

SAA

# Sports LETTER

## Statesmen hockey prepared to stay on top of ECAC West

**GENEVA, N.Y.**—The Hobart hockey team made some teams sit up and take notice during the 2003-04 season after putting together the most successful and memorable season in Statesmen hockey history. Capturing both the ECAC West regular season and tournament crowns and earning the program's first bid to the NCAA Tournament, Hobart finished the season with a 15-8-5 record, tying the 1978-79 squad for wins in a season and posting the highest winning percentage ever.

Senior **CRAIG LEVEY** paced the offense with 17 goals and 17 assists, earning the ECAC West Co-Player of the Year award, while sophomores **COLBY McVEY** and **WILL BRAME** added 22 and 21 points, respectively. Brame was selected to the All-ECAC West second-team.

Junior goaltender **ADAM LAVELLE** anchored the Statesmen's blueline, finishing the season with an .882 save percentage and a 3.64 goals against average. Named to the JOFA/ACHA College Division All-America second-team, Lavelle is Hobart's first hockey all-american.

Returning over 90 percent of its offense from a year ago and a talented group of defensemen, the Statesmen enter the season atop the ECAC West coaches' poll and 12th in USCHO.com's Division III preseason poll.

Known as a team that comes to work everyday, two-time ECAC West Coach of the Year **MARK TAYLOR** expects his squad to continue that play this year.

"We want our intensity and our work ethic to be our foundation and our talent and skills to separate us," said Taylor. "We look at the ranking as simply a goal achieved from last year."



KEVIN COLTON/SPORTSMAN.NET

Heading the offensive charge again this season will be Levey. His swan song season, Levey is a proven goal scorer and playmaker. An important part of the Statesmen's special teams as well, he needs just eight power-play goals to surpass Keith Levinthal '94 at the top of the career list.

Joining Levey on Hobart's top line will be McVey and Brame. McVey has not only shown he has the ability to score goals, but to create chances as well. Brame will center the line, providing Hobart with physical and up-tempo play. Playing together in each of the past two seasons, this line has the ability to be one of the most potent in the conference.

After turning in a strong rookie season, sophomore **JONATHAN SWIFT** will return on the wing for the Statesmen. A powerful player, he was fourth on the team in scoring, earning the ECAC West's Co-Rookie of the Year award. Joining him as the center of the line will be junior **EDWARD POIRIER**. The fastest skater on the team, Poirier is a quick and dynamic forward who will add an extra spark to the offense. First-year **BRIAN CIBELLI** also is expected to have an immediate impact for the Statesmen. Finishing 16th overall in points last year in the provincial junior hockey league with the Syracuse Stars, Cibelli is smart and possesses great offensive ability.

Junior **LEE CARRIER** will man the right wing again for the Statesmen after compiling 14 points in his second season. An imposing presence on the ice at 6-5, Carrier plays consistent hockey on both ends of the ice. Also expected to see significant ice-time is senior **JESSE DESPER** and sophomore **MIKE MCCARTHY**. The playmaker on the line, Desper does the behind the

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### ECAC West Ice Hockey Standings (as of Dec. 14)

	----- ECAC West -----					----- Overall -----			
	Pts	GP	Record	Win%	GF- GA	GP	Record	Win%	GF- GA
RIT	7	5	3- 1- 1	.700	21- 9	10	7- 2- 1	.750	40- 24
Utica	7	5	3- 1- 1	.700	23- 17	12	7- 3- 2	.667	50- 41
Manhattanville	6	3	3- 0- 0	1.00	14- 7	9	9- 0- 0	1.00	49- 20
Elmira	6	5	3- 2- 0	.600	26- 22	12	6- 4- 2	.583	63- 43
Hobart	4	4	1- 1- 2	.500	10- 13	12	6- 2- 4	.667	39- 32
Lebanon Valley	2	5	1- 4- 0	.200	13- 25	10	3- 7- 0	.300	33- 45
Neumann	0	5	0- 5- 0	.000	7- 21	13	0-12- 1	.038	24- 52

## Cagers eye improvement in 2004-05

The Hobart basketball team begins the 2004-05 season with high expectations thanks to a solid core of returning veterans, a pair of backcourt transfers, and a talented crop of first-year forwards. Eighth-year Head Coach **RICH ROCHE '87** is excited about the potential of this year's squad.

