

## RESURRECTING ROMNEY

### ▶ ROMNEY GETS FACELIFT

Renovations to once-forgotten field house expected to begin in May and be ready for use by December (Page 10)

### ▶ COMMISSIONER RETIRING

SUNYAC's first commissioner, Patrick Damore, announces retirement at end of contract; helped build competitive conference (Page 5)

### ▶ CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Laker athletes give back to Oswego with various acts of community service (Page 15)

Provided by



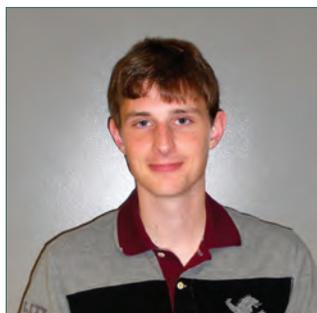
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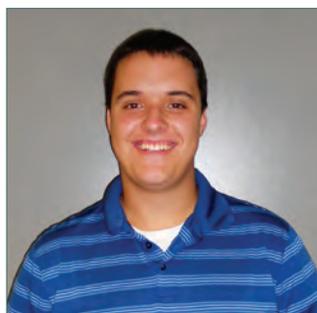
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# 2011-12 WINTER CAPSULES

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Record: 26-4 overall (16-0 SUNYAC)

Home: 17-1 Away: 9-3

The men's basketball team reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year, but saw its season end in a 70-69 double-overtime loss to Eastern Connecticut State at Max Ziel Gymnasium.

The Lakers won their first round game in thrilling fashion over Endicott College, 72-71, after trailing by as much as 14 in the second half. It was the team's second NCAA Tournament win in as many years.

Despite the loss to Eastern Connecticut State, the Lakers claimed their first SUNYAC Championship since 1965, defeating SUNY Cortland in the title game to earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Oswego State cruised through conference play, posting a

perfect 16-0 record.

The Lakers lost a pair of games to Division I Texas-Pan American and Medgar Evers College before winning their next 13 games to close out the regular season. Oswego State did not lose a regular season home game.

Senior forward Chad Burrige, senior guard Sean Michele, junior forward Hayden Ward and first-year head coach Jason Leone all received SUNYAC awards for their accomplishments during the season. Burrige was selected as SUNYAC Player of the Year for the second straight season, as well as being named to the First-Team All SUNYAC. Ward was also voted First Team All-SUNYAC. Michele was named Second-Team All SUNYAC and Leone was named SUNYAC Coach of the Year.



Photo by Jessica Bagdovitz

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Record: 12-14 overall (7-11 SUNYAC)

Home: 8-4 Away: 3-9 Neutral: 1-1



Photo by Jessica Bagdovitz

It was an up and down season for the women's basketball team, as its season ended at SUNY Oneonta in the SUNYAC Quarterfinal.

Following a season-opening loss to RIT, the Lakers won their annual Max Ziel Tournament, part of a six-game winning streak.

Oswego State finished third in the NYU New Year's Classic, defeating Framingham State College in the consolation game. The Lakers were 8-4 entering the second half of conference play.

The second half of the season proved to be a challenging one for the Lakers, as they won just four games over the final 13 regular season games.

The Lakers did defeat SUNY Fredonia in their final regular sea-

son game to clinch the sixth seed in the SUNYAC playoffs. Oswego State has qualified for the SUNYAC playoffs for the past three seasons.

Senior guard/forward Kayla Ryan led the team in scoring and rebounds, averaging 14.9 points per grab while grabbing 6.6 rebounds per game. Ryan was named All-SUNYAC Second Team.

Junior guard/forward Megan Stover finished second on the team in scoring, averaging 9.2 points per game. Stover and Ryan were the only two players to start all 26 games.

The Lakers will return the majority of the roster next season, as this year's team featured only two seniors.

# 2011-12 WINTER CAPSULES

## Men's Ice Hockey

24-4-2 overall (14-0-2 SUNYAC)  
Home: 14-2-1 Away: 9-1-1 Neutral: 1-1

The men's ice hockey team came just 60 minutes from capturing its second national championship, falling to St. Norbert in the title game at Lake Placid, N.Y.

The Lakers played one of the most exciting games of the season against Amherst College, defeating the Lord Jeffs, 2-1, in overtime on junior forward Paul Rodrigues' game-winner.

Oswego State dominated the SUNYAC, winning the regular season title with a 14-0-2, with ties coming against Morrisville State College and SUNY Plattsburgh. The Lakers lost their only game against a conference opponent in the SUNYAC Final against Plattsburgh.

The Laker offense ranked

third in Division III, scoring 4.47 goals per game. Junior forward and assistant captain Jon Whitelaw led the offense with 41 points on 19 goals and 22 assists. Whitelaw finished sixth in Division III scoring.

The defense was just as good, finishing third in Division III, allowing just 1.80 goals per game. Junior goaltender Andrew Hare filled in for the injured Paul Beckwith, recording 21 victories with a 1.75 goals against average and a .931 save percentage.

Although the freshmen class did not see much ice time this season, one bright spot was Chris Carr, who led the team in freshmen scoring with seven points on one goal and six assists.



Photo by Jessica Bagdovitz

## Women's Ice Hockey

11-14-2 overall (8-8-2 ECAC West)  
Home: 4-8-1 Away: 7-5-1 Neutral: 0-1-0



Photo by Marie A. Halpin

The women's ice hockey team made history this season, posting its first playoff win in the program's short existence. The Lakers defeated Neumann University, 3-0, in the first round of the ECAC West playoffs and advanced to their first ever ECAC West Semifinals.

Although the Lakers were unable to knock off a nationally-ranked team like they did the prior season, Oswego State made plenty of buzz around the Division III community.

After a slow start to the season that saw the Lakers 2-5-2 after their first nine games, Oswego State won five of its next

six games.

Plattsburgh continued to be a thorn in the side of the Lakers, as they lost all three meetings with the Cardinals this year in shutouts, including a 1-0 loss in the ECAC West Semifinals that ended the team's season.

The rivalry between Oswego State and RIT reached a new extreme this season with the two teams getting into an all-out brawl at the end of the two teams' final meeting of the year.

