

“FROM THE RANCH”

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE MEN’S SOCCER PROGRAM



FEBRUARY 2017 • VOL. 7, NO. 1 • LEWISBURG, PA 17837

A NOTE FROM HEAD COACH BRENDAN NASH



Dear Bison Alumni & Friends:

I hope everyone one is having a happy and healthy 2017. It has been quite some time since we have sent out a newsletter. Quite a few reasons for that, but I would still like to review some things as well as bring everyone up to speed for our spring events.

I would like to start by looking back on the 2016 season. It is really tough to put into words the type of season we went through. We had some significant injuries, some tough losses, some lucky wins and yet we were just 2:31 away from playing in the championship game. When preseason first started I was

not very optimistic about the upcoming season. Some guys came in with injuries, some were out of shape and we had graduated a special senior class. After we blew a 2-0 lead to Manhattan and lost 3-2 in our first scrimmage I met with our staff afterwards. I told them before each season I try to put realistic expectations on where we should fall in the Patriot League. Unfortunately, we were a 10th place team. As a staff we were going to have to work hard to push this group to overachieve. We needed to have strong game plans, push the team beyond its limits and figure out how to get into the playoffs.

Well, in true Bison form we scratched and clawed our way into the playoffs on the last day of the regular season. This led to a tough trip to Boston for a Tuesday night game. After winning in PK’s (that is in support of Bob Bradley!) we returned to campus at 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning. Thursday we then headed to DC for an early kickoff with regular season champion American. It was a perfect day for November soccer. Early on the Bison had control and I turned to the staff and said, “Good! The boys are ready to fight!” We eventually took a 1-0 lead and it would stay that way into halftime. The second half was a different story. Between a fatigued Bison team and a rested, desperate, senior laden #1 seed we were on our heels. During the last ten minutes it became obvious it was going to be a race against the clock. Could the Bison hold off the Eagles or would they be able to tie it up? Unfortunately, with 2:31 left the Eagles scored a very nice goal. This would lead to overtime and double overtime, where the Eagles scored the golden goal to advance to the championship.

On the drive home our staff talked about the weird feeling afterwards. Everyone knows I am competitive and feel we should compete for the PL title every year. After being just 2:31 away from the championship game you would think it would have crushed our spirits. Yet, it was the opposite. We reflected on how hard the team worked, how Zack Rockmore led a defense that had three different rookie starting goalies during the year, how a handful of freshmen stepped up and showed us we will continue to compete in the future. Plus, of course, Seb Blickman, playing forward for the first time in his career, scored 11 goals and carried the team on his back many games. Though a seven win season is nothing to brag about, this team created memories for the rest of their lives.

Of course as we close one chapter we must start creating the next one. The spring semester has started and the returning Bison are working to get better. Between 6:00 a.m. lifting, cold winter nights in CMMS and brutal fitness in Davis Gym they are becoming part of the tradition of hard work. We will not start playing until late March, but I know the team will be fit for the first game. Recruiting is also moving along. We will be announcing our recruiting class as soon as we put the finishing touches on it in February. Our staff will be on the road looking for future Bison all spring. We plan to travel to

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GOLF OUTING & ALUMNI WEEKEND APRIL 21st-22nd

Join the Men’s Soccer Team for its 11th annual alumni and friends golf outing. This year’s outing will be on Friday, April 21st at the Bucknell Golf Club. All are invited to participate in what promises to be a great day of golf.

Bring your “A, B, or C” game for plenty of chances to win great prizes. Don’t forget, all are welcome to participate in a great day of food, fun, and golf. Further information for the golfing outing can be found on the men’s soccer web page through www.bucknellbison.com. Come out and support your Bison!!!

FRIDAY, April 21

12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch/Registration
1:00 p.m. Group Shotgun Start
6:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony,
Food and Drink

SATURDAY, April 22

11:00 a.m. Alumni Game
1:00 p.m. Alumni Game
4:00 p.m. Team Banquet
7:00 p.m. Social (TBA)

