

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19



DIVISION OF ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SERVICES
Department of Athletics & Recreation

Department Overview

The Department of Athletics and Recreation is responsible for the function of the intercollegiate athletic teams, intramurals, and the operation of the fitness center, natatorium, and outdoor athletic facilities.

Leadership

SUNY Fredonia Athletics saw two new assistant directors come on board in 2018-19. Angela Pucciarelli '09 was brought on board in August and fills the role of Assistant Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator. Long-time men's soccer coach, P.J. Gondek was promoted to Assistant Director of Athletics in September. Gondek leads purchasing and budget items in the department.

Student-Athlete Leadership Seminar

In the Fall of 2018, the Department of Athletics and Recreation initiated the Student-Athlete Leadership Seminar (SALS) in response to a perceived need, discovered during the 2017-18 academic year, for more leadership and co-curricular skills development.

The mission of the SALS program is to provide a collaborative leadership development program for student-athletes that will supplement their athletic and academic careers, and provide lifelong value. It will help student-athletes fully realize their roles within athletics, on the campus and in the community, and serve as a guide for them as they strive to reach their full potential academically, athletically, and personally.

Attendees filled out evaluations on the presentation at the conclusion of each seminar.

1. Speakers

- a. Dr. Kevin Murphy serves as the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Counseling at Elmira College. On December 3, 2018, Dr. Murphy came and gave a presentation entitled, "Leadership, Vision, and the Architecture Necessary for Sustainable Success." He spoke about decision-making and how goal setting was a

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*Jerry Fisk,
Director of Athletics & Recreation*

critical part of the process--how do you determine how to move forward if you don't know where you are going?

- i. The evaluations were very positive.
 1. Objectives and agenda were clearly communicated: 4.95
 2. Objectives were relevant to my learning: 4.87
 3. Activities helped clarify objectives: 4.91
 4. Activities matched my learning style: 4.83
 5. Stated objectives were met by presenter: 4.88
 6. I plan to use what I learned in the session: 4.91
- b. Dr. Charles Infurna came and spoke on February 17, 2019, facilitating a conversation around his presentation, "Illuminating Your Purpose: Aligning Your Values to Define Your Vision." He related to his experiences as a student-athlete at Fredonia and encouraged attendees to find their path.
 - i. Once again, the evaluations were very positive.
 1. Objectives and agenda were clearly communicated: 4.84
 2. Objectives were relevant to my learning: 4.95
 3. Activities helped clarify objectives: 4.68
 4. Activities matched my learning style: 4.63
 5. Stated objectives were met by presenter: 4.95
 6. I plan to use what I learned in the session: 4.95
- c. A presentation on mental health, centered around a Ted Talk delivered by USC women's volleyball student-athlete Victoria Garrick, was delivered on March 26. Each athletic team was given time to work through a series of questions designed to help them understand one another and design plans to move forward in a healthy manner.
 - i. The evaluation of this seminar was outstanding. When asked to raise their hand if they thought the seminar was useful and if they would support mental health being a primary focus for the foreseeable future, all but one hand went up (of approximately 225 attendees).

The FREDDYS



The Women's Basketball team won the Blue Devil Cup at the 2018-19 FREDDYS. The Cup recognizes the team with the greatest excellence in academics and athletics, and a commitment to community service.



The Department presented outgoing President Dr. Horvath a plaque recognizing her commitment to the University and to Blue Devil Athletics during her tenure.

