



RUTGERS ATHLETICS

2006-07 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of Rutgers Athletics,

Before we open a new academic year at Rutgers University, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the 2006-07 season for the Scarlet Knights. Last year was one of the most memorable, most challenging, and most rewarding we've ever experienced in Rutgers Athletics.

I'm sure you'll agree that last year's superlatives in athletic competition were many - the outstanding successes of the football program, the women's basketball team's drive to the Final Four and the NCAA national championship game, and nationally ranked programs and post-season successes experienced by a number of our programs. In fact, Sports Illustrated On Campus rated our program as the No. 17 athletic department in the country last season!

Beyond the obvious, however, was the way that our student-athletes and coaches represented the University, with dignity and grace, class and distinction, throughout the year, no matter what the setting or situation. Simply put, their deeds and actions were a source of great pride to our community and to the State of New Jersey.

Our Annual Report will provide you with a look back at a memorable year, and also provide you with a glimpse of the upcoming 2007-08 academic year. I'm sure you'll join me in the enjoyment of reminiscing about so many great moments from last season, and with the comfort of knowing that our coaches, student-athletes and athletic department staff are looking forward to creating so many new memories in the months to come.

Coach Greg Schiano and his Scarlet Knights football team proved to be a beacon of success for the entire department with its performance in 2006. Rutgers was one of only 14 teams nationally to record 11 or more victories, en route to its second consecutive bowl appearance and the Texas Bowl championship. The 11 wins tied a single-season record for the Scarlet Knights, and we were only the fifth team in BIG EAST history to reach that figure in a given year. The team was ranked No. 12 in the year-end rankings, the highest in school history, and Coach Schiano was recognized by numerous groups as BIG EAST, and national, "Coach of the Year." Congratulations are in order to fullback Brian Leonard, the recipient of the coveted Draddy Trophy, which is also referred to as the "academic Heisman."

Our women's basketball program carried the Scarlet Knights banner throughout the winter season and into the spring. Coach C. Vivian Stringer and her staff molded and developed a young team into one that rebounded from a 2-4 start to win the BIG EAST Conference tournament championship and then the NCAA Greensboro Regional title, and advance to the NCAA National Championship Game. The best part is knowing the entire team returns for the upcoming season.

Our women's team remained in the spotlight well beyond their appearance in the National Championship game when it was thrust into a national discussion regarding the civility of words and actions after comments made by radio talk show host Don Imus. Throughout the ordeal, Coach Stringer and the team accorded themselves with the class and dignity that the University community, and the state of New Jersey, has come to know and expect.

The success stories extended beyond the gridiron and basketball courts. Our men's and women's soccer teams, and our baseball team, capped outstanding seasons with appearances in the NCAA Tournament. The women's swim team, and the men's and women's lacrosse teams, were Top 20 performers during their respective seasons.

We are fortunate to have such an outstanding coaching staff in place. Congratulations are in order to baseball coach Fred Hill, who guided the Scarlet Knights to the BIG EAST regular season and tournament championship, and during the season, chalked up his career victory No. 900. I'd also like to thank long-time wrestling coach John Sacchi for his 17 years of service to Rutgers - and 40 years in the coaching field - and wish him well as he embarks on the next phase of his life, retirement.

As I noted at the beginning of my letter, it was also a challenging year for the athletic program. We were forced to transition six of our varsity teams to the club sports level, as part of the Rutgers Recreation program. While this was a difficult decision, I believe we treated the entire process in a very sensitive, caring manner. It is sometimes said that trying times call for difficult decisions, and Rutgers Athletics found itself in that position. It is now time to move on.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our benefactors and loyal fans for their continued support. We remain grateful to the Rutgers administration, and our president, Dr. Richard L. McCormick. I'd also like to thank the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees for their on-going support. A special thank you to Ron Giaconia for his help and leadership in support of the Athletic Department and its director (below).

My optimism for Rutgers Athletics has never been greater. We've established a foundation for success, and I am confident we will continue to grow in all areas. I look forward to continuing our success in 2007-08!

Sincerely,

Robert E. Mulcahy III
Director of Athletics



Rutgers Athletics would like to express a heartfelt thank you for the leadership and guidance provided by Ron Giaconia, who has faithfully served as chairman of the university's athletic committee for many years. With his undying love for Rutgers, and his never ending passion to serve his alma mater, Ron has helped Rutgers Athletics achieve new heights. His willingness to work for the program, its teams and our student-athletes, will long be remembered and appreciated because he helped us reach our current success.

