



# The Purple Page

## Field hockey, Corsilli shutout Colgate 2-0

BY MARC SHEEHAN  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

On Sunday, the Lady Crusaders defeated the Colgate Raiders, increasing their Patriot League record to 2-0. Holy Cross started the game looking visibly flat, much like their previous league game against Bucknell.

"We did not start the game well. We started out flat, which led to some critical errors," said Head Coach Meg Galligan. "The girls started to panic because we kept noticing that we were in our end a lot and they kept coming at us. It led to a lot of opportunities for them." The Raiders finally capitalized on one of those opportunities as they scored their only goal of the game 19 minutes into the first half.

The defensive tandem of Jillian Leclair, Caitlin Moynihan and Kelly Bogue was stellar once more, continuously fending off the Colgate attack while the offense tried to get something started. Nearly nine minutes after the Raider goal, the Lady Crusaders finally scored on an incredible shot by freshman Tara Welch. Last week's Patriot League offensive player of the week, Jenna Cook's shot ricocheted off the post. Diving, Welch tipped the ball past the Colgate goalkeeper, tying the game for the Crusaders.

"Sometimes a dynamic moment like that can get a team charged up," said Galligan. "It got the juices flowing if they weren't already." The rest of the first half was marked by strong defensive play by both teams. "You need to have a strong defense if you want to have a good team in our league," commented Galligan. One of the most im-



Courtesy HC Athletic Site  
**Freshman Tara Welch had two goals for the Lady 'Saders and was named P.L. Rookie of the Week.**

pressive defensive plays of the game came from another freshman. On Colgate's best scoring opportunity of the second half, Susie Whelan made a tremendous diving save in front of the net. "Susie Whelan's diving save

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## Purple Pennings



### Brad Holzwart

I have been extremely fortunate since coming to Holy Cross. As Sports Editor and Sports Director for WCHC, I've been afforded many benefits through the athletic programs, particularly in the area of travel. I've been to two NCAA tournaments, the Pre-season NIT at Kansas, and even the frozen tundra of Buffalo. But last weekend, my media travels took me to an entirely different coast that myself and two roommates have been California dreamin' about since last April. Without further due, it is the return of the diary featuring the trials and tribulations of WCHC's cross-country trip to San Diego.

**Friday, Sept. 26:**

**8:45 a.m.** - Mike Ardizzone, Jeff Schlogl, and I make the arduous trek up to the Hart Center from Alumni, luggage in tote. I haven't been up this early for school since freshman year. I look up and see the campus buzzing with people and can't figure out why they are awake. It dons on me: these poor bastards have class this early in the morning.

**10:22 a.m. (EST)** - We arrive at Logan bleary eyed yet filled with the adrenaline of excitement. Mike and I keep turning to one another and mouthing, "San Diego?" with disbelief and shock in our faces.

**11:10 a.m. (EST)** - Security. Though the line is not long, the buckles of my sandals set the metal detector off. I am then shuffled through a series of roped off courses and fondled with a wand. Did I enjoy it? No comment. Mike and I finally make it through the gauntlet and look for Jeff. He's nowhere to be seen. It takes Jeff 30 minutes to get through security. I think it was his stunning good looks, the woman just wouldn't let him through.

**12:17 p.m. (EST)** - Our plane takes off and we begin our journey to California. Jeff, terrified of flying, begins to grip the sides of his armrest turning his knuckles white. I look down to grab my book and hear gasps and grunts. "Are you okay?" "Holzi. Holzi. I think I might pass out. I feel light headed." "You'll be okay, just take deep breaths." "I need to tense my muscles and grunt like the fighter pilots." The reader should know we were in an ND-80, not an F-8. Needless to say, Jeff was fine.

**2:42 p.m. (CT)** - Getting ready to make our connection in St. Louis and complete the final leg, Jeff and I demolish Aunt Anne's pretzels and delve into a conversation about what a genius the person who combined pretzels with butter was. My stomach was eating my leg, I was so hungry. We take bags from the "American Bistro" with us (a sandwich, chips, and bunny luv carrots). We come to find that we are in the bulk head which really is as good as first class. I can't remember the last time I could cross my legs on a plane. Mike was in the exit row on the last flight. "I had just as much leg room last time," he says. "That's because you were in the exit row," I say matter-of-factly. "No I wasn't." "Yes you were." "Oh. So that's why the stewardess came to me and asked if I was willing and able to operate the exit door." "No, Mike. It's because she thought you were big and burly... You're an idiot."

**5:13 p.m. (PT)** - San Diego. Partly Cloudy and 75. "I don't think we're in Worcester anymore." We catch the shuttle to our hotel which was gorgeous and in the middle of downtown San Diego. After dropping our bags off in the room, we immediately walk outside and tour the city. The Gaslamp district boasted an eclectic gathering of clubs, bars, and restaurants, very similar to Georgetown. We returned to the hotel after a dinner of chicken sandwiches with chipotle mayonnaise, Anaheim peppers, and jack cheese - welcome to California.

**8:02 p.m. (PT)** - My best friend Bill arrives from L.A. It takes us little time reminisce about the good 'ol days of Friendly's and mini-golf during the Virginia summer. It takes even less time to drive out to Pacific Beach, stare out at the Pacific Ocean and realize we're on an entirely different coast. Even less time to realize that I could move out here in a second. In a Seinfeldesque discussion at Moondoggies (an outdoor tiki style bar featuring the band 34-below, whose songs Jeff swears got better and better) Bill makes the observation that Staten Island is merely New Jersey on speed with constant bass. Everyone nods in approval.

**Saturday, Sept. 27:**

**10:34 a.m. (PST)** - Detachable showerheads are one of many wondrous creations. I'm going to leave it at that. We leave the hotel for our whirlwind tour of San Diego. After a quick stop at the Sprint store (and by quick I mean an hour), the In 'n Out Burger is spotted. Mike lets out a sigh of satisfaction and begins bouncing in anticipation. Bill had assured him one week ago, "You tell Mike he'll get all the In 'n Out Burger he can handle."

**12:02 p.m. (PT)** - The triple-triple burger is sexual. No one talks, as we're entirely too absorbed in the utter deliciousness that is an In 'n Out Burger.