Freshman goaltender Bridget Smith played both playoff games for the Lakers and allowed just one goal, making a combined 51 saves in the process.

# DAMORE BIDS FAREWELL AFTER 33 YEARS

*SUNYAC commissioner  
announces plans to retire on  
June 30.*

by **Mike Kraft**



Chartered in 1958, the SUNYAC has served as one of the most well-rounded conferences in Division III athletics, boasts 35 NCAA Championship trophies. Aside from the continued success of the athletic programs within the conference, the SUNYAC has been led by a consistent face for the past 33 years.

Patrick R. Damore has served as the SUNYAC commissioner since 1979 and has overseen 592 SUNYAC Champions, the last being SUNY Plattsburgh in men's ice hockey. But on Feb. 29, Damore announced his plans to retire when his current contract runs out on June 30, saying that he believe it's the right time to call it a career.

"We're in a position now to move ahead with the NCAA," Damore said. "It's the right time. We're on top. Conference is in good shape."

Damore, an Oswego native, enrolled at The College of Brockport for his undergraduate studies, earning his bachelor's degree in health and physical education. He went on to St. Lawrence University to earn his master's degree in secondary school administration. Damore completed his schooling at Oklahoma University, earning his doctorate in higher education.

Before serving as commissioner, or even being involved within the conference's front office, Damore became an assistant professor at SUNY Fredonia in 1956, two years before the SUNYAC was chartered. While at Fredonia, Damore started the university's first soccer team in 1959 and developed and implemented the first national collegiate soccer rating system. Damore continued to coach soccer for nine years while also coaching basketball for four years and tennis for 12 years. He also served as the university's athletic director from 1968-1985.

Prior to his time at Fredonia, Damore served in the United States Navy and was on active duty during the Korean conflict, which began in June 1950. Damore spent 36 years in the Naval Reserve before retiring in 1983. He received the Naval Commendation Medal upon his retirement for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service.

"Pat has instilled the highest standards in everyone he has come in contact with and that has made SUNYAC one of the great Division III conferences in the country," said Oswego State Athletic Director Tim Hale in a statement. "We can't thank Pat enough for his long time leadership of our conference."

Damore was appointed as the first and, so far, only commissioner of the SUNYAC in 1979, but didn't start acting in the full-time capacity until 1985 when he stepped down as Fredonia's athletic director. As of



Photo Provided by Sports Information

## Notable SUNYAC Moments Under Damore's Commission

- **1983-** Women's Sports Programs Were Established
- **1986-** University at Buffalo leaves SUNYAC to reclassify to Division I
- **1991-** SUNYIT joins SUNYAC as the conference's 13th team
- **1995-** Both University at Albany and Binghamton University leave SUNYAC to reclassify to Division I.
- **1996-97-** Established Women's Lacrosse
- **1999-2000-** Reinstated Men's Lacrosse
- **2000-01-** Reinstated Field Hockey
- **2006-** Morrisville joins SUNYAC as affiliate member
- **2008-** SUNYIT leaves SUNYAC

1979, the SUNYAC had 13 members. Aside from the 10 teams that are still part of the conference today, the University at Buffalo, Binghamton University and the University at Albany also made up the conference. Buffalo joined the conference the year before Damore was named commissioner but left eight years later in 1986, joining the East Coast Conference while reclassifying to Division I and the Mid-American Conference. Both Albany and Binghamton left the conference in 1995, moving to the New England Collegiate Conference while reclassifying to Division I and the American East Conference. Despite losing three full-time members, the SUNYAC did pick up another team in 1991 with the addition of SUNYIT. Only recently, in 2008, did SUNYIT leave to join the North Eastern Athletic Conference. Morrisville State College became an affiliate member in 2006, but only for men's ice hockey and field lacrosse. The rest of Morrisville's athletic programs compete in the North Eastern Athletic Conference. Damore does not see the SUNYAC gaining any

# CONFERENCE MEMBERS



**School:** Oswego State  
**Nickname:** Lakers  
**Member Since:** 1958  
**Founded:** 1861  
**National Championships:** 1



**School:** Buffalo State  
**Nickname:** Bengals  
**Member Since:** 1958  
**Founded:** 1871  
**National Championships:** 0



**School:** Morrisville \*  
**Nickname:** Mustangs  
**Member Since:** 2006  
**Founded:** 1908  
**National Championships:** 0



**School:** Brockport  
**Nickname:** Golden Eagles  
**Member Since:** 1958  
**Founded:** 1867  
**National Championships:** 7



**School:** New Paltz  
**Nickname:** Hawks  
**Member Since:** 1958  
**Founded:** 1828  
**National Championships:** 0



**School:** Cortland  
**Nickname:** Red Dragons  
**Member Since:** 1958  
**Founded:** 1863  
**National Championships:** 19



**School:** Oneonta  
**Nickname:** Red Dragons  
**Member Since:** 1958  
**Founded:** 1889  
**National Championships:** 1



**School:** Fredonia  
**Nickname:** Blue Devils  
**Member Since:** 1959  
**Founded:** 1826  
**National Championships:** 0



**School:** Plattsburgh  
**Nickname:** Cardinals  
**Member Since:** 1958  
**Founded:** 1889  
**National Championships:** 3



**School:** Geneseo  
**Nickname:** Knights  
**Member Since:** 1959  
**Founded:** 1871  
**National Championships:** 1



**School:** Potsdam  
**Nickname:** Bears  
**Member Since:** 1958  
**Founded:** 1889  
**National Championships:** 2

\* Denotes Affiliate Member

and enjoy them all."

Damore helped to establish women's lacrosse within the conference in 1996-97, while reinstating men's lacrosse in 1999-2000 and field hockey in 2000-01.

"We didn't have enough teams for women's lacrosse until we picked up our seventh team," Damore said. "We always had women's lacrosse but we didn't have enough teams to have an automatic qualifier into the NCAA Tournament."

Besides serving as the SUNYAC commissioner, Damore has also served as the president of the NCAA Division II and III College Division Commissioners Association and also the Intercollegiate Soccer Association of America.

