

HERONews

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The Heron Society of WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGE

Hérons aim for return trip to national stage

Under the leadership of Head Coach **SALLY SCATTON**, the William Smith College field hockey team has not gone more than four seasons between national championships. If you believe in signs, the Herons last hoisted the NCAA championship trophy in 2000. It's time.

William Smith welcomes back 15 letterwinners, including seven starters. While she believes her 2005 squad is capable of competing on the national stage, Scatton is cautiously optimistic about the team's chances of returning to the NCAA championship round for a second straight year.

"We have some critical pieces to replace, but we have the talent in place to do it," Scatton said. "We just need to get them some experience."

One place William Smith won't be short is up top. Junior **SOPHIE DENNIS** and senior **MAGGIE DOLAN** have combined for 148 points during their careers. Together they form the most formidable scoring tandem in the Liberty League.

Dennis, who has averaged 45 points per season, is on track to eclipse the career scoring mark of **MELISSA CROWLEY '91** (147). In 2004, she posted 53 points (the second highest single season total for a Heron) on 22 goals and nine assists, while earning first-team All-American honors. Dennis is a magician in front of the cage on penalty corners, giving opposing goalies fits.



KEVIN COULTON/SPORTSPICS.NET

Liz Saucier '07 and the Herons have their sights set on a return trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Dolan blossomed into a potent scoring threat in her own right last season, notching 13 goals and nine assists. At her present scoring clip, she should move into the William Smith top-10 in scoring with even an average scoring season. A third-team All-American, Dolan thrived last year, at times operating as the

Hérons' No. 1 scoring option as teams swarmed Dennis in a futile attempt to deny her touches.

Senior **TARA BAKER** and junior **ASHLEY BARKER** will battle for the third starting spot up top. Both players have quality game experience and will provide able support to Dennis and Dolan.

The offense also will be bolstered by a quintet of talented, if untested, first-years that Scatton expects to factor into the front line rotation.

In the midfield, senior **AMY KUZIO** and junior **BROOKE ATWOOD** return to their starting roles on the wings. However, William Smith will need to find a new central midfielder following the graduation of two-time All-American Sarah Silverio '05. Both Kuzio (3-6-12 in 2004) and Atwood (4-2-10) have the skills and savvy to handle the assignment.

Two veterans and a pair of first-years will compete for quality time in the third starting role. Junior defender **KATELIN NICKERSON** may move forward because of the Herons' surplus of talented

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Steward to lead Heron Athletics Department

GENEVA, N.Y.—Following an extensive nationwide search, Hobart and William Smith President Mark D. Gearan appointed **DEB STEWARD** to serve as director of athletics of William Smith, effective Aug. 1.



Deb Steward

"We are pleased to welcome Deb to the Colleges' community," Gearan said. "The many successes she has had throughout her career leave me no doubt that she will continue the tradition of excellence that has long been associated with Heron Athletics."

As athletics director, Steward will oversee all aspects of William Smith's intercollegiate athletic program, including its direction, development, scheduling, facilities, and financial management. Additionally, Steward will supervise the Sport and Recreation Center, the outdoor recreation adventure program, the waterfront, and the wellness program.

"During my interview process, I was incredibly impressed by the people of the Colleges," Steward said. "The positive energy and the bright outlook for the future were clearly evident. I'm honored and thrilled to have this opportunity."

Steward joins the Herons following three years as an assistant athletic director at Ithaca College. The senior woman administrator for the Bombers, Steward managed the budget for 25 intercollegiate varsity athletic programs and supervised as many as 15 sports, overseeing the coaching staffs, event management, and compliance. She coordinated the use of the college's indoor and outdoor facilities, and

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Depth, experience highlight Heron hopes in '05

The William Smith soccer program led by legendary Head Coach **ALICEANN WILBER** features an experienced squad—including 11 players that played in at least 14 games last season—that is poised to improve on its 13-4-3 2004 overall record and ECAC semifinal appearance.

Under the guidance of Wilber, William Smith has registered 21 consecutive winning seasons, including eight straight with at least 13 victories.

Despite the loss of three important seniors to graduation, the Herons have a solid corps of players returning and a talented class of first-years who are capable of filling the void matriculation left in the lineup.

