

Northeast Conference

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For Immediate Release
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Two-time Defending Champ Lock Haven Claims Three Major NEC Field Hockey Awards

LHU's Blair Wynne Named Player of the Year
Sacred Heart's Carisa Eye Tabbed Offensive Player of the Year
LHU's Alanna Lewis Billed Top Defensive Player Once Again
Rider's Virginia Egusquiza Claimed NEC Rookie of the Year Honors
Quinnipiac's Jenna Grossman Deemed Top NEC Goalkeeper
LHU's Patricia Rudy Named NEC Coach of the Year

Somerset, NJ -- In the aftermath of its fifth consecutive Northeast Conference regular season championship, Lock Haven claimed three of the league's six major postseason field hockey awards. The league honored its top performers and unveiled its all-conference teams at the annual postseason awards banquet on the eve of the 2008 NEC Field Hockey Championships. Each of the other three programs that will join Lock Haven in vying for the NEC title at the four-team tournament saw one of its student-athletes secure a major accolade.

Lock Haven senior **Blair Wynne (Arima, Trinidad & Tobago/Sangre Grande)** claimed her third NEC Player of the Year award in four seasons. Sacred Heart senior **Carisa Eye (Nesconset, NY/Smithtown)**, who unseated Wynne for Player of the Year honors in 2006, was billed the NEC Offensive Player of the Year. Wynne's junior teammate **Alanna Lewis (Trinidad & Tobago/Southeast Port-of-Spain)** earned back-to-back NEC Defensive Player of the Year awards. Rider freshman forward **Virginia Egusquiza (Gexto, Spain)** won the NEC Rookie of the Year honor. A former Rookie of the Year herself, Quinnipiac senior **Jenna Grossman (Flanders, NJ/Mt. Olive)** claimed Goalkeeper of the Year accolades. Coaching her Lady Eagles to back-to-back perfect conference seasons, Pat Rudy was billed the Coach of the Year by her peers.

All six aforementioned parties will be on hand for the semifinal round of the Northeast Conference Tournament which faces off on Friday, November 7, with No. 2 Rider facing No. 3 Sacred Heart. The host Lady Eagles, the tournament's top seed, take on No. 4 Quinnipiac in the second semifinal. The two semifinal winners will play for the NEC title on Saturday, November 8.

Wynne will graduate as the most-decorated player in Northeast Conference Field Hockey history. The three-time NEC Player of the Year is now a four-time member of the all-NEC first team. Twice the Most Valuable Player in helping Lock Haven to back-to-back NEC Tournament crowns, Wynne is a complete player with great athleticism and goal scoring ability. Her 17 goals this season ranked third amongst the NEC leaders, and her presence distracted opposing defenders from a number of Lock Haven's other offensive talents. Wynne wreaked havoc for defenses by firing a league-high 119 (6.67/g) shots in 18 games, 62 more than the second-ranked individual. The senior midfielder's 40 points ranked third amongst conference leaders and her five game-winning goals second.

Eye settled for all-NEC first team honors last season, but finds herself back amongst the major award winners following what has been a stellar senior campaign. The three-time all-league first team has the proven ability to carry her team in the offensive end, notching three hat tricks. Turning in what could be the league's most impressive individual performance of the season, Eye scored all four a Sacred Heart's goals, including the overtime game-winner, in a key league victory over Monmouth. That week she scored all seven of the Pioneers' goals en-route to earning weekly league honors. Only one of five Pioneers to start in all 18 games, the senior forward is the only NEC player to average more than a goal per contest. Her 19 goals were a league high and her 2.33 points-per-game average was another conference best.

(2008 NEC Field Hockey All-Conference Release; 1-of-4)

Central Connecticut State University • Fairleigh Dickinson University • Long Island University
Monmouth University • Mount St. Mary's University • Quinnipiac University
Robert Morris University • Sacred Heart University • St. Francis (NY) College
Saint Francis (PA) University • Wagner College • Bryant University (2012-13)

Lewis retains her NEC Defensive Player of the Year title. The junior back anchored a defensive that allowed 24 goals in 20 games while posting seven shutouts. With Lewis locking up number of offensive talents throughout the league, Lock Haven surrendered only three goals to conference opponents. The two-time first team all-NEC defender helped the Lady Eagles post the league's top scoring margin. She scored 13 points (1G, 11A) over 16 starts and her assist on the overtime game-winner against Rider allowed Lock Haven to capture sole possession of first place in the NEC standings.

