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Great Danes look for first title since 2003.

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Can the Blue Devils capture third straight NEC crown?

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The Hawks are talented enough to win it all.

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Lots of new faces spread across Seahawks lineup.



Luke Palko
Saint Francis (PA)

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Northeast Conference

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NEC On Television

FOX SPORTS PITTSBURGH/ATLANTIC
Duquesne at Robert Morris • Sept. 9 • 1:00 pm
Robert Morris at Saint Francis (PA) • Sept. 30 • 4:00 pm
FOX SPORTS NEW YORK/COX CABLE (RI/CT)
Cent. Conn. St. at Monmouth • Oct. 28 • 12:00 pm

Northeast Conference Football

After celebrating its 25th anniversary as an NCAA Division I athletic conference a year ago, the Northeast Conference marked its next phase of growth with the introduction of Brenda Weare as the league's new Commissioner on August 1, 2006. As only the third full-time Commissioner in conference history, Weare is committed to the NEC's philosophy of enhancing the experience of its student-athletes, while embracing new initiatives to strengthen its competitive position both regionally and nationally. With Weare at the helm, the league will also continue to build upon its core fundamentals of academic integrity and development, athletic achievement and community outreach, and a continued emphasis on good sportsmanship through its Sportsmanship Counts! program.

When the Northeast Conference was first established as the ECAC-Metro Conference back in 1981, the league's founders had one simple goal in mind: to create a competitive Division I men's basketball conference for unaffiliated schools on the Eastern seaboard. A single-sport entity at its inception, even the league's most ardent supporters during its formative years could not have envisioned a transformation into a burgeoning 11-member, 21-sport conference. The remarkable success story of the conference began to unfold in 1985, when the league began sponsoring additional sports. Three years later, a change of name was in order and the Northeast Conference as we know it today was born. With membership and sport sponsorship continuing to grow over the next decade and beyond, the NEC now enjoys qualification or play-in access to 13 different NCAA Championships (baseball, men's and women's basketball, field hockey, men's and women's golf, women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, softball, men's and women's tennis and women's volleyball).

Though the NEC has featured various incarnations since its inception, charter members Fairleigh Dickinson, Long Island, Robert Morris, St. Francis (NY), Saint Francis (PA) and Wagner remain part of the current 11-school alignment. They are joined by Monmouth (admitted in 1985), Mount St. Mary's (1989), Central Connecticut State (1997), Quinnipiac (1998) and Sacred Heart (1999). NEC expansion, which culminated in 1999 with the addition of Sacred Heart, has given the league a five-state geographic footprint with access to such major media markets as New York City, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Hartford.

With the addition of four sports over the last eight years, NEC member institutions now compete in 21 championship sports: baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, field hockey, football, men's and women's golf, men's and women's indoor track and field, women's lacrosse, men's and women's outdoor track and field, men's and women's soccer, softball, women's swimming, men's and women's tennis, and women's volleyball.

The NEC's exposure has widened on a national basis through a number of initiatives in recent years. The league's official website - one of the most comprehensive in the nation - was relaunched in 2004 with additional content and features, as well as a state-of-the-art design. To supplement one of the premier regional basketball television packages in the country, the conference also began televising football games in 2003. Over the last four years, the NEC has televised 115 events, as the league's coverage area expanded to 40 million homes plus coverage internationally. Along with flagship station MSG Network, other regional television outlets included Fox Sports-New York, Fox Sports-Pittsburgh, Fox Sports-New England, Comcast SportsNet and CN8. In 2006, ESPN broadcast the men's championship game for the 19th straight year while MSG televised the women's title contest for the ninth season in a row.

During the 2005-06 season, the NEC played on a national stage through the awarding of NCAA bids to the conference in 12 team sports, while NEC student-athletes also qualified for NCAA Championship events in women's cross country, men's and women's indoor track & field, women's swimming and men's and women's outdoor track & field. In the fall, Long Island became the first team in league history to win an NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament game with a 3-0 win over Cornell. Three months later before a nationwide audience, Monmouth contributed to March Madness with a last second layup to unseat Fairleigh Dickinson as NEC men's basketball champion. The Hawks would go on to defeat Hampton in an NCAA opening round game before giving top seed Villanova all it could handle in a first round matchup. The Fairleigh Dickinson men's basketball team earned the league's first Postseason NIT bid since 2002 and also won its ESPN BracketBuster game, going on the road to defeat Wisconsin-Green Bay. Fairleigh Dickinson's women's bowling team became the first NEC school to win an NCAA national championship with 4-1 victory over Alabama A&M, while the St. Francis (NY) men's water polo team reached the NCAA Final Four. When Monmouth hosted Georgetown in NCAA women's lacrosse first round match this past spring, the Hawks joined Fairleigh Dickinson men's soccer (2002-03) as the only NEC schools to host NCAA postseason events. Individually, Quinnipiac's Katie Gwyther claimed All-America honors in cross country following a 12th place finish at the NCAA meet. She also competed in the finals of the 3,000 meters at the NCAA Indoor Championships and 5,000 meters at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Central Connecticut State's Jaime Crowley qualified for the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships in the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke and went on to compete in the US National Championship, along with teammate Lindsey Snyder. Long Island track star Bryan Steele capped an outstanding year by winning the 400 meter hurdles at Penn Relays, then finished first in the event at NCAA East Regionals and second at the NCAA Outdoor Championships to claim All-America honors for the second time in his career. In football, Saint Francis (PA)'s Michael Caputo was named to the Associated Press and Sports Network I-AA All-America teams, while Quinnipiac field hockey goalkeeper Erin McKay was chosen as an NFCA third team All-American.

