

About the NESCAC

Founded in 1971, the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) is a group of eleven highly selective liberal arts colleges and universities that share a similar philosophy for intercollegiate athletics. The Conference was created out of a concern for the direction of intercollegiate athletic programs, and remains committed to keeping a proper perspective on the role of sport in higher education.

The formation of NESCAC originated with an agreement among Amherst College, Bowdoin College, Wesleyan University and Williams College first drafted in 1955. Along with these four institutions, Bates College, Colby College, Hamilton College, Middlebury College, Trinity College and Tufts University are sustaining charter members. Connecticut College joined in 1982, bringing the Conference's membership to its current total of 11 institutions.

NESCAC members believe intercollegiate athletic programs should operate in harmony with the educational mission of each institution. The Conference is committed to establishing common boundaries to keep athletics strong but in proportion to the overall academic mission of the member institutions. In pursuit of this mission, the Presidents of each NESCAC institution control intercollegiate athletic policy. Conference tenets are usually more restrictive than those of the NCAA Division III with regard to season length, number of contests and post-season competition.

NESCAC institutions also believe athletic teams should be representative of the entire student body. Thus, admissions and financial policies are consistent with the NCAA Division III policies that prohibit athletic scholarships and award financial aid solely on the basis of need.

In 1999, the NESCAC formally became a playing conference and now sponsors 26 conference championship sports (13 for men and 13 for women). Member schools offer extensive and broad based intercollegiate as well as club and intramural opportunities for both men and women. With member institutions sponsoring an average of nearly 30 varsity programs, NESCAC provides more than 7,500 opportunities for participation in intercollegiate competition at the Division III level. Teams and individuals have achieved great success on both a regional and national level. During the 2010-11 academic year, 49 teams participated in NCAA team championships. NESCAC student-athletes claimed 24 individual national championships and NESCAC teams won seven national team championships.



2012 Season Preview

The Hamilton College softball program is eagerly looking ahead to 2012. First-year head coach Bill Spicer has 11 returners and nearly as many newcomers on this year's roster. Amy Appel '13 is back in the circle after missing the second half of last season with an injury. Leading hitter and center fielder Jen Rougeux '14, catcher Sam Miller '14, infielder Melissa Kaknis '13 and outfielders Ashley Perritt '14 and Cara Vennari '12 will be welcomed back as well. Vennari and Kristen Pallen '12 are the seniors. They aim to lead Hamilton to the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) championship for the first time.

Hamilton competes in the NESCAC's West Division with Williams College, Amherst College, Middlebury College and Wesleyan University. The NESCAC sends its overall conference champion to the NCAA regionals. The Continentals are scheduled to play 10 games during a week-long spring break trip to south Florida in March. The first home date of 2012 is scheduled for April 10 against local rival Utica College. Hamilton hosts Amherst for three games on April 13 and 14, and Williams for a three-game set on April 27 and 28.

The Continentals set a team record in fielding percentage for the second straight year, and led the conference with a fielding percentage of .965 in 2011. Perritt didn't commit an error in 44 chances in the outfield, and Kaknis was credited with one miscue in 83 chances at the hot corner. Overall, Hamilton made just 28 errors in 30 games.

Rougeux made an immediate impact in her rookie year as she led the team with a .359 batting average, .423 on-base percentage and seven stolen bases. Miller also enjoyed a fine first year with a batting average over .300 (.305), 25 hits and 10 runs batted in. Appel was hitting .348 in 23 at-bats and owned a 3.50 earned run average in 46 innings pitched before she suffered her season-ending injury. Chelsea Merritt '14 helped pick up the slack by tossing 86.1 innings with the team's lone shutout.

Hamilton has won 10 or more games 10 times in 27 years of softball. The school record is 15, which was set by the 1996 squad. Several players have excelled at the regional and conference levels in the past. Kim Wysocki '90 made the Northeast Region all-region first team in 1989 after finishing second in the nation with a .508 batting average. Samantha McNamara '90 (first team) and Heide Katerba '90 (second team) were all-region selections the following year. Outfielder Krista Marran '04 was a NESCAC all-conference second team pick in 2004. Amber O'Connor '09 caught just about every inning during her 122-game career. O'Connor was voted to the all-conference team three times from 2006 to 2009.