"Last season, we weren't able to go very deep into our bench, but with the players we've added to the roster this year, along with the guys coming back, our depth will be a strength," Roche says. "If anything, we may have trouble finding enough minutes for everyone."

Hobart welcomes back five players that started at least 11 games in 2003-04, including two of the top rebounders in the Liberty League, senior forward **JOE FLACKE** and junior forward **TIM APUZZO**.

The team's leading scorer and No. 2 rebounder, Flacke averaged 12.2 ppg and 7.0 rpg during his first season in the starting lineup. Focused on making his final season his best, he worked diligently in the weight room during the offseason, adding 15 pounds of muscle to his 6-foot-7 frame. A seemingly unstoppable force in the paint when he's on—he had 15 double digit scoring nights, including six games of 20-plus—the coaching staff is looking for more consistent game-to-game production from Flacke.

The No. 2 returning scorer and the top rebounder, Apuzzo also made an impressive showing in his first season as a starter. The native of Cumberland, Maine, averaged 9.9 ppg and 7.3 rpg along with a team-best 21 blocked shots. While Flacke has a shooter's touch to 15 feet, Apuzzo owns the paint and dares opponents to step inside.

The backcourt tandem of sophomore **MIKE MANNING** and junior **COLBY FEANE** also is expected to return to the starting lineup.

Manning made a splash as a first-year, averaging 9.6 ppg, 3.0 rpg, and 1.2 spg. A gifted athlete, he broke into the starting lineup by midseason and feasted on Union in conference play, dropping 39 points in two games on the Dutchmen.

Returning for his third season as the starting point guard, Feane has shown steady improvement and is poised to have a breakthrough season. He averaged 9.6 ppg, 3.8 apg, and 1.3 steals last season, including a 26-point effort at Clarkson and a nine-assist night against St. Lawrence. A two-sport athlete, Feane will shed his football shoulder pads as soon as the Statesmen's NCAA Tournament

run comes to a close.

In the meantime, junior transfer **JOE VIRGILIO** is expected to run the point. A deft passer and a threat from three-point range, he helped the Bryant Bulldogs reach the NCAA Division II Tournament round of 16.

The team's other transfer, junior **ADAM FREDERIC** from Division II St. Andrew's, is penciled in at swingman. The 6-foot-4, 190-pound Frederic's playing style is very similar to Manning's. He can beat his opponent off the dribble or just shoot over him.

Depth, or lack thereof, was a curse for last season's Statesmen, but should be a good luck charm this year.

Sophomores **MIKE MASTRO** and **DAN MATUZAK** will spell Apuzzo and Flacke. Mastro played in 23 games as a first-year, contributing 3.3 ppg and 3.0 rpg, while Matuzak, a reserve quarterback on Hobart's football team, made slower progress because he missed the basketball preseason.

First-year forwards **DAN BIRNEY** (6-foot-7, 220), **ROB GENOVESE** (6-foot-4, 180), **JOHN GRAZIOLI** (6-foot-6, 210), and **DAN O'GRADY** (6-foot-6, 200) all could see meaningful minutes this season as well.

The backcourt depth may be even more impressive than that of the frontcourt. Seniors **ERIC JACKS** and **ZACK STELZNER** will battle for time at the point and shooting guards, respectively. Jacks possesses excellent court vision (2.9 assist-to-turnover in 2003-04), while Stelzner is a tenacious defender (27 steals in 21 games). Jacks and Stelzner have 16 career starts between them and shouldn't be counted out of earning a spot in the first five.

With depth and talent returning everywhere on the court, the Statesmen anticipate being in the thick of the race for a spot in the Liberty League Tournament. Hobart will warm up with a challenging non-conference schedule that includes two 2004 NCAA Tournament teams, Rochester and St. John Fisher, and perennial Southern powerhouse Roanoke.

Once the Statesmen dive into the conference fray in January, things don't get any easier. In addition to Hamilton, an NCAA Tournament team, Hobart will square off with ECAC Tournament teams Clarkson, Rensselaer, Skidmore, and Union.

"Is this team good enough to win the conference? I think it's too early to tell," Roche says. "But when February rolls around, I expect we'll be in the hunt. If we make it that far, then a trip to the NCAA Tournament is just a good weekend away."

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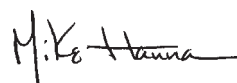
—Head Coach Rich Roche '87

## Seasons Greetings

On behalf of our student-athletes, our staff, and the SAA Board of Directors, I send along our best wishes for the holiday season and for a New Year of peace, prosperity, and good health. This past year has been a very special one in the history of Hobart College Athletics.