His achievements haven't gone unnoticed, as he has been awarded the NCAA Division III Commissioner's Association Meritorious Service Award, the SUNYAC Distinguished Service Award, the Bill Jeffries Award for his contributions to national collegiate soccer and the ECAC James Lynah Award for distinguished achievement. He is also a member of The College at Brockport Athletics Hall of Fame, the National Association of College Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame, the Fredonia Athletics Hall of Fame and, recently, the Chautauqua County Sports Hall of Fame.

"It's great to be selected by your colleagues and to be selected to be a member of the hall of fame," Damore said.

Twenty-nine SUNYAC teams have won a national championship during his tenure, but Damore stays away from attending NCAA Tournament games.

He is more proud of the fact that the conference's student-athletes have been named Capital One academic All-Americans, Woman of the Year finalists and Regional and National athletes of the year.

"It's very rewarding to watch these students come in as freshmen and grow from there and mature and to receive their awards," Damore said.

His main goal as commissioner was maintain the conference and help it grow, and with 10 full-time programs and one affiliate, Damore has more than supplanted his legacy on the SUNYAC and Division III. ■

new members at the current time, saying it could take another four or five years before they consider a new member.

"I knew the conference was going to grow," Damore said. "I'm really amazed at the amount of growth we have due to the coaches and administrators and student-athletes working together. They've done a great job."

One of the first major happenings under Damore took place in 1983 when he coordinated the addition of women's sports programs, which came exactly

25 years after the conference was chartered. Today there are 11 women's sports offered in SUNYAC competition (cross country, soccer, field hockey, tennis, basketball, indoor track and field, swimming and diving, softball, lacrosse and outdoor track). There are nine sports offered for men (cross country, soccer, basketball, ice hockey, indoor track and field, swimming and diving, baseball, lacrosse and outdoor track). Damore said that he didn't have a favorite sporting event to attend.

"I enjoy them all," he said. "I try to stay neutral

# SEARCHING FOR JUST THE RIGHT COACH

*Multiple interviews, background checks among hiring process for potential Oswego State coaches*

by **Collin Leadbeater**



Hiring a coach is one of the most crucial aspects of building a collegiate athletic program. In larger sports, such as Division I football or basketball, the search for a new head coach is always public and surrounded by fanfare. ESPN's "SportsCenter" spends a good amount of time analyzing possible candidates and how they could be a fit for a certain team.

But what about smaller, Division III schools such as Oswego State? The university has three head coaches who have either completed or are entering their first season at the helm of their respective teams.

Men's basketball head coach Jason Leone finished his first year with the Lakers by taking the team to the NCAA tournament. David Thompson and Scott Landers have begun their inaugural seasons as the leaders of the track and field and baseball teams, respectively. Oswego State recently hired J.J. O'Connell as the new volleyball head coach.

Oswego State has a standard procedure when it comes to hiring coaches, which is the general one used by the university, according to Athletic Director Tim Hale.

"The college has a plan, and that's pretty much the same plan if it was an English professor or almost anybody being hired by the university," Hale said.

Hale said the plan includes coming up with a job description and advertising the position nationally through the NCAA job listings, SUNYAC website, local newspapers and various coaching journals.

After the job has been advertised and applications have been submitted, a search committee is formed to help determine the best candidates and aid the university in its decision. The committee is made up of at least two other coaches and two professors as well as other university officials, Hale said.

"We try to get representation from diverse areas of the college," he said.

Hale said the main thing the search committee is looking for when interviewing candidates is what their plan is for the program they may be running.

"Key for athletics is talking about recruiting plan," he said. "How are they going to sell the college? It's one thing to tell a high school student 'We're going to have a great basketball team or a great volleyball team.' There's got to be more than that."

Throughout his interview process, Leone liked what he saw from Oswego State's administration and the direction it wanted to take the men's basketball program.

"I was very impressed with the administration, my superiors, Tim Hale and Dr. Joe Grant," he said. "I was impressed with everything

Ed Gosek



Photo by Bill Portoghese

- Hired as head coach of men's ice hockey team before the 2003-04 season
- 187-51-16 in nine seasons
- 2007 National Championship
- 2-time SUNYAC Coach of the Year
- 2007 Division III Coach of the Year

Brian McGrane



Photo by Bill Portoghese

- Hired as head coach of women's soccer team before the 2007 season
- 36-49-5 record in five seasons
- Won ECAC Championship in 2011
- 11 wins in 2011 most since 2000

in regards to the administration.”

Leone also said he believed Oswego State did a good job in stating what it was looking for in its next men’s basketball coach throughout the interview process.

“[The interview] was geared toward finding out which candidate would be the best fit based on what the school was looking for in this position,” Leone said. “It was a very fair process.”

Players are also included in the selection process, as Leone said two players from the men’s basketball team were included on the search committee that interviewed him for the head coaching position.

Current players also spend time with the candidates during their time on campus throughout the interview process, going with them to lunch and getting a feel as to how they would fit the program.

Along with current players, Hale said candidates meet with a wide range of university officials during their official visit to campus.

“[Candidates] with have an hour session with me, and an hour session with the search committee,” Hale said. “We will set aside an hour for anybody in the athletic department to meet with them, and

usually they’ll meet with perhaps the dean of students or someone of that level...When all that’s done, we ask each group to provide input.”

Hale said that each group will then usually make a recommendation to him, and from that he will make a recommendation to the university. Before an official hire can be made, the university must wait until all background checks have been completed and reviewed.

“There are a lot of checks and balances as you go through the process,” Hale said.

Once the coach has been selected for the position he or she interviewed for, the university and the coach need to negotiate a contract. That process, Hale said, varies in length.

