

# Northeast Conference

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For Immediate Release  
April 29, 2004

## Mount St. Mary's Sweeps NEC Women's Lacrosse Honors

*Naomi Campano Named Player of the Year; Katie Mason Picked Rookie of the Year  
Courtney Martinez Connor Chosen Coach of the Year*

Somerset, NJ -- Mount St. Mary's senior goalkeeper **Naomi Campano (Schnecksville, PA/Allentown Central Catholic)** was selected the Northeast Conference Women's Lacrosse Player of the Year in a vote by league head coaches. Campano's stellar play between the pipes helped the Mountaineers claim their first-ever NEC regular season title this spring, as well as the #1 seed in this weekend's NEC Tournament. Mount St. Mary's freshman midfielder **Katie Mason (Ellicott City, MD/Mount Hebron)** was recognized as Rookie of the Year, while Mountaineers head coach **Courtney Martinez Connor** took home NEC Coach of the Year honors to make it a clean sweep of the major awards for the program. In just her third year at the helm of the Mount program, Martinez Connor guided the Mountaineers to a perfect 7-0 record in league play and a 12-4 mark overall. Martinez Connor, who also established a new school record for career victories this year with 28, will look to lead the Mount to its first NEC Tournament championship this year.

The 2004 NEC Women's Lacrosse Tournament is scheduled for Friday, April 30 and Sunday, May 2 and will be hosted by Monmouth University. Friday's first semifinal will begin at 1:00 p.m., as #1 seed Mount St. Mary's will take on #4 Sacred Heart. The day's second semifinal will feature #2 Monmouth versus #3 Quinnipiac at 3:30 p.m. The championship game is slated to begin at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

Campano, an all-NEC second team pick last year, makes the jump to first team all-star and Player of the Year status based upon her remarkable season in net for first place Mount St. Mary's. Campano leads the NEC in saves (187), save percentage (.583) and wins (12), and ranks second in goals against average (8.76) heading into the upcoming NEC Tournament. Campano's play drew major attention in early April, when she recorded 16 saves in a 14-4 victory against Quinnipiac and then tallied eight saves in a 7-6 win against Sacred Heart. Campano's efforts earned her NEC Player of the Week kudos, as well as a spot on the InsideLacrosse.com national honor roll. The senior netminder has also put her stamp on the Mount record book, as she ranks first in program history in saves (557), minutes played (3,049) and victories (28).

Mason becomes the third Mountaineer player to garner NEC Rookie of the Year accolades, joining Kelly Moran ('00) and Erin Gargan ('01). A two-time NEC Rookie of the Week honoree, Mason registered 44 points (27 g/ 17 a) to lead the Mount this season, while also racking up 40 ground balls, 13 turnovers caused and 15 draw controls. The high-scoring freshman currently ranks fifth in the NEC in assists per game (1.06) and seventh in points per game (2.75). More impressively, Mason boosted her scoring average to 3.14 points per game in NEC action as the Mount concluded the regular season unbeaten in league play.

Three other Mountaineers join Campano as first team honorees. Senior midfielder **Kim Keene (Baltimore, MD/Seton Keough)**, a two-time all-NEC pick, tallied 17 points (9 g/8 a) while also establishing new Mount career records for ground balls (212) and turnovers caused (124) this season. Junior midfielder **Erin LaMotte (Hampstead, MD/North Carroll)** registered 42 points (34 g/8 a) to rank second on the Mount in scoring this year. She also paced the squad in both ground balls (47) and draw controls (47). Rounding out the Mountaineers first team contingent is sophomore defender **Jennifer Davison (Riva, MD/South River)**. Davison led the Mount in turnovers caused (29) and also ranked among the team leaders in both ground balls (31) and draw controls (28).

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

Monmouth placed three players on the first team, including senior attacker **Stacy Sydlo (Horseheads, NY/Horseheads)**, sophomore midfielder **Kaitlyn Robinson (Huntington Station, NY/St. Anthony's)** and sophomore defender **Andrea Denton (Catonsville, MD/Catonsville)**. Sydlo, a three-time all-NEC honoree, tallied 49 points (35 g/ 14 a) this season and ranks fourth in the league in both goals per game (2.33 gpg) and points per game (3.27 ppg). Robinson contributed six points (4 g/2 a) from her midfield spot, while also posting 33 ground balls, 26 turnovers caused and 14 draw controls. Denton registered 34 ground balls and 24 turnovers caused, while anchoring a defense that ranked third in the league in goals against average (9.13 gaa).

Wagner is represented on the all-conference first team by a pair of midfielders in senior **Jill Pyzik (Hampstead, MD/North Carroll)** and sophomore **Heather George (West Allenhurst, NJ/Ocean Township)**. Pyzik claims her second consecutive first team honor following a big offensive year that saw her record 40 points (30 g/10 a). The veteran midfielder stands as the Seahawks' second leading scorer, right behind fellow all-star Heather George. George exploded for 58 points (54 g/4 a) this spring as she stoked the Seahawks attack. She holds the league's top spot in both goals per game (3.73) and points per game (4.00 ppg) and ranks fourth and 16th nationally in those categories, respectively.

Junior attacker **Amy Willis (Hingham, MA/Hingham)** garners all-conference accolades after leading Quinnipiac to its first appearance in the NEC Tournament since 1998. Willis rang-up 58 points this season, scoring a team-high 38 goals and connecting for 17 assists. The Hingham, MA product ranks second in the league in both points per game (3.38 ppg) and goals per game (2.38 gpg).

Junior defender **Lindsay Travis (Mahopac, NY/Mahopac)** represents Sacred Heart on the all-NEC first team this year. Travis spear-headed a defense that posted the only shutout by an NEC program this season on its way to leading the league in goals against average (7.55 gaa). Travis scooped up 31 ground balls while also adding 20 turnovers caused and 13 draw controls.