William Smith will feature **LAURA BURNETT-KURIE** and **COURTNEY PETERS** in the attacking third of the field. They are a pair of young, but experienced strikers who are expected to provide the Herons with an effective offensive attack. Burnett-Kurie, the offensive catalyst, recorded a team-high six goals, all game winners, and 15 points in 20 games. The 2004 Liberty League Rookie of the Year will return to the front line where she uses her quickness and endurance to generate scoring opportunities. Classmate Peters, who played in 17 games, is a tall and powerful player who provides an aerial assault inside the box.

Sophomores **JOHANNA MURPHY** and **MOLLY CHUDLEIGH** have distinguished themselves during preseason as viable scoring threats, which will also continue to add depth in the attacking third of the field.

The 2005 Caller-Times Offensive MVP, first-year **ALLISON VAN HEUGTEN** (Corpus Christi Academy/Corpus Christi, Texas) is expected to contribute off the bench.

Despite the departure of **DEBBIE MINARICK '05**, a mainstay in the William Smith midfield, the Herons will return a



Midfielder Kate Warner '06 is one of four seniors who will lead the Herons this season.

trio of players who saw significant minutes in at least 18 games. Senior **STEPH GRIDLEY** and **KATE WARNER** will roam the flanks and look to capitalize on scoring opportunities. A proven playmaker, Gridley has posted 36 career points, on 12 goals and 12 assists, in 66 career games. Warner, who played in all 20 games, includ-

ing 18 starts, finished her junior campaign tied for third on the team in points (4-1-9).

Junior **ALEXANDRA RIEBEN** will use her keen field vision to anchor the midfield. As a sophomore, she started 19 of the 20 games she played in, and finished tied with Warner in points.

The Herons are expecting a pair of first-years, **SARA HAYES** (Radnor/Radnor, Pa.) and **KEM PRICE** (Our Lady of Good Counsel/Silver Spring, Md.), to challenge the returning midfielders for playing time. Hayes has displayed quick feet and a tireless work ethic throughout the preseason, while Price has displayed a savvy presence along with solid technical skills.

The strength of the 2004 squad was its vaunted defense—All-NYSWCAA honorees **SERAPHINE HAMILTON**, **JENN TIBBENS '05**, and **PRIA YOUNG**—which surrendered just nine goals throughout the entire season. Classmates Hamilton and Young have been mainstays in the backline for three seasons. Their ability to organize and mobilize the William Smith back line as a cohesive unit has earned the respect and admiration of their fellow teammates.

Junior **ASHLEY KENT**, who played in 14 games, including 11 starts, was hampered throughout last season by a nagging injury. The coaching staff is hoping for a healthy season, so she can solidify the wing defense.

Sophomore **GABRIELLE ALLIDI**, who played in 17 games, including seven

Experience will pace Heron harriers

The William Smith cross country team made great strides at the end of the 2004 season, so Head Coach **JACK WARNER** is looking for these strong performances to carry over into the fall.



Leanne Roncolato

The Herons return five experienced runners from last year's squad, paced by junior **LEANNE RONCOLATO**.

Roncolato returns as William Smith's top runner, crossing the finish line first for the

Hérons in every race last year. At the Saratoga Invitational on Oct. 23, she recorded the Herons' best 5-kilometer time of the season (20:08), which earned her a 34th place finish out of 124 runners. She sliced 48 seconds off her previous week's time at the Harry F. Anderson Invitational. Roncolato also paced William Smith in the 6k, turning in a season's best time (24:51) at the NCAA regional championships.

Junior **JENNIFER STRONG** showed the most improvement throughout the season. At the Saratoga Invitational, Strong covered the course in 20:41, which shaved nearly four minutes off her time at the beginning of the season.

Senior **KATE CHABOT**, who consistently improved in every 5k race throughout the season, will guide the Herons to team success through her experience and tireless work ethic. In her final 5k competition, Chabot registered her fastest performance of the season, clipping 2:15 off her time from her first race in the fall.

Sophomore **MORGAN MACCUAIG**, who finished second on the team in a pair of races, turned in a season's best performance (21:08) at the Saratoga Invitational, trimming 2:20 off her first collegiate race.

Senior **AMANDA CONDELLO** notched a season's best performance at the Saratoga Invitational. Condello sliced a whole minute off her previous week's time.