“If it’s something that happens during the school year, it can usually be very quick because everybody’s here and everybody’s working,” he said. “If it happens over the summer, or during Christmas break, the process can be a little bit slower because key people who need to sign off on things may not be here...The attempt is to get it through the process as quickly as possible.” ■

Head Coach*	Sport (Years as Head Coach**)	Record** (Win %)	First Season's Record
Bob Friske 	Men's Soccer (7)	46-71-9 (40.1%)	5-13-1 (28.9%)
Brian McGrane 	Women's Soccer (5)	36-49-5 (42.8%)	6-10-2 (38.9%)
Brandi Lusk 	Field Hockey (4)	22-42 (34.4%)	4-12 (25.0%)
Jason Leone 	Men's Basketball (1)	26-4 (86.7%)	26-4 (86.7%)
Ed Gosek 	Men's Hockey (9)	187-51-16 (76.8%)	19-9-3 (66.1%)
Diane Dillon 	Women's Hockey (6)	54-85-11 (39.7%)	7-12-3 (38.6%)
Tracy Bruno 	Women's Basketball (5)	62-69 (47.3%)	15-12 (56.2%)
Mike Howard 	Wrestling (23)	137-223-5 (38.2%)	N/A
Ryan Martin 	Men's Lacrosse (1)	5-10 (33.3%)	5-10 (33.3%)
Brandi Lusk 	Women's Lacrosse (3)	24-24 (50.0%)	9-8 (52.9%)
Erin Skaradek 	Women's Tennis (3)	6-35 (14.6%)	3-9 (25.0%)
Casey Price 	Softball (1)	7-27 (20.6%)	7-27 (20.6%)

\*Baseball and Volleyball coaches not included because both coaches have not completed a full season

\*\*Record and Years as head coach does not take into account the beginning of the 2012 spring sports

# A WINTER FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

*Men's and women's ice hockey, men's basketball have standout seasons*

by **Mike Kraft**



## MEN'S ICE HOCKEY



Photo by Bill Portoghese

### RECORDS SET

- 54 goals allowed (breaks record of 56 goals allowed set during the 2006-07 season)
- Andrew Hare- 1.75 goals against average (breaks Ryan Scott's record of 1.99 goals against average set in 2006-07 season)
- 14-0-2 SUNYAC record (best conference record in program history)

\*Not all records are listed due to space restrictions

## MEN'S BASKETBALL



Photo provided by Sports Information

### RECORDS SET

- 18-0 SUNYAC record (first undefeated season in conference play in program history)
- 26 wins (breaks record of 25 wins set in 2004-05 season)
- 17 home wins (breaks record of 15 home wins set in the 2004-05 season)

## WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY



Photo by Jessica Bagdovitz

### RECORDS SET

- 10 goals scored in one game (breaks record of eight goals scored set in 2006-07 season)
- Fourth place in ECAC West standings (best finish in program history)
- Won first ever home playoff game

# RENOVATING ROMNEY

*Indoor track, artificial turf among facility's new makeover*

by **Gwen Girsdanksy**



**S**ome Oswego State track and field athletes boast shirts reading, "Undeclared at Home Since 1978." It helps that they haven't had a home meet since 1978. But that will be changing in the upcoming years, as the old airplane hanger that Oswego now calls Romney Field House is getting an approximate \$2 million renovation. The updates are set to include a brand-new rubber track and interior Astroturf field.

"We were looking for a track that would be the best training facility that we could have," Athletic Director Tim Hale said. "The reality of almost all your facilities is that 90 percent of your time on them is spent training and really only a very small part of the time competing."

This will allow all field sports to use the facility. The track and field athletes will have a safe training facility and possibly host a meet for the first time in three decades. The tennis team's practices and matches will no longer be canceled 20 percent of the time due to poor weather conditions.

Currently, Romney is dark and dusty with most of the floor cement. The cement, from the days Romney served as the hockey arena for the men's ice hockey team, has made training difficult at best for the track and field athletes.

"It's not very fun to run on that kind of surface," said freshman sprinter Dominick Vitali. "Sometimes we have puzzle piece plastic things, rubber, they try to put down so it's decent, but it's not good. It throws you off a bit."

Sprinters, like Vitali, have to slow down and change their stride due to the cement and extremely sharp corners.

"I have a shorter stride, so it's a little easier for me, since I'm physically smaller," said junior co-captain Ben Sweet. "But for sprinters, where it is all about your form and it's all about the burst of energy. It's different when you're trying to sprint all-out on pavement, than on a track so it's tougher on them."

But having a less-than-ideal facility does come with its perks for the athletes.

"In a way, it's like you can kinda look at it as something that makes you even better because you know that you have to deal with something so inadequate and that you have to train with something so bad that you almost become better from it," junior co-captain Thorin Kane said. "Other people don't have to deal with that, they live their

cushioned training lifestyles and that makes it easier for them. In a way, it's not all bad. But as far as health hazards go, it's awful."

Sweet said that the trick is to make sure you're taking care of yourself: doing the proper warm ups, going to the trainers for an ice bath, slowing down as necessary and making sure to do all the extra things.

"Romney really gets the best of you if you don't take care of yourself," Sweet said.

The bid for construction will go out in mid-April, Associate Vice President for Facilities Tom Simmonds said. The project will cost approximately \$2 million from the Educational Use Capital Plan,

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**"It's not very fun to run on that kind of surface. Sometimes we have puzzle piece plastic things, rubber, they try to put down so it's decent, but it's not good. It throws you off a bit."**

-Dominick Vitali, Freshman Track & Field



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which is funding many of the other construction projects on campus. The plan is slated to start over the summer and take an estimated six to nine months to complete, but that will not be definite until the bid is placed.

Inside, there will be a four-lane 200-meter rubber track. The full 200-meter track is rare in collegiate sports because many are 176 or 186 meters, which shifts where a race ends and makes relays particularly tricky because the team is staggered where they start and finish.

There will be three wider lanes on the west side, by the outside track, for the hurdles. Indoor jumping pits will also be installed.

"I know that it will be a lot more accommodating for the field events, because it will have jumping pits and we don't really have any of that right now," said freshman mid-distance runner Barbara Scheibel.

For long and triple jumpers, this means they never complete a jump until the day of competition because they do not have a sand pit or someplace safe to land in Romney. Sometimes, jumpers will

# PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION TO ROMNEY (ARTIST RENDITION)



Images provided by Tom Simmonds

# PROPOSED INSIDE TO ROMNEY



use high jump or pole vault mats to jump onto, but that decreases the distance they are able to travel and influences the way they land.

The new facilities will allow for Oswego State to host a track meet for the first time in over 30 years.

"We won't be able to host a big meet," Hale said. "We would probably be able to host a dual meet."

However, it would still give Oswego State students a chance to see their track and field athletes in action and competing.