To commemorate its 25th Anniversary, the NEC selected Silver Anniversary teams in men's and women's basketball, and also unveiled the 25 Greatest Achievements in conference history. The league also unveiled its first-ever Fan Guide in 2005-06, and produced the inaugural NEC Countdown To Tipoff basketball preview show, which aired on regional networks throughout the Northeast and nationally on Fox College Sports. The NEC also reached a two-year agreement with the Pioneer Football League to play in the Gridiron Classic, an exempted postseason event to begin in 2006. Three NEC women's basketball teams (Quinnipiac, Robert Morris and Sacred Heart) reached 20 wins in the same season for the first time in league history and three NEC football teams (CCSU, Monmouth & Stony Brook) finished in the top-10 in the final Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major poll. In men's cross country, Saint Francis (PA) captured its sixth conference title in seven years, while the Central Connecticut State women's soccer team made it four in a row. Quinnipiac captured the NEC men's and women's tennis crowns for the third straight year and Monmouth took home its third consecutive men's outdoor track and field championship. Monmouth went on to claim its third straight NEC Commissioner's Cup and fifth overall with league titles in men's basketball, women's lacrosse and men's indoor and outdoor track and field. The Hawks also captured regular season honors in men's soccer and women's lacrosse. To conclude the campaign, Wagner's Andrew Bailey was drafted by Oakland in the sixth round and Quinnipiac's Pat Egan by Baltimore in the 36th round of the MLB Draft.

The 2005-06 athletic year also featured a strong balance between athletic feats and academic achievements of NEC student-athletes as 1,032 competitors were named to the NEC Academic Honor Roll and a league record nine earned Academic All-America status. Sacred Heart's Kibwe Trim (men's basketball), Saint Francis (PA)'s Luke Palko (football) and Gardner-Webb's Taylor Simpson (swimming) were named ESPN The Magazine first team Academic All-Americans, while Robert Morris' Ray Gensler (football), Wagner's Joy Gallagher (softball) and the Mount's Mandy Jenkins (track & field) were selected to the second team and Fairleigh Dickinson's Lisa Friscioni (bowling), Quinnipiac's Ryan Rizzo (baseball) and Katie Gwyther (track & field) chosen to the third team. Gallagher and St. Francis (NY)'s Gergely Fabian (water polo) were also selected as an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipients.

NEC Football

About The NEC



2006-07 NEC Championship Dates

Championship	Date	Site (Host)
M/W Cross Country	Oct. 27	Van Cortlandt Park (Bronx, NY)
Field Hockey	Nov. 3-4	High Seed
Women's Soccer	Nov. 3 & 5	High Seed
Men's Soccer	Nov. 3 & 5	High Seed
Women's Volleyball	Nov. 18-19	High Seed
M/W Indoor Track	Feb. 10-11	P.G. County Sports Complex (Landover, MD)
M/W Swimming	Feb. 15-17	P.G. County Sports Complex (Landover, MD)
Men's Basketball	Mar. 1, 4 & 7	High Seeds
Women's Basketball	Mar. 3, 6 & 10	High Seeds
M/W Tennis	Apr. 20-21	Mercer County Tennis Center (NJ)
Women's Lacrosse	Apr. 27 & 29	High Seed
Women's Golf	Apr. 28-29	Hershey East Golf Course (Hershey, PA)
Men's Golf	Apr. 29-May 1 or May 4-6	TBD
M/W Outdoor Track	May 5-6	Monmouth
Softball	May 11-12	High Seed
Baseball	May 24-26	TBD

NEC Commissioner's Cup

2005-06 Commissioner's Cup Overall Standings

1. Monmouth	198.27
2. Saint Francis (PA)	183.27
3. Sacred Heart	180.49
4. Long Island	176.52
5. Quinnipiac	169.66
6. Robert Morris	164.58
7. Mount St. Mary's	149.70
8. Central Connecticut State	146.97
9. Wagner	139.12
10. Fairleigh Dickinson	99.17
11. St. Francis (NY)	65.86

The Commissioner's Cup is awarded annually to the school that fares best in the league's championship sports.

NEC Commissioner's Cup Past Champions

2005-06	Monmouth
2004-05	Monmouth
2003-04	Monmouth
2002-03	UMBC
2001-02	UMBC
2000-01	UMBC
1999-00	UMBC
1998-99	UMBC
1997-98	Monmouth
1996-97	Mount St. Mary's
1995-96	Mount St. Mary's
1994-95	Mount St. Mary's
1993-94	Fairleigh Dickinson
1992-93	Fairleigh Dickinson
1991-92	Fairleigh Dickinson
1990-91	Monmouth
1989-90	Fairleigh Dickinson
1988-89	Fairleigh Dickinson
1987-88	Fairleigh Dickinson
1986-87	Long Island

2005-06 NEC Championship Winners

Sport	Team Champion
Field Hockey	Sacred Heart
Men's Cross Country	Saint Francis (PA)
Women's Cross Country	Quinnipiac, Sacred Heart
Women's Soccer	Central Connecticut State
Men's Soccer	Robert Morris
Women's Volleyball	Long Island
Football	Stony Brook, Central Connecticut State
Women's Swimming	Gardner-Webb
Men's Indoor Track & Field	Monmouth
Women's Indoor Track & Field	Long Island
Men's Basketball	Monmouth
Women's Basketball	Sacred Heart
Women's Golf	Saint Francis (PA)
Men's Tennis	Quinnipiac
Women's Tennis	Quinnipiac
Women's Lacrosse	Monmouth
Men's Golf	Saint Francis (PA)
Softball	Robert Morris
Men's Outdoor Track & Field	Monmouth
Women's Outdoor Track & Field	Monmouth
Baseball	Central Connecticut State

NEC Office/Football Membership

Northeast Conference

Commissioner	Brenda Weare	bweare@northeastconference.org	(732) 469-0440, Ext. 1
Associate Commissioner (TV/Communications)	Ron Ratner	rratner@northeastconference.org	(732) 469-0440, Ext. 6
Assistant Commissioner (Championships)	Donna Poyant	dpoyant@northeastconference.org	(732) 469-0440, Ext. 3
Assistant Commissioner (Marketing/Operations)	Andrew Alia	aalia@northeastconference.org	(732) 469-0440, Ext. 4
Assistant Commissioner (Compliance)	Rachelle Held	rheld@northeastconference.org	(732) 469-0440, Ext. 2
Assistant Director of Communications (Football Contact)	Bob Balut	rbalut@northeastconference.org	(732) 469-0440, Ext. 5
Administrative Intern	Shannon Holt	sholt@northeastconference.org	(732) 469-0440, Ext. 27
Coordinator of NEC Football Officials	Milton J. Halstead		
NEC Fax Number			(732) 469-0744
NEC Website		www.northeastconference.org	