**12:35 p.m. (PT)** - The University of San Diego Toreros' campus. I can see why people would want to go to school in Cali. The campus sits atop a hill overlooking large homes embedded into hillsides and of course, the ocean. The architecture is southwestern in style, and you get the impression of being in a glorified Mexican city. The chapel is a large sky blue dome imprinted with fleur de lis. Numerous purchases were made at the bookstore.

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## Football loses overtime thriller, 46-45 to SDU

BY KYLE MCCARTHY  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Anticipating a four-quarter business trip to the land of surf and sun, the Holy Cross football team got more than it bargained for: a double overtime epic battle won 46-45 by the home team, the

University of San Diego Toreros.

It was a heart-breaking loss for the Crusaders, who had jumped to a 16-13 halftime lead and maintained that lead until 14 fourth quarter points, including a seven yard touchdown pass from Toreros quarterback Eric Rasmussen to wide receiver Nick Garton with just 26 seconds left in the game, by the Toreros forced the game into overtime.

Overtime saw the teams trade scores in the first session. Toreros running back Evan Harney punched in from one yard out to vault USD in front before Steve Silva forced a second overtime with a five yard scamper into the promised land.

With possession changing order in subsequent overtimes, Holy Cross nosed in front, again on the ground, as Gideon Akande barreled home from four yards out to put the Crusaders ahead. However, that euphoria was soon to turn to bewilderment, as Harney again found the end zone with a three yard jaunt. Toreros coach Kevin

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### 'Sader Sports This Week

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# The tennis turnaround: HC coach Mike Lucas' feats

BY SUZANNA GUIDONE  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Five years ago, when Mike Lucas took over as head coach of the Holy Cross women's tennis team, he had great aspirations for the squad, looking to create a program that could be extremely competitive in the division one arena. Two seasons ago, Lucas took over the head coaching responsibilities of the men's team as well, where his expectations were just as high. Since Lucas has been a part of Crusader tennis, he has taken tremendous strides in rebuilding the tennis program back to the prestigious Holy Cross tradition it once was.

During his years at Fordham University, Lucas was a four year varsity letter winner in both tennis and squash as well as team captain his senior year. Upon graduation Lucas, earned a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Boston College. For the past nine years, Lucas has been the varsity boy's tennis coach at Tanasqua High School in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, where he developed one of the top programs in the state, coaching Tanasqua to seven straight conference championships. However, Lucas is clearly not just "that coach" you had in

high school. He is the real thing. In addition, Lucas has been teaching as a professional for over ten years, and is also a certified member of the United States Professional Tennis Registry. And if his qualifications aren't enough for you, the success he has had with Crusader tennis should do it for you.

Holy Cross senior Missy Crump notes that Lucas is a dedicated husband, father of four boys, and a full-time high school teacher, which makes it "even more amazing how much Coach Lucas has brought to the Holy Cross Tennis program." To go from a last place finish in the New England Championships in Lucas' second year with the program to winning the whole thing last year is remarkable and a testament to what Coach Lucas has brought to HC tennis. Last season, the Women's tennis team under Lucas' direction finished with an 18-2 record in the fall and spring combined. This is the highest number of wins notched under any tennis coach in school history. However, Lucas' remarkable success with the women's program doesn't end there. In the past two seasons combined the women's team earned an amazing 35-6 record,

yielding the highest victory total in back-to-back years in program history. "Lucas' enthusiasm has motivated us to improve with each new season" comments Crump. However, Lucas would give the credit back to team stating that his players take the winning mentality "to a whole new level by working so hard to improve their games every day."

Lucas has without a doubt been the catalyst for the transition of both the men's and women's teams as well as a breath of fresh air to the program. "All I did with both programs is organize them and push players to be their best" said Lucas. "Our players deserve all the credit for buying in to our philosophy and working hard." His attitude and coaching techniques have rejuvenated both lineups. However, perhaps more outstanding is what Lucas has done to turn around the Men's program. Senior captain David Daep describes Lucas' positive attitude and unwavering optimism as a necessity on the court, saying "Coach Lucas knows the importance of timing and recognizes the need for simplicity in match strategy. He has not only pushed the limits of each individual player skill-wise, but he has also placed

great emphasis on mental aspects of the game which arguably outweigh physical abilities at this level." Upon taking over last fall season he took the men's team to a 5-7 finish, including a 4-4 record in the spring season, which was good enough for the first non-losing season in twenty years of Crusader tennis. Both teams would agree that the energy and work ethic Lucas brings with him every day is contagious, and Senior Mike McCary believes that it "translates to a positive team attitude and ultimately a better record."

If you haven't realized by now, Mike Lucas clearly has an amazing knack for coaching which is evident in his extensive resume of achievements and qualifications. Coach Lucas continues to push both programs to strive for excellence, earning respect in the tennis community through hard work, and of course, wins. Lucas notes that the program is not simply resting on its laurels "As soon as a team or athlete thinks they are "good enough"- they are finished" comments Lucas, who believes that his players work ethic and motivation will get the program to the next level of success. Lucas continues to upgrade the schedule



Courtesy HC Athletic Site

Men's and women's tennis coach,  
Mike Lucas.

for both squads "to keep the challenges coming, we will play anyone, anytime, anywhere." By beating division one program with scholarship athletes shows the amazing drive of the teams and each time raised the bar of HC tennis one more notch. These players "embody the Holy Cross spirit," says Lucas, with hard work on the court and "their use of intelligence to find ways to succeed." And that is what Holy Cross is all about. If this is what can be accomplished thus far, the following years of Crusader tennis should continue to surpass our expectations with ease.

## Men's tennis falls to Springfield, soundly defeats Stonehill, 7-2

BY BRITTANY LOCKE  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

After extending their winning streak to three games and increasing their season record to 4-1 with a win against Springfield College on Sept. 22, the Crusaders went into their match against Marist confident and ready to play. Unfortunately, their mental preparation was not enough to defeat their opponents. "Marist's team was last year's MAAC champions, and they made the NCAA Division I tournament. They are at that next level," commented sophomore John Deaver, when asked about his opposition. "However, I think that level is a place we can get to very

soon," he added.

One handicap that the team suffered against Marist was the absence of Kenton Allen, the team's third singles and first doubles player, in the lineup. "Marist was a tough loss," said junior Mike Marano. "We felt like we were ready to compete against a national tournament team, but without Kenneth in the lineup, it was difficult to even try to win that match."