**"It's hard to really run a good program if you didn't have the facilities. Our hockey team wouldn't be any good if we didn't have the arena, I can guarantee that."**



-Tim Hale, Oswego State Athletic Director

"We're going to host a meet, which will bring in income for the track team and it's going to just really change the face of what Oswego [State] track represents," Sweet said.

Hale also hopes that the track will be open to the community at certain times of the day. People often go to malls or other indoor tracks to walk for exercise in the early mornings, especially during rough Oswego winters. This would be someplace local and safe for community members to walk.

The ends of the building will be spruced up. The translucent panels will serve a few purposes. It will let natural light in, which will save energy from a lighting standpoint, however will not let in direct rays of sunlight. The ends of the barrel shape have new metal siding, which will be the school colors of green and gold to welcome in guests.

As the guests enter, there will be a formal entry where they can take off street shoes and put on athletic wear before entering the track or Astroturf.

"If you look at the size of this infield with Astroturf, we have very few of our competing institutions that can say they have this," Hale said.

On the inside, Astroturf will be installed which will be used for all outdoor field events like lacrosse, field hockey, baseball, softball, soccer and tennis. The Astroturf will have permanent tennis court lines as well as nets for baseball and softball practice.

"We are going to put down permanent lines for tennis courts," Hale said. "Our tennis teams right now if it's bad weather day they have to cancel practice. That is a sport that you can not practice with bad weather. They are at the mercy of the weather."

Hale said that up to 20 percent of the tennis practices are canceled, which has a negative impact on the team because they are unable to train as much. Then a lot of the time is spent rescheduling the 20 percent of the matches that are postponed, because dates have to work with all schools and new transportation has to be arranged.

With the indoor facility, practices and matches will not have to be canceled again. They might take a bit longer because Romney will only have four courts instead of the six that are outside, but it is faster than rescheduling.

The other positive aspect is that it will help recruiting for not only the track and field team, but also every other field sport.

Hale said that coaches have already been telling prospective students about the renovations that will be made to Romney and it is already beginning to attract athletes.

"It's hard to really run a good program if you didn't have the facilities," Hale said. "Our hockey team wouldn't be any good if we didn't have the arena, I can guarantee that." ■

# ROMNEY BY THE NUMBERS

14

All-Americans

39

Intercollegiate seasons

42

Years Romney served as a field house

9

Goals scored against SUNY Potsdam in final home game

2

Olympians- Pete Sears '71 and Oswego native Erik Cole

2

Trips to the NCAA National Championship Game (1991 and 2003)

32

Winning seasons for the men's ice hockey team while playing home games at Romney

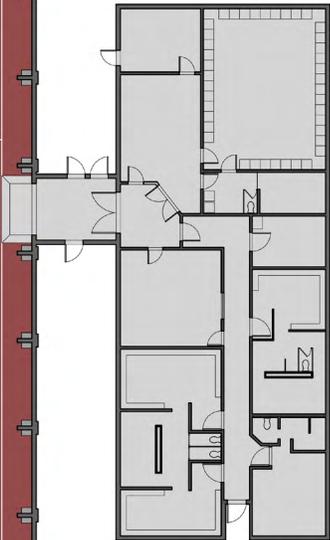
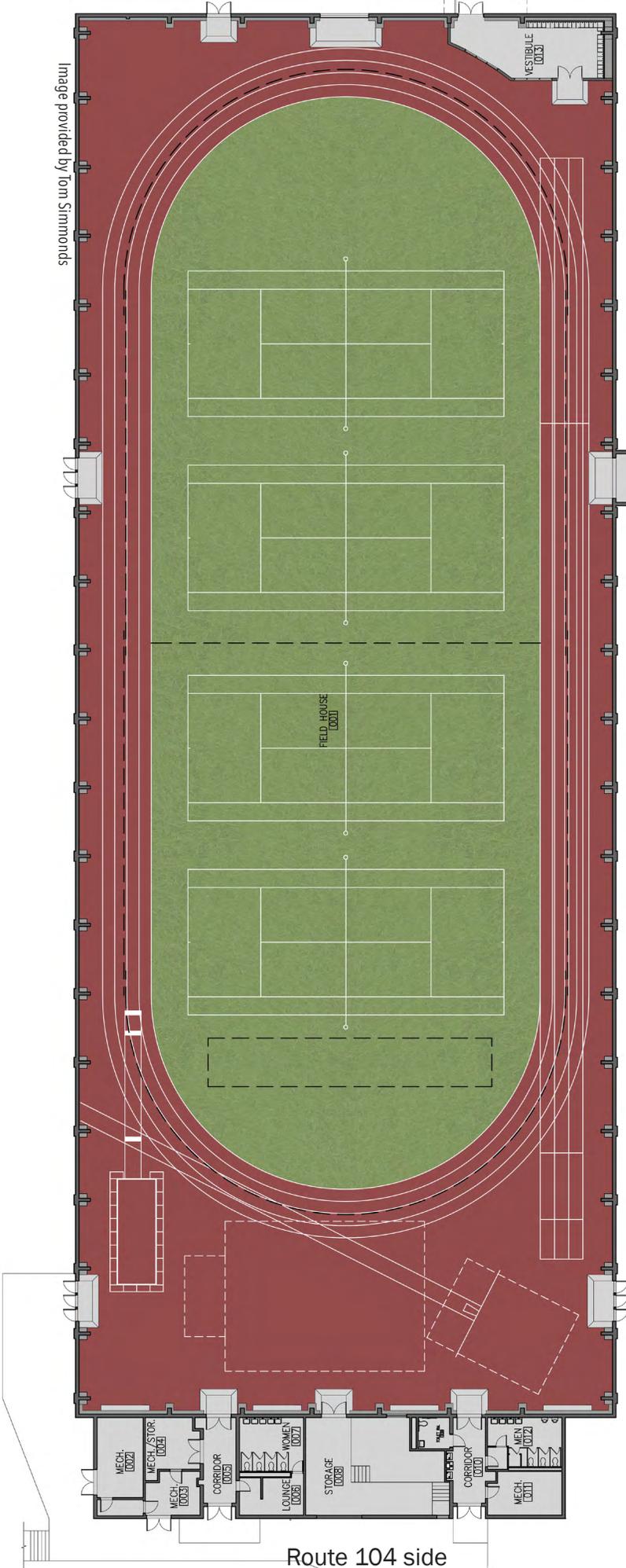
2,200

Fire Code Capacity

*\*Statistics taken from 2006 article on Romney's history*

# PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN INSIDE ROMNEY

Image provided by Tom Simmonds



Total cost for Romney Renovation Plan:  
**\$2 Million**

Four lane, 200-meter track for Track and Field teams.