The addition of first-year **MARISA ATHAS** (Middlesex School/Westwood, Mass.) should provide immediate results. In high school competition, Athas posted a time of 20:08 in the 5k.

Tennis team will have youthful look in 2005-06

In three of its last four seasons the William Smith tennis team, under the direction of Head Coach **CHIP FISHBACK**, has accumulated 14 victories and put together an overall record of 52-22. With a 14-5 mark, the 2004 Herons matched the win total of the 2001 and 2002 teams. Despite the graduation of four key players, the youthful Herons are poised to continue their winning ways.

The coaching staff will use the fall season as an opportunity to evaluate different doubles combinations in an effort to find three efficient pairs.

In singles play, sophomore **TARA WARE**, whose consistent play led to a 17-8 overall record from the third singles spot, is expected to move up in the line up. Her hard, flat ground strokes from the baseline caused opponents fits. Throughout the summer, she worked tirelessly on developing a stronger volleying game.

Junior **MEGHAN KELLEY**, who posted a 7-4 overall record at sixth singles, is expected to assume more of a leadership role. Her consistent all-court game led

her to the semifinals of the NYSWCAA Tennis Championships. Her ability to mentor and guide the youthful Herons will play a significant role in William Smith's success.

Senior **HEIDI AMBROZAITIS** is expected to compete for a starting spot, while adding depth and experience.

As a first-year, **KATIE CAMPBELL** registered an 8-6 overall record at fifth singles. Her devastating backhand led her to the semifinals at the NYSWCAA Tennis Championship. Campbell is expected to contribute as she plays higher in the lineup in both singles and doubles.

Sophomore **CORY TURNER**, who registered a 7-1 record at No. 5 singles, thrived during the spring. Possessing an all-court game, the athletic Turner is expected to compete for a higher spot in the lineup in both singles and doubles.

In the spring season, sophomore **ERINN CAIN**, who is rehabbing an injury, will provide William Smith with an added lift. Last season, she registered a 6-1 record from the sixth singles position.



Meghan Kelley is one of only two upperclassmen on the young Heron tennis roster.

A highly talented first-year, **CHELSEA RAUCK** (Columbus School for Girls/Bexley, Ohio), is expected to contribute immediately and see significant time in the top-half of the Herons' lineup. She appeared in the Ohio Division II State doubles final last spring.

Sophomore **CHRISTEN BUCKNALL** along with a pair of first-years, **COLLEN CARPINELLA** (Hamden/Hamden, Conn.), and **ALI HASEOTES** (Lincoln School/North Attleboro, Mass.) will battle for the No. 6 singles spot along with providing depth on the squad.

SOCCER OUTLOOK (from p. 2)

starts, is expected to use her innate defensive instincts to eliminate opponents scoring chances. Classmate **LEIGH WILLIAMSON**, who played in 11 games, is expected to compete for a starting spot along with adding depth and speed to the Herons' backline.

Sophomore **JAMIE STEVENS**, who played in 18 games, including three starts, is expected to compete for quality minutes and insert a physical presence into the final third of the field.

In goal, junior **NIKKI DUDLEY**, who earned All-Region honors last fall, will return to her post. A member of the All-Liberty League second-team, she led the conference in save percentage (.899) and was second in the League in goals against average (0.43) and shutouts (12), including a streak of six consecutive goose eggs that spanned 565:16.

The healthy return of first-years **ALI ART** (Herricks/Manhasset Hills, N.Y.), **KATE COMPTON** (The Loomis Chaffee School/West Hartford, Conn.), and **RAYZA SANTIAGO** (Webster Scrooeder/Webster, N.Y.), who are suffering from preseason injuries, will energize the William Smith lineup.

FIELD HOCKEY OUTLOOK (from p. 1)

backliners. Sophomore **BRITNEY PAYE** was a regular part of the midfield rotation by the end of last season, providing William Smith quality minutes off the bench. Rookies **LEILA HIGGINS** (Peapack, N.J.), a team captain and the recipient of the Coaches Award at the Groton School, and **CHARLOTTE STYER** (Mohnton, Pa.), a two-time All-Division player for Governor Mifflin High School, also will get a shot in the midfield.

Despite the graduation of three-time All-Liberty League pick **LEA DESFORGES '05** and **JANIE O'DONNELL '05**, Scatton considers the defense to be the strength of this year's team.