NEC Football

NEC Member Institutions



NEC Notable Alumni

Central Connecticut State
Ricky Bottalico, Former Major League Baseball Pitcher
Dave Campo, Former Head Football Coach, Dallas Cowboys
John Hirschbeck, Major League Baseball Umpire
Jim Kelly, Director of Player Personnel, Toronto Raptors
Rick Lantz, Head Coach, Berlin Thunder (NFL Europe)
John Larson, U.S. Congressman (First District Connecticut)
Donna Fiedorowicz, Director of Tournament Business Affairs, Senior PGA
Mike Sherman, Head Football Coach, Green Bay Packers
Michael Ryan, Head Athletic Trainer, Jacksonville Jaguars
Scott Pioli, Vice President/Player Personnel, New England Patriots

Fairleigh Dickinson
Seth Greenberg, Head Basketball Coach, South Florida
Tim Higgins, NCAA Basketball official
Jay Horowitz, Public Relations Director, New York Mets
George Martin, Former Pro Football player (NY Giants)
Peggy Noonan, Former Speechwriter for Ronald Reagan
Bill Willoughby, Former NBA Player
Fred Roedel, Founder & Former CEO, Suisse Chalet

Long Island
Rose Bird, First woman named to California's highest court as Chief Justice
Jimmy Breslin, Pulitzer Prize winning columnist/author
Bud Greenspan, Olympic documentor & President, Cappy Productions
Dr. Louis Lemberger, Member of team that developed Prozac
Ossie Schectman, Former NBA player (Scored first point in NBA history)
Terry Semel, Chairman & CEO, Yahoo!
Velma Scantlebury, One of two African-American women transplant surgeons in the world

Monmouth
Alex Blackwell, Former NBA Player
Ed Halicki, Former Major League Pitcher
Christie Pearce Rampone, Member of NY Power Soccer Team
David J. Burke, Writer, producer, director *Seaquest DSV*, *Tribeca*, *Wiseguy*, *Crime Story* and *Miami Vice*
Linda Deutsch, Journalist/Special Correspondent, Associated Press
Trish Millines-Dziko, President/Exec. Director, Technology Access Foundation
David Wilson, Editor, Bloomsburg Financial Markets

Mount St. Mary's
Father Flanagan, Founder of Boys Town
Matt McHugh, Former US Congressman and Director of World Bank
Njuguna Mahugu, Secretary General of U.N. Security Council and Kenyan Ambassador to the U.N.
Scott Newkam, President & CEO Hershey Entertainment & Resorts
Fred Carter, Former NBA player and ESPN NBA Analyst
Lou Grillo, NBA Referee

Quinnipiac
Murray Lender, Founder of Lenders Bagels
Turk Wendell, Former Major League Baseball Pitcher

Robert Morris
Kevin Colbert, Director of Football Operations, Pittsburgh Steelers
Hon. William J. Coyne, U.S. Congressman (Pennsylvania)
Hank Fraley, Starting center, Philadelphia Eagles
Vic Gregovits, Former VP of Marketing/Broadcasting, Pittsburgh Steelers; Current, CEO RMU Island Sports Center
Bill Sutton, VP of Team Marketing, NBA

Sacred Heart
Kevin Nealon, Actor/Comedian
John Ratzberger, Actor/Comedian
Craig Ryden, Chairman, CEO and President of Yankee Candle Co.
Joseph V. Melillo, Executive Producer, Brooklyn Academy of Music

St. Francis (NY)
Joseph Browne, Senior VP of Communications/Governmental Affairs, NFL
Robert J. Clark, VP & Treasurer, Major League Baseball
Dr. Frank Macchiarola, President of St. Francis (NY)/Former Chancellor of the NYC Board of Education
Donald A. McQuade, Vice Chancellor of University Relations, Cal-Berkeley
Thomas Von Essen, Executive VP Giuliani Partners/Former Commissioner of NYC Fire Department

Saint Francis (PA)
Claire Ansberry, Author and staff writer, Wall Street Journal
Jeffrey Bower, Assistant Coach/Former GM, New Orleans Hornets
Dr. James P. Gallagher, President, Philadelphia University
Mike Iuzzolino, Former NBA Player
Scott Layden, Former VP and General Manager, New York Knicks
J. Randall MacDonald, Senior VP of Human Resources, IBM
Tom Meredith, Managing Director, Dell Ventures
Maurice Stokes, Three-time NBA all-star with the Rochester and Cincinnati Royals and Pro Basketball Hall of Famer

Wagner
Rich Kotite, Former NFL Head Coach
Robert Loggia, Actor
Dr. Donald Spiro, Founder of Oppenheimer Fund