On the whole, the team felt that Marist was an extremely tough battle that, as freshman Brian Kelly commented, "entailed a high level of tennis both up and down the line," and that despite the fact they were outplayed, they are "looking

forward to more matches of the same difficulty."

When asked about his performance in the match, Sophomore Colin Missett, who played sixth singles and third doubles, described it as "a bloodbath, where I was on the dying end." However, Missett did not let his 0-6, 0-6 loss effect him too much. Shortly after, he commented, "It was nice to play such a good team, and I think I learned a thing or two."

Using those lessons that the Marist match taught the team, the Crusaders added another win to their record in a 7-2 victory over Stonehill. Losing to them 8-1 last spring, the win "showed us how far we have come as a team since last year" commented Deaver. "Our win against Stonehill was absolutely tremendous. To revenge and 8-1 loss a year ago with a win like ours this year shows the drastic improvement and dedication we have put forth this year," added Marano.

Although the team's coach, Mike Lucas, attributes the team's improvement and dedication to his players, his players attribute their turnaround to him. "Coach Lucas is the most important reason the team has progressed. His influence on and off the court has been tremendous!" said Marano. "He makes coming to practice enjoyable and instills confidence in all his players."

With a record of 5-2, the Crusaders are looking forward to the rest of their season, as they continue to prepare themselves for matches against Amherst, Bryant, and the Coast Guard.

## Men's soccer ties Lehigh in OT, 0-0

BY SANGITA MALHOTRA  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

The Holy Cross men's soccer team ended its five game losing streak this past weekend. The team played their first Patriot League game, which ended in a hard-fought 0-0 tie with Lehigh University. The two teams battled it out for 110 minutes without either team's goalkeeper giving up a goal.

Holy Cross started the game with much intensity. Senior Chris Napolitano had two clutch shots on goal in the seventh minute of play, but both were saved by Lehigh's keeper Sam Bishop. Lehigh rebounded by controlling much of the play for the rest of the half, but was unable to crack the strong Holy Cross defense. As discussed in last week's article, even with the loss of some determined graduates as well as Senior co-captain Kevin Baker to a leg injury, the men's soccer team seems to be doing an incredible job at keeping their defense strong and motivation high.

In the second half, Lehigh remained strong offensively, outshooting the Crusaders 6-2. However, sophomore Holy Cross goalkeeper Richard Whipple was certainly up to the task, making five big saves in the second half. One amazing save in particular was a diving stop in the fiftieth minute on a shot by Lehigh's forward, Steve Fisher.

As the first Patriot League game for both teams continued into overtime both schools continued to battle it out for the win. Holy Cross' freshman forward Arturo Pedrosa had the Crusaders' best chance to

score in the overtime, but his kick was barely saved in the 103rd minute. The Mountain Hawks had two chances to score the win in the final four minutes of the game. The first shot by Lehigh's Steve Fisher sailed wide right in the 106th minute; and Dustin Nonahan's kick at the 108 mark was on target, but nicely saved by Whipple.

Although there were many chances for both teams, the long, challenging game ended in a tie. Holy Cross moved to 0-5-1 in the season and 0-0-1 in Patriot League play. Lehigh University moved to 6-1-2 overall and 0-0-1 in the league.

A big congratulations goes out to Holy Cross freshman Josh Trott, who was named Patriot League Freshman of the Week after the Lehigh game. Trott tallied his first collegiate goal versus Oregon State last Wednesday. Trott's goal tied the game late in the first half; however, the Crusaders were unable to sustain the offense and fell 3-1. This is the first time Trott has won a collegiate award in his career.

The Crusaders have had a busy week as they hosted a game against Hartford University this past Tuesday. The team lost a hard-fought game with the Hawks, which ended in a final score of 2-1.

Hartford wasted no time scoring, as they put two shots past sophomore goalkeeper Richard Whipple in the first thirty minutes of the game. The first shot was made by freshman Kenniel Martin of the Hawks, who broke down the left side of the Holy Cross defense and

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# Looking Back: stellar careers for soccer class of '04

BY ANDREW BAIRD  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Much of the success the men's and women's soccer programs at Holy Cross have experienced over the past few years can be attributed to a core group of current seniors who have been very instrumental in the Crusaders' competitive standing. Many seniors on both the men's and women's squads have been starters for the majority of their four years at HC, while others have been extremely productive coming off the bench and placing the Crusaders in a spot to win. Although both squads have started off slowly this season with the men at 0-6-1 (0-0-1 in the Patriot League) and the women at 1-9-0 (0-2-0 in the Patriot League), much of the conference schedule is still ahead of both teams. The veteran seniors will be expected by coaches to pick up the slack and display the leadership and determination they have showed over their careers to help the Cross return to the top of the Patriot League as in years past.

Last year was an exceptional season for the men's soccer program, as it won the most games in school history (13), captured its first Patriot League Championship, and received its first NCAA Tournament bid behind the solid coaching of Elvis Comrie and a talented and dedicated group of players. Among those who were very influential in the success of last year's squad are current co-captains Kevin Baker and Michael Mills. As goalkeeper during his four years at Holy Cross, Baker has been the starter for the majority of the games, starting every game the last two years before suffering a leg injury this season. Last season Baker recorded 11 shutouts and moved into first place all-time among Crusader goalkeepers in career shutouts with 19. Baker also ranked fifth in the NCAA and first in the Patriot League last season with a 0.60 goals against average. He has been named the Patriot League Defensive Player of the

Week three times during his career. In addition, Baker's career 77.4 save percentage, 182 saves, and 1.05 goals against average rank among the best in Holy Cross history.

Needless to say, Baker's injury this season was devastating for the Crusaders, as he has been among the most consistent players for Coach Comrie during his four years on the Hill.

Co-captain Michael Mills has experienced a very notable career as well, as he missed both the 1999 and 2000 seasons as a result of his participation on a Mormon mission. His HC career has spanned six seasons, making him a very experienced and mature leader for the rest of the team. The last two seasons have proven to be extremely consistent ones for Mills, as he has started every game and has been a mainstay on the Crusaders' defense. Mills has recorded two goals and three assists for his career, making him among the more productive defensemen on the team.