SOCCER OFFICE

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2016 MEN'S SOCCER RESULTS

Aug. 26	Delaware	L, 3-0
Aug. 28	@ St. Bonaventure	T, 1-1 (2OT)
<u>Peter Baldwin Memorial Classic - Burlington, Vt.</u>		
Sept. 2	vs. LIU Brooklyn	L, 3-1
Sept. 4	vs. Sacred Heart	W, 2-1
<u>Duquesne Invitational - Pittsburgh, Pa.</u>		
Sept. 9	vs. Canisius	L, 2-1
Sept. 11	vs. Wofford	L, 2-1
Sept. 17	Fairleigh Dickinson	W, 1-0
Sept. 21	@ St. Francis-Pa.	L, 3-0
Sept. 24	Boston University*	T, 1-1
Sept. 27	@ Binghamton	L, 1-0
Oct. 1	@ Holy Cross*	W, 2-1
Oct. 5	Lafayette*	L, 1-0
Oct. 8	@ Colgate*	L, 4-3 (OT)
Oct. 11	Howard	W, 7-0
Oct. 15	@ Navy*	W, 2-1
Oct. 22	American*	L, 3-2 (OT)
Oct. 26	@ Loyola*	W, 1-0
Oct. 29	Lehigh*	L, 2-1
Nov. 5	@ Army West Point*	W, 2-1
Nov. 8	@ Boston University#	T, 1-1 (PK's 4-1)
Nov. 11	@ American#	L, 2-1 (2OT)

* - Patriot League opponent # - PL Tournament
Home Games in **BOLD**

COACH NASH, cont. from page 1

Phoenix, Orlando, Houston, Las Vegas, Dallas, Vancouver and London to name a few. In London I will get to meet up with former Bucknellians Erick Davis, Jermaine Jarrett and William Morrow. Hopefully, we will cross paths with many more alumni during our travels.

Lastly, and probably most important, we are beginning the planning stages for our Men's Soccer Alumni Weekend 2017. The golf outing will be April 21 and the alumni games will be April 22. Early indications are that this could be one of the biggest groups we have ever had come back to campus. The alumni weekend is something every men's soccer player should try to attend every few years. It does not matter what team anyone played for in his career. I smile every April when I see guys from different decades having a great time together because they all speak the same language=Bucknell Soccer. The weekend reminds our staff that we are different at Bucknell and that is a good thing. I look forward to seeing a lot of you this spring or hearing from you through emails or phone calls. You are what sets us apart and the whole program is grateful.

GO BISON!



Brendan Nash
Head Men's Soccer Coach

ZACK ROCKMORE NAMED PL SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

The Bucknell men's soccer team's commitment to scholar-athlete excellence was highlighted on Wednesday, as Zack Rockmore was named Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

It is the second consecutive year that the Patriot League Scholar Athlete of the Year recipient wears orange and blue, as Jesse Klug earned the citation last season. Rockmore becomes the fourth Bucknell player to earn the accolade, joining Klug, Greg Beatty and Jonathan Hemmert.

Rockmore carries a 3.77 GPA in economics and is a two-year Patriot League Academic Honor Roll member. On campus, he is an active participant in the Bucknell Bison Leadership Institute and was one of three Bison student-athletes selected to attend the U.S. Naval Leadership Conference back in January.

On the pitch, Rockmore has been an integral member of the Bison back line. A First Team All-Patriot League honoree, Rockmore has started in all 20 contests, playing the full distance 17 times. He made a key deflection in the 96th minute of the team's quarterfinal victory over Boston University on Tuesday to force double overtime. In addition to his strong play on defense, the senior has scored three goals, including game-winners against Sacred Heart and Navy, while converting the game-clinching penalty kick against the Terriers.

LANSING SIGNS WITH AaB Fodbold

Former Bison goalkeeper Mike Lansing '16 has signed on with AaB Fodbold of the Danish sports conglomerate Aalborg Boldspilklub. He will move on to the club this summer.

AaB Fodbold is a member of the Danish Superliga, the highest level of Danish soccer. Lansing joins the team following a stint with Vejle Boldklub. The net minder appeared in one match for the club, recording three saves in a 3-0 shutout.

The former standout played in 57 games in goal for the Bison during his four-year career, posting a career .831 save percentage and 0.90 goals-against average. He recorded 16 shutouts, which ranks sixth in program history, while his 236 saves are eighth-most on Bucknell's all-time list. As a freshman, he led the Patriot League in save percentage (.843) and goals-against average (0.96), starting in 18 games. The keeper earned Second Team All-Patriot League accolades after recording a 10-6-1 mark with eight shutouts, while ranking among the nation's leaders in save percentage (.852) and GAA (0.75).

Lansing is not the only Bison to have continued his professional career in Denmark. Former Bison midfielder Conor O'Brien '10 has played seven years overseas, six of those coming in Denmark. He is in his second year with AC Horsens, another club in the Danish Superliga.