Four tennis courts for indoor practices and matches.

Astroturf for lacrosse, field hockey, baseball, soccer, softball and tennis.

Translucent panels will let in natural light, saving on energy costs.

# LENDING A HELPING HAND TO THE COMMUNITY

*Community Service initiative creates strong bond between Oswego State student-athletes and the city of Oswego*

by **Aimee Hirsch**



At Oswego State being a Laker athlete is not just about playing a sport. Every student-athlete who takes the ice, court, pool or field also participates in community service events throughout the year.

"It's part of the entire college's mission that we not view ourselves as this little island all by ourselves but as part of part of the larger Oswego community," Athletic Director Tim Hale said. "As a result it makes sense for us to buy into that approach."

Athletes from every sport participate in 32 different events, benefiting 23 organizations, over the course of the year. While some events, such as St. Baldrick's, are designed to raise money for an organization, many events serve to help out the community. With nearly 500 Division III athletes at Oswego State, there are plenty of people available to participate in a range of community service projects.

"It's a lot of people and if you can activate them and get them involved, not necessarily all in one cause, but if you can get 50 of them to do this and 100 of them to do that and 20 of them to do something else you can get things done," said Dan Witmer, community service coordinator for the athletic department.

In addition to helping the community, doing service projects is something athletes enjoy doing as a team.

"As a team I think we do enjoy doing community service together," said Kathryn Sbrocchi, senior captain of the women's ice hockey team. "When we look back at past experiences of doing community service, I think we can all agree that it was a positive experience."

While student-athletes have always been participating in community service, the number of events and level of organization has increased dramatically in the past few years.

Witmer, who served as the men's lacrosse head coach for 28 years, moved to the position of community service coordinator for the athletic department two years ago. This move provided all sports with an organizer who could help keep track of all the events in which teams participate.

"Dan has really provided a structure to what we do that has been really needed," Hale said. "He's willing and able to organize, plan, support [coaches] in any way they need to be supported in the efforts that they do and make sure that they get recognized for it."

This year the Oswego State athletic department was recognized for its community service efforts. The department received the Award of Merit for the Jostens/National Association Division III Athletic Administrators Community Service Award. The award was in the "array of projects" category for the department's community service efforts during the 2010-11 year.

"[The award] sends a very powerful message to our coaches that the work we're doing is good and to our student athletes that the work they do is really appreciated and recognized," Hale said.

According to Hale the award of merit is the second highest award available, and Oswego State was one of only four Division III schools to receive it. Now Witmer says he will strive to win it again.

"I'm pleased with the recognition we've gotten in the past and it's definitely a goal for the future," Witmer said. "This is my goal. I want to be able to say we won another award. It's nice to receive that recognition."

Receiving the award in the "array of projects" category seems fitting since student-athletes do many different types of projects that benefit many different organizations. Community service events benefit both local and national organizations, including United Way, the American Cancer Society and the Oswego YMCA.

This year the athletic department partnered with Special Olympics, who the NCAA recommended as an organization for Division III schools to support, for a number of events.

"In the past we really hadn't reached out to that group," Witmer said. "Now that we have created a relationship with them my hope is that we will continue to do that stuff with them."

Witmer said working with the Special Olympics has been a mutually beneficial experience.

"The Special Olympic athletes love the attention, love the cheering and the encouragement that our student-athletes give," Witmer said. "Even the organizers say 'gosh it's great to have so many people.' It means so much to the Special Olympic athletes and the organizers, the families to see the student athletes just giving back. There's nothing in it for them except gratification and a smile."

An event that benefits the local community and takes place every year is the annual leaf raking event. For the past seven years, student-athletes from each one of Oswego State's 24 athletic teams set out to rake leaves on the lawns of approximately 50 senior citizens in Oswego.

"It is amazing how unbelievable helpful this is to them and how positively they feel about it," Hale said. "There's people who come out with trays of cookies for the kids. I've had a couple of them actually, in talking to me, cry and tell me that if wasn't done by our kids no one would do it... It's a very close connection and I think that's one of the best projects we do each year."

Women's hockey coach Diane Dillon, who helps coordinate the event, said seeing the results of the day of leaf raking makes the planning worthwhile.

"It's a ton of work but it's very gratifying," Dillon said. "I drive around the next afternoon or the next day and look at all the bags of leaves piled up; they're everywhere."

This event and others geared toward benefiting the local community are just one way Laker athletes can give back to the city that supports them.

"It's just great community relations," Witmer said. "Our athletes expect to some degree the community to come out and cheer for them. Well this is their chance to do something for the community."

In addition to helping out, an event like that gives each team a bonding experience.

"Team bonding is an excellent way to create chemistry within our team. Sharing in the experiences that come from community service helps us to relate to something outside of our sport," Sbrocchi said. "At the beginning of the year we did a 5k run for a blood disease charity. We finished the whole race together as a team. It was really something that brought us together."

