Every game a championship game for 2007 Statesmen

Seven hundred wins. With a 12-7 win over St. John's on April 22, 2006, the Hobart College lacrosse program joined an elite fraternity in the men's lacrosse world. The Statesmen joined Johns Hopkins and Syracuse universities as the only collegiate men's lacrosse teams to post 700 wins.

A journey that began with a 2-1 victory over Cornell in 1898, captured 16 national championships, and culminated with that historic win is now ancient history for the latest edition of the Purple and Orange.

Head Coach Matt Kerwick and his charges are focused squarely on the 2007 schedule—the program's 105th season—and the slate of foes that includes four 2006 NCAA Tournament teams.

Hobart's players and coaches are approaching each game as if it were a championship game.

"We're not going to play up games more than others, because they're all so competitive now that you have to be ready to play each game," Kerwick said. "We've got to go out and play our best each week."

The 15-game schedule begins Feb. 18, in the Carrier Dome, the site of the Statesmen's biggest triumph in 2006. Hobart reclaimed the Kraus-Simmons Trophy for the first time since 1986 thanks to a 9-8 victory over the Orange.

Kerwick knows SU, which rebounded from a slow start to reach the national semifinals, will be a big early season test.

"We know that we don't have time to relax and try to ease into our schedule because we're going to play one of the top four teams in the country. It'll be a good barometer for us."

After the team's showdown at Syracuse the Statesmen will play Bucknell in Baltimore, then be at home for eight of its next 11 games, including four in a row between March 13 (Marist) and March 31 (Fairfield).

With the quality of competition at an all-time high in Division I lacrosse, Hobart's home-game heavy schedule could be a key factor in the Statesmen's success this season.

Here's a position-by-position look at the Statesmen:

**ATTACKMEN**

Junior Daryl Veltman is the only starter returning to an attack that ranked 24th in the nation in scoring (9.5 gpg), but the coaching staff is excited by the development of sophomore Jeff Colburn and the arrival of transfer Jamie Kirk.

An All-ECAC second team pick, Veltman led the team with 22 goals and 31 points last season. He begins the season with 81 career points (50 goals), already eighth in career scoring among Division I Statesmen.

Colburn produced 12 points (5-7) as a first-year with half of them coming in the final four games of the season. His improvement down the stretch has him poised for a breakthrough season.

Kirk joins the Statesmen following two seasons at Vermont where he scored 64 points and finished second in the America East and eighth nationally in assists last season.

Together this trio will allow Hobart to play at a much higher tempo than last season. Any one of the three can score and they all have great vision to set up their teammates' goals.

**MIDFIELDERS**

Hobart's biggest strength entering this season will be at the faceoff X, where the Statesmen feature two All-American caliber specialists. Senior John Soden and junior Dan Spinella combined to win 55.8 percent of their restarts, 12th in the nation last season.

At 439, Soden is just 20 wins behind Tim Booth '03, who sports the most wins since the program moved to Division I. Meanwhile, Spinella begins the year with the highest career winning percentage (.574) after ranking fourth in the nation in 2006 (618, 97 of 157).

The top midfield of senior Chris David and juniors Nick Currie and co-captain Sean Murphy account for three of the Statesmen's top five scorers last season.

April 14: Save The Date!

On April 14, it's Lacrosse Letterman Weekend and Hobart Athletics will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1972 lacrosse team's USILA National Championship. At halftime of the Hobart-UMass game (faceoff 1 p.m.), a special ceremony will commemorate the first Statesmen to be called National Champions. For more information, contact Hobart Athletics at (315) 781-3565.
Lacrosse Outlook (from p. 1)

David is a pure goal scorer who enters the season eighth in career goals by Division I Statesmen (51). Currie enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2006, finishing second to Veltman with 27 points, including the game-winning goal against the Orange. Murphy too dodged the sophomore jinx, raising his scoring total from eight points in 2005 to 21 last year.

The competition for the second and third lines is fierce. Seniors James Dussich and Justin Porter are the veterans of the bunch. Dussich played in 10 games a year ago and showed some offensive pop with five points. Despite bouncing from the midfield to attack and back, Porter is in superb shape and ready for the grind of a long season.

Junior Jimmy Farmer switched from d-middie to midfielder last season and was slow to switch gears, but he began to hit his stride as the season drew to a close, notching his first goal against No. 3 Cornell.

The midfield will welcome a pair of sophomore transfers Jake Lecky, from Ohio State, and Will Harrington, from Maryland. Lecky, who saw action in only two games for the Buckeyes, was the 2005 New Jersey Midfielder of the Year for the state champion Summit Hilltoppers. Harrington played in just three games for the 12-5 Terps, but was an exceptional athlete at Friends (Md.)

Junior Sean Murphy was named a co-captain this season. He will run on the top midfield line after scoring 14 goals last season.
School, lettering in lacrosse and football.

Coach Kerwick calls the Class of 2010 his best recruiting class to date and Exhibit A is the wealth of first-year talent in the midfield. Tyler Cassell, Mike Lazore, and Mike Suits are all expected to have a big impact on Hobart’s fortunes this season.

