

Northeast Conference

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For Immediate Release
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Monmouth's Katie Degen Chosen NEC Women's Lacrosse Player of the Year

Mount St. Mary's Jacqui Ricca Picked Defensive Player of the Year

Monmouth's Megan Brennan Tabbed Rookie of the Year

Mount St. Mary's Denise Wescott Selected Coach of the Year

Somerset, NJ — Monmouth senior midfielder **Katie Degen (Glen Head, NY/North Shore)** was selected the Northeast Conference Women's Lacrosse Player of the Year in a vote by league head coaches for the second time in her career (2005). Mount St. Mary's senior defender **Jacqui Ricca (Poolesville, MD/St. John's College)** and Monmouth's freshman attack **Megan Brennan (King of Prussia, PA/Archbishop Carroll)** were recognized as Defensive Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year, respectively. Mount St. Mary's head coach **Denise Wescott** took home NEC Coach of the Year honors for the first time after leading the Mountaineers to a perfect 8-0 league finish (9-7 overall) and first-place standing to close out the regular season.

Degen enjoyed an outstanding senior campaign as she led the league in assists per game (1.76) and points per game (4.65), while ranking fourth in goals per game (2.88). Overall, she netted 49 goals, handed out 30 assists and holds the league's individual game high for points, scoring 10 against Lafayette.

Ricca, a four-time 2007 NEC Defensive Player of the Week honoree, is the mainstay of one of the top defensive units in the NEC, as Mount St. Mary's paces the league in ground balls per game (22.62), with Ricca leading the pack picking up 61 (3.81 gbp). Along with her 61 ground balls on the year, Ricca has tallied 15 draw controls, 55 caused turnovers, while netting two goals from her defensive position.

Brennan started every game of her inaugural season in the league, collecting 22 goals and 11 assists for 33 points. The rookie attack picked up 18 ground balls, 16 draw controls and caused six turnovers.

NEC regular season champion Mount St. Mary's placed three players on the all-conference first team. Along with Ricca, attacker **Casey Paris (Longwood, FL/Lake Brantley)** and midfielder **Katelyn Catanese (Huntington, NY/St. Anthony's)** earned the honor. Paris accumulated 41 goals and 13 assists for 51 points to rank fifth in the NEC in scoring (3.38 ppg). Catanese tallied 47 goals and four assists for 51 points while grabbing 36 ground balls, 29 draw controls and 14 caused turnovers on defense. The sophomore midfielder ranked third in the NEC in goals per game (2.94) and eighth in points per game (3.19).

Monmouth landed five players on the all-conference first team. Joining Degen at midfielder is **Megan Nutter (Moorestown, NJ/Moorestown)** and **Ashley Waldman (Oceanport, NJ/Shore Regional)**. Rounding out the Hawks first-teamers are attacker **Carolyn Raveia (Fairfax, VA/W.T. Woodson)** and defender **Kaitlyn Robinson (Huntington Station, NY/St. Anthony's)**. Nutter scored 43 goals while handing out 12 assists for 55 points. Raveia is runner-up in the league in goals per game (3.00) while Nutter is seventh with 2.53. Waldman just cracks the conference top-10 in goals per game (2.06), tallying 48 points (35 goals, 13 assists). Robinson grabbed 51 grounders, making her third in the league in ground balls per game (3.00), along with notching 35 draw controls and 25 caused turnovers.

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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
Saint Francis (PA) University • Wagner College

Sacred Heart had three representatives on the all-conference first team in seniors **Brianna Bubeck (Bethlehem, NY/Bethlehem Central)** and **Maureen Hohn (Lutherville, MD/Towson HS)**, and sophomore **Mary Montesarchio (Cortlandt Manor, NY/Walter Panas)**. Attacker Bubeck, notched 40 goals and 18 assists for 58 points, good for second in the league in points per game (4.14). Hohn paced the defense for the Pioneers nabbing 28 grounders, 13 draw controls and 21 caused turnovers. Midfielder Montesarchio tallied 30 points while producing 18's across the board in ground balls, draw controls and caused turnovers.

Central Connecticut's **Alice Lee (Northampton, MA/Northampton)** garnered a first-team nod at goalkeeper, marking the first appearance on the all-NEC list for the Blue Devils since attacker Tracey Uellendahl in 2003. The sophomore goalie leads the pack in save percentage (.575), while brandishing the top spot for the most saves in a game, with 29 against Robert Morris.

On the all-Northeast Conference second team, teammates **Jenna Duffy (Bel Air, MD/Catholic)** and defender **Jackie Kearney (Baltimore, MD/Seton Keough)** represent Mount St. Mary's. Duffy netted 15 goals, while handing out 25 assists, in which the senior lands the second spot in the league in assists per game with 1.56. Defensively, Kearney grabbed 41 ground balls, 32 draw controls and 12 caused turnovers.