Senior left back **LAUREN FULLER** is a shut down defender with a thunderous stick on penalty corners. She has scored 14 goals over the past two seasons, including seven game-winners. Also returning is junior center back **LIZ SAUCIER**. An intelligent player, she is rarely caught out of position despite moving forward enough to collect seven goals and two assists last season.

Seniors **MELISSA FITCH** and **PATRICIA FOSTER**, juniors **MICHELLE PETERS** and **Nickerson**, and sophomore **SKYLAR**

BEAVERS will compete for the two remaining starting roles. Scatton is confident in the abilities of all five and will be blessed with exceptional depth with whatever combination she chooses.

In goal, senior **SUE JORDAN** returns for her second season as the starter. She came into her own over the final month of the 2004 season, posting an 8-1 record with a 0.88 goals against average. Jordan produced the finest performance of her career in the NCAA semifinal against eventual national champion Salisbury, turning away 19 Seagull offerings.

First-year **KATIE DEKRAKER** (Staples/Westport, Conn.) will serve as Jordan's understudy. DeKraker has impressed the coaching staff with her work ethic and dedication to the team effort.

The pieces are in place, but if the Herons are going to return to the pinnacle of Division III for the fourth time since 1992, they'll first have to contend with an ultracompetitive Liberty League slate. William Smith has finished atop the league standings seven times over the past 10 seasons, but each season the conference gets stronger and stronger, leaving the Herons little time to rest.

Published by the Heron Society of William Smith College to keep its members informed of the achievements of the William Smith athletics program as well as the Society's efforts to support and promote the Herons' continued success. For further information about William Smith athletics, the Heron Society, or this newsletter, contact: William Smith athletics, (315) 781-3500.

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Herons look to ace sophomore season

Fresh off its inaugural season, the William Smith golf team is determined to build on the experience it gained in 2004. Under the guidance of Head Coach **JEFF PULLI**, the Herons return four golfers from last year's squad, which turned in a fourth place finish at the NYSWCAA Golf Championships.

Senior **VALERIE DOLAN** recorded the first hole-in-one by a Heron during the inaugural state championships. Using a six-iron, she aced the 137-yard 13th hole en route to posting the Herons' best score on the day and a 12th place overall finish. She turned in a sub-50 score on the front nine at the Irondequoit Country Club to assist William Smith with its first duel match victory.

Senior **KARA DOYLE** will be looking to pick up where she left off last season. From start to finish, she lowered her score by nine strokes.

Junior **MAUREEN HANNAN** posted a 17th place finish at the NYSWCAA, while carding a season's best 90 on the final day of play. Sophomore **KATIE WOOD** displayed the most improvement throughout her first collegiate season. In the final round of the NYSWCAA, she sliced off 18 strokes from her season debut.

Sophomore **MADDIE BROOKS** joins the squad this season. A talented athlete, Brooks also plays on the defending Liberty League Championship Heron squash team.

The addition of first-years **NICKIE CALANDRA** (Camden/Blossvale, N.Y.), **MADÉLAINE HUNT** (Miss Porter's School/Medfield, Mass.), and **LAUREN ZEITLER** (Sayville/Sayville, N.Y.) should bolster the Herons' lineup.



Val Dolan '06 will lead the 2005-06 Heron golf team.

KEVIN COLTON/SPORTSPICS.NET

NEW LEADER (from p. 1)

served as the coordinator of the Bombers' on-campus postseason competition.

A former member of the NCAA Division III Softball Committee, Steward took an active role in the Ithaca community, serving on several campus committees.

Prior to her arrival in the Empire State, Steward spent eight years at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. With the Blugold, she served in many roles: assistant and head softball coach, senior woman administrator, business manager, and assistant athletics director. During her two seasons as head coach of the softball team, she guided the Blugold to a 54-33-1 record and the 2000 NCAA Division III Great Lakes Region Championship.

Steward began her professional career at St. Mary's (Minn.) University. She coached basketball, softball, and volleyball for the Cardinals, coordinated the athletics department's recruiting, and was an instructor in the physical education department. In 1994, Steward was named the MIAA Softball Coach of the Year.

A 1990 graduate of Winona State (Minn.) University with a bachelor's degree in mathematics education, Steward was a four-year letterwinner in softball and volleyball. She earned a master's degree in education from Eau Claire in 1996.