ACADEMIC



higher in the fall, while 170 earned a 3.5 or higher GPA in the spring. Still more impressive was the number of student-athletes who earned a 3.75 GPA or better, with 73 in the fall and 79 in the spring reaching or eclipsing that mark.

• Brian Leonard, the standout fullback from Rutgers, became the 17th recipient of the Draddy Trophy at The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame's 49th Annual Awards Dinner. Known in many circles as the "Academic" Heisman, the Draddy Trophy continues to be one of college football's most sought after and competitive awards, recognizing an individual as the absolute best in the country for his combined academic success, football performance and exemplary community leadership.

• Two Rutgers student-athletes - Jason Henderson and Beth Fittery - were named recipients of the NCAA postgraduate scholarships for the winter sports season. Fittery, who also earned All-America status twice in her career, graduated from Rutgers with a Psychology degree, carrying a 3.948 cumulative GPA. She was named the Eastern Atlantic Gymnastics League (EAGL) Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2006 and was the winner of the Athletic Director's Award of Excellence in 2005 and 2006. In addition to being an All-American, Henderson earned the 2006 Athletic Director's Excellence Award.

• Each year, student-athletes at Rutgers build upon the previous years' academic achievements. Twenty-three student-athletes earned a 4.0 grade point average in the fall of 2006, while 26 earned a 4.0 in the spring 2007 semester. In total, seven student-athletes had a 4.0 in each semester, and 42 student-athletes recorded a perfect GPA in at least one semester this year.

• More than 130 student-athletes earned their degree from Rutgers during the year. Rutgers, which continues to exceed the national standard for graduation of student-athletes, boasted more than 100 graduates in each of the last three years, and well over 450 since 2004. In fact, nearly double the number of student-athletes graduated from Rutgers during this scholastic year than five years ago.

• The number of student-athletes who received a 3.0 GPA or higher increased greatly this past year, with 326 student-athletes achieving that mark in the fall and 352 in the spring. Of those who earned a 3.0 GPA or higher, 149 earned a 3.5 or

RUTGERS



CUMULATIVE GPA

| SPORT | GPA |
|--------------------|-------|
| Baseball | 2.671 |
| Men's Basketball | 2.656 |
| Women's Basketball | 2.900 |
| Men's Crew | 2.882 |
| Women's Crew | 3.274 |
| Men's X-Country | 3.341 |
| Women's X-Country | 3.030 |
| Men's Fencing | 3.097 |
| Women's Fencing | 3.464 |
| Football | 2.680 |
| Men's Golf | 2.440 |
| Women's Golf | 3.363 |
| Gymnastics | 3.201 |
| Field Hockey | 2.959 |
| Men's Lacrosse | 2.648 |
| Women's Lacrosse | 3.027 |
| Men's Soccer | 2.858 |
| Women's Soccer | 3.102 |
| Softball | 2.944 |
| Men's Swimming | 2.925 |
| Women's Swimming | 3.142 |
| Men's Tennis | 3.127 |
| Women's Tennis | 3.124 |
| Men's Track | 2.767 |
| Women's Track | 2.884 |
| Volleyball | 3.230 |
| Wrestling | 2.550 |
| Total All Sports | 2.900 |
| All Students | 2.988 |

*Numbers represent the cumulative GPA as of the end of the Spring '07 semester

ATHLETICS

• The most recent Academic Progress Report (APR), released by the NCAA, shows that six Rutgers athletics teams scored in the top 20 percent among all Division I programs in their respective sports. The most recent APR scores are from data compiled over a three-year period (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06) and are based on eligibility, retention and graduation of each scholarship student-athlete. An APR of 925 translates to an NCAA Graduation Success Rate of approximately 60 percent.

• The Rutgers baseball and men's cross country teams each scored in the top 10 percent nationally, while the football team, men's indoor track team, women's tennis team and volleyball team were all in the top 20 percent nationally. The Rutgers football program has a multi-year APR of 971, well above the national average of 931 and placing the Scarlet Knights number one among all public institutions. The men's cross country team and women's tennis team each scored a multi-year APR of 1000. Four additional Rutgers programs (women's cross country, gymnastics, women's crew and volleyball) scored 990 or higher.

• The women's tennis team has been named by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) as All-Academic status. In addition to team honors, also had three women earn ITA Scholar-Athlete Awards in Ketevan Shmakova, Jill Markowitz and Anela Dujsic.



• The Rutgers men's cross country team received recognition from the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association as Division I Men's All-Academic Cross Country honorees. The eleven-member team consisting of three seniors, two juniors, one sophomore and five freshmen combined for a cumulative grade point average of 3.311 overall.