Forward Chris Napolitano has been the most prolific point-scorer on the Crusaders among the current group of seniors. Last season was his best yet, as Napolitano was a First Team All Patriot League pick following his strong performance during the season with 14 points (seven goals). The Crusaders were led by Napolitano throughout the post season last year, as he scored the game winning goals in both the Patriot League semifinals (against Lafayette) and the finals (against Lehigh). During his career, Napolitano has registered 40 points (19 goals, two assists) but is not finished yet. So far this season, Napolitano has scored one goal while starting every game.

Another solid and consistent performer over the course of his career has been midfielder Paul Kitson. Kitson has started every game the last two seasons and has been extremely important in the success of the Crusaders for close games,

as he scored two game-winning goals last season. In 2001, Kitson was the sole Crusader named to the Smith Barney Soccer Classic All-Tournament Team. A speedy player with good ball control, Kitson has scored four goals and has registered three assists during his four years for the Crusaders, including one assist so far this season.

Other productive players in their last season for coach Comrie in-



Courtesy HC Athletic Site

**Senior Caitlin Dwyer has been a consistent and versatile player for four years.**

clude forward William Stewart, a starter for the majority of his career at HC who has notched four goals and three assists during his four years; Christopher Ruggi, a starter at midfield who has scored five goals and recorded seven assists over his career, including one assist so far this season; and defensemen Michael Crean, a three-time member of the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll who has given the Crusaders a lot of quality time coming off the bench during his career for Holy Cross, recording one goal and one assist. The soccer program and Crusader fans will certainly miss these talented players at the conclusion of the season. But, until then, it will be exciting to watch them try

to turn their season around and repeat some of the success they had in the past few years.

The women's soccer program has also flourished the past couple of years under head coach Mary Curtis, who is the winningest women's soccer coach in HC history with 81 victories. All current seniors on the women's team experienced a magical season of their own in 2000 when the lady Crusaders took home the Patriot League Championship and gained their first NCAA Tournament appearance. Thus, the talent and experience level for the Crusaders this season is certainly high, as current seniors who were freshmen in 2000 know what it takes to bring home a championship.

Co-captains Christine Arsenault and Erica Backstrom have shown tremendous leadership in guiding the Crusaders to strong showings in the Patriot League during their careers. Arsenault has been the starter for the last two seasons in goal for the Crusaders and has been very effective, posting a 1.60 goals against average (1.25 GAA against Patriot League opponents) and recording 151 saves (79 of which came last season). This season, Arsenault has played five games after returning from a broken hand injury and has thus split time with freshman Eilen Geoghegan and junior Mary Dennehy. Nonetheless, Arsenault is a fierce competitor and will surely show resilience in her last season in purple.

Forward Erica Backstrom has proven to be worthy of her co-captain status as well, as she led all Crusaders last season with six goals and 14 points. Backstrom was also named Patriot League player of the Week on Oct. 14 last season. A starter for all four years, Backstrom has certainly been a very important asset to the team, notching 18 points (seven goals, four assists) during her time at HC.

Perhaps the HC women's soccer player with the most recognized accomplishments over the past four years has been senior forward

Sarah Comeaux. Comeaux was named to the prestigious Verizon Academic All-District Second Team last season, following her season's performance of two goals in ten games. In 2000, Comeaux was named to the All Patriot League Second Team as a freshman and was a main component in the Patriot League Champion team that season. Comeaux is also tied for second in most goals scored in a game (three vs. Lehigh on 10/21/00). A three-time Patriot League Academic Honor Roll member, Comeaux has recorded 22 points in her career (10 goals, 2 assists) with the Crusaders, the most of any current senior.

Last but not least is Caitlin Dwyer, a versatile player that any team would be grateful to have. Dwyer has been the first player off the bench during the majority of her career for the Crusaders and has played in almost every game at either midfield or defense. Dwyer is also a three-time member of the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll. An unsung hero of the program, Dwyer has also been quite productive for her position(s), recording seven points (three goals, one assist) over her career. Coach Curtis will certainly miss the intensity and passion that Dwyer has shown for the game when she graduates in the spring.

There is still much time for the 2003-2004 Crusader soccer teams to improve upon their current records. This year's seniors have shown exceptional leadership and heart during their careers and will surely use past experiences to overcome the slow start of this season. With much of the toughest competition behind both squads for the rest of the season, the men's and women's teams can focus on the task at hand to be competitive in the Patriot League and display some of the results the current seniors have experienced during their successful careers playing Holy Cross soccer.

## Tara Welch's two goals rocket 'Saders into first place in P.L.

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was a crucial play for us. It stopped us from having to come from behind again," said Galligan.

As the second half wore on, Holy Cross's superior ability and conditioning began to shine through. "We started to pick away at them during the second half," said Galligan. "It was a slow process, but we began to wear them down."

Finally, the Crusaders put Colgate away as senior co-captain Jillian Leclair assisted Welch on her second goal off a penalty corner. Welch would later be named Patriot League Freshman of the week for the second time this season. The Raiders continued to put pressure on the Holy Cross net for the rest of the game, but the strong defense and the exemplary play of Crusader goalkeeper Jen Corsilli prohibited Colgate from tying the game.

"I was not relaxed completely until that clock went to zero," said Galligan. "It was a great win for us. It was our second league win, and there are only six league games, so they all matter so much."

Holy Cross is now ranked atop the Patriot League standings with a league record of 2-0 and an overall record of 7-2. The Crusaders are also ranked in the top twenty nationally in many categories. They are eleventh in winning percentage, and sixteenth in scoring offense and margin of victory. When asked if the Lady Crusaders had a chance to win the Patriot League regular season title and the Patriot League Tournament, Galligan responded with confidence.

"We can do it because we have the talent and the team this year. We have a very offensive minded and aggressive defensive team. But it is going to be hard fought be-

cause of the strength of our league." The Patriot League is becoming one of the stronger field hockey leagues in the country. None of the teams are currently ranked nationally, but four of the six teams (American, Bucknell, Lafayette, and Holy Cross) are receiving votes in the coaches top 20 poll.

The Lady Crusaders will face Lafayette in their next league game at Lafayette on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 1:00 p.m..

"One of our goals for Lafayette is to come out on fire, with that cockiness, and I know we can do it," commented Galligan. "We just need to leave our hearts on the field against these league teams."

For her efforts this week, freshman Tara Welch was named Patriot League Rookie of the Week for the second time this season.