"As a former coach I think there's a lot to be said for just the team bonding,"



Photo provided by Sports Information

# 2010-11 Community Service Highlights

- ▶ Received the Award of Merit for the Jostens/National Association Division III Athletic Administrators Community Service Award in the category of "Array of Projects."
- ▶ Collectively raised over \$42,000 and participated in nearly 20 separate events.
- ▶ Annual St. Baldricks event raised over \$29,000 and members of the men's tennis, hockey, lacrosse and soccer shaved their heads.
- ▶ Saves for a Cure held on Jan. 8, 2011, raised over \$3,650 for the Saves for a Cure, Inc.
- ▶ The Laker volleyball team hosted a co-ed tournament open to the general public on Nov. 21, 2010, that raised more than \$1,550 for two local cancer patients. Canned foods were collected as well and donated to the Catholics Charities Food Pantry of Fulton.
- ▶ "Takedown Cancer," a wrestling meet against Ithaca College on Dec. 11, 2010, raised over \$1,500, which all went to the Adam Frey Foundation.
- ▶ Dig Pink volleyball match against SUNYIT on Oct. 19, 2010, raised approximately \$1,150 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

# St. Baldrick's 2012 Student-Athlete Participants

Student-Athlete	Money Raised
Ian O'Brien 	\$265
Tom Gropp 	\$145
Eric Miccio 	\$50
Kyle Wistner 	\$100
Ron Mckay 	\$500
Bobby Horan 	\$5
Jason K. 	\$465
Matt Singleton 	\$337
Dillon Corbett 	\$50
Brian Tosti 	\$150
Connor Rhodes 	\$15
Andrew G. 	\$100



Photo provided by Sports Information

Witmer said. "It may not mean the difference between second place and first place in your conference but it just helps you bond with your teammates it helps you develop that common experience and I think that's a great reason to do it. In addition to that you're helping out the community."

Other events during the year that serve solely to benefit the community include clinics held by the men's basketball team, a big sister program held by the women's hockey team, helping at YMCA events by the cross country teams and reading to elementary school children by the men's basketball team.

While there are many events such as these without a dollar amount attached at the end, there are many events that serve to raise money for various causes.

Many sports hold annual cancer awareness games including the field hockey team, women's ice hockey team, men's lacrosse team and women's basketball team. These events have raised around \$3,000 for four different organizations.

The biggest money raising event is by far St. Baldrick's, which benefits finding a cure for childhood cancer. Held each March, St. Baldrick's began at Oswego State in 2007 when an alumnus of the men's lacrosse team suggested it to Witmer. In its first year the event raised \$11,000, a number that is only increasing. Last year St. Baldrick's raised \$28,000 and this year it is \$52,675 and counting.

This year 23 student-athletes participated in the event by shaving their heads. Anyone from the community can be a shavee and once they pledge to participate people can start donating money in their name.

The 23 Laker athlete participants from five different teams (men's lacrosse, men's hockey, men's tennis, men's soccer and men's track and field) raised \$2,184 on their own.

The event raised almost \$50,000 from other community members, but it still serves as one of the best ways athletes can make a difference.

"In my mind this is the best example of community service in that we've got firemen, Oswego City Police, state police, county sheriffs, Oswego County high school administrators, kids from Mexico, kids from Hannibal, they're all coming to our campus for this event," Witmer said.

There are many benefits to doing community service and with so many student-athletes at Oswego State a big difference can be made in the community.

"Community service is definitely an important part of a college athlete's experience," Sbrocchi said. "It gets them out into the community and really shows them how something small can make such a big difference."

"In addition to the good will, in addition to the money that we raise it makes a personal connection between our athletes and people in the community and that may be the most beneficial part," Hale said.

Division III sports are about competition but they are also about growing as members of the community, something that has not been forgotten at Oswego State.

"It sounds a little corny but we're trying to create people who are going to contribute to society," Witmer said. "I think most of these kids enjoy doing this type of stuff so chances are good that they're going to get involved again." ■

# LAKERS PRIDE

*Coaches, players show that life is much more than just a game*

by **Gina Clawson**

## Samantha Reimer

### *Women's Ice Hockey*

Freshman defender Samantha Reimer was born in Canada, and did not move to the United States until she was recruited to play ice hockey for Oswego State. That was this past fall. Though she played hockey at her high school and for Ridley College in Ontario, Reimer said the differences are endless.

"I'm at the rink every day now," she said. "It's a lot more intense."

Reimer is one of 19 Canadians on the hockey team. Being a part of that familiar group is one of a few things that she said makes missing home easier. Home was where she learned to play hockey.

"My dad put me in skates as soon as he could," Reimer said.

The sport grew in popularity as she grew up, but Reimer knows that college is the end of her playing career.

"For women, college is as far as hockey can go," she said. "I would definitely love to be a high school teacher and coach a sport."

Reimer has wanted to teach since she was a freshman in high school. She is a French education major. She found out she had a passion for French after she visited Montreal during the summers of 2009 and 2010. She went with mission groups of about 15 people for three weeks each summer. While she was there she was able to reach out to many different people who were hopeless and searching for answers and direction. One of those people included a homeless woman that she met while running up and down the steps of a cathedral for her morning workout.

"I probably wouldn't be in Oswego studying French if I didn't go there," Reimer said. "That trip made me more outgoing and able to take risks."

Since her visits to Montreal, Reimer has had a Bible reference on her hockey stick to encourage herself to stay focused on the positive. It is 1 Corinthians 9:24-27: "Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we do it to receive an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified."

Reimer said the verse helps her stay positive about everything on and off the rink.



### *Reimer's Biography*

- Born in Beamsville, ONT.
- Freshman Defender: Women's Ice Hockey
- French Education Major
- Went on mission trips to Montreal in 2009, 2010
- Lives by the Bible verse 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- Played for Ridley College before coming to Oswego
- Won two showcase tournament silver medals with Ridley College
- Played in 13 games this season with Lakers

# Chris Gilkes

## Men's Basketball

One of two junior captains of the Oswego State men's basketball team, forward Chris Gilkes is an active leader in community service. The team rakes leaves for elderly people every fall semester, but Gilkes is involved in much more. Gilkes helps out at the Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church, giving away free lunches every Wednesday. He also participated as a coach for the Oswego Basketball Camp during the past two summers.

Six days before his graduation from George W. Fowler High School, Gilkes had a son. He named the baby after himself, and now enjoys when the two-year-old can come watch him play.

"All he says is 'ball' when he comes to the games," Gilkes said. "It's cute."

After living in Syracuse for eight years, he enrolled at Oswego State for college. Gilkes has a double major in philosophy and psychology and a minor in Forensic Science. Gilkes said he hopes to study criminology.

"If that doesn't work out, I want to become a counselor at my old high school," Gilkes said. "Things were good when I went there, but now they don't have very good teachers. No one really cares about the students."

Gilkes already has an impressive amount of experience with kids. In 2010 he coached for the Hillbrook College Summer Camp, an overnight basketball camp for children between the ages of 10 and 12.

"I bonded with these kids so quickly," Gilkes said. "It was great watching them play."

