Heron lacrosse returns wealth of talent; Sets sites on ending season at home

With nine starters and 16 veterans returning from last year, the William Smith lacrosse team is looking good. After posting an impressive 7-1 Liberty League record, the 2006 Herons finished the regular season as the top team in the conference. Ranked 18th in the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association’s (IWLCA) preseason poll, the Herons look to build upon last season’s 10-6 mark. As the host for the 2007 NCAA Division III Women’s Lacrosse Championship, William Smith will make a push to play on its home turf May 19-20.

The task will not come easily, as the Herons will meet seven nationally-ranked opponents in 2007, including three from the Liberty League: Union (16th), Hamilton (19th), and Skidmore (22nd). Additionally, William Smith will take on non-conference challengers Cortland (6th), Franklin and Marshall (7th), Dickinson (14th), and Nazareth (17th) throughout the course of the season.

William Smith lost three key players from last year to graduation. Midfielder Jessica Tanner ’06, Louise Greenwood ’06 at attack, and Jenn Davidson ’06 on defense. Tanner and Greenwood will be sorely missed on the offensive end. Tanner was second on the team in scoring (21 goals-8 assists) and ground balls (48), while Greenwood was third in goals scored with 20. Davidson ranked fourth on the team in ground balls with 33, and added two goals last spring.

Four of the Herons’ top five scorers return to the fold. Senior midfielder Sarah Dillon returns after leading the Heron offense for the past two seasons. A tri-captain, Dillon tallied 38 goals and seven assists for 45 points last spring and enters her final year just four points shy of 100 career points. Joining her in the midfield is classmate and tri-captain Jessica Scott, who totaled 25 points in 2006, and junior Rachel Stahl (23 points). Also stepping up at midfield are sophomores Lauren Peters and Amber Drumm, both of whom are great in transition and provide a consistent offensive threat. Senior Jane Erickson recently returned from studying abroad and has the ability to fill in wherever she is needed.

At attack, junior tri-captain Jesse McKenna and sophomore Michaela Parnell will lead the Herons. McKenna ranked first on the team in assists last season with 20, while Parnell chipped in with nine goals and two helpers. Both are talented playmakers who drive to the net well and are good at directing the offense. Sophomores Nina Sperry and Caitlin Leone return on attack as well. Sperry played in nine games last year and is an aggressive, ambidextrous player with a good shot, while Leone uses her height to challenge on attack. She played in 12 games last spring, starting five.

The Herons return two outstanding goalkeepers in junior Morgan Baird and sophomore Becky Josefiak. Last season Baird posted a 10-6 record and a 8.70 goals against average, while Josefiak gained experience playing in four games as a rookie.

Defensively, the Herons bring back junior Sarah Davidson and sophomore Torie Allen. Both started all 16 games for William Smith last spring. Davidson collected a team-high 49 ground balls and led the team with 22 caused turnovers, while Allen picked up 39 GBs. Sophomore Karin LeBlanc will challenge for a starting role on defense (See LACROSSE, p. 2).
Crew prepared for another title run

The William Smith crew is well on its way to posting another successful season. The Herons return 20 veterans and welcome 13 rookies to the squad that earned its second Liberty League Championship and third Liberty League Crew of the Year honor last spring. Led by three-time Liberty League Coach of the Year Sandra Chu, William Smith is poised to make a run at a third title.

Senior Nicole Balsamo, juniors Hannah Gallup and Jessica Mahon, and sophomores Kenzie Cannon and Kerry O’Neill all return from the victorious varsity eight boat that placed first of seven in the league championship last April with a time of 6:53.92. Additionally, seniors Michelle Dodge, Kathryin Lodkengaard, juniors Lucinda Keck, Julie Kozarsky, Christa Mulcahy, Jessica Wojslaw, and sophomores Alexandra Bowers, Becky Gosse, Christa Hibbard Emily Maguire, and Anne Wakeman all return to provide leadership to a strong Heron team.

William Smith’s varsity eight also took a second place finish in the New York State Championships last season, while the second varsity eight won the state title before going on to place fourth out of 18 teams at the ECAC Championships.

Additionally, the Herons registered strong top-five showings at the Head of the Charles and the Head of the Fish regattas.

After solid races this fall and a vigorous March spring training session in Georgia—which included a victorious scrimmage against Ithaca—the Herons are ready to take the water on March 24, when they host Rensselaer.

The William Smith varsity eight begins the spring season ranked 10th in the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association/US Rowing preseason poll. The Herons are the top ranked Liberty League boat and trail only the Bombers.

The team’s ultimate destination is a trip to Oakridge, Tenn., the site of the 2007 NCAA Division III National Championships.

LACROSSE (from p. 1)

defense after playing in 13 games as a rookie, while all-around defender junior Bridget Millard adds flexibility and depth.

Longtime Head Coach Pat Genovese will look to seven first-years to help fill holes left by Tanner, Davidson, and Greenwood. Kate Harrington and Molly Fitzgerald are both expected to make immediate impacts. Look for Harrington to step in on the defensive end, while Fitzgerald, the sister of former William Smith defender Meghan Fitzgerald ’04, will likely add to the offense at attack.

Additionally, first-years Margeaux Harrold, Sarah Goodkind, Medora Hartz, Brittany Callaghan, and Bridget MacBain will all look to contribute. Harrold and MacBain are both coming off injuries, but have the potential to be versatile players. Hartz and Callaghan will add speed and athleticism to the midfield, while Goodkind will put her center draw skills to work for the Herons.