## Club Sports

### Men's Rugby:

The team took on St. Michael's College in Colchester Vermont on Sat. September 27. They battled hard, but came up short, losing 12-3. Their next contest is this Saturday against nationally ranked Middlebury at 3:30 p.m. on the Hart Fields.

### Women's Rugby:

On a rainy Sun. September 28, the Lady 'Saders played Wheaton College, picking up a 6-0 win. The team will look for another win against crosstown rival WPI this Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the Hart fields.

To report club sport scores, please e-mail daely@holycross.edu by Wednesdays at 11:00 am.

# Women's soccer falls to Northeastern, American

BY ELISABETH CHARNLEY  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Holy Cross women's soccer had another disappointing week, playing three games in five days resulting in a 0-3 record for last week.

On Wednesday the 'Saders took on Northeastern University after the game had been postponed due to the rain. Holy Cross came out strong against the Huskies and played them to a scoreless half. Freshman keeper Eileen Geoghegan made four saves while defending the net against the pummeling of Northeastern's 15 first half shots on goal. The Crusaders tallied three shots on goal in the first half but couldn't find the back of the net either.

Holy Cross charged out onto the field for the second half led by senior Sarah Comeaux, who had three shots on goal at the striker position.

Ten minutes into the second half however, Northeastern took their first shot of the half and scored their first goal putting the Crusaders in a 1-0 hole. The small hole opened up ten minutes later when the Huskies Kristin Kowalik, tallied Northeastern's second shot and goal, the first of her two goals for the game.

Northeastern continued to capitalize on their offensive attacks, as each of their four shots on net resulted in a goal. The Huskies scored their last two goals of the game within eight minutes of the final buzzer handing Cross a 4-0 loss and moving their record to 1-7 for the season. "It was a tough game and we started out very disorganized. We

" I

didn't play as well as we should have and our coach let us know it. We don't want to hide from our bad games, we want to try to learn from them," junior Kellie Ambrose said after the game.

The Crusaders hit the fields for practice with their sights set on a Patriot League win over next opponent American University that weekend. The team flew down to Washington D.C. on Friday ready for a battle the next day. After a night of team building and mental preparation the 'Saders

headed out to hopefully gain their first Patriot League win of the season.

Holy Cross got their first glimpse of the chance for victory when Comeaux took a shot at the 29-minute mark and scored, giving the Crusaders an early lead and a boost of confidence. The game took a different turn when, with

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## Purple Pennings Cont.

**1:16 p.m. (PT)** - Our ventures take us to the renowned town of La Jolla, or La Jo-ya if you're Mike. We snaked through the million-dollar mansions and picturesque landscape that peers out over the Pacific. As we made our way down to the beach, I kept thinking of Morgan Freeman in "Shawshank:" "I hope the Pacific is as blue as it was in my dreams." It wasn't. The beach we went to was strewn with tangles of seaweed and frighteningly cold water. I thought for a second I may have been at Hampton Beach in New Hampshire. But no, the perfect break and curl in the waves told me otherwise, as my toes numbed waiting to have my picture taken.

**2:20 p.m. (PT)** - "I gotta send somebody from this squadron to Miramar. I gotta do something here, I still can believe it. I gotta give you your dream shot! I'm gonna send you up against the best. You two characters are going to Top Gun." That's right, Miramar. Made famous by a 1986 classic. Although we didn't get onto the base, Jeff, Mike, and I ran from Bill's car safely parked on the side of the highway, to take a picture in front of the sign. Needless to say, Jeff and I never lost that loving feeling.

**5:45 p.m. (PT)** - Yes, in fact we did go to San Diego for a football game. Greeted by a giant inflatable torero, we made our way to the press booth. Well, we went there, but we actually sat outside of it at a table in the breezy San Diego night. Outside or inside, a good yet frigid time was had by all, right up until the two-point conversion in double overtime to which we vacated the executive suite they made for us and trekked back to the hotel. Probably my most exciting Holy Cross football experience.

**11:30 p.m. (PT)** - We gather on beds in the hotel room waiting to go out as SNL comes on. I'm sporting the Deutsch fro, as Bill so aptly deemed it. Everyone is suffering from heavy eyelids, knowing that we have to get up at 6:30 a.m. Finally, Mike says, "So I guess we're not going out?" A collective "Nope" rises and jeans and buttdowns are traded for shorts and t-shirts.

**6:21 a.m. (PT)** - "Absolutely, absolutely. Ab-ab-absolutely. There will be no crimes here." We are awakened to Bill's sleep talking a mere nine minutes before the alarm is set to go off. A dejected crew closes its eyes and takes that extra nine minutes.

**6:10 p.m. (EST)** - After being in a middle seat for six hours, we finally arrive back in Logan. My shoulder blades have ground my spine away and my legs have spasmed. The sunny west coast has been traded for cloud cover and a cold, wet rain. Our faces grow long as we board the shuttle bus.

**8:15 p.m. (EST)** - It's pouring at the Hart Center, and we haul our luggage and radio equipment back to Alumni drenched and cursing. Welcome back, indeed. Tired and apathetic, we arrive back to our room and sullenly unpack our wet clothes, a little more tan, a little more tired than when we left, and even a little unhappy to be back.

## Overtime with



## Dara Ely

*We all know people who influence us and, if we are lucky, we meet a few in our lives who improve us. Althea Gibson improved my life and the lives of countless others. She was the first to break so many barriers and from the first time I saw her play, when I was 13 years old, she became, and remained, one of my true heroines. It was truly an inspiration for me to watch her overcome adversity. Her road to success was a challenging one, but I never saw her back down. Althea did a lot for people in tennis, but she did even more for people in general. - Former No. 1 Billie Jean King*

The sports world lost a hero this weekend. Most probably would not think of her if asked to name an athletic legend; and she probably would not have named herself either. And that graceful presence and quiet pride are what made Althea Gibson a hero.

Althea Gibson died of respiratory failure in East Orange, NJ on Sunday, after having been seriously ill for several years. She was 76 years old.

Before there was Venus or Serena, there was Althea. Another young African American girl from a tough neighborhood who won Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and the French Open during her eight year tennis career. And because there was no professional women's tennis circuit then, she received no compensation and few endorsements for her feats. Althea did what Venus and Serena have done; but they could not have done it without her. She did what they have done, and she did it in 1957, a time in our nation's history when many African Americans were denied the basic human rights that we now take for granted. She rose out of her poor background into a hostile world, and proved that black girls could go to college, could work at universities, and could be allowed to play in the once racially exclusive U.S. Open and Wimbledon tournaments. And that she did it all with such humble determination and unflinching grace and dignity is what makes Althea Gibson a legend.