• Six members of the crew squad were tabbed scholar-athletes by the CRCA for outstanding achievement in the classroom. Kaitlin Coulter, Cara Allen, Stephanie Berg, Rachel Blessing, Annika Miller and Melanie Spero were cited for their academic excellence. The student-athletes had to maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher and compete in a minimum of 75 percent of the current spring seasons or race in a regional conference event to be eligible for the honor.

EXCELLENCE



- Looking back at the remarkable run for Rutgers in 2006, the Scarlet Knights captured the nation's attention with one of the most dramatic stories in college football history. For just the second time in 137 seasons of football, the Scarlet Knights won 11 games in a season (one of only 14 teams in the nation in 2006 to record 11 victories) going 11-2 after the program's first bowl championship with a 37-10 victory over Kansas State in the Texas Bowl.
- In the final Associated Press Top 25 and USA Today/Coaches Top 25, Rutgers finished the season ranked No. 12, its highest season-ending ranking in school history. The Scarlet Knights ended the season ranked in 12 consecutive polls, the longest stretch in school history. The highest ranking for the Scarlet Knights during the season was No. 7 in the Associated Press and No. 8 in the USA Today/Coaches poll.
- With its 38-7 win over Syracuse in 2006, Rutgers finished the season undefeated at home for the 13th time in school history (137 seasons) and for the first time since 1984. The victory over the Orange also secured the best single-season record in school history at the "new" Rutgers Stadium at 6-0.
- Rutgers ranked in the nation's top 20 in nine different team statistical categories in 2006, including six top-10 rankings for the defense. Below is a breakdown of Rutgers' top-25 statistical units in the final 2006 NCAA Rankings:

| Category | Rank | Total | Category | Rank | Total |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------------------|------|-------|
| Rushing Offense | 15 | 180.2 | Scoring Defense | 8 | 14.3 |
| Scoring Offense | 22 | 29.8 | Turnover Margin | 10 | 0.85 |
| Rushing Defense | 17 | 101.0 | Pass Defense | 6 | 151.3 |
| Pass Efficiency Defense | 8 | 103.7 | Sacks | 5 | 3.2 |
| Total Defense | 4 | 252.2 | Tackles for Loss | 5 | 7.9 |
| | | | Sacks Allowed | 1 | 0.6 |

- Sophomore running back Ray Rice finished seventh in the voting for the Heisman Trophy and established a BIG EAST record with 1,794 rushing yards in 2006. Rice was also a consensus All-American, including being named a finalist for the Maxwell Award, which recognizes the top player in college football.
- Eric Foster was named First Team All-American by the Football Writers Association of America. Foster and Rice led the list of national honors for Rutgers, including Lou Groza Semifinalist Jeremy Ito, All-American Brian Leonard and Rimington Finalist Darnell Stapleton.



• Head Coach Greg Schiano was named National Coach of the Year by six different media outlets, including being tabbed the BIG EAST Coach of the Year. Schiano also became the first coach in Rutgers history to lead a team to consecutive bowl appearances. Below is a list of accomplishments Schiano received in 2006:

- Eddie Robinson/FWAA National Coach of the Year
- The Home Depot National Coach of the Year
- Walter Camp Football Foundation National Coach of the Year
- Liberty Mutual National Coach of the Year

- George Munger (Maxwell Club) National Coach of the Year
- American Football Monthly National Coach of the Year
- BIG EAST Coach of the Year

• During the 2006 season, Rutgers established single-season and single-game attendance records, including a Rutgers Stadium record 44,111 spectators for the team's 28-25 win over No. 3 Louisville. In addition, all 13 of RU's games in 2006 garnered national television coverage, including seven games on ESPN or ESPN2. Rutgers also had games appear on ABC, CSTV and the NFL Network.

• Rutgers victory over Louisville on Nov. 9 was a huge ratings success for ESPN. The Scarlet Knights last-second win, highlighted by a Jeremy Ito field goal with seconds left, averaged an 8.1 rating in New York, according to Nielsen. It marked the highest-rated college sporting event in the New York market since ESPN began rating college sporting events in 2000. It was the fifth-highest rated sporting event on basic cable, in New York, last year. The Louisville-Rutgers game drew ESPN's second biggest audience ever for a Thursday night game.

• Rutgers had 14 members selected to the All-BIG EAST Team, the most of any school in the conference. Ray Rice, Jeremy Zuttah, Clark Harris, Eric Foster and Joe Radigan were named to the First Team. Brian Leonard, Cam Stephenson, Jamaal Westerman, Jeremy Ito, Courtney Greene, Devraun Thompson, Ron Girault, Ramel Meekins and Pedro Sosa each earned second-team honors.

