



**Division of Enrollment & Student Services**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**  
**AT FREDONIA**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Department of Athletics and Recreation**  
**2020 - 2021**

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# Welcome to Athletics & Recreation Annual Report

## 2020-2021 Departmental Report

Our Annual Report summarizes the work by Athletics & Recreation providing a narrative of the work guided by strategic goals and objectives to carry out our mission on behalf of SUNY Fredonia Students.

### *Athletics and Recreation*

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

#### Leadership

Fredonia State Athletic Administration, consisting of Director of Athletics Jerry Fisk, Assistant Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator Angela Pucciarelli Rice '09, and Assistant Director of Athletics P.J. Gondek saw no changes in leadership during the 2020-21 academic year.

#### New Staff Members

Sean Smiley began his first season as the Head Coach of the Men's Basketball team in the fall of 2020.

#### The Year in Review

2020-21 was a mixed year. On February 23, 2021 the SUNYAC announced a return to sport. The ability to compete and hold contests was a great step in the direction of normalcy. However, that return did not look the same for each of our teams. While the spring sports returned to competition, each had a reduced schedule of games which was conference-centric. Most fall sports enjoyed a day of competition after 4-6 weeks of practice. All teams returned to the Performance Center and practiced.

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### 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 an identified need -- discovered during the 2017-18 academic year -- for more leadership and co-curricular skills development.

There were no SALS events during the 2020-21 academic year. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee was surveyed and based upon that information there were no events. In lieu of events, there was a significant effort to ensure that student-athletes were aware of the support available to them, both academically and mental health related.

### The FREDDYS Remain Virtual

The move to distance education and telecommuting necessitated a format change for the annual end-of-year celebration for the 2019-20 year. The FREDDYS remained virtual for the 2020-21 academic year as we highlighted both team and individual successes.

### Team Success

Blue Devil spring teams held contests and enjoyed the return to competition. Softball missed out on the playoffs on a tiebreaker after finishing with a 9-7 record in SUNYAC play. The men's and women's track and field teams had several student-athletes qualify for regionals.

### Student-Athlete Athletic and Academic Recognition

Women's cross country won the team academic award with a team grade-point average (GPA) of 3.73. Women's volleyball was second at 3.63, and women's track & field third at 3.61. Overall, 14 of 17 teams had a GPA of 3.0 or higher and eight of those were above a 3.3.

The SUNYAC Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll included 137 Blue Devils. The Academic Honor Roll encompasses all student-athletes who contributed to an athletic team and have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 through the spring semester.

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25 Blue Devils were recognized for their academic excellence and inducted into the Chi Alpha Sigma honor society. The award recognizes seniors that have a cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher while being a contributing member of a Blue Devil team.

Fredonia State's 2021 Chi Alpha Sigma inductees are:

- Morgan Ashton of Women's Cross Country and Track & Field -- majors: Psychology, Criminal Justice; minor: Sociology.
- Emma Booth of Women's Volleyball -- majors: Mathematics, Mathematics Education; minor: Statistics.
- Sarah Bunk of Women's Tennis -- major: Music Education.
- Jane Chiacchia of Women's Tennis -- majors: Mathematics, Exercise Science.
- Lynda Croft of Women's Soccer -- major: Psychology; minor: Athletic Coaching.
- Lauren Cullinan of Women's Soccer -- major: Biology; minors: Psychology, Chemistry.
- Matthew Erman of Men's Cross Country and Track & Field -- majors: Music Education, Jazz Studies.
- Julia Green of Cheerleading -- major: Business Administration-Marketing.
- Riley Gustafson of Cheerleading -- major: Business Administration-Marketing.
- Madeline Haney of Women's Lacrosse -- major: Mathematics-Middle Childhood Certification.
- MacKenzie Hamer of Women's Basketball -- major: Communication Disorders & Sciences.
- MaryClaire Haseley of Women's Cross Country and Track & Field -- major: Molecular Genetics.
- Samuel Johnson of Men's Soccer - major: Criminal Justice.
- Emily Leone of Women's Volleyball -- major: Medical Technology.
- Taylor Marelli of Women's Tennis -- major: Biology.
- Sydney Merkley of Softball -- major: Molecular Genetics; minor: Psychology.
- Abbey Monahan of Women's Soccer and Women's Basketball -- major: Early Childhood-Childhood Education.
- Julia Nicolosi of Women's Lacrosse -- major: Communication Disorders & Sciences; minor: Spanish.
- Kaitlin Patt of Women's Volleyball -- majors: Mathematics, Secondary Education Math; minor: Statistics.

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- Erin Pratt of Women's Soccer -- majors: Applied Mathematics, Computer Science.
  - Alyssa Piniewski of Softball -- major: Childhood Inclusive Education.
  - Amber Piniewski of Softball -- major: Childhood Inclusive Education.
  - Allison Price of Cheerleading -- majors: Public Accountancy, Business Finance.
  - Jessica Schimek of Women's Swimming & Diving -- majors: Chemistry, Visual Arts & New Media.
  - Sam Wagner of Men's Soccer -- major: Finance.