Albany	Central Connecticut State
Director of Athletics Dr. Lee McElroy (518) 442-3263	Director of Athletics Charles Jones (860) 832-3038
Sports Information Director Brian DePasquale (518) 442-3072 bdepasquale@uamail.albany.edu	Asst. AD/Sports Information Tom Pincince (860) 832-3089 pincinct@ccsu.edu
Head Football Coach Bob Ford (518) 442-3052	Head Football Coach Jeff McInerney (860) 832-3064
Sports Information Fax (518) 442-3139 Press Box Phone (518) 442-5895 Web Address www.albany.edu/sports	Sports Information Fax (860) 832-3084 Press Box Phone (860) 832-0120 Web Address www.ccsu.edu/devils.com
Monmouth	Robert Morris
Director of Athletics Dr. Marilyn McNeil (732) 571-3415	Director of Athletics Dr. Craig Coleman (412) 262-8302
Sports Information Director Chris Tobin (732) 571-4447 ctobin@monmouth.edu	Sports Information Director Jim Duzyk (412) 262-8314 duzyk@rmu.edu
Head Football Coach Kevin Callahan (732) 571-7582	Head Football Coach Joe Walton (412) 262-8296
Sports Information Fax (732) 571-3535 Press Box Phone (732) 571-4400 Web Address www.monmouth.edu/athletics	Sports Information Fax (412) 262-8557 Press Box Phone (412) 264-6202 Web Address www.rmu.edu/athletics
Sacred Heart	Saint Francis (PA)
Director of Athletics C. Donald Cook (203) 365-7649	Director of Athletics Robert Krimmel (814) 472-3280
Sports Information Director Gene Gumbs (203) 396-8127 gumbsg@sacredheart.edu	Sports Information Director Bob Volkert (814) 472-3128 rvolkert@francis.edu
Head Football Coach Paul Gorham (203) 365-7564	Head Football Coach Dave Opfar (814) 472-3891
Sports Information Fax (203) 365-7696 Press Box Phone (203) 365-7532 Web Address www.sacredheartpioneers.com	Sports Information Fax (814) 472-3196 Press Box Phone (814) 472-3128 Web Address www.francis.edu/athletics/athlhome.shtml
Stony Brook	Wagner
Director of Athletics Jim Fiore (631) 632-7122	Director of Athletics Walt Hameline (718) 390-3488
Sports Information Director Rob Emmerich (631) 632-6312 remmerich@notes.cc.sunysb.edu	Sports Information Director Todd Vatter (718) 390-3227 tvatter@wagner.edu
Head Football Coach Chuck Priore (631) 632-7198	Head Football Coach Walt Hameline (718) 390-3488
Sports Information Fax (631) 632-8841 Press Box Phone (631) 632-4037 Web Address www.goseawolves.org	Sports Information Fax (718) 390-3347 Press Box Phone (718) 420-4050 Web Address www.wagnerathletics.com

Brenda Weare • Commissioner of NEC



First Year

The Northeast Conference was named Brenda Weare as Commissioner on August 7, 2006

"It is with great pleasure to announce that Brenda Weare has been named the Commissioner of the Northeast Conference," said Rev. Gabriel Zeis, President of Saint Francis University and President of the NEC Council of Presidents. "Brenda brings a great spirit of enthusiasm and vision to the conference and a vast amount of experience. Her desire to meet the needs of our student-athletes and to guide the Northeast Conference in its mission to excel is already apparent. She is well respected by her peers and has a deep commitment and interest in the place of athletics within the educational process."

Weare, who served in a leadership role at Conference USA since its formation in 1995, becomes the third full-time Commissioner in league history. She replaces John Iamarino, who resigned in January to take over as Commissioner of the Southern Conference.

"I'm thrilled to be joining the Northeast Conference family," said Weare. "This is a league with tremendous integrity and great academic tradition. I'm looking forward to working with the dedicated staff to help our members continue to build on that foundation of excellence."

Weare brings an extensive background in athletic administration to the NEC with more than 20 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics. She most recently served as Senior Associate Commissioner of Conference USA where she was responsible for championships administration, sportsmanship and sport committees. During her tenure, Weare was also a member of the Conference USA Planning Committee responsible for the development of the league's Strategic Plan, Mission Statement, Guiding Principles and Statements on Diversity and Gender Equity. Weare served as the league's Interim Commissioner for a five-month period in 2002.

"Brenda has done a great job for Conference USA and is well prepared to lead the Northeast Conference," said Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky. "She has a strong working knowledge of the issues and I am confident she will do a wonderful job."

Weare is currently a member of the NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet and NACWAA Board of Directors. She has been active in NCAA governance, serving terms on the NCAA Council, NCAA Interpretations Committee, NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification and the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee. Weare is also a former chair and member of the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Committee.

Prior to joining Conference USA, Weare enjoyed a stint as Assistant Commissioner of the Great Midwest Conference, worked in Compliance Services at the NCAA and was the Athletic Director at Mundelein College in Chicago.

A native of Denver, CO, Weare graduated from Wisconsin with a Bachelor's degree in Communications. She received a Master's degree in Athletic Administration from Iowa.

Milton J. Halstead • Coordinator of Football Officials



Eighth Year

Milton J. Halstead enters his eighth season as Coordinator of Football Officials for the Northeast Conference.

Well known along the east coast as a football official and assignor, Halstead also serves as the Commissioner of the Eastern Collegiate Football Officials Association, handling assignments for the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (Division II) and Middle Atlantic Conference (Division III).

Halstead's officiating experience includes the 1994 NCAA I-AA National Championship game and the NCAA I-AA National Championship Tournament from 1983-92. Recently, Halstead was honored by the All-American Football Foundation for his dedicated service.

A 1964 graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and Engineering, Halstead lives in Pipersville, Pennsylvania with his wife, Vicky.

NEC Football

NEC Presidents



Dr. John Miller
Central Connecticut State



Dr. J. Michael Adams
Fairleigh Dickinson



Dr. David Steinberg
Long Island



Vice Admiral Paul G. Gaffney II
Monmouth



Dr. Thomas H. Powell
Mount St. Mary's



Dr. John Lahey
Quinnipiac



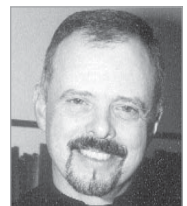
Dr. Gregory G. Dell'Omo
Robert Morris



Dr. Anthony J. Cernera
Sacred Heart



Dr. Frank Macchiarola
St. Francis (NY)



Rev. Gabriel Zeis, TOR
Saint Francis (PA)



Dr. Richard Guarasci
Wagner

Ronald Ratner • Associate Commissioner

Ronald Ratner, 37, begins his ninth year with the Northeast Conference. He was promoted to Associate Commissioner in June, 2002 after serving as Assistant Commissioner since December, 1998. Ratner was originally hired as the league's Assistant Director of Communications in July, 1998.