• Seven players signed NFL contracts following the season, including three players taken in the 2007 NFL Draft. Brian Leonard was drafted in the second round by the Saint Louis Rams, Cam Stephenson was taken in the fifth round by the Pittsburgh Steelers and Clark Harris was drafted in the seventh round by the Green Bay Packers. Joe Porter (New Orleans Saints), Derrick Roberson (Houston Texans), Ramel Meekins (Indianapolis Colts) and Darnell Stapleton (Pittsburgh Steelers) all signed free-agent deals.





- The Scarlet Knights women's basketball team advanced to the Final Four for the second time in program history, earning their way into the NCAA National Championship game for the first time in school history. The 43-point victory for the Scarlet Knights versus ECU in the first round tied the team's largest win-margin in an NCAA game. Rutgers defeated Arizona 90-47 in the second round of the 1999 NCAA Tournament. Rutgers followed up the ECU win with a victory over Michigan State, 70-57 in East Lansing, Mich.
- In the Greensboro Regional, Rutgers defeated top-ranked Duke 53-52 on an Epiphanny Prince fast-break layup to advance to the Elite Eight, where the Scarlet Knights took down Arizona State 64-45 to move on to the Final Four. The upset over Duke earned Rutgers an ESPY nomination in the category of Best Upset.
- The team finished the season with a 27-9 record and won its first BIG EAST Tournament title with a 55-47 win over Connecticut. Rutgers won seven-straight post season games before falling to Tennessee in the National Championship match-up. Both Vaughn and Ajavon were named to the NCAA Final Four All-Tournament team.
- The Scarlet Knights won 13 of their last 15 games, 17 of their last 20 and 22 of their 26 contests in 2007.
- Head women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer and the Scarlet Knights were named the inaugural award winners for the Eddie Robinson Leadership Award. The award was created to honor the life of Eddie Robinson and recognize a person or group of people who exemplify the courage to always stand up for justice for the people they lead.
- During the season, junior Matee Ajavon eclipsed the 1,000 point mark, becoming the 25th member of the club. Ajavon had a stellar season after starting the year on the sidelines due to injury. She ended the campaign strong, however, being named both BIG EAST Tournament and NCAA Greensboro Regional Most Valuable Player.
- Ajavon earned a slot on the 12-member 2007 USA Women's Pan American Games squad. From a pool of 15 finalists, the roster was selected by the USA Basketball Women's Collegiate Committee, chaired by Sue Donohoe, the NCAA's vice president of Division I women's basketball. This team competed in Brazil during the month of July.
- For the second straight season, junior Essence Carson was named the BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year. Joining Carson on the First Team was Kia Vaughn, while Ajavon was selected to the Second Team. Freshmen Brittany Ray and Prince were both chosen to the All-Rookie Team.
- Vaughn and Carson both earned Kodak/WCBA Honorable Mention All-American honors. The tandem then played together on the U-21 USA Basketball squad, winning the Gold Medal at the FIBA U21 World Championships, defeating Australia, 96-73, in the title game.



- Vaughn was named the All-Met Division I Women's College Basketball Player of the Year by the National Invitational Tournament and the Met Basketball Writers Association. Essence Carson earned first team accolades for her performance throughout the year.

- Sophomore Heather Zurich saw increased minutes in 2006-07, playing in all 36 games, including 33 starts. Zurich was a mainstay in the lineup for the Scarlet Knights, playing 895 minutes this season compared to just 80 in her freshman campaign.

- Prince and Ray combined for 85 three-point baskets out of the team's 180 made on the season. The freshman duo accounted for 47-percent of RU's outside scoring on the year.

- After four games, Rutgers ranked last in the league in field goal percentage defense and 14th in scoring defense. By season's end, the Scarlet Knights were ranked third in field goal percentage defense and first in scoring defense, holding opponents to 12.5 points per game less than at the start of the season. RU held opponents to just 54.4 ppg on the season, which was 11th best in the nation.

- Rutgers was presented with a number of honors, including the 2007 Irv Grossman Award of Merit by the Collegiate Women Sports Awards Program. The award, recently renamed in honor of the late Mr. Grossman, has not been presented in five years. Mr. Grossman was a highly-respected journalist, sports marketer and media consultant. He was instrumental in spearheading many events on the collegiate and professional levels, most especially in the field of women's athletics. His wife, Tora presented the award to Coach Stringer. The award was given in conjunction with the 31st Honda-Broderick Cup presentation, honoring the nation's top female athlete of the year.