Cassell comes to Hobart via the Salisbury School where he played for Hobart Hall of Famer Bobby Wynne ’94 and was rated one of the top midfielders in the country by Inside Lacrosse. Suits and Lazore are Central New York natives and earned a silver medal together in the 2005 Empire State Games.

Sophomore Matt Smalley and classmate Jamie Sprague will serve as Hobart’s primary d-middles. Smalley was second on the team and 27th in the nation in ground balls a year ago, proving to be a vital link in the team’s success on faceoffs. Sprague is a hard worker and tough checker.

Senior Matt Ranaghan will have big shoes to fill. Moving from close defense to long-stick midfielder, he’ll be asked to step into the role vacated by the graduation of Andrew Narog (71 GBs, 14th in DI). Ranaghan will be backed up by sophomore Chris Hurley and first-year Garrett O’Neill.

DEFENSEMEN

Last season, Hobart’s defense held the opposition to eight goals or fewer eight times. With a core group of returnees and a strong influx of talent, the Statesmen hope to build on that success in ’07.

Senior co-captain Chris Keough and junior Rafe Mattingly form the nucleus of the Hobart close defense. Keough is a speedy, takeaway artist with 119 ground balls to his credit, while Mattingly is Hobart’s best one-on-one defender.

There’s a three-way battle for the remaining starting nod among senior Wesley McDonald, sophomore Ricky Evans, and first-year Adam Del Preore. McDonald played in a career-high nine games last season and responded with solid play. Evans made an immediate impact last season (13 games), and even showed a flair for the offensive game, sneaking forward for an assist at Canisius. Del Preore was an All-State pick last season at Moorestown (N.J.) High School after collecting 73 ground balls.

GOALIES

The biggest question mark for Hobart is in the cage. Mike DeSantis (9.66 career GAA) graduated, leaving Hobart with less than 67 minutes of collegiate experience.

Sophomore Brad Hester—the most experienced contender with 54:10 in the cage last season—is the early front-runner in a wide-open contest. Called on in three games as a first-year, he showed poise and confidence despite two of those contests being already in hand for the opposition.

Hester will be challenged by first-year Max Silberlecht and senior Brandon Baer. Silberlecht is a mountain in the cage (6-foot-3, 230) that invokes memories of Guy Van Arsdale ’83 and Fred Pawlikowski ’98, both in terms of his size and his prowess between the pipes, while Baer has turned heads with his improved play this spring.

On April 14 during Lacrosse Lettermen Weekend, Hobart will honor the 1972 lacrosse team that captured the USILA Championship. A special ceremony at halftime of the UMass game will commemorate the 25th anniversary of Hobart’s first national championship.

Following the Statesmen

Keeping up with the Hobart lacrosse team has never been easier. The Statesmen open their 105th varsity season on Feb. 18 against Syracuse University in the Carrier Dome.

WEOS-FM (89.7/90.3 in Geneva, 88.1 in Ithaca) will carry all 15 regular season games. WEOS can also be heard online at www.weos.org.

All Hobart home games and selected road contests will have live online statistics. Visit the official Statesmen schedule page at www.hws.edu/statesmen/lacrosse/schedule.asp and click on the live coverage link to access stats and streaming audio.

Away from the computer, fans can call the Statesmen Sportsline at (315) 781-3557 for the latest scores or let the Statesmen call you.

Hobart has teamed up with Stretch Internet to deliver Statesmen scores straight to fans’ cell phones. Stretch Internet’s eScores allows the Athletic Communications staff to send a text message to fans with the score of Hobart games as soon as the final horn sounds. The service is free to all subscribers. (Fans should check with their cellular service provider as to the cost of receiving text messages.)

To register for eScores, click on the eScores logo on the Hobart lacrosse home page, www.hws.edu/statesmen/lacrosse.

Hobart also will make two television appearances this season, beginning with the season opener. The Statesmen and the Orange will square off under the watchful eye of the TV cameras on the Time Warner Sports Network. Last season, the Statesmen knocked off Syracuse, 9-8, to capture the Kraus-Simmons Trophy.

Hobart will make its second television appearance on April 28, when the Statesmen travel to Maryland to take on the Greyhounds of Loyola. That game can be seen on the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network. Check local listings for availability.

Hobart returns 28 lettermen, including five starters, from last season’s 6-8 team. The Statesmen begin the season ranked 25th in the Inside Lacrosse Face-off Yearbook preseason poll and will battle six ranked teams, including the No. 3 Orange.
Statesmen rowers set to defend Liberty title

Hobart Crew Head Coach Mike Alton begins his second spring season with the Statesmen with a strong core of returning oarsmen and a talented group of first-years that were bolstered by a successful fall season. The Statesmen welcome back 21 rowers from last year’s squad that won the program’s first Liberty League championship.

Seniors Michael Grenier and Sep Levatic, and juniors Richard Klein and Andrew Meunier return to lead the varsity eight boat after handily winning the event at the 2006 league championships with a time of 6:00.27. The novice eight, second varsity eight, and novice four also registered first-place finishes at the championships last spring.

