

# Northeast Conference

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## Northeast Conference To Celebrate 25th Anniversary *Silver Anniversary Logo Unveiled; Year-long Promotional Plans Announced*

**Somerset, NJ** - The Northeast Conference began a year-long celebration of its 25th Anniversary with the unveiling of its Silver Anniversary logo, as announced today by NEC Commissioner John Iamarino. The NEC will feature a host of promotions, web-based activities and flash-backs throughout the 2005-06 campaign as the league pays tribute to its history.

“The NEC has a growing list of accomplishments to take pride in as we celebrate our 25th anniversary,” said Iamarino, now in his ninth year as Commissioner of the conference. “Our 11 institutions, 21 championship sports and more than 4,000 student-athletes are testimony to the growth we’ve enjoyed since the conference began in 1981. More than the memorable individual and team achievements we’ve enjoyed, however, I’m most proud of the NEC’s fulfillment of its stated goal of integrating our athletic programs within the academic missions of our member institutions. NEC participants truly are both students and athletes.”



When the Northeast Conference was first established as the ECAC-Metro Conference 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 - which included charter members and current NEC institutions Fairleigh Dickinson, Long Island, Robert Morris, St. Francis (NY), St. Francis (PA) and Wagner - 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. Now, 25 years later, with membership and sport sponsorship continuing to grow and with access to NCAA automatic bids in 12 sports, the NEC begins its Silver Anniversary season by proudly looking back at its heritage, while at the same time writing the next chapter in the league’s evolution.

As has been the case the last 25 years, the NEC and its member institutions remain committed to enhancing the experience of its student-athletes, while strengthening its competitive position both regionally and nationally. With that in mind, the league’s traditional focus on athletic achievement, academic integrity and development, community outreach and sportsmanship has never been stronger.

Central Connecticut State University • Fairleigh Dickinson University • Long Island University  
Monmouth University • Mount St. Mary’s University • Quinnipiac University  
Robert Morris University • Sacred Heart University • St. Francis (NY) College  
St. Francis (PA) University • Wagner College

# Northeast Conference

*Celebrating 25 Years • 1981-2005*

*The NEC will turn 25 years old this year. To honor the occasion, the league will launch a variety of promotions throughout the year.*



- **25th anniversary teams for basketball**
- **10th anniversary team for football**

The best of the best will be selected from men's and women's basketball, as well as football, which enters its 10th season of sport sponsorship.

- **NEC flashbacks**

A look back at the performers, performances and special moments that have helped define the conference over its 25 years.

- **My Memories...**

Utilizing audio clips and written anecdotes, NEC coaches, administrators, players and media who have been a part of the league over the last quarter century reminisce about the games, people and moments that most stand out in their minds.

- **Famous Faces**

Examining those who have gone on to make a name for themselves in their particular field after graduating from or having been affiliated with NEC institutions.

- **Web-based activities**

Video highlights and audio clips, trivia, polls, lists and voting on top performers and performances will all be featured on the NEC website throughout 2005-06.

## NEC Membership Tenure

<b>Current Membership</b>	<b>Year Joined</b>
Central Connecticut St.	1997
Fairleigh Dickinson	1981
Long Island	1981
Monmouth	1985
Mount St. Mary's	1989
Quinnipiac	1998
Robert Morris	1981
Sacred Heart	1999
St. Francis (NY)	1981
St. Francis (PA)	1981
Wagner	1981
<b>Former Members</b>	<b>Tenure</b>
Baltimore	1981-82
Loyola (MD)	1981-89
Marist	1981-97
Rider	1992-97
Siena	1981-84
Towson	1981-82
UMBC	1998-03

## What Might Have Been

Originally founded as the ECAC Metro Athletic Conference in 1981, league administrators and school officials decided the conference needed a facelift in 1988. The following names were bandied about before ultimately deciding on Northeast Conference.

