

FIELD HOCKEY

Field hockey undefeated, jumps to No. 7

By Andy MacDougall
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The then-No. 14 Northeastern field hockey team received a pair of standout performances from their defense and senior forward Crystal Poland netted five of six Northeastern goals on the weekend as the Huskies continued their torrid start with a 3-2 victory over then-No. 6 University of Virginia, and a 3-1 victory over then-No. 20 Michigan State.

The two wins vaulted Northeastern seven spots in the National Field Hockey Coaches Association weekly poll for a second-consecutive week. The Huskies now sit at No. 7 in the country – previously the highest the program had ranked was No. 9 in the final poll of 2004.

That season, the Huskies won the America East championship, earning a spot in the NCAA championship tournament.

The weekend victories propelled the Huskies seven spots in the weekly National Field Hockey Coaches poll to No. 7 and a 5-0 overall record.

“I feel like by beating a top opponent like UVA we were really able to prove how good of a team we are, how much we’ve grown in the past couple of games, and just what we’re capable of doing,” senior midfielder Allison Conti said.

Far away from home, in East Lansing, Mich., the Huskies wasted little time flexing their muscles against a powerful Virginia squad. Freshman Deirdre Duke scored less than three minutes into the game off a corner play from junior forward Lindsay Bennett, with the assist going to Poland. Six minutes later, Poland netted a goal of her own, again off a corner play from Bennett, to give the Huskies a quick 2-0 lead.

The Cavaliers (5-2) outshot the Huskies 19-7 on the afternoon, but Northeastern’s defense limited Virginia to only seven shots on goal. With the score 2-1 in the second half, following a missed shot by Virginia, Poland charged down field and found herself in a one-on-one with Cavaliers goalie Jenny Johnstone. Poland made the most of her breakaway, netting the eventual game-winner at 58:25.

“Our defense starts with our front line, and I think every single player is working hard on their defensive part of the game,” head coach Cheryl Murtagh said. “In the Virginia game, there was a lot of front line pressure that caused Virginia to turn the ball over. Our backs have been exceptional at stepping up, and I think it’s all the way through, and I would say in both games, our midfield defense was strong.”

