Lacrosse Wins First America East Title

Earning more wins during the season than in the previous four years combined, the men’s lacrosse team captured its first America East title in program history with a thrilling 11-10 victory at Stony Brook on May 7.

Junior Ryan Compitello netted the game winner with just one second left on the clock to propel the Hawks into the NCAA Tournament and a first-round game at Cornell on May 14. The Hawks fell to the second-seeded Big Red (12-5), finishing the season 11-7 overall—their best mark since 2000.

For head coach Peter Lawrence, the dramatic turnaround on the field was representative of the type of student-athlete who has been attracted to the program. Off the field this past year, the lacrosse program won the Department of Athletics’ community service award and earned a team grade point average over 3.0.

“We have eight seniors who didn’t win a game as freshmen,” Lawrence said, “and they stuck it out, believed in the program, and helped change the culture of Hartford lacrosse.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: In late May the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association announced its annual list of Division I All-Americans. For the first time in Hartford men’s lacrosse history, two Hawks were chosen. Tim Fallon ’11 was named to the second team and Carter Bender ’12 received honorable mention. Fallon was a two time, first-team All-America East honoree and the 2011 New England Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association’s Player of the Year. Bender was named to the America East All-Conference Second Team and NEILA First Team in 2011.

Men’s Soccer Welcomes Ninth Coach

Tom Poitras has been named the ninth head coach in the 54-year history of the University of Hartford men’s soccer program. A native of Southington, Conn., Poitras comes to Hartford with a polished résumé that includes 17 years of collegiate coaching experience.

“In Tom, we have an individual who has been a head coach at three highly respected institutions and comes to Hartford with a wealth of experience,” says Patricia Meiser, director of athletics. “In each case, he made a significant impact on the success of the men’s soccer programs.”

Poitras recently completed his seventh season as the head coach at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where he piloted the Phoenix to an impressive 72-46-18 record, including four seasons with 10 or more wins and four Horizon League Championship game appearances. Most impressively, Poitras guided Green Bay to a historic season in 2009 that saw the program earn its first-ever Horizon League title, coupled with an NCAA Division I Tournament appearance, the first in 26 years.

Class of 2011 Inducted into Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame

The University of Hartford Department of Athletics inducted eight individuals into the Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame on April 30.

Congratulations to the Hall of Fame Class of 2011:

KRISTY FINLAYSON ’02—one of the most successful performers in the history of the women’s golf program
BRIAN LAMASTRO ’01—still the most prolific scorer in the history of Hartford lacrosse
JACK MGETRIC—the winning-est coach in Hartford lacrosse history, with an 87-67 record between 1993 and 2003
LIZ NADEAU-SANKAR ’02—among softball’s top five all-time performers in nine different categories
STEPHANIE VOLCKERS ’04—one of the volleyball program’s all-time-best hitters
WILLIAM CLEW ’52—recipient of the Pioneer Recognition award for being an integral part of the basketball program that competed as Hillyer College in the early 1950s
RON PALMER—2011 recipient of the A. Peter LoMaglio Service Recognition for his longtime support of the athletics program as a fan, donor, season ticket holder, and overall friend to the University
JOHN “JAY” SHAW A’74—managing director and cofounder of Resource Holdings Ltd., a New York City-based investment firm; a longtime supporter of the University; and recipient of the Vincent B. Coffin Professional Achievement Recognition