**North Shore Eastern**      **Northeastern Northeast**      **Northern Eastern Private Intercollegiate**      **Big North Great North**

## NEC Sport Sponsorship

<b>NEC Sport Sponsorship</b>	<b>Year Added</b>
Men's Basketball	1981
Men's Golf	1985
Men's Soccer	1985
Women's Basketball	1986
Cross Country	1986
Men's Tennis	1986
Baseball	1987
Softball	1987
Women's Tennis	1987
Women's Volleyball	1987
Men's Indoor Track & Field	1988
Women's Indoor Track & Field	1991
Outdoor Track & Field	1991
Women's Soccer	1995
Football	1996
Field Hockey	1998
Women's Golf	1998
Women's Lacrosse	1998
Women's Swimming	1999

## NEC Logo Evolution



1981-88



1997-Present



1988-97



20th Anniversary Logo

# Northeast Conference

## *Celebrating 25 Years • 1981-2005*

***Reproduced below is the press release announcing that the ECAC-Metro Conference changed its name to the Northeast Conference. The release was written and distributed by the NEC and is reproduced as it appeared in 1988.***

August 2, 1988

RUTHERFORD, NJ – The ECAC-Metro Conference, which began as an 11-school league in 1981, has officially changed its name to the Northeast Conference, according to the announcement made by Commissioner Chris Monasch.

The name change is effected August 1, 1988.

"We feel by going with a new name that we give ourselves our own identity," says Monasch, who is the Conference's first full-time commissioner. "Now there is no confusion as to who we are. We are our own entity with a name that is easy to remember and which geographically describes where our membership is located. We feel that this is a new beginning for us."

The Northeast Conference is comprised of nine members - Fairleigh Dickinson University, Long Island University, Loyola College (MD), Marist College, Monmouth College, Robert Morris College, St. Francis College (NY), St. Francis College (PA), and Wagner College. The Conference sponsors 12 sports - Baseball, Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's and Women's Cross Country, Golf, Indoor Track, Soccer, Softball, Men's and Women's Tennis, and Volleyball.

Since the Conference's inception in 1981, it had been under the umbrella of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), thereby maintaining an automatic bid to the NCAA Basketball Tournament without the customary two-year wait. In 1985, the Conference became one of only five in the nation granted automatic bids to the NCAA Soccer Tournament, a right it continues to hold today.

The Conference was originally under the direction of Frank Syzmanski, who remained as its Executive Director until June, 1987. At that time, Chris Monasch was hired as the Conference's first full-time commissioner.

Under the direction of Commissioner Monasch, the Conference has continued to prosper and grow, with its office staff doubling in the past year. The Northeast Conference boasts a full-time associate commissioner for compliance and a full-time assistant commissioner for public relations.

With the expansion of the Conference office, which enabled the league to become self-sufficient, "A new name and new identity became necessary," says Monasch.

The Northeast Conference plans to expand its scope once again, moving to larger and more centralized offices in Woodbridge, NJ, in September. The Conference is currently located in Rutherford, NJ.

# Northeast Conference

## Historical Timeline

**September, 1981** - ECAC-Metro Conference formed as a basketball-only entity with the following charter schools: University of Baltimore, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Long Island University, Loyola (MD) College, Marist College, Robert Morris College, St. Francis (NY) College, St. Francis (PA) College, Siena College, Towson State University and Wagner College. Frank Szymanski named the league's first Executive Director.

**March 2, 1982** - Robert Morris wins the inaugural ECAC-Metro Basketball Tournament and receives the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, where the Colonials fall to Indiana.

**June 29, 1982** - Long Island's Riley Clarida becomes the first NEC player drafted by an NBA team when he is picked by the Utah Jazz in the ninth round.

**June 16, 1987** - Chris Monasch named first full-time Commissioner of the conference.

**Summer, 1987** - Conference gains first permanent headquarters at FDU's Rutherford campus.

**September, 1987** - Men's indoor track, women's tennis and volleyball are added as championship sports.

**March 10, 1988** - Conference men's basketball final shown live by ESPN for the first time.

**June 28, 1988** - Rik Smits of Marist is the second overall pick of the 1988 NBA draft by the Indiana Pacers.

**Summer, 1988** - League office relocates to Woodbridge, NJ.

**February, 1991** - Mount St. Mary's men's basketball coach Jim Phelan nominated for the Basketball Hall of Fame.

**March, 1991** - St. Francis (PA) men's basketball player Mike Iuzzolino named GTE Academic All-American of the Year.

**Summer, 1991** - Monmouth men's basketball player Alex Blackwell becomes the first NEC player to ever appear on a United States men's basketball national team, winning a gold medal at the World University Games.