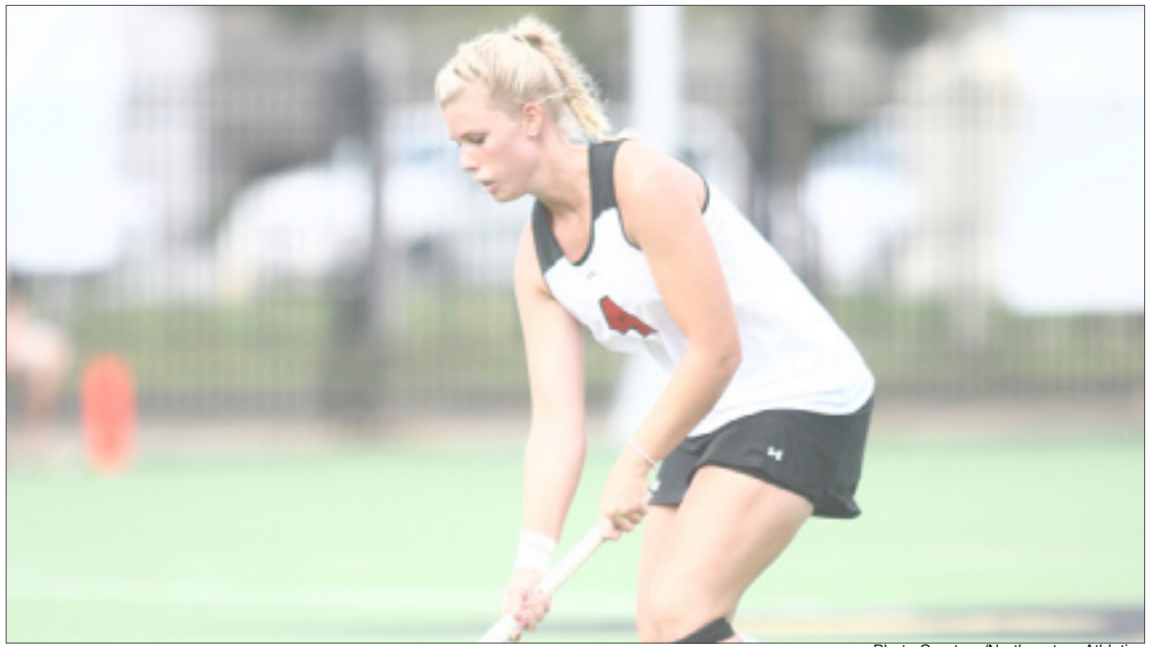


Photo Courtesy/Northeastern Athletics

Senior forward Crystal Poland is leading the NCAA in goals per game, 2.20, with 11 goals in the first five games.

The biggest concern for many of the Huskies came the following day, where a loss to Michigan State could cast a shadow of doubt over their win against UVA.

“We took a lot of ice baths, that’s for sure,” Poland said. “We just did stuff to get us ready to go physically. Right after the game, Coach [Murtagh] turned around and said ‘I’m already thinking

about Michigan State tomorrow.’ We don’t usually play back to back, so it was a quick turn around, but I think we did a good job of mentally preparing ourselves for a game the next day.”

The game was a defensive struggle from the start, as the Spartans kept Northeastern in check. The Huskies took 13 shots in the first frame, but only an attempt by Po-

land made it past Spartan netminder Molly Cassidy in the first half.

On the other end of the pitch, sophomore Kate Carlson and seniors Conti and Christine Tase played strong hockey, cutting off angles on defense and helping to facilitate the offense.

Michigan State knotted the game at one apiece with a goal by
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CROSS COUNTRY

Sollowin finishes 3rd, CAA runner of the week

By Chris Judd
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Under the direction of a new coaching staff, the men’s and women’s cross country teams opened the season with second and 14th place finishes, respectively, at the Nassaney Invitational hosted by Bryant University on Saturday.

The men beat Bryant by 30 points, but lost to Boston University (BU) by nine points. Sophomore Stephen Sollowin and freshman Wesley Gallagher both earned top ten finishes in the race. The

women’s cross country team lost to Bryant 45-16 and lost to BU 43-16.

“I was really excited about our team’s performance,” Catherine Erickson, director of track and field and cross country, said. “I’m excited that our top three finishes were by sophomores and freshmen because it’s good for the future of our program.”

Sollowin, the Colonial Athletic Association Runner of the Week, finished third in the 8k with a time of 25:45.00, while Gallagher posted a time of 25:46.20 to earn a fourth place finish. Zachary Fraeilli

finished third with for Northeastern and 16th overall with a time of 26:36.00.

In women’s cross country, junior Danielle Klein led Northeastern with a time of 19:51.20 in the 5k, for 54th place. Freshman Nolene Power finished second for Northeastern with a time of 20:48.90, and Jocelyn Hubbard was third for Northeastern with a time of 20:55.60.

“This is the first top five finish I’ve had in cross country,” Sollowin said. “I had no idea during the race since I started slow and

was steadily improving but I had no idea I was close to finishing in the top ten, and I was surprised that I did so well in my first race of the season. Now, our coach is having us work on training, so I should be prepared for the next meet.”

Erickson recently replaced former head coach Sherman Hart after he retired in May. Erickson, who was previously an associate head coach at Harvard University for five years, has mentored 33 NCAA qualifiers and 13 NCAA and USA Track and Field All-Americans in her coaching career. She was also

heavily involved in recruiting athletes at Harvard and helped bring in the No. 5 men’s recruiting class in 2011-2012.

“It’s been a great transition,” Erickson said. “The athletes have been gracious, and they have great spirit. I am really excited to get to know everyone’s potential. I want to finish this season strong, and we still have a lot to learn, but we started off well this weekend.”

The Huskies will return to the trails and lace up their shoes September 22 at the Ted Owen Invitational in New Britain, Conn.