Monmouth's **Monica Johnson (Radnor, PA/Archbishop Carroll)** was chosen as all-NEC second team goalkeeper after leading the Hawks to a 13-4 season. The sophomore tops the league for her goals against average (9.47), while notching 178 saves on the year.

Sacred Heart's **Amanda Williams (Monroe, CT/Masuk)** received a second-team nod at the midfielder position. The Monroe, CT native hit the back of the net 18 times, while coming up with 23 ground balls and 28 draw controls.

Quinnipiac freshman **Brittany Hauser (Commack, NY/Commack)** and junior **Jamie Zeitler (West Islip, NY/West Islip)** were awarded second-team honors for their stellar seasons. Hauser grabbed 20 ground balls, 16 draw controls and caused 17 turnovers at the midfield position, while Zeitler retrieved 21 ground balls, 10 draw controls and 14 caused turnovers on defense.

Long Island and Robert Morris are both represented by two players on the all-NEC second team. LIU seniors **Amy Rizzo (Jackson, NJ/Jackson Memorial)** and **Jackie McCormick (Liverpool, NY/Liverpool)** earn spots at the attack and midfield positions. In Rizzo's collegiate finale, she led the league in goals (51), while distributing 17 assists and compiling 17 ground balls and 34 draw controls. McCormick completed her senior campaign with 31 goals, 24 assists, 38 ground balls and 36 draw controls. For the Colonials, sophomores **Kara Blakeley (Gibsonia, PA/Pine Richland)** and **Mary Kate Egan (Lynch, MD/Kent County)** were chosen for the second-team. Blakeley netted 31 points (22 goals, nine assists) at her midfield position, while Egan came up with 32 ground balls, 11 draw controls and 31 caused turnovers on defense.

Rounding out the second-team honorees is Wagner midfielder **Cara Gonzalez (Syracuse, NY/Westhill)**. The Syracuse, NY product nabbed 30 ground balls, 48 draw controls and 18 caused turnovers while posting 39 points (20 goals, 19 assists) on the year, ranking fifth in assists per game (1.27).

2007 NEC Women's Lacrosse Award Winners

Player of the Year

Katie Degen Monmouth MF Sr. Glen Head, NY/North Shore

Defensive Player of the Year

Jacqui Ricca Mount St. Mary's D Sr. Poolesville, MD/St. John's College

Rookie of the Year

Megan Brennan Monmouth A Fr. King of Prussia, PA/Archbishop Carroll

Coach of the Year

Denise Wescott Mount St. Mary's

2007 NEC Women's Lacrosse First Team All-Conference

Attackers

Brianna Bubeck Sacred Heart Sr. Bethlehem, NY/Bethlehem Central
Carolyn Raveia Monmouth Sr. Fairfax, VA/W.T. Woodson
Casey Paris Mount St. Mary's Sr. Longwood, FL/Lake Brantley

Midfielders

Katie Degen Monmouth Sr. Glen Head, NY/North Shore
Megan Nutter Monmouth Jr. Moorestown, NJ/Moorestown
Katelyn Catanese Mount St. Mary's So. Huntington, NY/St. Anthony's
Mary Montesarchio Sacred Heart So. Cortlandt Manor, NY/Walter Panas
Ashley Waldman Monmouth Jr. Oceanport, NJ/Shore Regional

Defenders

Kaitlyn Robinson Monmouth Sr. Huntington Station, NY/St. Anthony's
Jacqui Ricca Mount St. Mary's Sr. Poolesville, MD/St. John's College
Maureen Hohn Sacred Heart Sr. Lutherville, MD/Towson HS

Goalkeeper

Alice Lee Central Connecticut So. Northampton, MA/Northampton

2007 NEC Women's Lacrosse Second Team All-Conference

Attackers

Jennifer Collins Robert Morris So. Edgewater, MD/South River
Amy Rizzo Long Island Sr. Jackson, NJ/Jackson Memorial
Jenna Duffy Mount St. Mary's Sr. Bel Air, MD/Catholic

Midfielders

Brittany Hauser Quinnipiac Fr. Commack, NY/Commack
Amanda Williams Sacred Heart So. Monroe, CT/Masuk
Kara Blakeley Robert Morris So. Gibsonia, PA/Pine Richland
Cara Gonzalez Wagner So. Syracuse, NY/Westhill
Jackie McCormick Long Island Sr. Liverpool, NY/Liverpool

Defenders

Mary Kate Egan Robert Morris So. Lynch, MD/Kent County
Jamie Zeitler Quinnipiac Jr. West Islip, NY/West Islip
Jackie Kearney Mount St. Mary's Fr. Baltimore, MD/Seton Keough

Goalkeeper

Monica Johnson Monmouth So. Radnor, PA/Archbishop Carroll