CORRECTION

In the Winter issue of the HERONews, Carol Shanks Dougherty ’83 was inadvertently left off the list of outgoing directors from the Heron Society Board. We thank her and the other outgoing directors for their dedicated service to the student-athletes of William Smith.
Sailors aim to stay at forefront

One of the top sailing programs in the country, the Hobart and William Smith team continues to contest for regatta titles everywhere it goes. Last spring, the Herons and Statesmen teamed up to take third place in the ICSA/Laylin Team Race National Championship, and won the America and Prosser trophies, marking the second straight season the team won both events.

Seniors Mandi Markee and Kate Brush will lead the 2007 sailors, with help from juniors Emily Golson, Laura Golson, Kate Wilson, and Sara Vogel, and sophomores Sarah Borup, Kaitlyn Van Nostrand, and Morgan Commette.

This fall, Markee and Borup led HWS to a second-place finish at the Captain Hurst Bowl and War Memorial Regatta, a fourth-place finish at the Nevins Trophy, a sixth-place showing at the Danmark Trophy, and a win at HWS's own Fall Intersectional, while Van Nostrand helped guide the squad to wins at Cornell's Fall Open, the New York Maritime Open, and the Fall North No. 1 hosted by HWS.

Other fall season highlights included winning the Jack Wood Trophy, and senior Lauren Anderson’s top finish at the HWS Laser Radial BYO Regatta.

Tennis sports talent, experience

The tennis team has a wealth of talent, experience, and youthful exuberance this spring. The Herons boast eight players returning from last season, including 2006 ITA National Rookie of the Year Chelsea Rauck, while welcoming three members of the Class of 2010.

The 15th-ranked singles player in the ITA’s Northeast region, Rauck has won better than 81 percent of her career matches. She would like nothing better than to win her way into another NCAA berth.

The biggest change in the team from the fall to the spring is the return of juniors Tara Ware (pictured below), Cory Turner, and sophomore Katie Campbell from the HWS Study Abroad program.

Ware (.701 career winning percentage) returned to the lineup in the No. 2 spot in peak physical condition, playing some of the best tennis of her career.

The team’s lone senior, Meghan Kelley (pictured above), will battle at No. 3. Her record will benefit from Ware’s return as she plays one spot down in the lineup.

After a strong fall season, first-year Shari Damon earned the fourth singles spot where she has a 3-1 record in dual matches.

At No. 5, sophomore Samantha Schraeter has slugged her way to a 5-1 record.

Turner has laid claim to the sixth spot in the order. She sports an impressive .731 career singles winning percentage.

Rauck and Ware form William Smith’s top doubles tandem, while Kelley has teamed with Campbell at No. 2. Campbell steps in for junior Erinn Cain, who is studying abroad this semester. Second doubles has been the top pairing for the team this season, winning seven of nine matches so far.

Some combination of Damon, Schraeter, and Turner will form the third doubles team.

Sophomore Alexandra Haseotes and first-year Meredith Levenson will also battle for playing time.

The Herons will be challenged right away, following their three-match swing through North Carolina over spring break, with a regionally ranked opponents, No. 15 Skidmore (March 24), No. 8 College of New Jersey (March 31), and No. 14 NYU (April 1). The regular season concludes April 28-29 with the annual William Smith Invitational.
Lacrosse’s Erickson earns Fulbright Assistantship

William Smith senior Jane Erickson, a starting midfielder on the nationally ranked Heron lacrosse team, was selected to receive a highly competitive Fulbright Assistantship in Indonesia where she will teach English to high school students.

Erickson will leave in July for Indonesia, a country where only half of the students finish primary school, on a 10-month program where she hopes to serve as an impetus for change through classroom teaching and involvement in community youth work.

“I think the magnitude of what I am about to embark on is still hitting me, but I know this will be the most enriching experience of my life so far,” said the political science and public policy major.

A 2006 recipient of a Salisbury International Internship, Erickson developed her desire to work in Indonesia because of her summer experience in Northern Ireland with the National University of Ireland’s Community Knowledge Initiative.

“There is extreme sectarian divide in Belfast,” she said. “The people in Northern Ireland identify with other countries that have had colonial rule. With all the problems in Indonesia and East Timor, it seemed that it was a place where I could experience another culture in a similar situation. It’s my ultimate goal to help the students see that ideas are fluid, and that opportunity—in their own country and abroad—is infinite through a better understanding of how to communicate with other individuals.”

Erickson is eager to share her passion for activism and civic engagement. In 2004, she worked as a field organizer on Colorado’s “Vote Yes on Referenda C and D” campaign in support of higher education funding. While studying off-campus in Washington, D.C., in 2006, Erickson worked with the Maryland Votes campaign that registered 8,500 area students to vote.

Additionally, Erickson is one of the founders of the non-profit agency Summit Educational Outreach Program at HWS, which provides school supplies for needy primary schools in Nairobi, Kenya.

Craig Rimmerman, professor of public policy studies and political science, says Erickson has distinguished herself as a dedicated and highly motivated young woman who continues to be engaged in serious ways in politics and public policy matters.

“Jane will be a smashing hit,” Rimmerman said. “I can’t think of a better prepared person for this position.”

Fulbright recipients are selected based on academic and professional achievements as well as their demonstrated leadership potential. The Fulbright exchange program was established in 1946 to build joint understanding between the people of the United States and other nations of the world.