MEN’S SOCCER

Huskies defeated on road, suffer first loss of season

By Eoghan Kelly
NEWS STAFF

The men’s soccer team’s undefeated streak ended at three games as it dropped a 4-1 decision to the University of Michigan on Sunday.

After giving up just one goal in its first three games, Northeastern (3-1) allowed two to Michigan before the game was half an hour old, surrendering a first-half tally for the first time in 2012 en route to its worst loss since a 4-1 blowout at George Mason University on Oct. 22, 2011.

“It was bad,” head coach Brian Ainscough said Wednesday in a telephone interview. “We started off the game very poorly ... We were very flat the first 30 minutes.”

The Huskies were forced to play a man down for nearly three-quarters of the game after senior goalkeeper Oliver Blum was sent off in the 27th minute for kicking Michigan freshman forward James Murphy in the chest on a jump ball inside the 18-yard box.

The Wolverines (2-2), already

up 1-0 off a 26th minute header from senior defenseman Kofi Opare, doubled their lead on the ensuing penalty kick when junior midfielder Fabio Pereira beat Blum’s replacement, freshman keeper Dylan Faber, low to the left side.

“We gave up a goal and then we were forced [to 10 men] a minute and half later when Olly got sent off,” Ainscough said. “The PK made it 2-0, in which case we knew it was going to be a big uphill battle from there. It was a very difficult contest after that.”

Michigan controlled the remainder of the game, outshooting the Huskies 10-4 after Blum’s ejection and 20-7 overall. Northeastern registered just one shot on goal in the final 45 minutes of the match.

Senior forward Don Anding had the Huskies’ lone highlight of the night when he cut his team’s deficit in half in the 43rd minute. After a Michigan defender misplayed a bouncing pass, Anding carried the ball to the top of the penalty box and whistled a left-footed shot over the head of Michigan redshirt-sophomore goalie Adam

Grinwis for his second goal of the season and third point in as many games.

Ainscough said he wasn’t surprised to see Anding continue his hot streak.

“Why would I be surprised?” he said. “He’s scoring a lot of goals – that’s why we have him up there.”

But Michigan answered less than a minute after Anding’s tally. Senior midfielder Latif Alashe looped a ball over Faber from inside the six-yard box to make it a two-goal game again with less than two minutes left in the first half.

According to Ainscough, the answering goal killed any momentum the Huskies might have had.

“When you score a goal, it’s pivotal that you don’t give one back right away, and for us one to give one back right away was really just ... bad all around,” Ainscough said. “To give yourself a little bit of hope going into the dressing room at halftime and then give up a goal 30 seconds later, that just shows how off our team was.”

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News Photo/Kevin Ahearn

Junior midfielder Nikko Lara has one goal this season.

VOLLEYBALL

Co-captains shine in N.C. tournament

By Madeline Sattler
NEWS STAFF

At the Duke Classic last weekend, the volleyball co-captains made their presence known combining for 32 kills and 35 digs throughout the three-game tournament in Durham, N.C.

Senior middle hitter Nicole Bishop helped lead the Huskies to a 3-0 victory over East Carolina University on Sept. 7, in which she smashed a season-high 13 kills.

Junior outside hitter Janelle Tucker finished the weekend with 17 kills and 32 digs. Bishop added 15 kills and 6 blocks to her season stats.

Bishop and Tucker are co-captains of the Northeastern squad and have been leading the team throughout the season.

"[Bishop and Tucker] are grateful, they're coachable and they are committed to the program," head coach Ken Nichols said.

"[The Duke Classic] was a great experience," Tucker said. "The atmosphere was a great atmosphere and we came out really strong."

Bishop is in her second season as a captain. Last season, she recorded 162 kills, seven of which came during the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) semifinal game against Virginia Commonwealth University. Her best game was against the University of North Carolina-Wilmington on Oct. 7, 2011, where she tallied seven blocks and nine kills as part of a winning effort.

"[Nicole] is good at celebrating the big points," Nichols said. "She understands the balance in a match of when to be loud and proactive and when to be reserved."

Bishop has also notched a few awards during her time as a Husky. In her freshman season, she was named CAA Defensive Player of the Week once as well as the CAA Rookie of the Week and North-

eastern Student-Athlete of the Week. In her junior season, she was named to the Beanpot Classic All-Tournament team.

