



Little East Conference Spring Champions

SOFTBALL

Seeded second after finishing a game behind the University of Southern Maine in the Little East Conference regular season standings, the Warriors won four straight games to defend their 2019 title and capture their sixth Little East tournament title in the past 11 years. In a revised tournament format due to COVID-19, Eastern eliminated Plymouth State University, 3-1, and Keene State College, 4-2, to capture its half of the draw at Clyde Washburne Field, before sweeping top-seeded Southern Maine, 8-4 and 7-0, in mid-May on the Huskies' home field. After missing the first half of the season while rehabilitating an ACL injury, sophomore **Alyssa Vilchez '24** of Brampton, Ontario, threw a complete-game, four-hit shutout in her first career start in the championship game. The LEC title qualified the Warriors for their 22nd NCAA tournament, where they split four games (the two losses each coming by a run) to finish 32-4.

MEN'S GOLF

First-year student **Ashton Lewis '25** of Fairfield, CT, earned medalist honors when the men's golf team won the inaugural Little East Conference men's golf championship in late April at Valley Country Club in Warwick, RI. In the two-day tournament played in winds exceeding 20 miles per hour, Lewis shot a two-over-par 74 on the second day and finished with a six-over-par score of 150, nine strokes better than runner-up Will Niles of Rhode Island College. With a team score of 654, Eastern won the team title by 15 strokes over the University of Southern Maine. In its first year back after a 38-year hiatus, Eastern is under the direction of **Chris Wojick '11**.



Ashton Lewis



Ashton Lewis



MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Twenty-two individuals on the 24-person roster contributed points — 11 of them first-year students — as the Warriors won their first Little East Conference outdoor track and field title since 2007 by unseating five-time defending champion University of Southern Maine on May 2 at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

The title at this meet was Eastern's seventh since 2002. Individual winners were junior **Ryan Escoda '23** of Newtown in the 3000 steeplechase, sophomore **Cory Bill '24** of Mansfield in the 400, freshman **Aidan Hennessy '25** of Granby in the triple jump, and the 800 relay team of senior **Maxwell Chace '22** of Brooklyn, CT, juniors Escoda and **Tyler Wright '23** of Westport and first-year student **Thomas Stone '25** of Glastonbury.



Maxwell Chace

BASEBALL

The Warriors set a Little East Conference regular-season baseball record of 15 wins (against one loss) in winning their 13th conference regular-season championship by three games. The outright LEC title was Eastern's first since 2011 and made it the No. 1 seed in the LEC tournament. Reaching the championship game and qualifying as an at-large qualifier to its 35th NCAA tournament, the Warriors finished with an overall record of 32-8.

On the basis of its LEC regular-season success, Eastern landed three of the four conference major awards: senior third baseman **Luke Broadhurst** of Stafford was voted Player-of-the-Year; senior right-handed pitcher **Josh Vincent** of New London was named Pitcher-of-the-Year; and head coach **Brian Hamm** was recognized as Coach-of-the-Year.



Luke Broadhurst



John Mesagno



Josh Vincent

ALL-AMERICANS



Brooke Matyasovsky



Cassie Woods

Eastern featured a total of five All-American players, three in baseball and two each in softball. In baseball, senior third baseman **Luke Broadhurst '22** (second team) of Stafford and senior left-fielder **John Mesagno '22** (third team) of Tappan, NY, were named All-Americans by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA), and senior right-handed

pitcher **Josh Vincent '22** was voted as a third-team All-American by D3Baseball.com. Junior pitcher/first baseman **Brooke Matyasovsky '23** (first team) of Orange and graduate centerfielder **Cassie Woods** (second team) of Mystic were named to the All-America softball team by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA).

ATHLETIC ALUMNI AS HEAD COLLEGE COACHES



Devyne Doran, women's lacrosse, Mitchell College



Carrie Seymour, women's basketball, Pace University

The success of Eastern athletes in the playing arena has been well-documented for many years. Less well known is the success that many Eastern athletes have experienced as head coaches after graduating from the University, with a number of those alumni now in their second and third decades in charge of college programs.

