

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC CLUB

ATHLETICS *Newsletter*

Volume 1, No. 1 | January 2020 | www.shepherdrams.com



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From the SUAC President

Since SUAC's official launch in the fall of 2018, the overall support has been nothing short of extraordinary. It would be remiss not to thank our many donors and supporters who have helped us build an organization such as this that is laser focused on our mission "to create opportunities that will directly contribute to the overall goals of the university's intercollegiate athletics program while establishing an organization that will provide sustained levels of engagement and financial support for all men's and women's varsity teams. Whether through executing fundraising efforts or identifying in-kind donations, our intent is to provide resources that allow all varsity sports to compete at the highest level possible."

As a former Shepherd University athlete and staffer, it is indeed a honor and a privilege to work closely with our VP of Athletics, Chauncey Winbush '95 and '00, as well as a very competent and passionate board that understands the importance of strategic alignment and the need to work in step and in support of the athletic department and the university in its entirety. Only through collaboration with all key constituents can we truly maximize our potential as we grow the reach of SUAC and realize our overarching goals.

On behalf of SUAC and the athletics program, my ask of the many friends and family of this great university is as follows:

- Join SUAC Today – Your support is needed!



Scott Bradford-Doleman '95 and '99
SUAC President

- Give At Your Highest Level "Annually" – Without consistent financial support, we simply cannot fulfill the mission of SUAC. A mission that is committed to elevating Shepherd University Athletics to limitless bounds.
- Spread the Word – Imagine our reach and impact if everyone gets behind this mission.

Again, I thank you for your support and look forward to what the future holds for Shepherd University Athletics.

Go Rams – Onward and upward!

Sincerely,

Scott



Shepherd University Athletic Club
www.suathleticclub.org

Coach's Corner

Featuring Alex Hoekstra, Shepherd University Volleyball Coach

What was the single most important characteristic of your team that drove them to such an exceptional season?

Our collection of talent and work ethic. We had 17 women, all of whom I thought could contribute. During our 18-game winning streak, sometimes our practices were more competitive than our matches. That proves to me that the "iron sharpens iron" philosophy is true because we were always making each other better at practice. Our freshmen really did a good job of pushing our upperclassmen too. In the past, our upperclassmen never really had to fight for their position, but this year there were lots of position changes.

It's clear over the past couple of seasons that you are building a program here at Shepherd. Do you feel you have turned the corner in that process with the past season or what is it that will determine, for you, that the program has arrived or become established?

With the success that we've had in the past, we're starting to get more exposure to better talent. People are coming to us rather than us having to go to them. However, we did just lose a really big class and I think if we were a bigger school, it would be easier for us to reload but I still think we're in a rebuilding phase. When

you lose four four-year starters, you can't just replace them, but we do have a lot of talent returning and a lot of talent coming in so the future is still bright.

You lose a very special player in Peyton Lindblad. When recruiting, is your philosophy more geared to look for four-year players to develop, upperclass transfers, or does it take a mixture of both to stay successful year in and year out?

She gets a lot of credit for her academics and statistics, but Imani Major was one of the best players at her position in the region, so were Cambriea Hill and Seone Goode. Replacing all of them will take a mixture of all of those things. We expect the returning players and incoming freshmen to step in and contribute. What I learned from the players who graduated is that we have the most development during the winter and spring. We can really focus on individual skill/technique and try to make improvements. And we try to pass that down to the next group as far as the importance of working hard in the off season.

What is your biggest short-term need for the program and the biggest long-term need for continued excellence in the PSAC?

It's obvious that we're a smaller school

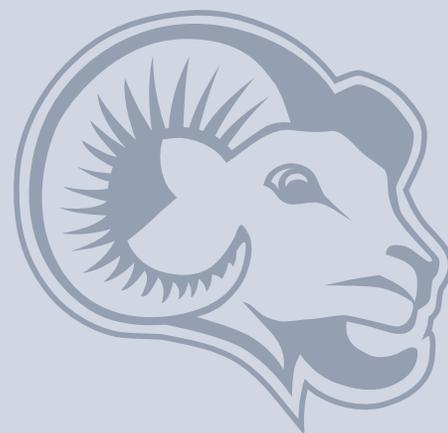


compared to other schools in the PSAC. We still consider ourselves an underdog, whether it's the size of our school or the scholarships that we have but that gives us an extra challenge and a chip on our shoulder to still compete at a high level. We've gotten close to our ceiling with the type of talent we can bring in with our scholarships so we're doing a lot with fundraising and camps that increase our budget. That is the biggest challenge we face when we're competing with bigger schools. ■

Did you know?