Ratner orchestrates the league's public relations initiative, and is the publicity contact for men's basketball, baseball, soccer and tennis. He serves as executive producer of basketball and football telecasts on the NEC television network, where he is responsible for the scheduling of contests, acquisition of on-air talent and production of in-game and pre-taped features. Ratner oversees the content of the league's official website and facilitated the redesign and relaunch of the site in February, 2004. Ratner also organizes and coordinates NEC Championships for basketball, tennis and cross country, and conducts the NEC Scholar-Athlete awards program. His 2003-04 NEC men's basketball guide was judged "Best In The Nation" among all conference publications by CoSIDA.

Prior to joining the NEC, Ratner served as Sports Information Director at Hunter College in New York City for six years. Ratner was responsible for publicizing the program's 19 sports, facilitated the development and aided in the maintenance of Hunter's athletic website and was also involved in the internal and external marketing of the program. While at Hunter, Ratner served as the Publicity Director for the Skyline Athletic Conference from 1993-95 and the Met Wrestling Conference from 1994-98, while also serving as a radio analyst for CUNY Athletic Conference basketball from 1993-97.

He has taken on roles as a media relations assistant at the 1996 World Series and during the 1998 Goodwill Games at Madison Square Garden. Ratner also served as the Director of Computer Operations for the NCAA sponsored National Youth Sports Program (NYSPP) at Hunter from 1993-98.

Ratner graduated summa cum laude from Brooklyn College in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Finance. He earned his master's degree in Sports Management from Brooklyn College in 1992. Ratner and his wife, Diane, reside in Flemington, NJ along with their three-year old son Kyle.

Donna Poyant • Assistant Commissioner

Donna Poyant, 35, is in her ninth year with the Northeast Conference. She was named Assistant Director of Communications on December 3, 1998, and was promoted to Director of Championships/Communications Assistant in August, 2001 before being elevated to Assistant Commissioner in June, 2002.



Poyant oversees all NEC Championship events, and assists in select PR duties. She is the league's liaison to the membership SWAs, and the liaison to the coordinators of officials in soccer, men's basketball and women's basketball. Poyant is also responsible for the production of conference championship handbooks, championship programs and the NEC Policy Manual.

Prior to her arrival at the NEC, Poyant served as Director of Community Relations for the Winston-Salem Warthogs, a Carolina League Class A minor league baseball affiliate of the Chicago White Sox, for three years. Her responsibilities included layout and design of print publications, overseeing special events, supervising game day staff and organizing player appearances and game day promotions. She also acted as a liaison within the community for little leagues, schools and charities.

Prior to her stint with Winston-Salem, Poyant spent 1995 as the Special Projects Manager for the Prince William Cannons in Woodbridge, Virginia. She assisted in media relations, sales and advertising for the Carolina League Class A affiliate. Poyant also interned with the Wareham Gatemen of the Cape Cod League in 1994.

A native of New Bedford, Massachusetts who currently resides in Piscataway, NJ, Poyant was a graduate assistant in the Sports Information Office at Springfield College. She earned her master's degree in Sport Management from Springfield in 1994. She is a 1993 graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. While at Eastern Connecticut State, Poyant was a four-year letterwinner and a pitcher on the Warriors' 1990 NCAA Division III National Championship softball team.

Bob Balut • Assistant Director of Communications



Bob Balut, 31, enters his fourth year at the Northeast Conference, having been named to the position of Assistant Director of Communications in November, 2003. Balut's responsibilities consist of organizing conference-wide media relations, maintaining the NEC's official website, assisting with various NEC championships, including men's soccer, men's golf and baseball, and is the main media contact for several sports, including football.

Balut brings to the conference a wealth of experience in the media relations field, serving in the sports information department at Wagner College from 1997-03, and served as the school's Director of Sports Information from 1999-03. His responsibilities included game management, overseeing all athletic publications and the development and maintenance of the athletic department website. Balut also created the *Seahawk Broadcasting Network*, which streamed Wagner's first-ever Internet broadcasts for football, basketball and baseball. In addition, served on the Wagner Athletic Hall of Fame and the Seahawk Golf Classic committees and had a two-year stint as the Chair of the Northeast Conference Sports Information Directors committee, while hiring and overseeing a four-member staff.

Before his promotion, Balut spent two years as Assistant Sports Information Director at Wagner from 1997-99. He has also worked as a media relations assistant at the University of Massachusetts in 1997 and began his career as an undergraduate assistant at the University of South Carolina, where he served as baseball contact for two seasons (1996-97).

The Long Valley, New Jersey native is a 1997 graduate of the University of South Carolina, where he holds a bachelor's degree in Sport Administration. He and his wife, the former Erica Minter, who played basketball at Wagner from 1994-98, were married in June, 2003. They reside in Mount Laurel, NJ along with their son, Aidan, who was born on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005.

**NEC Football
NEC Office Staff**



Andrew Alia • Assistant Commissioner

Andrew Alia, 33, is in his ninth year with the Northeast Conference. The 1998-99 NEC administrative intern was named Assistant Director of Operations in June, 1999, was promoted to Director of Operations in July, 2000, and was most recently elevated to Assistant Commissioner in July, 2002.



As Assistant Commissioner, Alia oversees the NEC's marketing program including areas such as corporate sponsorship packages and promotion of championships and special events. His other duties include serving as an executive producer of NEC Television Network broadcasts, acting as a liaison to marketing specialists at NEC member institutions, and directing the league's merchandising efforts.

Alia also organizes and administers selected NEC championship events, develops schedules for numerous sports, and serves as the conference office's business manager. Alia's professional experience includes working as a media relations assistant at three NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament events; the 2004 East Rutherford Regional, the 2000 first and second rounds in Buffalo, NY, and the 1999 East Regional, which was held at the Meadowlands in New Jersey.

Alia's internship with the NEC enabled him to complete his master's degree in Sport Management, which he received from the University of Connecticut in December, 1998. While at UConn, he worked extensively with the athletic department's academic counseling program.