We are blessed with a dedicated staff and determined student-athletes of strong character. Certainly your generous support inspires them and plays a key role in the challenging and rewarding athletics experience that they now enjoy.

All the best,



Mike Hanna '68  
Hobart Director of Athletics



Junior Colby Feane (above), along with seniors Eric Jacks and Zach Stelzner, will serve as captains for the 2004-05 season.

## Liberty League Basketball Standings

(as of Dec. 12)

STANDINGS	Overall Record*			
	W-L	Pct	PF	PA
Hobart .....	3-1	.750	72.8	71.8
Skidmore .....	5-2	.714	78.7	63.7
Hamilton .....	4-3	.571	73.1	67.7
Vassar .....	4-3	.571	72.1	71.0
Rensselaer .....	3-3	.500	66.5	67.0
Union .....	2-3	.400	66.8	73.2
Clarkson .....	2-5	.286	69.7	77.4
St. Lawrence .....	1-3	.250	76.5	80.0

\*conference play begins Jan. 11.

## Squash aims to crack CSA top-10

After a record-breaking season last year, the Hobart squash team comes into the 2004-05 season with its sights set high. The Statesmen posted their most successful season in the program's 38 campaigns, setting a new mark for wins in a season (15-9), a best-ever 10th place finish at the College Squash Association Team Championships, and capturing the inaugural Liberty League title.

Returning all but one player from last year's starting lineup, the Statesmen are favored to defend their Liberty League title and have the potential to crack the top-10 this season.

Leading the way in the top spot will be senior **TEJVIR RATHORE**. Coming into the season ranked 34th among all college squash players, Rathore posted an 18-9 record at No. 1 and earned the Liberty League's Performer of the Year Award.

Sophomore **PRATEEK PATNI** returns to the No. 2 position after garnering first-team All-Liberty League honors a year ago with an impressive 5-1 record against conference opponents.

The Statesmen also welcome back seniors **FREDDY COOK** and **ANDREW SCOTT**, juniors **GAVIN JOHNSTONE-BUTCHER** and **HENRY CLUTSAM**, and sophomores **TUCKER CROCKETT** and **ANDY CONRAD** from last year's starters. Cook had a breakout year in 2003, posting a 17-7 record, while Clutsam was outstanding for the Statesmen as well with a team-best mark of 19-9 in the middle of the lineup. Crockett led all Hobart rookies last year with a 17-7 record, playing primarily at No. 6.

Looking to break into the starting nine this season are senior **MICHAEL TIEN** and sophomores **ANDREW McDONOUGH** and **BRIAN SHIVER**. Each saw limited time in 2003, but have shown improvement in the off-season and could anchor the lower third of Hobart's lineup.

The Statesmen will face a tough schedule. In addition to defending their conference crown (see [http://web.stlawu.edu/sports/m\\_squash/04menlibertyrecaps.htm](http://web.stlawu.edu/sports/m_squash/04menlibertyrecaps.htm)). Hobart also will host perennial powers Yale and Dartmouth as well as strong squads in Williams, Amherst, and Franklin & Marshall. The Statesmen will also be tested by a four-match weekend at Trinity in February.

Led by 10th-year Head Coach **CAROL WEYMULLER** (94-90, .511), the Statesmen were ranked 11th in the preseason poll and have their eyes set on a spot in the top-10.

## A lasting legacy— The Art Kenney Scholarship Fund

Many of you remember **ART KENNEY** as a fixture along the sidelines of Boswell Field. He missed only one home football game between 1918 and 1960 and his shoe shine shop on South Exchange Street was a favorite gathering spot for people from all walks of life.

Art Kenney was truly the good fortune of Geneva and the Colleges. He personified the qualities of a Statesman: sportsmanship, teamwork, and perseverance. It is with this in mind that the Hobart Class of 1943 has initiated the Art Kenney Scholarship Fund. This scholarship will be awarded to one Hobart or William Smith student who otherwise would not be able to attend college. The student must be a rising junior who has exhibited a strong sense of community service and exemplary personal character. He or she will be known as the Art Kenney Scholar.

We must raise \$50,000 in order to make this fund a reality. To date we have received commitments of \$29,000. For more information about how you can support the Art Kenney Fund, please contact Leila Rice at (315) 781-3752 or [lrice@hws.edu](mailto:lrice@hws.edu).