- Rutgers women's basketball received several resolutions following the 2006-07 season, from the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly to the U.S. House of Representatives.



- Fred Hill realized a life-long dream by being named head men's basketball coach at Rutgers University on March 27, 2006. Hill, 47, served as Associate Head Coach for the Scarlet Knights in the 2005-06 season. Prior to his arrival at Rutgers in April, 2005, Hill spent the previous four seasons as an assistant coach at Villanova University, his final two seasons serving as associate head coach. During his stint with the Wildcats, Hill played a major part in the recruitment of Villanova's highly-acclaimed recruiting classes of 2002 and 2003 while also playing a key role in on-court teaching and in-game strategy. Villanova reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament in 2004-05 and reached the Elite Eight of the 2006 NCAA Tournament. Hill has continued his tireless efforts on the recruiting trail, working to fill the Rutgers roster with the top-level BIG EAST talent he has always recruited.

- The 2006-07 season was not only the dawn of a new era in Rutgers men's basketball, but also a time to reflect on the past. The season commemorated 100 years since the basketball program's inaugural campaign. Coach Hill and the Rutgers staff honored some of the school's former greats at a reception prior to the team's Knight of Madness celebration to kick off the season.

- Senior guard Marquis Webb concluded his standout career 'On the Banks' as the newest member of the 1,000-point club. The Paterson native became the 35th player in school history to reach the milestone. A two-time captain, Webb finished 33rd among Rutgers all-time scorers with 1,026 career points. He also made his mark on seven of Rutgers' all-time record charts, including ninth in assists (305) and three-point field goals made (140), and twelfth in free throw percentage (.785).

- Senior forward Adrian Hill was named Most Valuable Player of the 2006-07 season at the team's annual awards banquet. Hill put together an outstanding senior season for the Scarlet Knights as one of the BIG EAST Conference leaders in rebounding and field goal percentage. Overall, he averaged 9.7 points and 6.9 rebounds per game for RU. Hill, who battled back from a number of knee injuries, also participated in the 19th annual State Farm College Slam Dunk Contest, which was televised nationally on ESPN.

- Sophomore forward JR Inman was selected to the 2006-07 All-Met Division I third team. Inman led the Scarlet Knights in both scoring and rebounding in the 2006-07 season with 12.0 points and 7.3 boards per game. The 6-9, 220-pound Inman concluded the season ranked 10th in the BIG EAST in overall rebounding and eighth in defensive rebounding (5.04 rpg). Inman was also second on the squad with 1.0 blocked shots per game.

- The Rutgers men's basketball team continued its tradition of producing quality, well-rounded student-athletes, which was evident in the program's six-member graduating class. Among those graduates were Marquis Webb, Adrian Hill, Frank Russell, Shayle Keating, Jon Mimmo and Jason Cherry.

- Several men's basketball players were ranked among the top in the BIG EAST in individual categories. Adrian Hill ranked fifth in the league in field goal percentage, connecting on 58.6-percent of his shot attempts. Hill also ranked 11th in offensive rebounds and 17th in total rebounding. JR Inman ranked seventh in the league in defensive boards, and 11th in total rebounds, while Hamady N'diaye was seventh-best in the conference in blocked shots (second among freshman).