Returning from the second varsity eight boat are seniors Paul Wasmund, Joe Jameson, Alex Caruthers, Nate Kress, and Vince DeFabio, and from the victorious novice eight, sophomores Mike Talarico, Andrew O’Donnell, John Heavey, Ben Ramsey, Matt Gruppo, and Dan Allen all return.

The Statesmen went on to take second place in the New York State Championships, finishing 10 points behind Division I Army, and earned two spots in the Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships. Hobart’s varsity four finished sixth out of 22, and its varsity pair took eighth of 18 boats.

After a strong showing in the fall, the Statesmen are ready to continue their success this spring. Hobart won its own Challenge on the Canal, as well as the Head of the Fish Regatta, and took a seventh-place finish at the Head of the Charles.

The Statesmen begin their preparations for the April 28 Liberty League Championships with a spring training trip to Gainesville, Ga., March 10-18.

Sailors set course for continued success

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 Statesmen and Herons teamed up to take third place in the ICSA/Layline Team Race National Championship, and won the America and Prosser trophies, marking the second straight season the team won both events.

Returning to lead the team in 2007 are Statesmen seniors Trevor Moore and Brian Clancy, junior Jay Mills, and sophomores Rob Crane, Austin Kana, and Josh Parks.

Moore and Crane both qualified for the ICSA/Vanguard Men’s Singlehanded National Championships during the fall season, where they finished second and 13th, respectively. Moore, Clancy, and Mills were the starting skippers for the MAISA and ICSA Team Race Championships and have their sights set on returning for another shot at the title.

Other fall season highlights included winning the Jack Wood Trophy and the Pine Trophy, placing second at the Captain Hurst Bowl and the War Memorial Regatta, and a third-place finish at the MAISA Sloop Championships.

The sailors look to continue their success this spring, and will open the 2007 season on March 3-4 when they travel to Georgetown for the Jackson Team Race.
Golfers take aim at spring season

The Hobart golf team has made considerable progress under fourth-year Head Coach Bill Quinn. The Statesmen have drawn the attention of the “old guard” in college golf, meritng invitations to some of the top tournaments in the Northeast.

Senior Mike Gonzalez will lead a talented Hobart golf team through the spring season that begins on March 31 in the Nike Invitational.

Mike Gonzalez is the lone senior on a young but talented squad. The Webster, N.Y., native has lowered his scoring average in each of the past two seasons and is poised to do so again this year.

Junior Jon Ritter (below) completes the list of upperclassmen. After playing just four rounds in his first two seasons, he stepped up this fall, carding a low round of 79 and placing 12th in the Pitt-Bradford Invitational.

The strength and the promise of future seasons lies in the Classes of 2009 and 2010. Sophomore Brian Kilduff was third in scoring average last season and leads the Statesmen heading into the spring (78.8). He carded a team-best 69 in the first round of the Skidmore Invitational on Sept. 11, 2006, and finished the two-day event in third place. Kilduff possesses a natural talent and an inner drive to improve his game.

Classmate Lucas Mindlin raised expectations with his strong play in the fall, including a round of even par 72 during the Hobart-Nazareth Invitational, while first-year Dan Miller has been a steady contributor and begins the spring third in scoring average (79.2).

Silver lining expected to bolster tennis success

The Statesmen tennis team will be led by senior Matt Silver. The team captain returns to the line up full time after playing in just 15 matches last season, while preparing for his MCAT exams. A two-time ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District selection, Silver (right) enters the home stretch of his collegiate career with a 39-20 singles record.

Classmates Ronny Koenig (below) and Mike Klein give Head Coach Carol Weymuller a solid nucleus of leaders. Koenig played up and down the Hobart line up last season and is expected to be a strong contributor at second or third singles. Klein has made steady progress over the past three seasons and will compete for a spot in the starting lineup.

Junior Charlie Davis will contribute to the strength of the middle of the order at third or fourth singles.

The Classes of 2009 and 2010 boast a wealth of talent that will make depth a strength this season. Sophomore James Micheroni is the standout of the bunch. He has played all but one of his 26 career matches at first singles. Classmates Adam Cohn and Brandon Gillespie will anchor the fifth and sixth singles spots, but will be pressured for playing time from several sophomores and first-years.

A rule change this season will make each doubles match worth one point to the overall match score, putting a higher premium on success there. Silver-Micheroni are expected to form the top tandem, but the second and third doubles teams are up for grabs.

Seeking a third conference championship for Weymuller, the Statesmen will have home court advantage when the Liberty League Tournament begins on April 21 in Geneva.

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$250  Pima cotton navy short sleeve polo by Antigua with embroidered Hobart logo. ($25)

$100  Cotton twill cap in faded orange embroidered with Hobart logo. ($10)

$10  $50 = Statesmen luggage tag. All levels, $50 and above. ($1)

SAA donors are granted season tickets for regular season home football, hockey and lacrosse games. Members gain admission by showing their membership card or Statesmen Society tag. Complimentary admission is offered on the following basis:
• $1,000 = 6 tickets/game
• $500 = 4 tickets
• $250 = 3 tickets
• $100 = 2 tickets
• $50 = 1 ticket

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