Althea Gibson was born on a cotton farm in South Carolina on August 27, 1927. Her parents were sharecroppers who moved Althea and her four younger siblings to Harlem, NY, where she spent her childhood. It was in Harlem that Gibson first discovered tennis, using a makeshift racket to slam a rubber ball against a wall. She competed in and won several tournaments sponsored by the local Police Athletic League and Parks Department. She then joined the Harlem River Tennis Club, an association for black tennis players, which is where she met her first coach Fred Robinson.

During high school, Gibson moved to Wilmington, NC, to live with black tennis enthusiast Dr. R.W. Johnson and his family, where she was coached by Dr. E.A. Eaton. Had it not been for these two men, she may have never broken into the high level tournaments that she would one day win. She credited Johnson with teaching her the etiquette of tennis and helping her to realize her own personal and athletic talents. After playing basketball and tennis at Florida A&M, Gibson graduated in 1953 and went on to work as a coach at Lincoln University in Mississippi while competing in the American Tennis Association, a club for black tennis players.

Gibson gained much notoriety in the black tennis leagues, winning ten ATA singles titles, and after some help from her white peers, was allowed to compete in the National Grass Court Tennis Championships (now the US Open) in 1950, where she lost in the finals by one point to Wimbledon champion Louise Brough. Gibson spent the next several years competing consistently in American and International tournaments, but truly came into her own in 1957. It was during the next two years that she would rack up two Wimbledon singles titles, a US Open title, a French Open title and two more (out of three) Wimbledon doubles championships.

In 1957 and 1958, Althea Gibson was named the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year, a feat unheard of for an African American athlete, especially a woman. At age 31, Gibson retired from the competitive tennis circuit and moved on to write her autobiography, record an album and tour with the Harlem Globetrotters, playing in exhibition matches before their shows.

In 1975, four years after her hall of fame induction, Gibson became the state commissioner for athletics in New Jersey and also served on various state councils and boards regarding athletics and physical fitness.

17 years later, budget cuts resulted in the loss of many government jobs, including Gibson's. Following her layoff, she faced various medical traumas, including two cerebral aneurysms and a stroke.

So there sat an American legend, alone, sick, and impoverished, struggling to survive on meager Social Security checks, too proud to ask for help. This is a fate met by too many aging Americans, yet it hits especially hard when one thinks of someone as notable as Gibson living like that, alone and unknown.

By 1996, news of Gibson's plight had spread, and various organizations across the country held fundraisers and collected donations to support the ailing heroine. The Althea Gibson Foundation was formed in her honor to help support young urban athletes in all capacities, but particularly in tennis and golf, the two sports that Gibson loved.

Althea Gibson is a hero who was not recognized nearly enough in her own time, but hopefully she will not be forgotten in death. Her name does not even spring to mind when one is asked to name a female sports pioneer, a formative African American athlete or a Civil Rights activist. And it should. She was all three of those things and so much more.

Before Arthur Ashe, there was Althea Gibson. She was winning titles a decade before he did, and truly paved the way for him in the sport of tennis. She broke barriers for all female athletes, as well as African American athletes. Gibson not only had to compete against her opponents on the court, but she had to struggle to stay afloat in a sport where many people did not want her around. Once only the game of wealthy, white country clubbers, many Americans felt that a black woman should not be playing tennis at an international level. But even if she could not silence them, she certainly proved them wrong. Gibson not only broke color barriers by competing in top level tournaments, but she also won them - which is what makes her a legend.

Funeral services for Althea Gibson were held on Thursday at Trinity St. Phillip Cathedral in Newark, NJ. Gibson was laid to rest at Rosedale Cemetery in Montclair, beside her first husband, William Darben. East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser declared Thursday Althea Gibson Day in her memory.

Some of the information in this column was obtained from the Althea Gibson Foundation website, and the Tennis Hall of Fame website.

# Lowell's Pigskin Preview: The Yale Game

BY CRAIG LOWELL  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Holy Cross had yet another huge offensive showing last week in San Diego, but once again it was not enough as they lost in double overtime when the Toreros converted a two-point conversion to win a 46-45 thriller. The loss left the Crusaders 1-3 on the season, with their lone win coming against Georgetown in the second game of the 2003 campaign, though they are still tied for third place in the Patriot League standings with a 1-1 record. This Saturday they will play another non-conference game against the Yale Bulldogs, who are 2-0 after wins over Lehigh and Cornell. The Crusaders will be looking to gain just the fourth win against Yale in the series, which dates back one hundred years. The Bulldogs have had 27 wins against the Crusaders in that span, including the last ten. Now for the breakdown:

## Holy Cross passing attack against Yale pass defense:

The Crusaders showed once again why they have one of the best passing attacks in the league last week as sophomore John O'Neill had his first career 300-yard game and senior Ari Confessor notched a career-high thirteen receptions and 199 receiving yards. Holy Cross now has the fourth-ranked passing attack in the nation among I-AA schools with 297.3 yards per game. That ranking is due to the many weapons on their receiving corps with Confessor, fellow senior Nick Larsen, and sophomore Sean Gruber. Yale has an experienced sec-

ondary that gave up just 148 passing yards last week against Cornell, although Holy Cross will provide a much bigger challenge, and their depth and skill will give them the advantage. The Bulldogs simply do not have the size to disrupt the Holy Cross receivers' routes, nor do they have the necessary speed to keep up with them.

**Edge: Crusaders**

## Holy Cross running attack vs. Yale rush defense:

The combination of sophomore Gideon Akande and junior Steve Silva proved effective once again last week, as the two combined for 155 yards on the ground and each scored a touchdown in overtime. With two effective runners such as these, the Crusaders have a big advantage because it ensures that neither will get overworked and worn-out during a game. The Yale defense is led by linebackers Ben Breunig and Ken Estrera, who lead the team with 13 tackles each and possess exceptional size and speed that makes them adept at stuffing the run, as evidenced by the team's ability to hold opponents to 3.5 yards per carry this season. As has been the case so far this season, look for the Crusaders to run just enough to prevent their opponents from being able to focus too much on the pass and thus keeping them off-balance.

