



# Husky Headlines

Official Newsletter of the USM Athletic Association

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Winter 2003-2004

## Field Hockey Wins Conference Title; Participates in NCAA Championship

The 2003 USM Field Hockey team was determined. They were on a mission to prove to themselves and everyone else that they were worthy of a conference championship. Each day, they practiced as hard and as intense as any team could, preparing themselves for competition.

Going into the Little East Conference tournament, the Huskies had compiled a record of 14-5. At 8-2 in conference play, USM was seeded 3rd in the 7-team tournament.

The Huskies' first round opponent was Framingham State. Sophomore Kayla Vaughan (Monroe, Maine) netted a pair of goals and the Huskies coasted to a 6-0 triumph over the sixth-seeded Rams.

The second round of the tournament saw USM facing conference rival, Plymouth State. The Huskies scored twice in the opening ten minutes and made the lead stand up for a 2-1 victory over the second-seeded and three-time defending champion Plymouth State University Panthers.

Under the direction of head coach Bonny Brown-Denico, Southern Maine advanced to its first NCAA tournament berth since 1992, and fifth all-time, by winning the Little East Conference title, defeating Keene State College 3-1 in the championship game played at Keene, NH. Adding to

Middlebury, VT, to play defending NCAA Division III national champion Rowan University in a second round game of the 2003 NCAA Division III Field Hockey National Championship. With the score tied at 1-1, Rowan scored the game-winning goal with five minutes left in the second overtime, and picked up a 2-1 victory over the University of Southern Maine.

Although the season ended sooner than everyone had hoped, the Huskies still have a lot to be proud of. As a team, the Huskies won a school record 17 games against only six losses this season. They also had six all-conference players.

Ironically, those six all-conference players, Deedra Boudreau (Camden, Maine), Sarah Dolley (Oakland, Maine), Renee Heath, Darci Holland (Buckfield, Maine), Amy Ouellette (Jay, Maine), and Jessie Superchi (Campton, NH), were also the six seniors on

USM's field hockey squad. Together, they compiled a 4-year record of 57-34, with four consecutive conference tournament appearances, and two trips to the ECAC tournament.



Photo by Noelle Neuwirth

USM's senior captain Renee Heath (white jersey) maneuvers around a Keene State College defender during a 2003 regular season contest.

the excitement of the day, USM's Renee Heath (Brunswick, ME) was honored as the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

USM got a bye in the first round of the NCAA tournament, and traveled to

## USM Adopts New Logo

In response to two years of research and development, the University of Southern Maine has begun to implement a new plan to more effectively market its programs and community involvement. The goal of the plan is to better emphasize three key components of the University: 1) Intellectual challenge and professional development for

students, 2) Research, and 3) Leadership.

Along with this plan came a new University logo. The logo (right) has three columns, representing the three campuses of the University of Southern Maine (Gorham, Portland, and Lewiston-Auburn). The columns also represent the three arms of USM's mission statement.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

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## From the Athletic Director:

Al Bean



*The 2004 NCAA Convention will take place in Nashville from January 9th-13th. This year's convention is sure to produce great debate among the membership of more than 400 institutions and conferences in Division III. There is some critical legislation on the table for Division III to consider and decide upon.*

*With the on-going quest of "leveling the playing field", the Division III Presidents Council and Management Council have come forward with a reform package for the membership to consider. Key pieces of legislation include the following: reducing the length of the playing season from 21 weeks to 18 weeks in the fall and 19 weeks in the winter and spring; a 10% reduction in the number of contests in every sport; the elimination of all competition in the non-traditional season; and the elimination of "red shirting" in Division III. In addition, another proposal calls for the creation of an annual electronic audit of institutional financial aid, (comparing packages for freshman and transfer student-athletes with those of non-athletes).*

*Division III has long claimed the diversity of the Division as one its greatest strength. In recent years, Division III, comprised of 80% private and 20% public institutions, seems to be struggling with a number of critical issues.*

*Two books, The Game of Life and Reclaiming the Game, have brought unusual attention to Division III, albeit a small segment of the membership. The stakes could be high at this year's convention; be sure to follow the dialogue if you can.*

## 113 Earn USM Scholar-Athlete Award

The Department of Athletics at the University of Southern Maine honored 113 student-athletes on Sunday, October 26, with the William B. Wise Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2002-2003 academic year. The Wise Award recipients were honored at a reception and dinner at the Kenneth Brooks Student Center on USM's Gorham campus.

The 113 award winners represent 29.0% of the 376 individuals that comprised the 24 varsity athletic and cheering squads in 2002-03. During the 2002-03 academic year, the 113 individuals met the criteria to receive the Wise Scholar-Athlete Award. The criteria includes each individual compiling a minimum 3.00 cumulative grade point average for the fall and spring semesters, be a full-time student both semesters, and that they utilized one season of eligibility as a member of a varsity team or the cheering squad.

Among the 113 award winners were 32 student-athletes who competed in more than one season, including seven that competed

in all three seasons.

Since the Wise Scholar-Athlete Award program began in 1987-88, a total of 992 awards have been presented. In addition to the six five-time winners and 32 four-time winners, there have been 70 three-time winners, 134 two-time recipients and 386 single winners.



*Jessica Libby (left) receives her 4th Wise Scholar-Athlete Award from USM Vice President for the Division of Student and University Life, Craig Hutchinson.*



*Al Bean (left) and USM President Richard Pattenau (middle) thank Dave Early (right) for his contribution to the creation of USM's new baseball stadium during the complex's dedication ceremony on September 20, 2003.*

## Husky Headlines Volume 1A, Number 4

Husky Headlines is the official newsletter of the University of Southern Maine Athletic Department. It is produced by the Athletic Department four times a year. Its mission is to convey news and information about USM varsity athletics and athletic alumni. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please contact us by calling (207)228-8588 or e-mailing us at [athleticss@usm.maine.edu](mailto:athleticss@usm.maine.edu). The editors and contributors to Husky Headlines will make every effort to ensure that only accurate information is published.