"I try to work as hard as possible and be as strong as possible," Bishop said. "My biggest thing is just to enjoy it and not have any regrets about any games."

Tucker has also had her share of successes throughout her time at Northeastern. As a freshman, she was CAA Co-Rookie of the Year and a member of the CAA All-Rookie and All-CAA Third teams. She was also named to the CAA All-Tournament team after leading the teams with 22 kills and 23 digs in the championship game against the University of Delaware.

The following season, Tucker was a member of the All-CAA First team. She led the team in kills on several different occasions, and finished the season with 302 total.

"Janelle is expected to play rock steady, to not have ups and

downs," Nichols said. "As a staff member, you know how critical she is to our success and I am confident her teammates know that as well."

As the season continues on, both players hope to work on team bonding and being leaders by example.

"I want to be a leader statistically," Tucker said. "I hope I can step that up."

Each captain noted that Northeastern was the clear choice for them when it came to making their college decision years ago.

"It was an instant fit and I clicked immediately with a lot of the girls," Bishop said. "I felt really welcome."

Bishop hails from Park City, Utah, where she played for her high school's varsity team and a club team, Club Utah.

"It was a huge decision for me to come all the way [to Northeastern], but I have really found my

niche," Bishop said.

Tucker came to Huntington Avenue from Encino, Calif., where she spent four years on her varsity high school team. She also spent time playing for the Sports Shack club team.

For Tucker, coming to Northeastern also meant a move across the United States.

"I was trying to decide if I wanted to stay in California and I realized I wanted to experience something different," Tucker said. "I just love Boston and [Northeastern] is the best volleyball school in the Northeast, so I wanted to come here."

Both girls can be seen playing at home this weekend in the New England Classic, as the Huskies take on Boston College, Harvard University and the University of Connecticut. Game times are Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 11 a.m. and Saturday at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Huskies fall behind penalty kicks, late goals

By Aren LeBren
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The women's soccer team dropped to 1-5 on the season after suffering a 3-1 loss Sunday afternoon to the University of Dayton.

At 14:40 in the first half, sophomore forward Lahaina Zoller lofted a shot over the outstretched hands of Flyers' junior goalkeeper Jordin Melchert into the left corner of the net. This marked the sophomore's first goal of the season and allowed Northeastern to jump out to an early lead, but it didn't last as the Flyers scored three unanswered goals to secure the victory.

"I think we started out very well," head coach Tracey Leone said. "Lahaina's playing great. She did well for us, she did really well. She's really gaining her confidence, and she has been so coachable."

The Huskies came off the bench to an aggressive start in which they held the majority of possession in the midfield for the first 20 minutes of play. Zoller's goal came early in the 15th minute off

an assist by freshman forward Emily Nasuti.

"We did a great job of feeding off each other's energy early on," Zoller said. "Something we definitely can improve on is obviously maintaining that consistent level of energy throughout the entire game."

The Flyers equalized with a goal by junior midfielder Stephanie Emery during a scramble following a corner kick in the 25th minute. The score at halftime remained knotted up at on a goal apiece.

Dayton, the 2011 A-10 champion, came out of the break strongly, and knocked on the door several times. But sophomore keeper Paige Burnett kept the Flyers at bay, seeing 12 shots in the second half and finishing the game with eight saves, four below her career high set during the previous game against Boston College.

Her work in net was highlighted by a diving stop to prevent Dayton's freshman forward Kelsey Smigel from scoring in a one-on-one situation. But junior midfielder Juliana Libertin finally broke

the tie on a penalty kick in the 76th minute.

The Huskies were not without opportunities to tie the game. Junior midfielder Hanna Terry had a high-quality strike toward the goal that became one of Melchert's five saves on the afternoon.

"It's always tough to lose a game, and of course to lose it on a [penalty kick] is frustrating," Leone said.

With two seconds left on the clock, Dayton's senior forward Colleen Williams knocked in a goal off an assist by senior defender Alysha Mallon to ice the game, 3-1.