**Edge: Crusaders**

## Yale passing attack vs. Holy Cross pass defense:

The Crusader secondary showed improvement and did a reasonably good job against the Toreros last

week, holding them to less than 250 yards through the air. It was the first time this season that they kept an opponent under the 300-yard mark. Yale, meanwhile, turned in a horrid passing performance, as senior quarterback Alvin Cowan completed just six of fifteen passes for a paltry 83 yards. However, he was without his favorite target in that game, senior receiver Joe Benigno, who caught three touchdown passes in the team's romp over Towson. He should be back in action this week alongside fellow senior P.J. Collins to provide a passing attack that will fare well against the Holy Cross defense.

**Edge: Bulldogs**

## Yale running attack vs. Holy Cross rush defense:

This will most likely be the biggest mismatch of the game. Yale churned out over 250 yards last week with junior tailback Robert Carr leading the way with 115 yards and a touchdown. For the season, Carr has gained 242 yards on 42 rushes, for an eye-opening six yards per carry and four touchdowns. And even if the Crusaders manage to stop Carr, they will still have to deal with Cowan, who is second on the team in rushing and has a pair of touchdowns as well. Ryan Fitzpatrick, Harvard's scrambling quarterback, gave the Holy Cross defense fits two weeks ago and San Diego halfback Evan Harney did the same last week, amassing nearly 200 yards on the ground. This week the Crusaders will be presented with two players who can do the same



Courtesy HC Athletic Site

The Crusaders will need sophomore running back Gideon Akande will look to have another strong performance this weekend.

things, so they will have to come up with some new schemes to slow Yale down.

**Edge: Bulldogs**

## Special Teams:

Confessor had his first return of the season last week, taking the opening kickoff 47 yards to set up a Mike DeSantis field goal. After last week's performance, the senior receiver/return man ranks second in the nation in all-purpose yards and is still on pace to break the school's career record for that category. DeSantis' field goal was his third of the season last week to go

with just one miss. Yale's kicker, John Troost, has yet to attempt one after the first two games. David Knox and P.J. Collins are reliable return men for Yale, but do not compare with Confessor, still the most dangerous return man in the Patriot League.

**Edge: Crusaders**

## Final Prediction:

Mike DeSantis hits a game-winning field goal in the final seconds to give Holy Cross a 38-35 victory and hand the Bulldogs their first loss of the season.

## Women's soccer hunts for first P.L. win against Lafayette

Women's Soccer, page 22

two minutes remaining in the first half, an American player went down and suffered a broken ankle. Coach Mary Curtis pulled the team over and gave them direct instructions to "not let them score in these last two minutes". Unfortunately, Curtis knew all too well the dangers of a late injury and her worst fears came to be just seconds after the injury was cleared up. American scored to tie the game just before the half was out, delivering a blow to the Crusaders that they could not overcome.

The game did not improve for Holy Cross; the Eagles flew out in the second half and

put three more goals into the net. American never looked back and took off with a 4-1 win over the Crusaders improving their record to 3-3-1 and setting Holy Cross back 0-2 in the Patriot League and 1-8 overall. Senior goalie Christine Arsenaault made nine saves in her first appearance after getting rejected from a previous game against Army last week.

There was no time to mourn the loss to American for Holy Cross. Less than 48 hours later the Crusaders were back on the road to Siena in desperate need of a win, both for their record and for themselves as a team. Two hours later the Crusaders re-boarded the bus empty handed. Siena had come out and scored two goals in the first half and despite a strong second half offensive effort and a goal by junior Eileen Tetreault, her first of the season, Holy Cross could not recover.

"I feel that it is important to

focus on the future remaining games, but I don't necessarily feel that we shouldn't look at the games we have played so far and see where we went wrong and try to fix our mistakes. We need to improve, and that may be where we can start," junior Alison O'Donnell explained. O'Donnell added optimistically, "This team has a lot of potential and a tremendous amount of heart. We just need to focus and have a positive outlook for the remainder of the season and take each game as it comes. We are a great group of athletes and we know what it takes to win, we just need to believe in each other that we have what it takes."

The Crusaders have a chance to improve their Patriot League record this weekend against Lafayette College. Holy Cross will take on the Leopards at home behind the Hart center Saturday, Oct. 2 at noon.

## Trott, Napolitano lead soccer in scoring

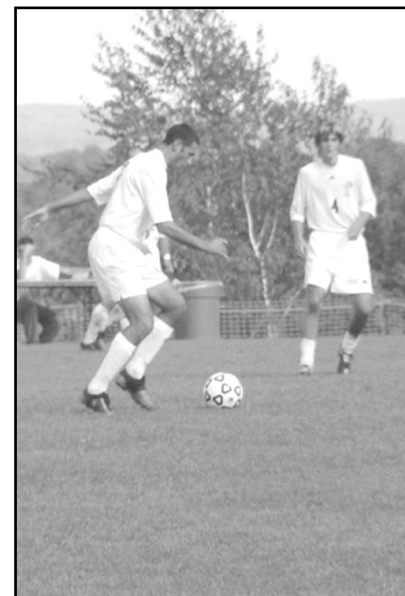
Men's Soccer, page 23

managed to get his shot past Whipple in the 20th minute of the first half.

Less than ten minutes later, Hartford's strongest forward Alon Lubezky tallied his eighth goal of the season in just 11 games of play. Lubezky had a ball played right up to him, which he took down the field past a Crusader defender and beat Whipple to the right side of the net. The Holy Cross boys had only two shots in the first half; one of which was saved, and the other bounced off the left post of the net.

As the second half began, The Crusaders were certainly eager to play and motivated to score. The senior defensemen did an impeccable job of protecting the net and the entire team's passes were on target. Senior Chris Napolitano and junior midfielder Geoff O'Connell then ended the Crusaders' scoring drought. O'Connell brought a ball down from midfield which he passed to Napolitano, who then headed the ball directly towards the net. The ball hit the inner right post and bounced directly into the net. This was Napolitano's second goal of the season.

Holy Cross had several opportunities to score in the final few minutes. One shot was just a few inches away from rolling into the net;



The Crusader/Adam Hart

Senior Chris Ruggi brings the ball up the field for the Crusaders.

however, the Crusaders were unable to beat Hawk goalkeeper Ryan Carr, who ended the day with four saves. Holy Cross did outshoot Hartford by a count of 11-7.