Egusquiza is a unanimous choice for the NEC Rookie of the Year award following a regular season of key contributions and game-winning goals. Making a major impact on the league standings, the freshman attacker lifted Rider to two NEC victories by providing the decisive score. Ranking sixth amongst the conference leaders in shots (47), eighth in goals (7), and seventh in points (18), she quickly became a nuisance for opposing defenses. The all-NEC first team forward is a four-time Rookie of the Week, earning all of the honors in the season's final five weeks to help the Broncs win nine of 10 games, including eight straight, down the stretch.

Grossman has garnered all-conference honors in each of the past three seasons beginning with her 2006 NEC Rookie of the Year selection. A second team all-NEC choice at goalie in 2007, Grossman moved up the first team and snatched NEC Goalkeeper of the Year honors. Tough to beat in the cage, Grossman was a key culprit in bringing Quinnipiac back amongst the league's top-four teams. She made 6.40 saves per game on her way to a 2.46 goals-against average that sunk to 1.39 in NEC play. Allowing the third-fewest goals (7) against conference foes, Grossman posted a .759 save percentage.

Rudy earns her first NEC Coach of the Year award since 2004 when Lock Haven began its current run of five consecutive regular season conference crowns. Making its third consecutive trip to the NEC Tournament as the No. 1 seed, the Lady Eagles aim for a NEC three-peat as well as a trip into the NCAA Opening Round. The Haven has not lost to a NEC opponent in its last 22 outings of the sort and it recently completed a second consecutive perfect run through the league schedule.

In addition to **Eye** and **Egusquiza**, the NEC named two Lock Haven forwards to its all-league first team. Lady Eagles' second-year forward **Amy Hordendorf (Topton, PA/Brandywine Heights)** emphatically dismissed any notion of a sophomore slump. Hordendorf followed up her 2007 NEC Rookie of the Year award by matching Eye's league-high 19 goals to land on the first team along with fellow Lady Eagle **Suzann Hobart (Lewisberry, PA/Red Land)**. Hobart's junior season resulted in her second straight first team selection. Starting 19 of 20 games, the veteran forward tallied 10 goals and a team-high 14 assists to rank fourth (34 points) amongst the NEC's scoring leaders. Hordendorf, Hobart, and Wynne produced three of the conference's top-four points totals in powering Lock Haven to a league-high 62 goals, a NEC-best average of 3.10 per game.

Quinnipiac senior **Lauren Hartnett (Walpole, MA/Walpole)** and Monmouth senior **Molly Passarella (Atco, NJ/Hammonton)** join **Wynne** in the first team midfield. Hartnett, one of three Bobcats to garner all-NEC first team accolades, started all 17 games. The senior midfielder scored five goals and dished out 3 assists to finish second on Quinnipiac in total points (13). Passarella was a Defensive Player of the Year candidate, but can also contribute in the offensive end. Ranking eighth in the conference for shots (2.06/g), she scored four goals, including a game-winner in NEC play, to go along with two assists.

Alongside **Lewis** in the first team backfield stand Sacred Heart senior **Amy Hendricks (Milford, PA/Delaware Valley)** and Quinnipiac junior **Katie Van Norstrand (Derry, NH/Pinkerton Academy)**. A repeat first teamer, Hendricks returns to the elite group after helping the Pioneers return to the NEC Tournament for the ninth straight time. Hendricks started 16 of 17 games and took 23 shots from her back position, scoring twice, to help bring Sacred Heart back to the postseason where they won a league title her freshman year. Van Norstrand, the lone newcomer on the first team defense, solidified the back line for Quinnipiac, which surrendered the third-fewest goals (13) in league play. Making 17 starts, she scored two goals on 19 shots and added an assist.

Regular season runner-up **Rider** place a league-high four players onto the all-NEC second team -- two at forward, one in the midfield, and one defender. Senior forwards **Tricia Crotty (Lewiston, PA/Indian Valley)** and **Diana Celebre (Lake Grove, NY/Sachem North)** were two key cogs in the Broncs' attack that ranked second in the NEC for goals (38). Crotty finds herself on the all-NEC second team attack for the second straight year following first team honors as a sophomore. She recorded nine goals and a team-high seven assists to finish two points behind Celebre for fifth on the league's scoring charts. Celebre totaled 27 points during a productive offensive campaign. She scored nine of her team-leading 12 goals in conference play, three of them as game-winners. Celebre's goal in the 39th minute against Sacred Heart provided the difference and ultimately lifted Rider over the Pioneers for the NEC Tournament's second seed. One of three Monmouth Hawks to garner all-NEC honors, senior **Enza Mazza (Oceanport, NJ/Shore Regional)** rounds out the second team attack. A constant in the Hawks' lineup, Mazza ranked third on the NEC leader board in shots per game (3.65) while scoring four goals.