List of Significant Achievements

1. Revision of Manuals
 - a. Based on a need for revised manuals, the administrative team rewrote the Coaches' Manual and the Student-Athlete Handbook. Both will be unveiled at the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year.
2. Drug Testing Program Initiated
 - a. The department created and was granted approval for the first drug testing protocol for Fredonia Athletics. This was accomplished under the leadership of Director of Sports Medicine Erik Barkley and Assistant Director of Athletics Angela Pucciarelli, in partnership with Drug Free Sport, the preeminent drug testing company in the country. The first drug testing will occur in August 2019.
3. Facility Improvements
 - a. Performance Center renovation
 - b. Dods Gymnasium upgraded for Blue Devil basketball and volleyball
 - c. New windscreen around tennis courts
4. Team success - More Blue Devil teams qualified for the postseason than any year since at least 2002-03, potentially the most ever. Women's Soccer, Women's Tennis, Women's Volleyball, Women's Basketball, Men's Ice Hockey, Softball, and Baseball all qualified for the SUNYAC playoffs. Additionally, the Softball team won the NCAA Division III National Team Statistical Champion plaque as the leader in double plays per game.
5. Student-Athlete Athletic and Academic Recognition
 - a. Cumulative GPA of student-athletes: 2.99 gpa with nine teams having a cumulative GPA over 3.0, five of those over 3.3
 - b. Four teams, Women's Volleyball, Men's and Women's Cross Country and Women's Swimming and Diving, all received recognition from the respective national bodies for team academic achievement.
 - c. Stephanie Wojnowski of women's cross country/track & field, won the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence. Baseball's Kevin Yirinec was a campus finalist for the same award.
 - d. Stephanie Wojnowski of women's cross country/track & field, Ethan Franics of men's cross country/track & field and Kevin Yirinec of baseball were recognized as the Scholar Athletes of the Year. Each graduated with a GPA of 3.93, or higher.

Celebrate Mondays



The hockey team greets students at Fredonia Elementary School.



The cheer team gives students at Dunkirk Elementary School #4 a warm welcome.

- e. 17 student-athletes were inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma, graduating with a 3.4 or higher gpa.
 - f. Luke Kuczewski, a pitcher on the baseball team, and Eric Bogart, a goalie on the men's ice hockey team, were named Co-Male Athletes of the Year. Jenna Einink, women's basketball, was selected Female Athlete of the Year.
 - g. All-American and All-SUNYAC recognition:
 - i. SUNYAC Champions
 1. Christian Krasnek, men's 3-meter springboard diving
 2. Nick Serafin, men's indoor high jump
 - ii. All-SUNYAC
 1. First Team: Lauren Cullinan (women's soccer), Ethan Francis (cross country), Christian Krasnek (diving), Luke Kuczewski (baseball), Nick Serafin (track & field).
 2. Second Team: Ayana Bursie (track & field), Anna Chiacchia (tennis), Hannah Kurbs (track & field), Karli Murray (softball), Olivia Miller (tennis), Russ Mistretta (baseball), Abby Price (women's soccer).
 3. Third Team: Rachel Aiello (volleyball), Robert Atwood (swimming & diving), Cameron Criss (swimming & diving), Jenna Einink (women's basketball), Kailey Falk (volleyball), Jonah McGrath (track & field), Drew Page (swimming & diving), McKayla Polowy (swimming & diving), SallyAnne Rudny (volleyball).
6. Community Service
- a. The Celebrate Mondays initiative expanded to include Dunkirk Elementary Schools this year. The initiative began in Fredonia Elementary School in January, 2018. Student-athletes welcome the elementary schoolers to school every Monday that the local districts and the University are open.
 - b. Luke Rivera, men's ice hockey, was a repeat finalist for the Hockey Humanitarian Award, an award given annually to recognize citizenship and celebrating someone who embodies the values that merit recognition. Luke was one of five finalists, and the only one from Division III.

Student-Athlete Leadership Seminar



Teams gathered in McEwen Hall to discuss mental health and ways to support one another during one SALS session.



Dr. Kevin Murphy, Director of Counseling Services at Elmira College, spoke to the student-athletes about decision-making during one SALS session.



Lunch with a Leader sessions were held throughout the year. Student-athletes could come and discuss any topic they chose with athletic administrators.

- c. Blue Devil teams completed more than 110 community service projects in 2018-19. Our teams combined to pay more than 70 visits to elementary schools in Dunkirk and Fredonia for Celebrate Mondays. Blue Devil teams volunteered with Special Olympics, the Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, and The Salvation Army. They helped senior citizens with work around their houses, cleaned up Lake Erie beaches, and spread holiday cheer to the less fortunate, among other volunteer projects.