The men's soccer record fell to 0-6-1 in the season, while the Hawks improved to 6-4-1 overall. The boys will be looking to rebound this Saturday, Oct. 4 when they travel to the U.S. Naval Academy for their second Patriot League game of the season. Game time is set for 7:00 p.m.

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# The Crusader SPORTS

## Women's tennis wins four straight

BY MARK HAMILTON  
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

The Holy Cross women's tennis team improved their record to 5-1 with four more victories in the last two weeks.

The Lady Crusaders defeated the University of Rhode Island and Fordham University on the road, as well as home victories over Franklin Pierce College of New Hampshire and Stonehill College. The ladies also suffered a disappointing loss to Connecticut College, ending their chances of an undefeated season.

The match versus URI was won 5-2. Winners in the URI match included Missy Crump, Carrie Simmons, Kerry Trimmer, Alison Levy, and Melissa Levy, all in singles' action. Trimmer and Katie Irwin were also victorious in doubles' competition.

In the complete domination of Franklin Pierce, won 7-0, in which the Ravens only earned seven points combined in nine matches, Simmons, Trimmer, and both Levys were winners. Freshman Meredith Bacon and Maureen McKeon posted their first victories as well. The teams of Crump and Britt Burns, Simmons and Trimmer, and Irwin and Jenny Garcia were triumphant in doubles action.

The ladies then won 5-2 in a tough match against Fordham. Despite losses by the 'Saders top two seeds, the rest of the

## Football loses heartbreaker in SD

Football, page 24

McGarry elected to attempt a two-point conversion, on which Garton condemned the Crusaders to a painful defeat.

It was again harsh on a Crusader offense that saw most of its top performers enjoy good days. Quarterback John O'Neill, replaced in the second quarter of last Saturday's home game against Harvard, responded well, passing for 324 yards on 24 of 37 passing. Both Gideon Akande (13 carries, 85 yards, one TD) and Steve Silva (13 carries, 70 yards, one TD) also returned to form after a sub-par game against the Crimson.

However, the highest plaudits go to the efforts of Ari Confesor, who caught 13 passes for 199 yards. Included in those catches was a pair of touchdowns (21 yards and 31 yards) that helped to lift the Crusaders to those early leads.

Moreover, Confesor continues to make an impact on special teams. On the opening play of the game, Confesor ripped off a 47 yard return to set up the Crusaders for an opening field goal.

Still, if the offense was again to be applauded for its ability to strike quickly and over large distances (it took only 66 plays for the Crusaders to rack up 500 yards, a robust average of 7.6 yards per play), much again must be made of the lack of effectiveness over four quarters on the defensive side of the ball.

The home team racked up 455 yards on the day, with a balance between pass (239 yards by Rasmussen on 21 of 33 passing) and rush (251 yards on 56 carries, with Harney tallying 209 yards on 43 carries) that the Crusader defense could hardly seem to keep contained.

Still, it was more of a case of the Crusaders managing to hold the Toreros at bay for parts of the game, while then seemingly allowing the dam to break late in the fourth quarter.

Much of that has to do with the quick-strike ability of the offense. While the Crusader offense is putting up points in quick fashion, its ability to do so hinders the defensive options. Case in point is the time

of possession stat, in which San Diego held the ball for 47:47 to the Crusaders' 23:13.

The effects of two early, first half drives, on which the Toreros mustered only ten points, but drove a combined 147 yards in 12:12 cannot be underestimated. Combined with a steady diet of Harney runs, the Crusader defense could not keep out the Toreros in the fourth quarter.

It was a bitter pill for the luckless Crusaders to swallow once again, with a game firmly in the crosshairs for it only to slip away in the waning moments. The Crusaders are hoping that luck changes against



Courtesy HC Athletic Site

Sophomore QB John O'Neill passed for 324 yards and was 24 of 37 on passing.

team was able to pick up the slack and earn the victory. Simmons, Trimmer, and the Levys were victorious in singles' action, while the teams of

Crump and Burns and Simmons and Melissa Levy won in doubles' matches.

The ladies soundly defeated Stonehill, 8-1, overcoming an injury to top seed Missy Crump. Burns, Simmons, Trimmer, and the Levys swept the remaining singles matches, and the Crusaders also swept doubles action. Hopefully, Crump's injury is nothing serious, as losing her would be a major blow to the Crusaders' championship hopes.

The dream of an undefeated season was eliminated when the 'Saders were upset by the Camels of Connecticut College. Crump and Trimmer were the lone winners in singles competition, with the team of Crump and Melissa Levy winning a match in doubles play. Fortunately, the ladies bounced back four days later with their victory over Stonehill. This loss looks like an aberration for this solid team. There shouldn't be many more to come.

The season is now in the home stretch. After road tilts against Hartford and Amherst, the team finishes out the season with home matches versus Bryant, Albany, and Brandeis, followed by the New England Championships.



The Crusader/Adam Hart

Women's tennis continues to tear through New England opponents.

## 'Sader Scoreboard

9/24	Volleyball	vs.	Providence	W 3-0
9/25	M. Tennis	vs.	Stonehill	W 7-2
9/26	Volleyball	@	Colgate	L 3-1
9/27	W. Soccer	@	American	L 4-1
	M. Soccer	vs.	Lehigh	T 0-0
	Volleyball	@	Bucknell	L 3-0
	Football	@	Univ. of San Diego	L 46-45
9/28	Field Hockey	vs.	Colgate	W 2-1
9/29	W. Soccer	@	Sienna	L 2-1
9/30	M. Tennis	@	Hartford	L 7-0
	W. Tennis	@	Hartford	W 7-0
	M. Soccer	vs.	Hartford	L 2-1

### Upcoming Events:

10/3	W. Tennis	vs.	Sienna	3:00 p.m.
	M. Tennis	vs.	Bryant	3:00 p.m.
	Volleyball	vs.	American	7:00 p.m.
10/4	Football	vs.	Yale	1:00 p.m.
	Field Hockey	@	Lafayette	1:00 p.m.
	W. Soccer	vs.	Lafayette	12:00 p.m.
	M. Soccer	@	Navy	7:00 p.m.
	Volleyball	vs.	Navy	7:00 p.m.
	M. Tennis	@	UCONN Tourn.	TBA