The 2019 undergraduate tuition and fees for Shepherd are **\$7,548 for West Virginia residents** and **\$18,048 for out-of-state students**. In order to provide one full-ride scholarship for a student-athlete who is from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia or other surrounding states, the amount needed would be approximately \$18,000 for that year alone. Approximately 60% of the enrolled undergraduate students have received grant or scholarship aid and the average amount is \$6,800. That's an average of \$11,000 additional dollars needed for any student-athlete from out of state to receive a full-ride scholarship.

Scholarship and program dollars are desperately needed to meet the expectation of high level competition across Shepherd athletic teams. **Please join today and help the Shepherd University Athletic Club provide additional scholarship and program dollars each and every year!** ■



In Season

See upcoming games at www.shepherdrams.com.



Through January 19th, the women's basketball team is 12-5 (6-5 PSAC) with a strong 7-3 record at the Butcher Center. Coach Jenna Eckleberry and her staff have this young, talented team playing well.



Through that same period, the men's basketball team is 8-9 (4-7 PSAC). Coach Justin Namolik and company are young and playing hard. They too are enjoying the Butcher Center with a 6-3 home record. Come out and support these teams! ■



Fall 2019 Highlights

Football finished the season with a 10-3 record and reached 2nd round of NCAA D2 Regional playoffs before losing to national semi-finalist, Slippery Rock. Deonte Glover, Eric Ostrow and Keandre Batson were named to D2CCA All Region Teams. 14 players gained all PSAC East honors and 9 earned first team.

The **volleyball** season ended after a record setting season. The team finished the season 29-7 after falling to Gannon in semifinals of the Atlantic Regional playoffs. Peyton Lindblad was named to D2CCA All Region team and the Atlantic Regional All-Tournament team. The volleyball team also set a record for the most consecutive wins with an 18 match win streak at the start of the season. This was their 3rd season in a row with over 23 wins.

Men's and women's soccer completed the inaugural PSAC season. Looking to recruiting season and returning players to lead the program and challenge for future PSAC, regional, and national championships.

Golf competed in the PSAC Championship where Owen Elliott finished 2nd overall for the individual championship after a 3 player playoff. Mason Kidwell finished tied for 13th in the individual championship. The team finished 7th in the championship.

Upcoming Events

Senior Day, Gold Out Game

Saturday, February 29 | 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Butcher Center

Women's and men's basketball. Wear gold in support of our senior athletes.

SUAC Breakfast Tailgate

Saturday, April 18 | TBA
Rumsey Tavern
Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
Shepherdstown

Shepherd Athletics Awards Night

Sunday, April 19 | TBA

Sponsored by the Shepherd University Athletic Club.



Facility Updates

BEFORE:

AFTER:



TOP: Ram Stadium gets new field turf for start of 2019 football season, SUAC has committed \$5,000 per year for five years.

MIDDLE: Butcher Center weight room gets \$50,000 renovation with new weights and bars, new flooring, and Shepherd branding. SUAC donated more than \$10,000.

BOTTOM: The Tennis Court Renovation project raises \$20,000 for court improvements, new nets, and Shepherd branding. SUAC led sport specific donations totaling \$20,000. The Will Pindell Memorial Tennis Scholarship fund donates proceeds of \$7,500 from the second annual Will Pindell Memorial Tennis Tournament to the court renovation project.

Upcoming Seasons

Baseball season opens Friday, January 31 down south when the Rams play perennial powers UNC Pembroke and USC Aiken. Coach Matt McCarty '10 leads his team into the PSAC for the first time after winning multiple Mountain East Championships and will face prior years' regional playoff rivals on a regular basis during the PSAC regular and conference championship season.

Softball begins its season Saturday, February 22. Coach Marissa Leslie and the Rams look to follow up on last year's record-breaking year and establish themselves as the softball powerhouse in the PSAC and Atlantic Regional division. As with their baseball counterparts, Shepherd will have familiarity with its new conference after playing in the Atlantic Regional playoffs over past years.

The women's lacrosse team kicks off its season in Philadelphia on Saturday, February 22 against Chestnut Hill. Coach Jenny Miller returns many players from the Rams team that went 11-7 (8 -2 Mountain East Conference) and expects to be very competitive in their inaugural season in the PSAC.

Men and women's tennis open their season on Saturday, February 22 and 29 respectively. Coach Matt Rosner begins his second full year with Shepherd's men and women's teams. He looks to rebuild the program with senior Carter Davis (MEC Player of the Year last year) being the building block. Coach Rosner looks to build his recruiting base within the state and the surrounding areas while also looking to provide opportunities for international student athletes looking for a great education and competitive tennis in the PSAC. ■



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