## HOCKEY PREVIEW (from p. 1)

scenes work that often goes unnoticed, while McCarthy will be a scoring threat after coming on strong late in the season.

Finishing the year scoring at least a point in five of his final six games, including the game-winner in the ECAC West Championship game, senior **TYLER DUFOUR** will join center **CONOR BRADLEY** and **ADAM SCOTT** on a line. This trio served as an important late-in-the-game line in Hobart's run through the conference tournament and into the NCAAs.

First-years **EDWARD BRZEK** and **SHAWN HOUDE** also are expected to be impact players. Coming from perennial powerhouse St. Sebastian's, Brzek possesses good speed and tenacity, while Houde has good size and the potential to be a complete package player. Junior **BRIAN KEANE** also will see significant time this year after playing in 21 games for the Statesmen last year.

Sophomore **MARC BORDEN** and junior **MATT GARMAN**, who both saw substantial time in the past, will join first-year **THOMAS ALFIERI** of West Genesee to round out the Hobart attack.

Defensively, Hobart is blessed with a strong and experienced group of blueliners, looking to continue its gritty and hard-nosed play. Taylor anticipates that the defensive corps will be even better this year.

Senior **STEPHEN MITACEK** and junior **GREG GALLAGHER** will join forces as the top blueline pair for the Statesmen and

potentially one of the best in the league. A steady and consistent defenseman, Mitacek possesses good hockey sense and sees the ice well, finishing fourth on the team in assists last season. Gallagher is a good puck handler and gives Hobart a scoring punch, leading all defensemen last year with 17 points.

Sophomore **MIKE MANOS** returns after sitting out his rookie season due to injury. Looking strong in preseason workouts, he is expected to have an immediate impact on the Statesmen's blueline as well as the power-play. Junior **JEFF BOSTIC** will join Manos after seeing regular time despite having to battle injuries much of the year.

Consistent regulars last season, junior **WILL BODINE** and sophomore **MIKE POLSONETTI** are expected to be key contributors again this year after playing in 24 games. They both are blessed with good size and will be punishing defensemen for the Statesmen this year.

Junior **MATT WINDHOL** also will see time on the blueline after a couple of solid years, while **WESLEY SCOTT** looks to bounce back from the injury that robbed him of most of his sophomore season. First-year **STANISLAV VYLET** will round out the defensive corps for the Statesmen.

Lavelle will be between the pipes for the Statesmen after an outstanding junior year, while first-year **DIMITRI PAPAEGELOU** has stood out among the rookie goaltenders.



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## UPDATE: Membership Drive, *Sportsletter*

This Winter Sports Preview issue of the *SAA Sportsletter* is being mailed to all Statesmen members. I want to thank all of you for your patience as the respective timetables for our membership drive and *Sportsletter* have been affected by the recent upgrading of the HWS software system used for managing donations and mailings.

By now most of you should have received a phone call to renew and upgrade your SAA membership; if you haven't, the calls will begin again in mid-January. If you have already made your gift for 2004-05, please accept our appreciation. If you haven't and would like to do so for 2004 tax purposes, you can either:

- **Mail your check payable to the SAA and send it to: SAA, Bristol Gym, Hobart College, Geneva, NY 14456.**
- **Or make your gift by credit card by calling Karen Cosentino at (315) 781-3075 (Please note the Hobart Athletics office will be closed December 27-31).**

This issue of the *Sportsletter* is being mailed to all members, as will the Spring Sports issue in February. In an effort to keep our SAA mailing list and e-mail directory current, we will be contacting all members early in 2005 with a very short survey and reply card. The survey will offer members three options:

- Receive the *Sportsletter* electronically in a similar format to the HWS Hill & Quad e-newsletter (members will be asked to provide the SAA with a current e-mail address).
- Receive the *Sportsletter* via U.S. Postal Service.
- Or not receive the *Sportsletter* at all.

Going forward, we have set the following annual schedule for the SAA *Sportsletter*:

Late July	Membership Drive issue
Late August	Fall Sports Preview issue
Late October	Winter Sports Preview issue
Mid-February	Spring Sports Preview issue
Late May	Block H Awards Dinner issue

Again, thank you for your patience and especially for your sustained and generous support of our student-athletes and coaches. That is one very big reason why our teams believe that **"It's Great to be a Statesman!"**

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