Great academic performance is an integral part of this program. Liz Reid '11, Leigh Sherrow '11 and Mandy Hyne '11 made the NESCAC spring all-academic team for the second year in a row in 2011. Jen Sadowsky '08 was a two-time NESCAC spring all-academic honoree, and Tracy Zaino '06 made the NESCAC all-academic team three times.

Blood Fitness Center

The softball team takes advantage of the Charlean and Wayland Blood Fitness and Dance Center, opened in 2006. The Center includes a state-of-the-art weight room that features five Olympic platforms, two jammers, a leaper, a squat machine, two GHRs, a reverse-hyper machine, safety bars, x-bars, fat bars and swiss bars, along with full sets of kettlebells and dumbbells.



The Blood Fitness Center includes a large, glass-enclosed aerobic/cardio training area that overlooks Steuben Field; two rooms for resistance and weight-training; a three-story, 39-foot climbing wall; a dance studio that can be transformed in 10 minutes from working studio to performance space; and a multipurpose room. Spinning classes are held on a group of bikes located on the second level cardio mezzanine overlooking the main aerobic/cardio area.



2012

Head Coach Bill Spicer



Bill Spicer is in his first year as the head softball coach at Hamilton College after he was the assistant coach for the last two seasons. Spicer is the seventh head softball coach since Hamilton made it a varsity sport in 1985. He has been an assistant football coach at the College since 2006, and was on the track and field coaching staff from 2007 to 2009. This is his first head coaching position at

the collegiate level. He has previously been the varsity softball coach at two high schools.

Spicer coached Onondaga Central from 2004 to 2006, and the team captured New York State's Section III Class C-2 championship in 2006. He led the Woodmont High School softball program in 1997 and 1998, and guided the team from Greenville, South Carolina, to the second round of the state tournament his second year. He started his softball coaching career as an assistant at LaFayette High School just south of Syracuse.

Spicer, an assistant professor of physical education at Hamilton, coached Onondaga's football program to three state titles. He was a three-time state coach of the year selection and a 2003 recipient of the President Gerald R. Ford All-American Football Coach Award.

Spicer graduated from Chittenango High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in physical education from SUNY Cortland in 1994, and received his master's in physical education and health from Cortland in 1999. He and his wife Jessica live in Marcellus with their two children, Michael and Makayla.



Asst. Coach Liz Slupinski



Liz Slupinski is in her first year as an assistant coach for the Hamilton College softball program. Slupinski played softball at the University of Rochester from 2008 to 2011.

Slupinski helped Rochester to a 113-58 record during her four-year career, and the Yellowjackets appeared in the NCAA championship regional in 2008 and 2009. She received University Athletic Association all-conference

second team honors in 2008, and was named Liberty League all-league honorable mention in 2008 and 2009. After missing her junior year due to a knee injury, Slupinski was an all-league second team selection in 2011.

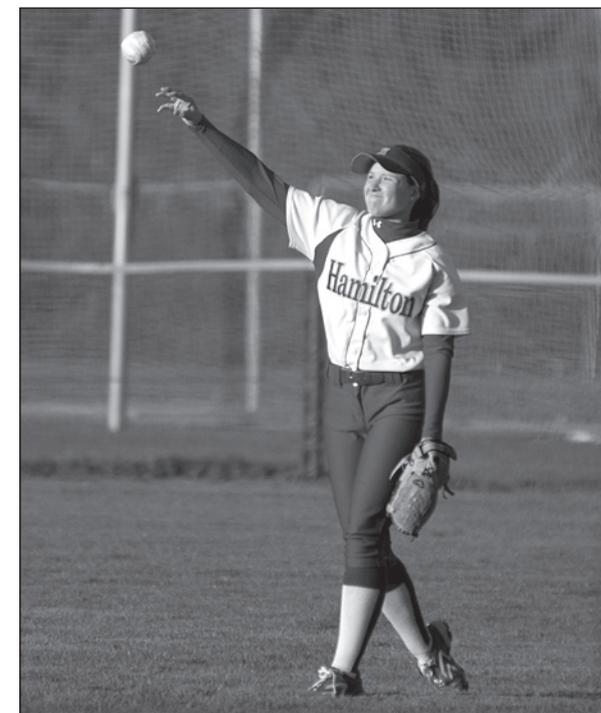
Slupinski also enjoyed success in the classroom, as she was named to the Liberty League all-academic team and the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar Athlete team in 2011. Student-athletes must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or greater to qualify for the NFCA award.