**Summer, 1992** - Fairleigh Dickinson sprinter Sharlene Milwood and Mount St. Mary's decathlete Rob Pendergist compete in the United States Olympic Team Track and Field Trials.

1981



1995

**March 15, 1983** - Robert Morris wins opening round NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament game with a 64-54 win over Georgia Southern. The Colonials, who lost to Purdue in the next round, 55-53, own the league's only NCAA Tourney win to date.

**July 1, 1985** - Monmouth College (later to be renamed Monmouth University) joins the conference.

**September, 1985** - Men's soccer, golf and tennis are added as championship sports with soccer receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

**October 25, 1985** - Long Island's Carey Scurry is the first conference player to play in an NBA game when he suits up for the Utah Jazz after being drafted in the second round.

**March, 1986** - Men's basketball player Terrance Bailey of Wagner leads the nation in scoring with 854 points and a 29.4 ppg average.

**September, 1986** - Baseball, women's basketball, men's and women's cross country and softball are added as championship sports.

**August 1, 1988** - ECAC-Metro renamed Northeast Conference on August 1, 1988, after gaining autonomy from the ECAC. League introduces new logo.

**September, 1988** - Mount St. Mary's runner Peter Rono wins 1988 Olympic 1,500-meter gold medal.

**July 1, 1989** - Mount St. Mary's College (later to be renamed Mount St. Mary's University) joins the conference.

**September, 1990** - Men's and women's outdoor track and women's indoor track added as championship sports.

**November, 1990** - Rik Smits, formerly of Marist, named NEC Men's Basketball Player of the Decade. The 1986-87 Marist Red Foxes named NEC Team of the Decade.

**July 1, 1992** - Rider College begins membership in the NEC.

**March 6, 1993** - In perhaps the most remembered game in league annals, Rider beats Wagner in men's basketball tournament final on ESPN behind Darrick Suber's last-second shot.

**March 16, 1994** - Mount St. Mary's women's basketball becomes first NEC women's team to participate in NCAA Tournament.

**Summer, 1995** - Mount St. Mary's women's basketball player Susie Rowlyk wins NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship.

**September, 1995** - Women's soccer added as championship sport.

# Northeast Conference

## Historical Timeline

**October 31, 1995** - Football, to begin in 1996 as NEC's 17th sport, is introduced at Giants Stadium press conference.

**March, 1996** - Monmouth goes to NCAA Tournament, while Marist and Mount St. Mary's receive NIT bids, giving the NEC three teams in men's basketball postseason play for the first time.

**June, 1996** - Monmouth wins men's Commissioner's Cup and Mount St. Mary's wins women's Commissioner's Cup, the first time those awards are formally presented.

**September, 1996** - Former FDU star Wagner Marseille represents Haiti in the 1996 Summer Olympics in the 110-meter hurdles. FDU's Lance Gittens and Mount St. Mary's Cliff Wong run for Guyana in the 400-hurdles at the 1996 Summer Olympics.

**March, 1998** - Charles Jones of Long Island becomes just the seventh men's basketball player in NCAA history to lead the nation in scoring for two straight years.

**March, 1998** - NEC sends two teams to the postseason in men's basketball with FDU competing in the NCAA tournament and LIU playing in the NIT. Competing against UConn in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, FDU's Elijah Allen scores 43 points, the best single game performance in the 1998 tourney.

**July 1, 1998** - UMBC and Quinnipiac begin first year as full members in the NEC.

**September, 1998** - Field hockey, women's golf, and women's swimming are added to bring NEC sports sponsorship to 21.

**July 1, 1999** - Sacred Heart begins first year as full member in the NEC.

**October 20, 1999** - A new football financial aid package is adopted, to take effect beginning in the 2000 season.

**October 31, 1999** - LIU's women's soccer team, in just the program's third year of existence, defeats Southwest Texas, 1-0, in a play-in game to advance to NCAA Tournament.

