

LAX: What a Week That Was!

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009, WILL BE LONG REMEMBERED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD



Goalie Scott Bement '12, shown here against UMBC, was named Nike/Inside Lacrosse Player of the Week.

On that date the UofH lacrosse team earned a stunning victory over sixth-ranked University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), by a final score of 10-8 at home on Alumni Field. It was the Hawks' first conference win of the season and UMBC's first conference loss. It was also the Hawks' first conference win since the 2007 season and the first time they have won consecutive games since 2006. The Hawks defeated Presbyterian 14-5 earlier in the week.

Freshman goalie Scott Bement gave a stellar performance against UMBC with a career-high 19 saves while holding the nation's fifth-best offense to its second-lowest scoring output of the season. His performance earned him Player of the Week honors from the America East Conference, the New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association, and LAXnews the following Monday.

On Tuesday the Hawks learned that Bement had been named Nike/Inside Lacrosse Player of the Week. Bement is the first Hartford player to earn the award, for which all Division I players nationwide are eligible. ■

Flirting with Greatness

You beat the fifth-ranked team in the country, record 20 wins, and play in the postseason for the fifth consecutive year. A season to celebrate? In the land of Hartford Hawks' women's basketball, where one of the nation's top mid-major programs has been built and expectations are sky high, the answer is a resounding no.

"We were never quite able to play up to our potential, particularly at the end of the season," Coach Jennifer Rizzotti says. "We played a lot of close games but just couldn't find a way to win them. I'd say it was a bit of an eye-opening experience for us."

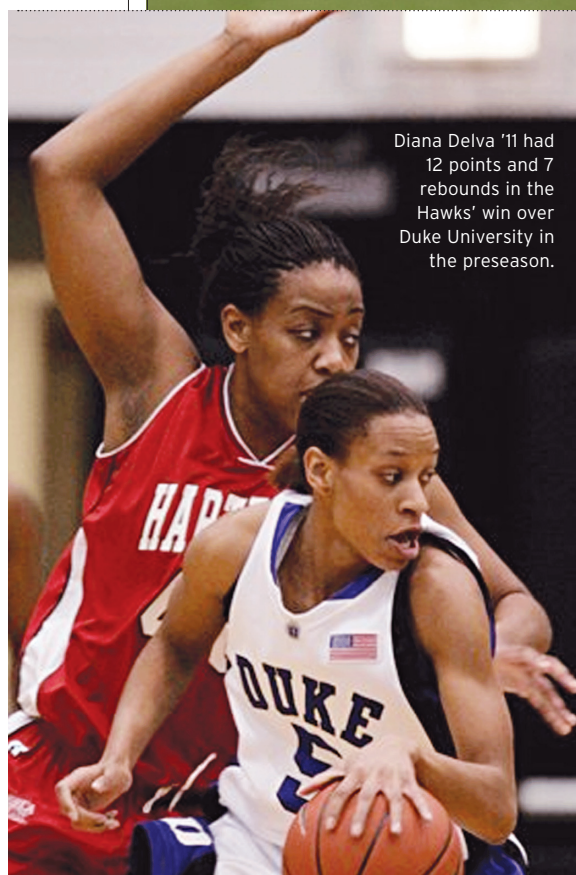
The Hawks certainly opened the nation's eyes at the start of the season. On November 21 in Chicago, at a tournament hosted by DePaul University, the Hawks defeated Duke University, then ranked fifth in the country, 53-51. It was one of the landmark victories in school history and the first time the Hawks had knocked off a team ranked among the nation's top 10.

That win also got the attention of the Hawks' upcoming opponents.

"Maybe it was the pressure from beating Duke, or teams would come extra-prepared to play us because we beat [Duke]," says co-captain Lisa Etienne '09. "We should have been able to move on from that game, but we seemed stuck on the fact we beat Duke."

The Hawks lost six of their next eight, finishing a nonconference schedule ranked third-toughest in the country by *collegerpi.com*. They regrouped by winning 13 of their next 16 games before heading into the America East tournament. Yet the team was unable to find the magic of recent years, falling in the semifinals to Vermont. Then, after receiving an at-large bid to the WNIT, the Hawks saw their season end with a home loss to St. John's a week later.

Hartford's 20-12 record marks the fifth-straight season of 20 or more victories. The senior class (MaryLynne Schaefer, Katie Kelley, and Lisa Etienne) graduates with a 101-30 overall record (.771), only the second in school history to graduate with 100 or more wins. ■



Diana Delva '11 had 12 points and 7 rebounds in the Hawks' win over Duke University in the preseason.

AP Photo