Student-Athlete Assessments

Fredonia State Athletics conducts student-athlete assessments at the end of each season. Administrators and coaches review these anonymous surveys and utilize them as an important tool in evaluating the status of programs and for decision-making purposes. Approximately 255 student-athletes took the surveys this year.

A few departmental takeaways from the 2018-19 assessments:

- 67% of respondents stated that participating in varsity athletics has increased his or her self-confidence either a great deal or considerably.
- 75% of respondents stated that participating in varsity athletics has helped him or her develop leadership skills either a great deal or considerably.
- 78% of respondents stated that participating in varsity athletics has helped him or her develop skills to deal with adversity either a great deal or considerably.
- 79% of respondents stated that participating in varsity athletics has shown him or her the value of teamwork either a great deal or considerably.

Both the opinion of your sport at Fredonia and the student-athlete's overall experience participating in his or her sport in 2018-19 were up slightly from 2017-18. The percent that rated their opinion and experience excellent or good each went up two percent. The department will continue to monitor this data.

Blue Devil Performance Center



AD Jerry Fisk and Strength and Conditioning Coach Ryan Maloney tend to the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the Blue Devil Performance Center as SAAC Co-Presidents Emily Maguire and Ryan Dunn cut it to open the Performance Center in August of 2018.



Members of the hockey team lift as Strength and Conditioning Coach Ryan Maloney looks on.

Hall of Fame

Fredonia State Athletics inducted four individuals and five teams into the Athletic Hall of Fame in October, 2018.

Inducted as individuals were:

Sarah Ficarro, Women's Diving

Nicholas Guarino, Men's Track & Field/Cross Country

Jordan Oye, Men's Hockey

Reilly (Condidorio) Schwenebraten, Women's Soccer

Inducted into the first class of Teams of Distinction were:

1959 Men's Soccer

1972 Men's Soccer

1976-77 Men's Track & Field

1993-94 Men's Hockey

1994-95 Men's Hockey

Yearly Competitions

Fredonia State Athletics lost both the I-90 Cup and the Lake Erie Cup in 2018-19.

Baseball was bested by Penn State Behrend, sending the cup to Erie. Fredonia and Behrend have split the last six I-90 Cup battles.

Fredonia lost the Battle for Lake Erie for the first time in the competition's existence. The Lake Erie Cup is awarded to the school that claims more victories in all sports, head-to-head between Buffalo State and Fredonia.

SERIES HISTORY

2014-15: Fredonia 18, Buffalo State 14

2015-16: Fredonia 18.5, Buffalo State 13.5

2016-17: Fredonia 17.5, Buffalo State 14.5

2017-18: Fredonia 19, Buffalo State 13

2018-19: Buffalo State 19, Fredonia 14

Development of Learning Outcomes

One of the projects that the Department of Athletics spent significant time on during the 2018-19 year was the development of learning outcomes. The purpose of this work was to develop concrete outcomes, and the correlating tactics, measures and strategies to assure that our work ties back to the educational role of higher education. There were four core tenets that were the focus: personal development, interpersonal competencies, intercultural and global understanding and practice problem solving.

The learning outcomes for the Department of Athletics & Recreation are as follows:

1. Student-athletes who engage in programs provided by the department of athletics and recreation will be able to articulate how their co-curricular involvement integrates with their personal and career goals.
2. Student-athletes who engage in programs provided by the department of athletics and recreation will be able to manage their mental health and personal wellness.
3. Student-athletes who engage in programs provided by the department of athletics and recreation will be able to understand the cultures, customs, practices, struggles, and successes of individuals and groups around the world through constructive discourse and issues-based conversations.
4. Student-athletes who engage in programs provided by the department of athletics and recreation will be retained at a higher rate than the general student body, and will perform well academically to maintain their eligibility and help their team grow and succeed.

Let's Go Big Blue!!!

For information about

Blue Devil Athletics,

please visit our website:

www.Fredoniabluedevils.com

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