- The baseball team finished with a 42-21 record in 2007, tying the school record for wins in a season. The 20-7 BIG EAST record earned the Scarlet Knights the regular season title, and the team followed that up by winning the 2007 BIG EAST Tournament. The team was ranked nationally during the year and finished the season ranked 30th, after being eliminated by eventual National Champion Oregon State in the NCAA Tournament. Ace Steve Healing posted the highest team win total with a record of 10-4. The pitching staff's total ERA went down nearly two runs from only one year ago, paced by Jon McCue's ERA of 2.62. Matt Giannini led the team in strikeouts with 72 on the year.
- With a 4-3 win over UCF on March 17, Head Coach Fred Hill notched his 900th career victory. Heading into his 25th season 'On the Banks,' Hill has 935 wins in his career, 787 at RU.
- Todd Frazier - a member of Team USA in 2006 - was named a consensus First-Team All-American and was the unanimous BIG EAST Player of the Year. Frazier hit 22 home runs in 2007, smashing the previous home run record of 14 set by Frank Meade last year. Frazier finished his three-year RU career with 42 blasts, eclipsing his brother Jeff's previous career record of 34. Frazier also set the single season runs, walks, doubles and total bases marks in 2007 and has scored the most runs in Rutgers history. Joining Frazier on the First Team All-BIG EAST were Jon Gossard and David Williams. Steve Healing and Ryan Hill earned Second Team honors, and Tom Edwards was named to the Third Team. In addition, Mike Bionde was named to the Rawlings National Gold Glove Team as the best defensive second baseman in the country.
- Following the 2007 season, six Scarlet Knights were selected in the MLB first-year player draft. Todd Frazier led the way, being taken with the 34th pick overall by the Cincinnati Reds. Ryan Hill, Dave Williams, Frank Meade, Mike Bionde and Tom Edwards were all drafted and signed with the exception of Edwards, who opted to return to the banks for his junior season.
- The women's lacrosse team finished the season with a 12-5 record, including a 3-2 mark in BIG EAST play. Ranked as high as No. 16, the Scarlet Knights turned in the team's highest ranking since a No. 11 standing during the 2000 regular season.
- Senior Katie Batiuk was named to the Tewaarton Trophy Watch List, an award that recognizes the top female and male varsity collegiate lacrosse player in the United States and was also named to the IWLCA Mid-Atlantic Region First Team. Batiuk was also named All-American by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association and Inside Lacrosse.
- The men's soccer team posted 10-6-3 record and a 6-4-1 mark in BIG EAST play in 2006, advancing to the BIG EAST semifinals and earning an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. Seniors Bart Koffeman and Nick LaBrocca were named to All-BIG EAST Second Team and the NSCAA All-Northeast Region's Second Team, while LaBrocca was drafted by the Colorado Rapids of Major League Soccer.
- The women's swim team was ranked in the top-25 for first time in 20 years, staying in the national ranks all season. The Scarlet Knights took second place at BIG EAST Championships, setting three school and BIG EAST records at the competition and qualifying for the NCAA Championships. Senior Sarah Bicknell set a personal-best in the 200 butterfly at the NCAA Championships, qualifying her for the USA Nationals, while sophomore Cat Whetstone broke the RU school record in the 100 butterfly at the NCAAs with her time of 53.27.
- The men's lacrosse team finished the season with a 7-6 record, including a 4-3 mark in ECAC play. Freshman Justin Pennington was named the ECAC's Rookie of the Year, while senior Colin Checcio was selected to play in the North-South Senior All-Star game. Head coach Jim Stagnitta named U.S. Lacrosse Coach of the Week after RU's upset over conference opponent Loyola.
- The gymnastics team finished with a 17-6 regular-season record, marking the third time in the past five years that the Scarlet Knights have posted at least 15 wins in a season. Sophomore Latara Northcutt set a school record when she tied for fourth on balance beam at the USA Gymnastics Championships; her score of 9.700 was the highest-ever by an RU gymnast at the competition. The team placed sixth at the EAGL Championships, NCAA Northeast Regionals and USAG Championships.
- After 17 seasons at the helm of the Scarlet Knights wrestling program, head coach John Sacchi retired, closing out his time at Rutgers with a 167-102-5 mark, and a 447-162-9 career record. He is the all-time winningest coach at RU with a winning percentage of .619. For the first time since the 2003-04 campaign, Rutgers posted 10 wins, finishing the season at 10-6 and 5-3 in the EIWA.
- In its inaugural season under first-year head coach Jay Nelson, the softball team finished with a 20-34 overall record, including a 7-15 ledger in the BIG EAST. The 20 victories surpassed the number of games won last season (15) and the 2005 season (5). RU won seven BIG EAST games, the most since the 2004 campaign when it recorded eight league victories. Sarah Kalka was named to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division I All-Northeast Region Second Team, as well as earning All-BIG EAST First Team accolades. The shortstop led the Scarlet Knights in a number of categories this season, including batting average (.359), hits (55), slugging percentage (.595), on-base percentage (.404) and tied for the team lead in RBIs (33).
- The volleyball team concluded the 2006 season 5-20 overall and 2-12 in BIG EAST action. Senior Lora Yankauskas surpassed the 1,000-kill mark against Pittsburgh on Sept. 30 and finished with 1,063 kills, good for seventh on Rutgers' all-time list.