He remembers a playoff game that team played in. They were down 10 points when Gilkes called a timeout with 2:16 left in the game.

"I said 'just go out there, have fun and play,'" Gilkes said. "They went back out there and scored another eight points. After the game, they all dropped and started crying. I said 'I'm still proud, even though you didn't win.'"

Parents approached him with gratitude after the week was over.

"That really touched me," Gilkes said. "We put a lot of passion and excitement into that week."

As for now, Gilkes is still pouring passion and excitement into basketball. The Oswego State basketball team is doing better than it has in a long time, capturing its first SUNYAC title since 1965 and appearing in its second consecutive NCAA Tournament.

"We grew up from last year," Gilkes said. "Our chemistry is through the roof now. Everyone accepted their roles at the beginning of the season and everyone is continuing to fulfill their roles."

Even though he is only 6 feet 1 inch tall, Gilkes stands tall on the court, proud of what he contributes to the game.



## Gilkes' Biography

- Lives in Syracuse, N.Y.
- Junior Forward: Men's Basketball
- Philosophy and Psychology Major, Forensic Science Minor
- Coached HillBrook College Summer Camp in 2010
- Has a 2-year-old son named Chris
- Assists at Bellegrove Missionary Baptist Church every Wednesday
- Averaged 9.5 points per game and 3.7 rebounds

Natasha Yeates had been meaning to go on a mission's trip when she was invited by a group of doctors from Collingwood, ONT, to visit the Dominican Republic for a week. The volunteer women's ice hockey assistant coach was able to use the skills she acquired as a nurse to help the impoverished people.

"A lot of kids had fungal infections because they don't have clean drinking water," Yeates said. "They also had intestinal parasites."

The cultural differences were surprising to Yeates as she stepped off the truck each day.

"The kids there just wanted to be loved," she said.

Besides relieving starving children from their hunger in the villages, Yeates also visited a prison.

"It was a tiny room with two tiny cells, with about 55 people in each one," she said. "They were sitting on top of each other. We treated their skin infections."

Even though their situation was precarious, Yeates found the people in the villages, and even in the prison, to be surprisingly gracious.

"If I was in a situation with no food for days on end, I would save everything people gave me for myself," she said. "But they brought it back and divided it up for everyone. Even in the prison, they passed all the food to the back, and made sure everybody had some."

Yeates works full-time as a nurse at Upstate Hospital in Syracuse while working toward her master's degree at SUNYIT.

# Natasha Yeates

## Women's Ice Hockey Asst. Coach



## Yeates' Biography

- Born in Collingwood, ONT
- Works as full-time nurse at Upstate Hospital
- Visited the Dominican Republic on a mission trip
- Currently earning master's degree at SUNYIT
- Second year as volunteer assistant coach for women's ice hockey team
- Played four years with Elmira College, appearing in two Frozen Fours and one Championship Game
- Finished playing career with 19 points on 10 goals and nine assists

# Jessica Felice

## Field Hockey

Junior midfielder Jessica Felice is a childhood education major at Oswego State and is also on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee while serving as a co-captain on the women's field hockey team.

During the 2011 winter break, Felice shadowed teachers of special education groups. Since high school, she has enjoyed working with the Special Olympics.

"It's fun watching them participate in events," Felice said. "I help and encourage the athletes and run events. I think that my experience with Special Olympics has led me to see what athletics can do for someone, no matter who that individual is."

Felice plans on working with disabled athletes in the future.

"I will always try to be an active volunteer for Special Olympics," she said. "I have a coaching minor degree, and if I have teams of my own someday I think it would be a great experience to get my teams involved, too."

Coaching a team and exposing them to new experiences with the Special Olympics are not Felice's only plans for the future.

"I have plans to go to Guatemala to visit the children my family sponsors before I get a permanent teaching position," she said.

Felice also plans on attending graduate school at Binghamton University after she graduates from Oswego State in 2013.



## Felice's Biography

- Born in Endicott, N.Y.
- Junior Midfielder: Field Hockey
- Childhood Education Major
- Student Athlete Advisory Committee Member
- Volunteers for Special Olympics
- Recorded three goals and three assists in career



## Neadle's Biography

- Born in Easton, Penn.
- Junior Attacker: Men's Club Lacrosse
- History and creative writing double major
- Member of ZBT
- Coached lacrosse camp in Becket, Mass. for past two summers

# Ian Neadle

## Men's Club Lacrosse

Ian Neadle, an attacker for the Oswego State men's club lacrosse team, did not always have a great relationship with sports. When he was younger, he couldn't find the drive for any other sport.

"I always wanted to play football," Neadle said. "But I was afraid of the full-on contact involved."

It was in middle school that Neadle discovered lacrosse. He continued playing throughout his four years at Easton Area High School, though it was a struggle.

"The coach ran practice like the Marines," Neadle said. "He was so mean."

The struggle paid off. Even though he had to lift weights in the gym year-round, being on the team was exactly what he needed.

"I always used to be the fat, chubby kid," he said. "But lacrosse changed that."

Because of that change, Neadle was able to coach at a sports camp in Becket, Mass., during the past two summers for kids between the ages of six and 16. Neadle encouraged them all to try new sports.

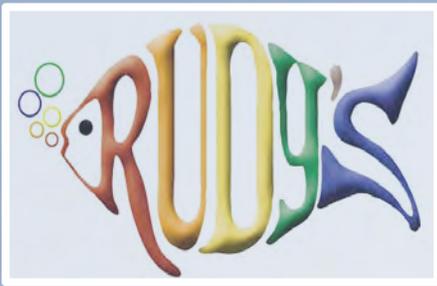
"My favorite part of coaching was talking advanced lacrosse with the older kids," he said. "They were so talented. The 12- and 13-year-olds performed at a high school level."

According to Neadle, he might consider teaching someday. He was able to teach the children at the camp a few things, despite the level of talent they displayed.

"I wanted to instill ideals and ethics in the kids," Neadle said. "I wanted to inspire them—to teach them to work for what they want."

Neadle is currently studying history and creative writing at Oswego State while being actively involved in Greek life as a member of ZBT.

The Oswego State men's lacrosse club team is looking for eight wins this season, out of about 10 to 12 games.



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