MOUNT ST. MARY’S COLLEGE SPORTS NEWS

MEN’S

The men’s soccer team had a positive season under new head coach Rob Ryerson, but fell just one win short of the NEC playoffs. The Mountaineers started the season with a strong performance at St. Peter’s College, winning their match, 4-0. They lost two out of the next three on the road, but beat a strong Towson team at the Towson Invitational in the midst of that streak. The Mount then gained momentum and went unbeaten in the next six matches with five wins and a draw. Included in that streak was a 3-0-1 start in Northeast Conference play. After falling to eventual NEC champion Fairleigh Dickinson, 1-0, the Mount swept a two-game New York road trip with wins over Long Island and St. Francis (N.Y.), the Mount’s first victory ever against the Terriers in Brooklyn Heights. The Mount could not sustain the momentum, however, dropping three of its last four games to fall to fifth place and out of playoff contention.

Freshman Matt Moneymaker led the team in goals with nine, and had one assist for a total of 19 points. He finished in the top 20 in the South Atlantic Region in goals and points. Senior goalie Rob Ray had 74 saves on the season, placing him in the top five in the South Atlantic Region.

WOMEN’S

The women’s race for the Northeast Conference play-offs this year was close for the Mountaineers, but an unfortunate mid-season swoon knocked the team out of contention. The Mountaineers started the season off with a tough loss at Towson, but the home opener was a stunning, come-from-behind, 3-2 win over American, the Mount’s first ever over the Eagles. The Mount lost and tied its next two games before registering its first-ever win over the Lady Flames of Liberty, 2-1. The team then started NEC play off right with a 1-0 win over Sacred Heart to boost its record to 3-2-1. The toughest part of the schedule then ensued, and the team lost six of eight with overtime victories at Central Connecticut State and at home against Fairleigh Dickinson. The team did end the season on a more positive note, downsing Wagner, 3-1, tying High Point, 0-0, and defeating Robert Morris, 7-0.

The Mount’s victory. At the East Coast Invitational, where the team’s losing effort against Coppin, first-year player, senior Margaret Carey, and freshman Lauren McBride recorded their first career victories. Against Robert Morris, Pizzica won in both singles and doubles, but Robert Morris secured a 5-4 victory.

Chris Hallatt

Holliday received the NEC Women’s Tennis Athlete of the Week on October 10 for her strong performance at the East Coast Invitational, where she beat Jessica Strickler of James Madison, 6-0, 6-1, and Ashley Sarver of Radford, 6-2, 6-4.

Margaret Carey

WOMEN’S (1-3)

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TENNIS

4-6, 6-2, 6-2

Robert Morris, 7-0.

Chris Hallatt

Holliday, along with freshman Kelli Louis, and senior Jackie Fitzs, was also victorious in the Mount’s losing effort against conference opponent Monmouth, 5-4.

The women claimed their first dual-match victory of the season downing Coppin State by an 8-1 margin. The Mount swept the doubles matches before moving on to win five of six singles tilts against Coppin where first-year player, senior Margaret Carey, and freshman Lauren McBride recorded their first career victories. Against Robert Morris, Pizzica won in both singles and doubles, but Robert Morris secured a 5-4 victory.

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MEN’S

The men’s team started the season off placing last in the Navy Fall Invitational but has steadily improved. Their second and third outings placed them 14th out of 18 teams at both the Bucknell Invitational and the St. Bonaventure/Keenan Invitational. In their last two tourneys, the Mount placed eighth of 11 at the ECAC Southern Region Championships, and eighth of 15 at the Rehoboth Beach Invitational. Senior Josh Leibfreid has lead scoring in all but one of the team’s matches and advanced to the ECAC Championships after placing sixth of 56 golfers in the South Region Championships. Leibfreid was also named the NEC Men’s Golf Athlete of the Week on September 12. Freshman Sean Harrington follows Leibfreid in scoring average, and has proven to be an asset for the men’s golf future.