Long Island freshman attacker **Amy Rizzo (Jackson, NJ/Jackson Memorial)** is not only the lone rookie named to this year's first team, but she also is the first-ever Blackbird performer to earn all-NEC accolades. LIU's scoring leader with 41 points, Rizzo netted 32 goals and chipped in nine assists on the season. The rookie attacker ranked second in the league in goals per game (2.50 gpg) and fifth in points per game (3.14 ppg).

Quinnipiac led the way in second-team award winners this year, placing four players on the squad including sophomore attacker **Jennifer Larson (Islip Terrace, NY/East Islip)**, senior midfielder **Annie Paquette (Agawam, MA/Agawam)**, junior midfielder **Christy Smallman (Boxford, MA/Masconomet)** and sophomore defender **Vanessa Miranda (Bay Shore, NY/Bay Shore)**. Larson (40 pts./32 g/8), Paquette (41 pts./23 g/18 a) and Smallman (54 pts./27 g/27 a) teamed to give the Bobcats a potent trio of scoring threats. Miranda collected 27 ground balls and 42 turnovers caused to help bolster QU's defensive efforts. Sacred Heart junior midfielder **JoAnn Montesarchio (Cortlandt Manor, NY/Cortlandt Manor)** claims back-to-back all-NEC second team accolades and is accompanied by a pair of first-time recipients in junior attacker **Natalie Smith (Wantagh, NY/Wantagh)** and senior goalkeeper **Amy Lavoie (Nashua, NH/Nashua)**. Montesarchio tallied 33 points (24 g/9 a) to rank second on the Pioneers in scoring, behind Smith who recorded 43 points (35 g/8 a). Lavoie was solid in the net for SHU this year, compiling the league's best goals against average (7.57 gaa). Mount St. Mary's second team honorees include sophomore attacker **Kirby Day (Forest Hill, MD/North Harford)**, who put up 15 goals and four assists, and sophomore defender **Leeann Robustelli (Downington, PA/Bishop Shanahan)**, who had 40 ground balls and 22 turnovers caused. A pair of Monmouth midfielders, senior **Laura Levins (Voorhees, NJ/Eastern)** and freshman **Katie Degen (Glen Head, NY/North Shore)**, both contributed to a strong Hawk offense this season. Levins scored 36 points (31 g/5 a) and added 27 ground balls and 32 draw controls, while Degen produced 37 points (20 g/17 a) and had 31 ground balls, 20 caused turnovers, and 28 draw controls. Wagner senior defender **Megan Anderson (Vienna, VA/Oakton)** rounds out the all-NEC second team. A two-time first teamer, Anderson collected 51 ground balls, 33 caused turnovers, and six draw controls on the year.

## 2004 NEC Women's Lacrosse Award Winners

### Player of the Year

Naomi Campano                      Mount St. Mary's                      GK                      Sr                      Schnecksville, PA/Allentown Central Catholic

### Rookie of the Year

Katie Mason                      Mount St. Mary's                      MF                      Fr                      Ellicott City, MD/Mount Hebron

### Coach of the Year

Courtney Martinez Connor                      Mount St. Mary's

## 2004 NEC Women's Lacrosse First Team All-Conference

### Attackers

Amy Rizzo                      Long Island                      Fr                      Jackson, NJ/Jackson Memorial  
Stacy Sydlo                      Monmouth                      Sr                      Horseheads, NY/Horseheads  
Amy Willis                      Quinnipiac                      Jr                      Hingham, MA/Hingham

### Midfielders

Heather George                      Wagner                      So                      West Allenhurst, NJ/Ocean Township  
Kim Keene                      Mount St. Mary's                      Sr                      Baltimore, MD/Seton Keough  
Erin LaMotte                      Mount St. Mary's                      Jr                      Hampstead, MD/North Carroll  
Jill Pyzik                      Wagner                      Sr                      Hampstead, MD/North Carroll  
Kaitlyn Robinson                      Monmouth                      So                      Huntington Station, NY/St. Anthony's

### Defenders

Andrea Denton                      Monmouth                      So                      Catonsville, MD/Catonsville  
Jennifer Davison                      Mount St. Mary's                      So                      Riva, MD/South River  
Lindsay Travis                      Sacred Heart                      Jr                      Mahopac, NY/Mahopac

### Goalkeeper

Naomi Campano                      Mount St. Mary's                      Sr                      Schnecksville, PA/Allentown Central Catholic

## 2004 NEC Women's Lacrosse Second Team All-Conference

### Attackers

Kirby Day                      Mount St. Mary's                      So                      Forest Hill, MD/North Harford  
Jennifer Larson                      Quinnipiac                      So                      Islip Terrace, NY/East Islip  
Natalie Smith                      Sacred Heart                      Jr                      Wantagh, NY/Wantagh

### Midfielders

Katie Degen                      Monmouth                      Fr                      Glen Head, NY/North Shore  
Laura Levins                      Monmouth                      Sr                      Voorhees, NJ/Eastern  
JoAnn Montesarchio                      Sacred Heart                      Jr                      Cortlandt Manor, NY/Cortlandt Manor  
Annie Paquette                      Quinnipiac                      Sr                      Agawam, MA/Agawam  
Christy Smallman                      Quinnipiac                      Jr                      Boxford, MA/Masconomet

### Defenders

Megan Anderson                      Wagner                      Sr                      Vienna, VA/Oakton  
Vanessa Miranda                      Quinnipiac                      So                      Bay Shore, NY/Bay Shore  
Leeann Robustelli                      Mount St. Mary's                      So                      Downingtown, PA/Bishop Shanahan

### Goalkeeper

Amy Lavoie                      Sacred Heart                      Sr                      Nashua, NH/Nashua