

SPORTS NEWS



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Men's Lacrosse

For Immediate Release: March 3, 2003 • Contact: David Berman

Bearcats split two games to start season

Binghamton opened its second varsity season on Wednesday afternoon with a 13-4 loss at Villanova. After being postponed several times due to inclement weather, the game was finally played on the University of Pennsylvania campus. The Bearcats trailed just 4-2 at halftime before the Wildcats pulled away in the second half. On Saturday, Binghamton defeated Lafayette 10-7 for the program's second-ever victory. After trailing 2-0 in the first quarter and 4-2 in the second quarter, the Bearcats knotted the game at 4-4 heading into intermission, and took an 8-5 lead with four goals in the third period.

"This was a real nice win for us," head coach Ed Stephenson said. "We played hard and made it tough for Lafayette to really get it going. Most importantly, we played at a faster speed and improved on the things that gave us problems in our first game."

Freshmen lead the way for Binghamton

The Bearcats gave a quick indication as to the success of head coach Ed Stephenson's recruiting efforts during the offseason, as all 14 of Binghamton's goals in the first two games were scored by freshmen. Attacker **Phil Cavallo (Cedarhurst, N.Y.)** had six goals, including a school-record five tallies against Lafayette.

"Phil capitalized on our offensive opportunities," Stephenson said. "He found soft spots in the defense when other guys were double-teamed, and he worked around the goalie until he could get a high percentage shot in the net."

Brian Thomas (Ithaca, N.Y.) scored two goals against Villanova and **Charlie Cook (Liverpool, N.Y.)** had one goal in each game. Attackers **Brian Chaapel (Penn Yan, N.Y.)** and **John Gaudet (Binghamton, N.Y.)** each scored a goal and tied for the team lead with three assists apiece. Also netting goals for the Bearcats were **Joe Vavala (Dewey Beach, Del.)** and **Scott Mitchell (Smithtown, N.Y.)**, who put home the game-winner against Lafayette. **Joe Conner (Ijamsville, Md.)** also had a strong game against Lafayette, contributing two assists.

McKeown and Skiadas share duties in goal

The preseason competition between freshman **Kevin McKeown (Brewster, N.Y.)** and junior transfer **Adam Skiadas (Binghamton, N.Y.)** has not yet been resolved after each played strong games during the week. McKeown played the entire game in goal against Villanova, and recorded 15 saves. Skiadas got the call against Lafayette, and responded with 10 saves. Six of those saves came in the second half, when Skiadas allowed just three goals.

This Week: Bearcats face nationally-ranked Hofstra

The Bearcats will face one of their toughest tests of the season on Tuesday night, with a 7:30 p.m. contest against Hofstra. The Flying Dutchmen were ranked 10th in the nation in the preseason rankings, and return 27 letterwinners from the squad that went 11-3 last season. Hofstra opened its season on Saturday with a 10-4 loss to 12th-ranked Loyola (Md.).

2003 Schedule/Results (1-1, 0-0 AE)

FEBRUARY

26 Wed. +@Villanova L 4-13

MARCH

1 Sat. ^@Lafayette W 10-7

4 Tue. @Hofstra 7:30 p.m.

12 Wed. *@Stony Brook 1 p.m.

22 Sat. *QUINNIPIAC 1 p.m.

29 Sat. *ALBANY 1 p.m.

APRIL

5 Sat. @Drexel 1 p.m.

9 Wed. WAGNER 4 p.m.

12 Sat. *VERMONT 1 p.m.

19 Sat. *HARTFORD noon

24 @Siena 4 p.m.

26 @Colgate 1 p.m.

30 America East Semifinals TBA

MAY

3 America East Champ. TBA

+ played at University of Pennsylvania

^ played at Lehigh University

* America East Conference game

Home games listed in **BOLD CAPS** and played at East Gym Complex