A native of Saddle Brook, NJ, Alia graduated cum laude from Albright College in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in history and political science. Alia and his wife Catherine currently reside in Franklin Park, NJ.

Rachelle Held • Assistant Commissioner

Rachelle Held, 25, enters her second year with the NEC. Held was hired in June, 2005 as Assistant Commissioner, concentrating in the area of compliance.



Held is responsible for all NCAA compliance related matters within the conference. The primary contact for NCAA coaches' certification and National Letter of Intent matters, Held acts as a liaison to the league's faculty athletic representatives, Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and football financial aid committee. She also organizes and coordinates various NEC Championships.

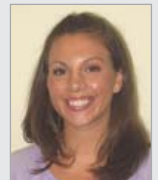
Prior to joining the NEC, Held spent a year serving as an Administrative Fellow at the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference where she was responsible for assisting in the areas of compliance and campus compliance reviews, rules interpretations, administration of NCAA coaches' certification exams and National Letter of Intent program, the publication of the MAAC handbook and other projects assigned by the Commissioner.

Held is a 2003 graduate of Canisius College with a Bachelor's degree in Communications, and received her Master's degree in Sport Administration from the same school in December, 2004. While an undergraduate at Canisius, she was a member of the women's soccer and lacrosse teams, while also serving as secretary of the SAAC. At that time, Held also served as a volunteer in the AmeriCorps-Athletes in Service program in Buffalo, NY.

Held currently resides in Somerset, NJ.

Shannon Holt • Administrative Intern

Shannon Holt, 24, is in her first year as a member of the NEC staff, having been named to the position of Administrative Intern on August 7.



Holt, who is working towards a Master's Degree in Public Relations from Rowan University, will assist in the public relations and marketing efforts of the conference, provide support at NEC championships and televised events, and assist in the day-to-day operations in the league office.

In 2005-06, Holt served as a Graduate Assistant at Rowan for the men's and women's swimming and diving programs, and also assisted in the Sports Information office. She also assisted the Director of Athletics in organizing and planning events for the Rowan Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Prior to attending Rowan, Holt worked as an Account Coordinator for Bender Helper Impact, a public relations firm located in New York City. She also served as a Media Relations intern with the New York Jets during the 2004 season. In that capacity, she assembled press releases and media advisories, assisted in the production of the team media guide, coordinated interview requests, aided in press conferences and supervised a 12-member gameday staff.

A 2004 graduate of Slippery Rock University with a Bachelor's degree in Sports Management, Holt was a four-year starter in water polo and served as team captain as a senior. She was named a Division II Regional All-America in her senior year and earned Slippery Rock's Doc Hunkler Award for sportsmanship and leadership as a sophomore. Holt also competed for three years on the women's swimming team and was captain during the 2002-03 season. She was a Deans List student from 2002-04.

Northeast Conference Football

2005 NEC Postseason Honorees

The Northeast Conference once again garnered many postseason awards as a result of its outstanding play in 2005. Three teams (Central Connecticut State, Monmouth, Stony Brook) ended the year nationally ranked in The Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major final poll.

Individually, Saint Francis (PA) standout wide receiver Michael Caputo earned The Sports Network I-AA Third Team All-America and first team Mid-Major All-America. Caputo also received notice on the Football Gazette I-AA Mid-Major team, being named Offensive Receiver of the Year. Albany linebacker Colin Disch was named Defensive Linebacker of the Year.

2005 The Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major All-Americans

WR	Miles Austin	MU
WR	Michael Caputo	SFPA
TE	Joe Kinard	WC
OL	John Castoro	MU
K	Derek Pearson	CCSU
DL	Jason Forrest	RMU
LB	Colin Disch	UA
LB	James Noel	UA
DB	Al Phillips	WC

2005 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Football Team

First Team Offense
WR Luke Palko SFPA

Second Team Defense
DL Ray Gensler RMU

2005 Don Hansen Football Gazette I-AA Mid-Major All-Americans

First Team		
RB	Ed Pricolo	SHU
WR	Miles Austin	MU
WR	Michael Caputo & Joe Kinard	SFPA WC
OL	Aaron Kimball	UA
OL	Leo Sullivan	SBU
OL	John Castoro	MU
PK	Derek Pearson	CCSU
DT	Thomas Davis	WC
LB	Colin Disch *	UA
DB	Matt Hill	MU

Second Team		
RB	Todd Harris	SFPA
WR	Tyjuan Massey	RMU
OT	Jacob Anderson	UA
PK	Piotr Czech	WC
RS	Tyjuan Massey	RMU
DT	Michael Dungey	UA
LB	Michael Castellano	MU
LB	James Noel	RMU
LB	Brian Sullivan	CCSU
DB	Nigel Monge	CCSU
DB	Al Phillips	WC

* Defensive Linebacker of the Year & Offensive Receiver of the Year



Colin Disch
Albany

NEC Football Scholar-Athlete Award

Saint Francis (PA) junior wide receiver Luke Palko is recognized for his performance on and off the field as the Valley National Bank Scholar-Athlete for football. Palko, who was also named a first team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America, ranked second in the conference in 2005 with 85 receptions, and finished with 812 receiving yards and seven touchdowns. A second team all-NEC wideout this past season, he ranked third in the nation in receptions per game (7.7) and enters his senior year as the league's all-time receptions leader with 209. A native of Imperial, PA, Palko is President of the Saint Francis (PA) Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and is a two-time member of the NEC Academic Honor Roll. Palko has recorded a 3.73 grade point average as an Accounting major.



Year	Scholar-Athlete	School
1998	Matt Farabaugh	Saint Francis (PA)
1999	Brian Russo	Wagner
2000	J.T. Herfurth	Albany
2001	Marvin Royal	Sacred Heart
2002	Justin Rosato	Monmouth
2003	Victor Camacho	Albany
2004	Jonathan LeDonne	Robert Morris
2005	Luke Palko	Saint Francis (PA)

NEC Football



NEC & Pioneer Football League Champions To Meet In Gridiron Classic

The Northeast Conference (NEC) and Pioneer Football League (PFL) today announced a two-year agreement to meet in the Gridiron Classic, an exempted postseason football game that will match the champions of the two I-AA football conferences.