- The women's soccer team enjoyed a record-breaking season, tallying a program-best 16 victories and advancing to the BIG EAST Championship Tournament Finals for the first time in school history. RU made its fourth trip to the NCAA Championships and earned its highest-ever ranking by the NSCAA (No. 12) during the last week of the season, while Soccerbuzz tabbed the Scarlet Knights 11th in the country.
- Gina DeMaio was one of five finalists for the Soccerbuzz National Rookie of the Year, having been named to the Freshman All-America First Team by the organization. Kim Brandão, Alicia Hall and DeMaio were named to the All-BIG EAST Second Team.
- At the 2007 BIG EAST Outdoor Championship, the men's track squad finished fifth, while the women took 10th. Senior Adam Golembeski won the BIG EAST title in the decathlon and Natalie Clickett was crowned the winner of the discus. Sylvia Galarza, who finished second in the shot put (14.41 meters), also recorded a podium performance in the discus, taking third with a mark of 46.20 meters. In the javelin, Angelina Sancilio finished second with a throw of 47.80 meters.
- Selected members of the Rutgers men's and women's track and field teams competed at the 2007 NCAA East Regional this season. Senior sprinter Rob Waters ran in the preliminaries of both the 200 and 400-meter. He clocked a time of 21.12 (15th) in the 200 and crossed the finish line in 48.08 (17th) in the 400-meter. Sophomore Brian Duggan tied for 11th in the pole vault after clearing a height of 16' 7^{1/4}"", while senior Ian Menewisch took 14th in the javelin (205' 2").
- On the women's team, senior Jacqueline Todd finished 24th in the 100-meter in 12.00 and classmate Kahimah Liverman recorded a leap of 38' 11^{3/4}" (30th) in the triple jump. Junior Sylvia Galarza posted tosses of 48' (15th) and 154' 3" (13th) in the shot put and discus, respectively. Sancilio took 15th in the javelin with a throw of 142' 7".
- Natalie Clickett wrapped up her rookie campaign with a seventh-place mark in the discus throw at the 2007 Finish Line USA Junior National Championships. Clickett recorded a throw of 149' 6" in the event and, with her performance, was named a USA Junior National All-American. Clickett posted a number of top three finishes during her freshman season, including a second-place showing at the prestigious Penn Relays.
- Alison Caruana repeated as the 2006 Metropolitan Champion leading the Rutgers women's cross country team to a second-place finish at the championships. At the BIG EAST Championships, the men finished 11th overall, while the women were 10th in the race.
- The women's tennis team finished the season with an 8-15 record, including earning a spot in the 2007 BIG EAST Championships. The Scarlet Knights faced No. 5 seed West Virginia in the first round, posting a 4-2 victory over the Mountaineers on April 19. The upset came after Rutgers fell, 6-1, in the regular-season dual match between the two squads. At first singles, Katrina Elder-Bush finished the season on an eight-match win streak, compiling a 15-6 mark on the year, including an 11-1 ledger against BIG EAST competition.
- Rutgers' men's and women's golf teams, under the direction of head coach Maura Ballard, concluded the 2007 season at the BIG EAST Championships, as the women's team finished seventh and the men took twelfth. Four-time BIG EAST Academic All-Star and senior captain Lauren Braswell was featured April 5 on an ABC World News segment with Charles Gibson. The piece focused on Tiger Woods and his effect on minority participation in golf.
- The field hockey team finished the season with a 6-12 record, and won the program's first BIG EAST match in two years, a 3-2 decision over Georgetown on Oct. 6. The young Scarlet Knights team were without a senior on the roster and were led by junior Amy Lewis and freshman Kristen Johnson. Lewis was named to the All-BIG EAST First Team, while Johnson earned All-Rookie Squad accolades from Womensfieldhockey.com.
- Junior Arjun Vaidya and assistant men's tennis coach Bob Stanicki were both recognized by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) during its annual awards presentation. Vaidya earned the Northeast Region ITA/Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship, while Stanicki was named the Northeast Region ITA Assistant Coach of the Year.
- The Rutgers men's swimming and diving team wrapped up its season at the 2007 Zone Championship. Diver Andre Watson, competing in the men's one-meter board, took fifth overall.
- Women's crew finished fifth at the BIG EAST Championships and turned in a 12th-place performance at the Eastern Sprints Championships, despite racing in just three of seven events. Kaitlin Coulter was named to the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) Mid-Atlantic first team.
- Varsity heavyweight crew defeated 17th-ranked Georgetown and 20th-ranked George Washington in its regular season finale. The race was held on Lake Carnegie in Princeton due to flooding on the Scarlet Knights' home course on the Raritan River.
- Five fencers competed at the NCAA Championships. Senior sabre fencer Ben Igoe was the team's top finisher, capturing third in the weapon. Overall, Rutgers took 12th out of 28 teams. Epee Jason Henderson also finished in the top-20 in his weapon, finishing 18th with nine wins. Freshman Danielle Henderson was the only member of the women's team to qualify for the Championships. She placed 12th in women's epee to earn All-America status. In addition, the United States Fencing Coaches Association (USFCA) awarded RU head coach Yefim Litvan with the "Coach of the Year" award for his tremendous accomplishments, including those at Rutgers University.
- The Rutgers University Cheer and Dance Teams finished in the top five at the 2007 NCA/NDA Cheer and Dance Collegiate Championships. The Rutgers Dance Team took second place in the Dance Division IA, with a score of 9.06, finishing only a hundredth of a point behind co-champions Brigham Young and Louisville. The Rutgers All-Girl Cheer Team finished in fourth place in the All-Girl Division I category.