Through 2021, no less than 21 alumni currently serve as head coaches at four-year institutions, with Carrie Seymour '83, having

served the past 28 seasons as head coach of the Pace University women's basketball program. Seymour, a four-year player and the team's lone captain as a senior under Eastern Athletics Alumni Hall of Fame coach Bob Miller, is zeroing in on her 500th victory at Pace, having compiled a 486-334 record after being named the fifth head coach in Setters' history in 1992. She has led Pace to 10 NCAA Division II tournaments as a member of the Northeast 10 Conference.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Eastern earned the Little East Conference Presidents' Cup for 2020-21 — signifying overall academic excellence in the LEC's 20 championship sports — after garnering a 3.36 average cumulative GPA among its 18 programs that compete in the LEC. Eastern's cumulative GPA of 3.36 is the highest in the award's history.

The LEC Presidents' Cup measures the highest average cumulative grade point average among the student-athletes from the conference's nine primary member institutions that compete in championship sports. Eastern competes in all but two LEC championship sports — men's and women's tennis.

The Warriors claimed the LEC Presidents' Cup for the second straight year, fifth time in the last seven years and for a conference-best sixth time in the award's 12-year history. Eastern first won the Presidents' Cup when the award debuted in 2009-10, and earned the Conference's top academic honor for three consecutive years from 2014-17 before regaining the trophy in 2019-20 with a 3.20 GPA.

In addition to winning the President's Cup and featuring 127 LEC All-Academic qualifiers this past year (minimum 3.30 cumulative GPA and sophomore athletic status), seven Eastern programs — the most in the conference for the second straight year — won a Team Academic Award for having the highest GPA last year among the LEC's 20 championship sports. This year's total matched last year's total of seven team winners.

ALUMNUS, EASTERN SPORT

Erin Calkins, *women's lacrosse*
Allison Coleman, *women's basketball*
Arielle Cooper*, *softball*
Devyne Doran, *women's lacrosse*
Matt Esposito, *men's soccer*
Tyler Hundley, *men's basketball*
Brittany Hutchinson, *women's basketball*
Kevin Jaskiewicz, *baseball (men's basketball)*
Brian Leighton, *baseball*
Erin Miller, *softball*
John Natale, *men's soccer (women's soccer)*
Dave Nicholson, *men's track & field*
Nick Noheimer, *men's cross country/track & field (cross country)*
Diana Pepin, *softball*
Erika Profenno, *field hockey*
Molly Rathbun, *softball*
Jody Rogers, *women's volleyball*
Carrie Seymour, *women's basketball*
Ed Silva, *men's basketball*
Steve Trimper, *baseball*
Chris Wojick, *baseball (men's golf)*

INSTITUTION

Farmingdale State
The Sage Colleges
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Mitchell College
The Sage Colleges
Worcester State University
Endicott College
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Albertus Magnus College
Mitchell College
University of Hartford
Lindenwood University
University of New Haven
Eastern Connecticut State University
Keuka College
Trinity College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Pace University
University of New England
Stetson University
Eastern Connecticut State University

*Interim appointment

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Five individuals representing six sports who combined to lead their teams to 27 conference championships and 18 postseason tournament berths comprise the Eastern Athletics Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

The 27th Hall of Fame induction ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 16 at the University's Betty R. Tipton Room located in the Student Center. The 5 p.m. induction ceremony will take place after a 3:30 p.m. social and will be followed by a buffet meal.

The Class of 2021 includes **Patrick J. Ammendolia '03** (lacrosse) of Acton, MA; **Marianna (Capomolla) Linnehan '07** (volleyball) of Stamford; **Lori A. Franchina '95** (basketball/softball) of Falconer, NY; **David H. Nicholson '06** (track & field) of Windsor; and **Dwight Wildman '13** (baseball) of Seymour, who played from 2001-04.

For more information, visit <https://gowarriorathletics.com/sports/2020/5/21/hall-of-fame.aspx>.