The inaugural Gridiron Classic will take place on Saturday, November 18 with the NEC champion serving as host. The PFL winner will host the 2007 event.

"We are very pleased about the postseason opportunity that the Gridiron Classic affords our student-athletes," said Ron Ratner, NEC Interim Commissioner. "The NEC and its schools look forward to working with the PFL in making this a highly anticipated game at the I-AA level."



Farod Muhammad
Cent. Conn. St.

"Student-athletes thrive on competition and having a meaningful postseason opportunity is a high priority for our institutions," said Patty Viverito, PFL Commissioner. "The PFL's new full round-robin schedule will crown a true league champion and the Gridiron Classic gives our best team the chance to test and showcase their talents against another top-notch Division I-AA champion."

Central Connecticut State and Stony Brook are the defending NEC co-champions, while San Diego is the reigning PFL champion.

The Northeast Conference consists of 11 institutions of higher learning located throughout five states and is celebrating its 25th year as an NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association. Media coverage of the NEC extends to four of the largest markets in the United States - New York (#1), Pittsburgh (#22), Baltimore (#24), and Hartford/New Haven (#28). Founded in 1981 as the basketball-only ECAC Metro Conference. The NEC began sponsoring football at the I-AA level in 1996, and has since increased its membership from five to eight institutions. Central Connecticut State, Monmouth, Robert Morris, Sacred Heart, Saint Francis (PA) and Wagner are full-time NEC members who sponsor football, and they are joined by associate members Albany and Stony Brook.

Set to begin its 14th season, the Pioneer Football League is one of three Division I football-only sport conferences. The PFL is comprised of eight members: Butler, Dayton, Davidson, Drake, Jacksonville, Morehead State, San Diego and Valparaiso.

Former Monmouth Wide Receiver Miles Austin Earns Roster Spot With Dallas Cowboys



Former Monmouth wide receiver and NEC All-Star Miles Austin is a member of the 2006 Dallas Cowboys after making the final cut, Cowboys officials announced on Saturday.

"I'm excited and ready to get this week going and try to help this team to a championship," said Austin. "Monmouth was the only team to give me a shot out of high school. I'm a loyal guy and even when I could have transferred as a sophomore I didn't. Playing with them prepared me to get things done at the next level. I'm just really happy to be here."

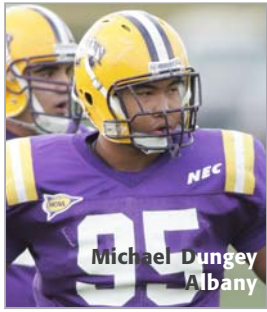
The 6-3 wideout, signed with Dallas as an undrafted free agent a few days after the April 2006 Draft and had an outside shot of making the 53-man roster. But Monmouth's all-time record holder in receptions, receiving yards and touchdown catches put his talents on display in a game against the New Orleans Saints on ESPN's Monday Night Football. After making two special teams tackles, Austin hauled in a 48-yard touchdown reception from Cowboy's quarterback Tony Romo to seal Dallas' 30-7 victory.

"First I'd like to say that we are all really excited and happy for Miles," said MU head coach Kevin Callahan, who coached Austin for four seasons in West Long Branch. "Play in the NFL is a great opportunity for him and he has worked hard to get where he is."

Austin becomes the first Monmouth University player to make an NFL 53-man roster. Former Hawk wideout Will Holder signed on with the Oakland Raiders after a four-year successful Arena Football League run, but was released after training camp.

"Having a player come through the program and make it to the NFL says a great deal about how far Monmouth football has come since 1993," said Callahan. "Miles was one of the guys who helped our program to a new level and he was a great player and a great guy to coach."

NEC Places 12 Football Players On Sports Network Preseason I-AA Mid-Major All-America Team



A total of 12 NEC football players were selected to the 2006 Sports Network Preseason I-AA Mid-Major All-America Team. Leading the way were Albany, Saint Francis (PA) and Wagner, who along with Drake, placed three players on the team.

The potent Saint Francis (PA) duo of seniors Michael Caputo (Bethel Park, PA/Seton La Salle) (92 receptions, 1433 yards, 12 TD) and Luke Palko (Imperial, PA/West Allegheny) (85 receptions, 812 yards, 7 TD) take up two of the wide receiving spots, while Wagner senior Chris Turner (Syracuse, NY/Fowler) (66 receptions, 952 yards, 12 TD) rounds out the trio of Northeast Conference pass-catchers. Turner's teammate, junior Joe Kinard (Kingston, NY/Kingston) (46 receptions, 504 yards), earns the All-America nod at tight end.

The All-America offensive line includes Albany senior Jacob Anderson (West Seneca, NY/West Seneca West) and Saint Francis (PA) senior Bill Holter (Elkton, MD/Northeast).

On the defensive line, the NEC is represented by Central Connecticut State senior Devon Douglass (Baltimore, MD/Calvert Hall) (44 TT, 9 TFL, 3 sacks) and Albany junior Michael Dungey (Rochester, NY/Irondequoit) (39 TT, 9 TFL, 3 sacks).

At linebacker, Albany's Colin Disch (112 tackles, 15 TFL, 4.5 sacks) earns a spot on the preseason team after making the 2005 postseason All-America squad at linebacker. The senior was also named the 2005 NEC Defensive Player of the Year.

Central Connecticut State senior Farod Muhammad (Buffalo, NY/Hutchinson Central Tech) (3 INT, 64 TT) and Wagner junior Al Phillips (Hialeah, FL/American) (5 INT, 14 PBU) landed two of the four spots in the All-America secondary.

The All-America special teams include Monmouth senior punter Sean Dennis (Westampton, NJ/Holy Cross) (39.6 avg).