Eleanor Clarke of women's track & field and Jane Chiacchia of women's tennis both won the SUNYAC Elite 20 Award for Academic Excellence. The Elite 20 Award goes to the championship participant with the highest grade-point average. Chiacchia was also named 2021 SUNYAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year in women's tennis, as was sophomore Collin Barmore in men's outdoor track and field.

Erin Pratt of women's soccer, Matt Erman of men's cross country and track & field, and Sam Wagner of men's soccer were recognized as the Fredonia State Scholar Athletes of the Year for having the highest GPA among all qualifying senior student-athletes.

Katie Yudin, a graduate student on the softball team, was selected Female Athlete of the Year. Toby Onuoha, a sophomore sprinter/jumper on the men's track and field team, was named Male Athlete of the Year.

FREDDYS' videos and winner announcements are available on the athletics website.

#### All America and All SUNYAC recognition

##### **Regional All America**

Katie Yudin, a pitcher/utility player, was selected third-team all-region by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

##### **All SUNYAC**

First Team: Katie Yudin (softball), Collin Barmore (men's outdoor, track & field 800m)

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Second Team: Nicole Kumro (softball), TyeRyan Burke, Topher Elkins, Collin Barmore, Toby Onuoha (men's outdoor track & field, 1600m relay), Eleanor Clarke (women's outdoor track & field, javelin)

Third Team: Toby Onuoha (men's outdoor track & field, high jump), Topher Elkins, Toby Onuoha, Tyler Miller, TyeRyan Burke (men's outdoor track & field, 400m relay)

The 35th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day was held virtually February 1-4. Fredonia State head coaches and student-athletes took to Instagram Live to lead discussions centered around mental health, recruiting, the student-athlete experience and transitioning from high school to college. The sessions were fantastic and really showcased our talented Blue Devil student-athletes.

Division III Week is an annual celebration of what it means to be a Division III student-athlete that concludes with National Student-Athlete Day. April 5-11, 2021 was the week designated for recognition of our student-athletes. Social media posts on Twitter and Instagram, segments to highlight alumni and a campus cleanup were all pieces of the week. National Student-Athlete Day saw all student-athletes receive a complimentary t-shirt to reward their efforts and commemorate the week.

### Student-Athlete Assessments

Fredonia State Athletics conducts student-athlete assessments at the end of each season. Administrators and coaches review the surveys and use them to evaluate each program. The assessments are also used for decision-making purposes.

Approximately 169 student-athletes took the anonymous surveys in 2020-21. Here are some takeaways:

- 72% of respondents stated that participating in varsity athletics has increased their self-confidence either a great deal or considerably.
- 80% of respondents stated that their coach displays good or excellent sensitivity to their feelings and problems.
- 88% of respondents stated that their coach displays good or excellent ability to communicate clear objectives and expectations.
- 100% of respondents stated that their coach communicated and enforced COVID policies and expectations within their teams.

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2020-21 was an interesting year, with few opportunities for athletic assessment to take place. The focus of this year's assessment was COVID protocols and communications, and the coaches' ability to communicate and work within those guidelines with their teams. It is our intention to move back to a more comprehensive overview of Fredonia State Athletics, individual sport feedback, and co-curricular opportunities for growth in 2021-22.

### Hall of Fame

The pandemic has, again, forced the postponement of the Fredonia State Athletics Class of 2020 Hall of Fame induction (five individuals, three Teams of Distinction). The date for the bi-annual ceremony will be announced at a later date.

The following will be Inducted as individuals:

Jordan Basile '09, baseball

Matt Borchard '06, men's soccer

Sarah Hite-Moore '05, women's track and field

Walt Hubbard '93, men's basketball

Greg Prechtl '68, coach and administrator

The following will be Inducted as Teams of Distinction:

1981 Men's Cross Country

1985 & 1986 Men's Soccer

1992-93 Men's Basketball

### Yearly Competitions

The battle for the Lake Erie Cup, head-to-head between Buffalo State and Fredonia. was not held this year due to the limited number of contests.

The I-90 Cup -- an annual baseball competition between Fredonia State and Penn State Behrend -- was contested. By virtue of the Blue Devils 13-4 victory on April 14, the I-90 Cup is back in Fredonia.

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## Learning Outcomes

Beginning in 2018-19, the Department of Athletics developed a list of concrete Learning Outcomes -- and correlating tactics, measures, and strategies -- to assure that our work ties back to the educational role of higher education.

We focused on four tenets: personal development, interpersonal competence, intercultural and global understanding, and practical problem-solving. The Department has continued to evaluate, assess, and use the Learning Outcomes to help drive strategic decision-making.

The Learning Outcomes are as follows:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## In Memoriam--The Passing of Two Blue Devil Legends

We lost two giants in the history of Fredonia State Athletics this year. Dr. Everett Phillips and Dr. Pat Damore both passed away. They are both fundamental to the University and Department of Athletics at Fredonia State and will be greatly missed.