"We didn't finish it to the end and that was frustrating, really frustrating. We just didn't finish out the last five seconds of the game," Leone said. "We gotta finish the whole game. We have to stop giving up goals ... at the same time we have to start capitalizing on some opportunities."

The Huskies will take on the Brown University Bears (3-1) tonight at 6 p.m. at Parsons Field.



Sophomore forward Lahaina Zoller's first goal of the season was the lone goal scored by the Huskies on Sunday. News Photo/Kevin Ahearn



Under the Lights: Kelly Bacon

By Elizabeth Thomas
NEWS STAFF

Junior outside hitter Kelly Bacon had a breakout performance last week at the Duke Classic tournament. The Temecula, Calif., native recorded 31 kills, 6 blocks, 5 aces and 31 digs.

"It was a really good weekend for us as a team," Bacon said. "I think we learned a lot and us battling against them was an important game for us. It's important for us to move on from that and grow as a team together."

Coming off last season, when she was named to the 2011 All-CAA third team, Bacon said she realizes how far she's come.

Like most student athletes, Bacon has a rigorous schedule of attending classes and practices; but this fall she added a tougher element: A co-op. The architecture major is the current Northeastern University space planning design co-op. "It's definitely all about time management and you realize that you sometimes lose track of sleep because you're doing your homework, but it all works out and the team supports each other in that sense," she said. "My co-op is very lenient [with] my schedule and it's been very nice so far."

The youngest of three girls, Bacon grew up playing volleyball.

"I've been playing since I was in fifth grade, about nine years. Since both of my sisters played it just kind of ran in the family," Bacon said.

She said she decided to attend Northeastern not only because of athletics, but also because of co-op.

Though volleyball might not be the most popular sport to attend on campus, but Bacon swears that

by attending just one game fans would be hooked.

"People just don't really get volleyball as a sport, but it's such a fun sport and high paced and a lot of fun to watch," she said. "I would love for more people to come out to games."

Volleyball's next match is against cross town rivals Boston College on Friday at 7 p.m. at Solomon Court.



Photo Courtesy/Northeastern Athletics

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Forget Fenway, stay local

The Red Sox are terrible. If you're a member of Red Sox Nation and you've voluntarily watched a game in the last two months, you must be a masochist. With a season full of clubhouse turmoil, managerial uncertainty and wholesale trades, this year has been as scarring for Red Sox fans as the memories of their collapse last season.

But amidst the promise and excitement of a new school year, the fresh faces on campus and the crisp tingle of autumn air, there also enters a new college athletic season to distract fans from the Red Sox' woes. If you are part of the tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free from baseball, fear not, for Northeastern fall sports are in full swing.



Dylan Lewis
Out of Bounds

Many NU students only tune in during winter to catch hockey and basketball season, but fall sports, particularly this year's fall teams, may be the school's best chance at deep postseason runs. Perhaps our fellow Huskies can help ease the pain of another lost baseball season and help return Boston to its winning ways.

The field hockey team might be the best Northeastern sports team this year. The now No. 7 ranked women defeated two preseason Top 25 teams in No. 23 University of Louisville and No. 20 Northwestern University at the Sherrill Brakmeier Classic in late August. The girls then began September with wins over No. 6 University of Virginia and No. 20 Michigan State University last weekend.

Huntington News reporter Andy MacDougall wrote a great article last week documenting the lack of field space available to the team. They have been forced to alternate between using fields at Boston College and Bentley University. Interested parties may have to literally jump on a caravan to catch the girls in action, but after breaking into the Top 10 in this week's National Field Hockey Coaches poll, it will be well worth it.

Also worthy of serious attention is the men's soccer team. Despite a tough 4-1 loss to Michigan last weekend, the men are still 3-1 on the season. With an attack led by senior forward Don Anding (2 goals) and strong defense from senior keeper Oliver Blum (2 goals allowed, 1 shut-out in four games), the Huskies should enter Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) play strong later this month.