Bucknell alum Mayowa Alli '14 spent time in Denmark with Vendsyssel FF, but is currently with KI Klaksvik in the Faroe Islands.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

SEB BLICKMAN '17



What was your favorite part about being a captain of the team this past season?

My favorite part about being a captain this year was getting to lead and see how our team developed as the year went on. At the beginning of the season we had a tough go, but we never doubted ourselves and we were able to have some success. We didn't achieve our goal of winning the Patriot League title, but to

battle through the unknowns, the injuries and the poor luck and end up where we were was a testament to how hard we worked and how well the coaching staff prepared us to be in positions to succeed. I know the lessons we learned as a team this year will carry over and stick with the young guys and our senior class can leave the program in a better place than when we got here.

Favorite memory over the past four seasons?

Winning the 2014 Patriot League Championship is my favorite memory of the past four seasons. That team had everything from a deep chemistry on and off the field to incredible individual talents. We experienced quite a few highs and lows as the season went on. But to end the season with what was a total team effort throughout the playoffs and be rewarded with such a great game in the semi final and final is something we will never forget.



What are your plans when you depart Lewisburg after graduation?

I hope to follow teammates like Mayowa Ali, Mike Lansing, Chris Thorsheim and Zack Rockmore over to Europe and try and continue to play. It's always been a dream of mine to play professionally and I need to know I gave it everything I could to try and make that happen. If it doesn't work out at least I'll know I tried, but hopefully I can add to the growing and impressive contingent of Bucknell players playing overseas.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JOSH PLUMP '13



Name: Josh Plump
Employer: Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Job Title: Associate – Equity Capital Markets
Degree: Bachelor of Arts (Major: Economics)

Favorite memory over your 4 year career?

It was tough to boil down my favorite memory over my 4 year career to 1, so I separated it into three different memory categories – Team, Personal and Fun (Off-Field).

Team – Winning PL Championship my sophomore season (Fall 2010). We were an average team and struggled all season, but hit our stride and got hot at the right time to sneak into the PL tournament as the 4 seed. After winning the semifinal game Bison style (1-0) against Colgate, we sailed past American in the finals.

Personal – Scoring my first career goal which was an 81st minute equalizer away at Colgate to tie the game. We went on to win that game in the 89th minute.

Fun – The celebration after winning the championship my freshman year (Fall 2009). The entire team was able to get together after the win, albeit a Sunday night, and we had a great time celebrating together. An unnamed alum from the mid 2000's came back with a friend and added to some shenanigans to say the least.

Most useful skill/lesson you have taken from playing for the Bison and used in your work place?

The most important one is definitely the importance of passion for what you do. When we (the team) were on and off the field we all were working towards similar goals and had the desire to achieve them. The same applies to my job– it is important to care about, be interested, and motivated about your career. Other important skills/lessons to I have been able to use in the “real world” are working under pressure, having self-awareness, and being able to handle criticism.

What advice would you give to the graduating seniors before they leave us in May?

Advice I would give to the seniors just starting their final semester in Lewisburg would be similar – enjoy every last moment of your experience. With soccer formally over, take time to explore other things on campus that you may not have had the time to do during your first 3.5 years. Still try to get out once or twice a week and play – no matter how sick you are of soccer (at least I was), you will eventually miss it.

Men's Soccer Office
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MEN'S SOCCER 2017 SPRING SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 25	@ Villanova University	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 1	@ Lock Haven w/Alderson Broaddus Univ. (WV).....	1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 8	@ Lebanon Valley College.....	12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11	Blomsburg University.....	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 15	@ Millersville w/F & M.....	2:30 p.m./1:00 p.m., respectively
Friday, April 21	Men's Soccer Golf Outing.....	12:00 p.m.
	Men's Soccer Golf Outing Dinner.....	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 22	Alumni Game @ Holmes Stadium	
	Orange Alumni vs. Varsity.....	11:00 a.m.
	White Alumni vs. Blue Alumni	1:00 p.m.
	Men's Soccer Banquet (Walls Lounge).....	4:00 p.m.



THE DAY OF GIVING IS COMING!

The chance for you to maximize your gift to Bucknell Men's Soccer is coming soon! Stay tuned for more information on the BISON MARCH FOR EXCELLENCE ... a 24-hour day of giving to Bucknell Athletics from 12:00 noon on March 21 to 12 noon on March 22.

Any gift to men's soccer during that time period will help the program potentially earn extra support in the MARCH FOR EXCELLENCE challenge. Go Bison!