THERE’S A NEW HAWK IN TOWN

On a warm summer evening at one of Hartford’s trendy new restaurants by the riverfront, a new era of Hartford athletics arrived.

For the first time in 25 years—when the University’s Sports Center opened its doors—the Hartford Hawks have a new look.

On July 28, Nix’s Restaurant was packed to capacity with just about every UHart constituency represented. But on this night, the star of the show would be a bird.

University President Walter Harrison and Director of Athletics Anton Goff unfurled a 10-foot banner that revealed the new primary mark, which features a profile shot of a bright-red hawk soaring between two upright columns to complete an italicized H. Next, the Hartford Hawks head coaches in attendance uncovered a second banner that showed the new secondary logo featuring a straight-on view of a red hawk, talons up, edging the Hartford Hawks wordmark forward.

“We are all very excited. The new Hawks logo is a powerful representation of where our athletics program is headed,” said Goff. “Like never before, we are ready for Hawk Nation Domination!”

The new suite of logos was created by the University’s branding agency, Philadelphia-based 160over90, which worked collaboratively over seven months with UHart coaches, administrators, alumni, student-athletes, and students to develop a concept, conduct research, and then create and execute a design that embodies the University’s athletic history and its vision for the future.

“This new logo and identity is the product of a shared vision for greatness,” said Harrison at the unveiling. “I’m confident that this will propel us forward and set the direction for the next generation of Hartford Hawks.”

The new look is adaptable across multiple platforms, including digital, broadcast, and on athletic gear and apparel. The new logo is now painted on the court in the Chase Arena and has taken its place high atop the exterior of the Reich Family Pavilion.

Watch a video of the H being placed on the Sports Center at hartford.edu/athleticslogo.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Concluding the 2015 campaign with an 11-4-4 mark, the Hawks have posted double-digit wins in each of the last five seasons and are back-to-back regular-season champions in the America East Conference. Head coach John Natale is now tied with former head coach Austin Daniels as the program’s winningest coach.

HAWKS TO ADD WOMEN’S LACROSSE, DROP TENNIS

University of Hartford Director of Athletics Anton Goff announced in October that the University will add women’s lacrosse for the 2017-18 season and will discontinue men’s and women’s tennis in the spring of 2016. The decision was made in consultation with University leadership, the board of regents, and other University department leaders and after a yearlong examination of budget, fundraising, facilities, and trends in intercollegiate athletics.

“This was a very difficult decision to make,” Goff said. “However, with the challenges that weather presents in the Northeast and our current facilities [for tennis], the financial commitment needed to be competitive on a national level is not feasible for us.

“Women’s lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation,” Goff continued. “Seven schools in the America East Conference already have teams, and we are committed to being successful competitors in our conference. Our goal in adding women’s lacrosse is to move to full compliance with Title IX.”

All tennis student-athletes who have remaining eligibility in 2016 will be granted full releases if they want to transfer. Those who receive athletics financial aid will have their scholarships honored if they stay at the University.
Jonas Hampton ’11 was among the first group of students to live in Hawk Hall when the inviting new residence hall located on Alumni Plaza opened its doors in 2007. But even back then, he started thinking about a different milestone.

“I always wanted to [run in the Hartford Marathon], ever since college,” Hampton told the Hartford Courant. “I would look at the times, and I saw there wasn’t really anyone from Hartford that’s won it in the past. I set a goal for myself back in college that I did want to win either the full or the half.”

On Oct. 10, Hampton not only ran in the Eversource Hartford Marathon for the first time—competing in his first full marathon anywhere—he won it. The 26-year-old former Hawks’ track and cross-country standout crossed the finish line in 2:15:58 to beat his closest competition by two minutes.

Hampton thus became the first Connecticut resident to win the Hartford men’s marathon in the 22-year history of the event. He shook loose from defending champion Matt Pelletier between miles 14 and 15 on the 26.2-mile course en route to a first-place finish among 1,899 runners who crossed the finish line.

Currently living in New Britain, Conn., Hampton works as an engineer for the state Department of Transportation.

He previously qualified for the Olympic marathon trials by way of a previous half-marathon time. The 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials will take place on Saturday, Feb. 13, in Los Angeles, Calif.

During his senior season as a Hawk runner in 2010–11, Hampton finished 13th at the America East Cross Country Championships, and placed 15th in the 3,000 meters and 12th in the 5,000 meters at the 2011 America East Indoor Track and Field Championships. He also set a school record outdoors in the 10,000 meters, posting a time of 31:45.65 at the Colonial Relays.
## HAWK NATION

**JOIN THE CLUB**

Give $50 or more to Athletics’ new Fly High Fund or to a specific athletic program of your choice and become a member of the HAWK NATION CLUB. A gift to the Fly High Fund is unrestricted and will be used where it is needed most by Hartford Athletics and will have an immediate impact on our student-athletes.

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**Being a Hawk Nation Club member has its benefits.**

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**HELP SHAPE CHAMPIONS**

Invest in the Hawk Nation Club today to transform the lives of our student-athletes and help them reach their greatest academic and athletic potential.

Visit www.hawknationclub.com to join today!