WOMEN’S

The Mount women’s golf team has obstacles to overcome this season. The team has played in five tournaments, and hopes to improve. Junior Erika Gundersen leads the team in stroke average and has led the team in four of its five tournaments. Freshman Trish Youngblood is the only other player who has led the team in scoring, shooting a 95 at the Bucknell Invitational. At the Seton Hill Invitational, the Mount placed second out of three teams. Gundersen led the team with a one-day score of 105 and placed ninth out of 14 golfers. The team did not fare well at the ECAC Championships, placing 13th out of 13 teams. The Mount’s score of 381 on the second day of the Championships, though, tied the all-time record low. Gundersen also broke the Mount’s individual 18-hole record of 88 by shooting an 87 in the team’s last round of competition.

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

Tim Kitching has placed in the top five in two of the Mountaineers five meets. At the annual Mount Invitational, Kitching placed first. In the George Washington Invitational, he was awarded fifth place, and at the Lehigh Paul Short Run, Kitching placed 35th out of 246 runners. Kitching’s average time per 8000 meters has been a remarkable 25:50. Several athletes who are closely following Kitching’s performance are sophomores Shawn Day, Dominic Colardo and Jason Mitchell, placing the program on solid ground for the future. The team placed seventh at the NEC Championships October 28, with Kitching coming in eighth.

WOMEN’S GOLF

Junior Leah Peiffer has been the team’s leader in its first four meets of the season, placing sixth at the Mount Invitational, and second at the George Washington Invitational with a 5000-meter time of 19:12. At George Washington, the Mount placed second overall, giving its confidence a boost. The momentum gained, however, wasn’t enough going into their last pre-NEC meet at the Paul Short Run where the team placed 31st out of 34 teams. Sophomores Michelle Rafefied and Brynn Ducher have been the next most effective runners this season. They led the team to a ninth-place showing at the NEC Championships as Peiffer, Kari McCarry, and Devon Moran were all sidelined with injuries.

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Newcomers join battle-tested veterans on a revamped squad. Jim Phelan’s 47th Mountaineer squad will look to pull some surprises in a bid to earn an NEC tournament berth. At guard, the Mount’s lone returning starter, senior Aaron Herbert, must emerge from Gregory Harri’s shadow. Looking to take playing time from Herbert will be classmate Stephen Moore, and freshman Jamion Christian. The incumbent at the shooting guard spot is junior Jerry Lloyd. Lloyd is a hard-nosed defender with a deadly outside shot. He will be challenged for time by the likes of Emonu Marvray, Jason Grace, and Dontl Alexander. At forward, Michael Bajornas looks to expand his role as a small forward or big guard. He is an excellent ballhandler and a good shooter. Keith Price will look to make an impact as a freshman, and junior Jeff Null could increase his playing time. Angel Rivera made strides in his all-around game as a rookie. His speed and shot-blocking ability make him a major factor defensively. He will be complemented by rookie Pat Atangana, a strong rebounder and excellent defender player. At center, senior Michael Cook is coming off his best year, but will be relied upon for even more production as he is the team’s only true center. Look for him to show improved strength, rebounding, and shooting. Cook could get some relief in December if sophomore Melvin Whizaker becomes academically eligible.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

The Mountaineers look to assemble a big regular season and then take the next step to the NCAA Tournament. Five players will play key roles in a team with a healthy mix of experience and exuberance. At guard, sophomore Lauren Kokota is a better, stronger athlete who will be looked upon to run the team. Junior Kiana Febbi and freshman Adrienne Harris will push her for playing time. Junior Katie Walton looks to seizure the lion’s share of minutes at the two-guard spot. Other shooting guards who might also play at small forward are sophomore Ravilla Alexander, senior Mimi Ritter, and freshman Myriam Baccouche. At forward, senior Kia Williams may be the best returning player in the NEC. In addition to Ritter, Baccouche, and Alexander, sophomore Jess Lilly could appear as a small forward this season. Senior Deanna Butters came into her own with a 45-point performance over two games in the NEC Tournament last season. She can score with an array of moves. A debutante in the past is Taylor Long. Center Jamie Hegge will look to expand her repertoire as a sophomore and attempt to enhance her scoring. Her understudy will be rookie Beth Foster.