REACHING OUT



GIVING BACK



- On Feb. 3, the Rutgers athletic department celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) during the women's basketball home game with Cincinnati. The department sponsored a sports clinic with over 160 girls from the New Brunswick School District. Members of the Rutgers women's soccer, softball, and volleyball teams were in attendance, sharing guidance with the youngsters. NGWSD is celebrated in all 50 states with community-based events, award ceremonies and activities honoring the achievements and encouraging the participation of girls and women in sports.
- Read Across America was also a big project for the Rutgers Athletic Department, as student-athletes from 15 different sports teams spent time reading to 11 area grade schools. A total of 80 student-athletes took part in the event
- Rutgers head football coach Greg Schiano and more than 40 members of the Scarlet Knight football team participated in the opening ceremonies of the New Jersey Special Olympics on June 1. The 2007 Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games kicked off with a party atmosphere despite a rained-out opening-day ceremony. More than 2,500 athletes from around the state, their coaches, families and friends gathered in The College of New Jersey Rec Center when lightning and thunder threatened the opening planned for Lions Stadium. In addition, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee organized a student-athlete auction, raising \$1,300 for Special Olympics.
- The men's basketball program participated in various community service initiatives during the season, including visiting the Matheny Medical and Educational Center. The hospital specializes in serving children and adults with multiple development disabilities.
- For a first-time event, the Greg Schiano Charity Golf Classic was a huge success as the first-class event collected \$100,000 to donate to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC). The golf tournament, hosted at one of the state's premier golf courses, Forsgate Country Club, raised \$50,000 in addition to the \$50,000 Rutgers head coach Greg Schiano donated from his Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year charitable prize he received last year.
- Rutgers crew team seniors Rachel Blessing and Annikea Miller were recognized at the 2007 Alegria Awards Banquet, as they both were presented with the SCREAM Athletes Leadership Award. The duo serves as the co-coordinators of SCREAM (Students Challenging Realities and Educating Against Myths), the peer educational, interactive theater program. SCREAM is created and directed by the university's Division of Sexual Assault Services and Crime Victim Assistance, with its goal to educate groups and encourage discussion about issues of interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, same-sex violence, stalking, bullying and peer harassment.
- The Rutgers athletic department held its annual Color Games on May 1 where more than 200 student-athletes participated in a celebration to conclude the 2006-07 academic year. Student-athletes were split up into 16 teams, competing in games including volleyball, an obstacle course, 'Simon Says' and tug-of-war. In addition, a group picture was taken in remembrance and honor of the victims of the Virginia Tech tragedy. As well, a food and monetary donation on behalf of the student-athletes was donated to Elijah's Promise. Elijah's Promise is a soup kitchen in New Brunswick, N.J.
- The baseball and softball teams participated in 'Purple Day' on March 31 in remembrance of the five Bluffton University (Ohio) baseball players, their bus driver and his wife who were killed on their spring break trip to Atlanta, Ga. 'Purple Day' was organized by Tiffin University (Ohio), along with Heidelberg (Ohio) and Niagara (N.Y.) Universities, and gave other schools the opportunities to purchase t-shirts in recognition of the day. Rutgers University's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and the Rutgers gymnastics team were listed on the back as sponsors of the event.
- The tennis teams donated over 500 tennis balls to the Alexander Graham Bell Society for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired. Gary Kirsch, the president of the Alexander Graham Bell Society, contacted Rutgers Tennis because fourth-grade daughter, Emma, has a Cochlear Implant and was in need of tennis balls to place on the feet of classroom chairs to help eliminate interferences with technology.



The Rutgers Athletic Department was recognized for its overall athletic success in the 2006-07 academic year as www.sioncampus.com ranked the Scarlet Knights the nation's 17th best program in the website's year-end All-Sport Rankings.

Among the nationally ranked programs this year were women's basketball (No. 2), football (No. 12), women's lacrosse (No. 14), women's soccer (No. 11), men's lacrosse (No. 19), women's swimming (No. 22) and baseball (23). The Scarlet Knights' men's soccer team also represented Rutgers on the national level, qualifying for the NCAA Tournament.

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