Twelve players were selected to the team from both the Northeast Conference and Pioneer Football League, while four were named from the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

The 21 programs of the MAAC, Northeast Conference and Pioneer Football League, which play at a non-scholarship or limited scholarship level, make up the I-AA Mid-Major ranks. In addition to the Preseason All-America team, The Sports Network also sponsors the Top 10 ranking for the Mid-Major teams. The No. 1 team at the end of the regular season on Nov. 27 will be honored with The Sports Network Cup as the Mid-Major champion at the TSN I-AA Awards Ceremony in Chattanooga, TN on Dec. 14.

NEC All-Americans

Associated Press I-AA All-Americans

1997	Rick Sarille	Wagner	Third Team
1999	Rick Sarille	Wagner	Third Team
2000	J.T. Herfurth	Albany	First Team
2000	Kayode Mayowa	Sacred Heart	Third Team
2002	Gary Jones	Albany	Second Team
2002	Joe Sentipal	Monmouth	Third Team
2003	Gary Jones	Albany	Third Team

Sports Network I-AA All-Americans

2001	Daryn Plummer	Wagner	Third Team
2002	Gary Jones	Albany	Third Team
2005	Michael Caputo	Saint Francis (PA)	Third Team

Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major All-Americans

2001	Alex Argulewicz	Albany
2001	Josh Bazan	Albany
2001	Aaron Edwards	Monmouth
2001	Reggie Chambers	Robert Morris
2001	Sam Dorsett	Robert Morris
2001	Mark Leyenaar	Robert Morris
2001	Justin Holtfreter	Sacred Heart
2001	Shaun Hubbard	Sacred Heart
2001	DeVeren Johnson	Sacred Heart
2001	Kayode Mayowa	Sacred Heart
2001	Marvin Royal	Sacred Heart
2002	Gary Jones	Albany
2002	Alex Argulewicz	Albany
2002	Shaun Hubbard	Sacred Heart
2002	Odain Mitchell	Sacred Heart
2002	Josh Bazan	Albany
2002	Kayode Mayowa	Sacred Heart
2002	Joe Sentipal	Monmouth
2002	Aden Smith	Stony Brook
2002	Chris Blackshear	Central Connecticut State
2002	Corey Oaks	Robert Morris
2003	Gary Jones	Albany
2003	Mike Malone	Central Connecticut State
2003	Geir Gudmundsen	Albany
2003	Mike Laroche	Albany
2003	Greg Tonzola	Sacred Heart
2003	Pete Athans	Sacred Heart
2003	Franklin Bright	Wagner
2003	Tim Heaney	Wagner
2003	Joe Sentipal	Monmouth
2003	Sean Dennis	Monmouth
2004	Ed Pricolo	Sacred Heart
2004	Geir Gudmundsen	Albany
2004	Dante Settles	Robert Morris
2004	Jason Forrest	Robert Morris
2004	David Bamiro	Stony Brook
2004	James Noel	Robert Morris
2004	Josh Marino	Robert Morris
2004	Donnie Rose	Central Connecticut State
2005	Miles Austin	Monmouth
2005	Michael Caputo	Saint Francis (PA)
2005	Joe Kinard	Wagner
2005	John Castoro	Monmouth
2005	Derek Pearson	Central Connecticut State
2005	Jason Forrest	Robert Morris
2005	Colin Disch	Albany
2005	James Noel	Robert Morris
2005	Al Phillips	Wagner

NEC Football Champions

Year	Champion	NEC Rec.	Overall Rec.
1996	Robert Morris	3-1	9-2
	Monmouth	3-1	7-3
1997	Robert Morris	4-0	8-3
1998	Robert Morris	4-1	4-6
	Monmouth	4-1	5-5
1999	Robert Morris	7-0	8-2
2000	Robert Morris	8-0	10-0
2001	Sacred Heart	8-0	11-0
2002	Albany	6-1	8-4
2003	Monmouth	6-1	10-2
	Albany	6-1	7-4
2004	Monmouth	6-1	10-1
	Cent. Conn. St.	6-1	8-2
2005	Cent. Conn. St.	5-2	7-4
	Stony Brook	5-2	6-5

All-Time NEC Records

School	Record	Pct.
Albany	36-14	.720
Central Conn. St.	30-33	.476
Monmouth	39-24	.619
Robert Morris	42-21	.667
Sacred Heart	30-26	.536
Saint Francis (PA)	6-57	.095
Stony Brook	24-27	.471
Wagner	34-30	.531

NEC Coaching Records

Coach	School	All-Time		Current School		Since Joining		NEC Play	
		Yrs	Pct.	Yrs	Pct.	Yrs	Pct.	Yrs	Pct.
Paul Gorham	Sacred Heart	10-10	.500	10-10	.500	10-10	.500	6-8	.429
Walt Hameline	Wagner	175-86-2	.669	175-86-2	.669	57-47	.548	34-30	.531
Joe Walton	Robert Morris	75-45-1	.624	75-45-1	.624	62-40	.608	42-21	.667
Bob Ford	Albany	210-154-1	.577	201-132	.604	43-32	.573	36-14	.720
Jeff McInerney	Cent. Conn.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Chuck Priore	Stony Brook	39-9	.813	---	---	---	---	---	---
Kevin Callahan	Monmouth	75-54	.581	75-54	.581	59-44	.573	39-24	.619
Dave Opfar	Saint Francis (PA)	9-33	.214	9-33	.214	9-33	.214	5-23	.179
Combined Totals		667-511-6	.566	622-469-5	.570	279-243	.534	192-145	.570

Final 2005 Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major Poll

School (1st Place Votes)	Record	Points
1. San Diego (26)	11-1	260
2. Dayton	9-1	232
3. Duquesne	7-3	207
4. Morehead State	8-4	160
5. Marist	7-4	149
6. Drake	6-4	142
7. Central Connecticut State	7-4	107
8. Monmouth	6-4	69
9. Stony Brook	6-5	61
10. Jacksonville	4-4	16

2005 NEC vs....

Atlantic 10	0-5	MAAC	6-7
Division II	1-0	Patriot	3-3
Division III	0-1	Pioneer	1-1
Ivy	0-0		