## Superchi Honored as NFHCA All-American

USM senior field hockey goalie Jessie Superchi (Campton, NH) has had an amazing fall sports season. During the campaign, Jessie was selected to be in the October 20, 2003 edition of *Sports Illustrated* for her streak of 363 scoreless minutes over five games.

This fall, Superchi played every minute of every game for the Huskies, recorded 176 saves, 10 shutouts (a career best), and had a 0.97 goals against average. She was also a five-time Little East Conference Defensive Player of the Week.

Superchi was also selected as the Defensive Player of the Year in the Little East Conference. She is the second USM player to receive a Player of the Year award joining Sasha Ilkovich who was named Player of the Year in 2001. Jessie was also named to the All-Little East Conference first team for 2003.

At the conclusion of the season, Superchi and teammate Deedra Boudreau (Camden, Maine) were selected to play in the NFHCA All-Star Game to be played at the Division III Final Four on Nov 21-22 at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA.

Superchi was also honored with a spot on the 2003 STX/NFHCA Division III All-Region First Team from the New England West Region, along with senior teammate Renee Heath (Brunswick, Maine). Deedra Boudreau was named to the second team.

Finally, to top off her long list of honors, Superchi was selected as a Second Team NFHCA All-American.

"Jessie is very deserving of these honors," offered head coach Bonny Brown-Denico about her standout goalkeeper. "She is an extremely talented athlete who has worked very hard to become a better goalie."

Brown-Denico also added that "[Superchi] is a very humble person who never takes credit for her accomplishments. She always likes to give the credit to her teammates. Every game she plays, she gets better and better. She makes extraordinary saves look easy and impossible saves possible."



Photo by Noelle Neuwirth

University of Southern Maine senior goalkeeper Jessie Superchi waits to make a save during 2003 LEC tournament play. Superchi was named to the NFHCA All-America Second Team for her outstanding play this season.

## Fifield Wins 400th

On November 25, 2003, the USM women's basketball team defeated the Bates College Bobcats 84-61 in a non-conference matchup. The win was the 400th in the 17-year collegiate coaching career for USM head coach Gary Fifield.

Fifield, who came to USM in 1987, upped his career record to 400-72 (.847 W-L pct.) with the victory. The University of Vermont graduate has led the Huskies to 20-or-more wins in each of his first 16 seasons, and the last seven Little East Conference championships.



Photo by Noelle Neuwirth

Gary Fifield celebrates with the 2003-04 basketball team after his 400th collegiate win.

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Runners line up at the start line for the NCAA New England Cross Country Regional Championship. The USM men's and women's cross country teams hosted the event on Saturday, November 15, at the Twin Brook Recreation Center in Cumberland, ME.

## Karl Henrikson Named Men's Basketball Coach



Karl Henrikson

Karl Henrikson, former men's basketball coach at the University of Maine at Presque Isle and post-graduate boys' coach at Maine Central Institute, has been named the new head men's basketball coach at the University of Southern Maine. The 47-year-old Henrikson becomes the university's 15th men's basketball coach, succeeding Dan Costigan who resigned from the position in August after seven seasons to pursue a private business opportunity with the newly created Hancock Sports Academy.

Southern Maine, 4-21 overall and 3-11 in the Little East Conference last season, now has two wins and five losses (0-1 in conference play) in the 2003-04 campaign under the direction of Henrikson

"It is a true pleasure to return to the University of Southern Maine after 25 years. I welcome the opportunity to guide the program to the level of success that it enjoyed in the (late 1980's and early 1990's," said Henrikson referencing the era when the Huskies made four straight NCAA tournament appearances. "Our immediate goal is to compete in every game we play and challenge for the Little East Conference title. Our long term goal is to have an impact at the national level," added Henrikson.

When USM Athletic Director, Al Bean, was asked to comment on Henrikson's hiring, he said, "Karl has a wealth of experience as an educator and coach and will be a tremendous addition to our staff."

## Husky Honor Roll Women's Cross Country

### All-Conference

Lauren Lohmeyer, Sr. (Portland, ME)  
Andrea Newton, Fr. (Berlin, ME)

## Field Hockey

### NFHCA All-America Second Team

Jessie Superchi, Sr., Goalie (Campton, NH)

### STX/NFHCA Division III All-Region First Team

Renee Heath, Sr., Forward (Brunswick, ME)

Jessie Superchi, Sr., Goalie (Campton, NH)

### STX/NFHCA Division III All-Region Second Team

Deedra Boudreau, Sr., Midfield (Camden, ME)

### LEC Defensive Player of the Year

Jessie Superchi, Sr., Goalie (Campton, NH)

### First Team All-Conference

Deedra Boudreau, Sr., Midfield (Camden, ME)

Renee Heath, Sr., Forward (Brunswick, ME)

Jessie Superchi, Sr., Goalie (Campton, NH)

### Second Team All-Conference

Sarah Dolley, Sr., Forward (Oakland, ME)

Darci Holland, Sr., Midfield (Buckfield, ME)

Amy Ouellette, Sr., Back (Jay, ME)

## Women's Soccer

### First Team All-Conference

Molly Tanguay, Sr., Midfield (Yarmouth, ME)

### Second Team All-Conference

Eva Hanson, So, Forward (Warner, NH)

## Volleyball

### First Team All-Conference

Meghan Bristol, Jr., Defensive Specialist (Fairfield, CT)

### Second Team All-Conference

Amanda Starkey, So., Outside Hitter (Center Barnstead, NH)

### Coach of the Year

John Razsa (1st Season)