Slupinski graduated from Rochester in 2011 with bachelor's degree in studio arts and a minor in anthropology. She is from Hamburg, N.Y., and attended Hamburg High School.



Roster

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
3	Katie Jickling	Fy.	SS	Brookfield, Vt.
5	Kristen Pallen	Sr.	OF	Frankford, Ontario
6	Ashley Perritt	So.	P/OF	Allentown, N.J.
7	Mary Jo Germanos	Fy.	OF	Newburyport, Mass.
8	Kelly Leonard	Fy.	P/INF	Lancaster, N.Y.
9	Ellie Kiernan	Fy.	SS/2B	New York, N.Y.
10	Jenn Rougeux	So.	OF	Oneida, N.Y.
11	Melissa Kaknis	Jr.	3B	New Windsor, N.Y.
13	Summer Bottini	So.	P/INF	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
14	Talia Mercado	Fy.	SS/3B	Somerville, Mass.
15	Chelsea Merritt	So.	P/INF	South Salem, N.Y.
17	Monique St. Jarre	Fy.	P/1B	Berlin, Conn.
18	Julie Dursema	Fy.	OF/C	Yarmouth, Maine
19	Cara Vennari	Sr.	C/1B	San Francisco, Calif
20	Sam Miller	So.	C	Willcox, Ariz..
21	Katie Puccio	Fy.	C/INF	Needham, Mass.
24	Kristin Schwam	Jr.	OF	New York, N.Y.
25	Amy Appel	Jr.	P/OF	Medham, N.J.



The 2012 Schedule



March 13	vs. Albright^	9 a.m.
March 13	vs. North Park^	11 a.m.
March 14	vs. Wisconsin Lutheran#	1 p.m.
March 14	vs. Olivet#	3 p.m.
March 16	vs. Polytechnic Institute^	1 p.m.
March 16	vs. SUNY Potsdam^	3 p.m.
March 17	vs. St. Olaf#	9 a.m.
March 17	vs. Ohio Wesleyan#	11 a.m.
March 18	vs. Hendrix College^	9 a.m.
March 18	vs. Wisconsin-Oshkosh^	11 a.m.
March 28	at Morrisville State (DH)	3:30 p.m.
March 30	at Wesleyan*	5 p.m.
March 31	at Wesleyan (DH)*	Noon
April 3	at SUNYIT (DH)	3:30 p.m.
April 6	at Middlebury College*	5 p.m.
April 7	at Middlebury College (DH)*	Noon
April 10	UTICA COLLEGE (DH)	3:30 p.m.
April 13	AMHERST COLLEGE*	5 p.m.
April 14	AMHERST COLLEGE (DH)*	Noon
April 18	ST. LAWRENCE (DH)	3:30 p.m.
April 23	at SUNY Oswego (DH)	3:30 p.m.
April 25	SUNY COBLESKILL (DH)	3:30 p.m.
April 27	WILLIAMS*	5 p.m.
April 28	WILLIAMS (DH)*	Noon

* - NESCAC West Division game

^ - Cape Coral, Fla.

- Fort Myers, Fla.

Home games in BOLD

Numbers to Know

Admission Office	1-800-843-2655
Financial Aid	1-800-859-4413
Athletics	315-859-4114
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Check out Hamilton Athletics on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.hamilton.edu/athletics>