**November 20, 1999** - Robert Morris claims its fourth straight championship in football and finishes the season as the nation's top ranked I-AA non-scholarship program.

1995



2000

**November 23, 1996** - NEC football completes first season of play as Robert Morris wins inaugural title, then goes on to capture the ECAC-Division I-AA non-scholarship bowl game.

**March, 1997** - Long Island men's basketball player Charles Jones leads the nation in scoring with 30.1 ppg.

**April 7, 1997** - NEC presidents hire John Iamarino, formerly Associate Commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference, as the league's new Commissioner.

**Summer, 1997** - NEC office moves to Piscataway, NJ.

**Summer, 1997** - NEC introduces new logo, the second change in brand identity in league history.

**July 1, 1997** - Central Connecticut State begins first year as full member of the NEC.

**September, 1997** - NEC launches official league website at [www.northeastconference.org](http://www.northeastconference.org).

**September, 1997** - NEC adds women's lacrosse as championship sport.

**September, 1998** - Albany and Stony Brook join NEC as associate members in football.

**Winter, 1998** - MSG Network and its affiliates televise 13 NEC basketball games, the largest television package in the history of the league.

**February 28, 1999** - Neutrogena serves as first title sponsor of NEC Basketball Tournament, which takes place entirely at Wagner's Spiro Sports Center, which opened shortly before the tourney commenced.

**March 1, 1999** - Mount St. Mary's claims the men's basketball championship as head coach Jim Phelan records his 800th career win before a national television audience in the title game.

**May 21, 1999** - Long Island's softball team becomes the league's first-ever women's team in any sport to win an NCAA tournament contest when they defeated Manhattan, 4-3.

**March, 2000** - St. Francis (PA) standout women's basketball player Jess Zinobile becomes the NEC's all-time scoring and rebounding leader. She is also the first-ever NEC player to be drafted by the WNBA.

**March, 2000** - The NEC plays its men's and women's basketball tournament at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton, NJ, marking the first time the tournament takes place at a neutral site.

**March 6, 2000** - St. Francis (PA)'s women's basketball team claims its record-setting fifth consecutive NEC Tournament title and enters NCAA Tournament for fifth year in a row with its highest seed at #14.

**November 14, 2000** - NEC celebrates 20th Anniversary with selection of 20th Anniversary All-Time Basketball Teams, and later in the year the 20th Anniversary All-Sport Teams.

# Northeast Conference

## Historical Timeline

**November 18, 2000** - Robert Morris wins its fifth consecutive NEC football championship and ends the season as the nation's top ranked I-AA Mid-Major program.

**November 19, 2000** - FDU's Stephen Ondieki earns All-American honors, finishing second at the NCAA Cross Country Championships. In the spring, Ondieki would go on to claim All-American status after finishing sixth in the 5K at the NCAA Men's Indoor Track & Field Championships.

**June, 2001** - Monmouth outfielder Jason Law is selected first team ABCA/Rawlings All-American and Louisville Slugger All-American.

**March 6, 2002** - CCSU men's basketball wins an NEC record 19 straight games and also established league marks for overall (27) and conference (19) wins. CCSU wins second league crown in three years, while Wagner qualifies for NIT.

**March 9, 2002** - UMBC's Cleopatra Borel becomes the first NEC athlete to win a national title when she claims the shot put crown at the NCAA Women's Indoor Track & Field Championships.

**March 21, 2002** - UMBC's Lindsey Prather and CCSU's Tammie Repass become the first NEC athletes to compete at the NCAA Women's Swimming & Diving Championships.

**April 20, 2002** - Sacred Heart's DeVeren Johnson becomes the first NEC football player picked in the NFL draft when Dallas selects him in the sixth round.