Sophomore **Kristy Kelly (Bethlehem, PA/Freedom)** represents Rider in the second team midfield alongside three other honorees at that position. More defensive-minded, Kelly started all 18 games in helping the Broncs to lead the NEC in goals-against average. Saint Francis (PA) junior **Allison Severage (Garwood, NJ/Arthur L. Johnson)** started all seven league games for the Flash. She was not extremely active offensively, but her lone goal, which came in overtime, knocked rival Robert Morris out of postseason contention. Sacred Heart senior **Melissa Mazin (Putnam Valley, NY/Putnam Valley)** tallied two goals and four assists. Quinnipiac senior **Megan Sciascia (Cheshire, CT/Cheshire)** worked well with Hartnett in the midfield. She had four points in NEC play and, more importantly, two key defensive saves.

Rider sophomore **Margaret Ecke (New Egypt, NJ/New Egypt)** was a 2007 first team all-NEC midfielder before dropping back further on defense to earn a spot in this year's second team backfield. Ecke was a key reason why Rider surrendered only two goals in all of league play. Monmouth junior **Sarah Keppel (Northampton, PA/Northampton)** and Sacred Heart junior **Whitney Russo (Waterville, ME/Waterville)** join Ecke on defense. Keppel anchored the Hawks' back line, tallying two defensive saves, but also recording nine points. Russo, the last of Sacred Heart's four all-NEC honorees, totaled 24 shots throughout the season. In addition to five assists, the junior back's only goal was of the game-winning variety.

Saint Francis (PA) senior **Erin Reifsteck (Battle Creek, MI/Saint Phillip)** is the all-NEC second team goalkeeper after a productive year between the pipes. Facing the third-most shots in the conference, Reifsteck made the most saves per game (8.83). Stepping up in NEC play, she lowered her goals-against average by more than 1.00 against league opponents down to 1.80.

2008 NEC Field Hockey Award Winners

Player of the Year

Blair Wynne Lock Haven M Sr. Armia, Trinidad & Tobago/Sangre Grande

Offensive Player of the Year

Carisa Eye Sacred Heart F Sr. Nesconset, NY/Smithtown

Defensive Player of the Year

Alanna Lewis Lock Haven D Jr. Trinidad & Tobago/Southeast Port-of-Spain

Goalkeeper of the Year

Jenna Grossman Quinnipiac GK Sr. Flanders, NJ/Mt. Olive

Rookie of the Year

Virginia Egusquiza Rider F Fr. Gexto, Spain/Extracto del Expediente

Coach of the Year

Pat Rudy Lock Haven

2008 All-NEC Field Hockey First Team

Forwards

Carisa Eye Sacred Heart Sr. Nesconset, NY/Smithtown
Amy Hordendorf Lock Haven So. Topton, PA/Brandywine Heights
Virginia Egusquiza Rider Fr. Gexto, Spain/Extracto del Expediente
Suzann Hobart Lock Haven Jr. Lewisberry, PA/Red Land

Midfielders

Blair Wynne Lock Haven Sr. Arima, Trinidad & Tobago/Sangre Grande
Lauren Hartnett Quinnipiac Sr. Walpole, MA/Walpole
Molly Passarella Monmouth Sr. Atco, NJ/Hammonton

Defenders

Alanna Lewis Lock Haven So. Trinidad & Tobago/Southeast Port-of-Spain
Amy Hendricks Sacred Heart Sr. Milford, PA/Delaware Valley
Katie Van Norstrand Quinnipiac Jr. Derry, NH/Pinkerton Academy

Goalkeeper

Jenna Grossman Quinnipiac Sr. Flanders, NJ/Mt. Olive

2008 All-NEC Field Hockey Second Team

Forwards

Tricia Crotty Rider Sr. Lewistown, PA/Indian Valley
Diana Celebre Rider Sr. Lake Grove, NY/Sachem North
Enza Mazza Monmouth Sr. Oceanport, NJ/Shore Regional

Midfielders

Kristy Kelly Rider So. Bethlehem, PA/Freedom
Allison Severage Saint Francis (PA) Jr. Garwood, NJ/Arthur L. Johnson
Melissa Mazin Sacred Heart Sr. PutnamValley, NY/Putnam Valley
Megan Sciascia Quinnipiac Sr. Cheshire, CT/Cheshire

Defenders

Margaret Ecke Rider So. New Egypt, NJ/New Egypt
Sarah Keppel Monmouth Jr. Northampton, PA/Northampton
Whitney Russo Sacred Heart Jr. Waterville, ME/Waterville

Goalkeepers

Erin Reifsteck Saint Francis (PA) Sr. Battle Creek, MI/Saint Phillip