 10 Nichols College and a last-second 88-87 loss to No. 4 Middle-bury College. Izaiah Winston-Brooks (Roxbury, Mass.) passed 1,500 career points against Husson University on December 14th. He is the 6th player in program history to surpass 1,500 points in a career. Winston-Brooks and Larry McKinney (Norwalk, Conn.) each picked up NECC Player of the Week Honors, while freshman Michael Tavilla (Winchester, Mass.) was named NECC Rookie of the Week twice.

# Men's Ice Hockey

Head Coach: Tom Carroll



Alpine Skiing will open up their fourth season back as a varsity sports, as they start competition on January 9th at Wildcat Mountain in Pinkham Notch, N.H.

“We are excited for this upcoming year, I know that our student-athletes are eager to get on the slopes. The goal of developing the skills to ski in New England's ever-changing conditions is our top priority”

-Robert Millard '14

# Men's Basketball

Head Coach: Charlie Mason



Heading into winter break the men's ice hockey team is 8-4-1, ranked 15th in the country, and is second in the New England Hockey Conference with a 6-2-0 record. Senior Carlos Fornaris (Miami, Fla.) became the 26th player in program history to reach the 100 point career milestone with an assist against Hobart College on December 6th. He is the first player to reach 100 career points since Mark Ehl in 2010. Heading into the break the Nikita Pinutsov (Mogilev, Belarus) leads the country in goals with 17 and 1.31 goals per game, while Fornaris leads the country in assists at 18 and 1.5 assists per game. Pin-tusov was named Player of the Week earlier this season, while freshman Alex Laplante (Londonderry, N.H.) was selected as the NEHC Rookie of the Week at the end of the semester.





# Women's Basketball

Head Coach: Erica Ledy



They hold a record of 7-3 through seven games, as they ride a four-game win streak into the break. In those last four games, they have won by an average margin of 32 points. They also sit at 2-0 in the New England Collegiate Conference action and are currently tied for first place. Rene Hudson (Gallatin, Tenn.) broke the program's record for career points at 1,589 on December 9th against Norwich University. Coach Erica Ledy eclipsed 400 career wins on December 7th as they defeated Dean College 72-56. Hudson was named as the NECC Player of the Week after her record-setting performance against Norwich, while freshman Rebekah Toussaint (Mirmar, Fla.) picked up Rookie of the Week honor earlier in the year.

# Women's Ice Hockey

Head Coach: Maria Lewis



Womens hockey has a very young team with talented players and have seen good growth on the ice as a group. They picked up a tie against Johnson and Wales University in a 3-3 game. Goalkeeper Cianna Weir (Olds, Alberta) set the program record for saves in a game with 85 on December 14th against Suffolk. Jen Toof had the previous record with 76 against Manhattanville on December 1st, 2002. The 85 saves were also good enough for fourth-most in Division III history. Weir was named NEHC Goaltender of the Week, while freshman Sean D'urso (Andover, Mass.) was picked as NEHC Rookie of the Week.

# Men's Wrestling

Head Coach: John Archambeau



The team has a record of 2-2 and has participated in three tournaments. They finished 2nd out of 15 teams at the Doug Parker Invitational at Springfield College. They also won the Live Free or Die Duel Meet defeating both Plymouth State and UNH. In their most recent tournament, they finished 5th out of 15 teams up at the RIT Invitational. The team currently sits at 6th in the conference in tournament rankings and has four different wrestlers in the top five for their respective weight classes.



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