**March, 2003** - NEC Men's Basketball Coach of the Year award renamed Jim Phelan Coach of the Year award, upon Phelan's retirement after 49 years at Mount St. Mary's. In honor of Phelan's historic career, March 1, 2003 is declared as National Bow-Tie Day, with NCAA coaches across the country donning bow-ties to recognize Phelan.

**March 12, 2003** - Wagner wins its first-ever NEC Men's Basketball Championship, defeating St. Francis (NY) in a game which marked the first time in NCAA history that two New York City schools met with an NCAA automatic tournament berth at stake.

**May 4, 2003** - St. Francis (PA) claims the unofficial 'Triple Crown' of men's track for a third consecutive year by taking home championships in cross country, indoor track & field and outdoor track & field.

2000



2003

**October, 2001** - Conference office moves to Somerset, NJ.

**November, 2001** - Fairleigh Dickinson captures second straight NEC men's soccer title then proceeds to beat Boston College, Princeton and Seton Hall in the NCAA Tournament to advance to the Elite Eight, before falling to eventual national champion North Carolina, 3-2, in triple overtime. FDU concludes the season ranked #11 in the country by the NSCAA.

**December 1, 2001** - Sacred Heart wins first-ever NEC football championship and caps off an undefeated season (11-0) with a 31-15 victory over Duquesne in the ECAC Football Classic. The Pioneers end the year ranked #1 in the Sports Network's inaugural I-AA Mid-Major poll.

**January 10, 2002** - FDU assistant soccer coach Ethan Zohn captures the \$1,000,000 grand prize on "Survivor Africa."

**June 26, 2002** - CCSU's Corsley Edwards is chosen by the Sacramento Kings with the 58th and final pick of the 2002 NBA Draft, marking the first time since 1991 that an NEC player is drafted.

**November 17, 2002** - Fairleigh Dickinson captures its third straight men's soccer title and reaches the second round of the NCAA Tournament before losing to fourth seeded St. John's, 2-1, in double overtime.

**November 23, 2002** - Albany defeats MAAC Champion Duquesne, 24-0, to win the ECAC Football Classic and conclude the season as the nation's third ranked I-AA Mid-Major team.

**Winter, 2002** - The NEC televises 30 basketball games - a record number for the conference - on its flagship station MSG Network, as well as regional outlets such as Fox Sports-New York, Fox Sports-Pittsburgh, Fox Sports-New England and Comcast Sports-Net.

**September 20, 2003** - NEC televises first football game in league history as Stony Brook hosts Wagner.

**November, 2003** - NEC sets new football attendance record.

**November 14, 2003** - CCSU defeats Boston College, 1-0, to become the first women's soccer team in league history to win an NCAA Tournament match. The Blue Devils would go on to lose to eventual national champion UConn, 3-2, in double overtime.

**November 16, 2003** - Fairleigh Dickinson captures fourth straight NEC men's soccer crown and finishes ranked in the *College Soccer News* Top-30 for the third straight year.

# Northeast Conference

## Historical Timeline

**February 4, 2004** - NEC relaunches official website with new streamlined design and upgraded features.

**July 1, 2004** - The NEC launches first-ever online webstore.

**September 1, 2004** - The NEC launches Sportsmanship Counts!, a program designed to reinforce and promote the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

**November 22, 2004** - Monmouth claims the Sports Network Cup, emblematic of the top mid-major football program in the nation, as five conference programs finished in the final top-10 poll.

**August 23, 2005** - NEC begins year-long Silver Anniversary celebration with unveiling of 25th Anniversary logo.

2004

2005

**March, 2005** - The NEC Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament returns "Back to Campus" for the first time since the 1996-97 season with all games played at the home of the higher seed.

**March 9, 2005** - ESPN televises men's basketball championship game for 18th straight year.

**March 12, 2005** - St. Francis (PA) earns its fourth consecutive women's basketball championship and ninth crown in the last ten years.

**March 17, 2005** - FDU men's basketball plays top-seed and eventual national runner-up Illinois to a first-half standstill, before falling to the Illini in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament.

**June, 2005** - St. Francis (PA) ranks among the top programs nationally in Academic All-Americans over the last seven years with 19.