Last, but certainly not least, is women's volleyball. They are currently 8-3 after the Beanpot Classic – which they won for the second consecutive year – UCSB Invitational and Duke Classic. Their success should come as no surprise. The Huskies entered the 2012 season the preseason CAA favorite, as voted by the conference's coaches.

Sophomore libero Natalia Skiba has been a big part of the team's exploits on the court. Skiba has already been named CAA Defensive Player of the Week twice this season. With the friendly confines of Solomon Court right inside the Cabot Center on campus, there is truly no excuse to miss the Huskies bump, set and spike.

While the notion of a winning team in Boston might be hard for its sports fans to conceptualize right now, there are some watchable sporting events within the city limits. In some cases, you don't even need to leave campus.

– Dylan Lewis can be reached at sports@HuntNewsNU.com

MEN'S SOCCER Huskies struggle on road

MEN'S SOCCER, FROM PAGE 12

Wolverine's Opare added his second goal of the contest in the 71st minute when he tucked a pass from Pereira past Faber to put the game out of reach.

Faber and Blum finished with four saves apiece, while Grinwis was forced to make only three in 90 minutes of play.

Ainscough said he was impressed with Faber's ability to replace Blum, despite the freshmen giving up three goals.

"[Faber] was solid," Ainscough said. "He wasn't really at fault for anything that he did. He did very well."

Blum will miss the next games as he serves an NCAA mandated one-game suspension for his red card, Ainscough said, and Faber will see more playing time during that stretch.

Sunday's loss extended Northeastern's recent road woes. The Huskies are 4-8-2 away from Parsons Field since the 2011 season but have not lost at home since a 2-1 overtime defeat to the College of William & Mary on Nov. 6, 2010.

The Huskies will play four of their next five games on the road as they don't return home until hosting the College of the Holy Cross on Sept. 26. Their next game is at

Fairfield University on Saturday before they open their Colonial Athletic Association schedule at William & Mary on Sept. 22.

Ainscough said that the key to his team reversing its road fate Saturday will be recovering from the Michigan loss and remaining focused during the long week.

"Just hoping we don't have anything happen the way we came out [against Michigan]," Ainscough said. "The other day we were pretty bad. We gotta get up. It's a long week ... We said we're going to know what we look like after all these road games. It's a difficult test – Michigan proved that point."

FIELD HOCKEY Poland wins CAA Player of the Week

FIELD HOCKEY, FROM PAGE 12

sophomore forward Abby Barker a minute and a half into the second half, but after that, Northeastern's defense stymied the Spartans.

Following the Spartan's goal, Poland answered two minutes later by burying a shot following a steal from the Spartan defense. Poland would add a third goal with less than 12 minutes left in regulation to seal the victory, and clinch her second hat-trick in three games.

With five goals on the weekend, Poland now has 11 goals in five games, bringing her goals per game to 2.20, the best in the nation.

"I think this year, personally, I'm fitter, and our team chemistry is just unbelievable," Poland said of her fast start. "We just all show up to play."

The senior's career-goal total of 61 has her only six goals behind Northeastern's all-time career goals leaders Mari Creatini (2001-2004) and Denise Nasca (1992-1995). She's also a mere 23 points from Creatini's program record for points in a career (162).

The strong showing this past weekend also brought a pair of individual accolades back to Northeastern. Poland captured her second-consecutive CAA Player of the Week honor, while Duke took home her second conference Rookie of the Week award on the young season.

The Huskies will get to stay local this weekend, as they play at the University of Massachusetts on Friday at 6 p.m. before heading to the University of New Hampshire for a date with the Wildcats on Sunday at 4 p.m.

STANDINGS

CAA MEN'S SOCCER			
		CAA	Overall
1	Georgia Mason	0-0	5-0
2	Old Dominion	0-0	4-0
3	Hofstra	0-0	3-1
4	Northeastern	0-0	3-1
5	Drexel	0-0	3-1-1
6	James Madison	0-0	2-2-1
7	UNCW	0-0	2-2-1
8	Georgia	0-0	2-2
9	Towson	0-0	2-3
10	William & Mary	0-0	1-2-1
11	Delaware	0-0	1-4-1

CAA WOMEN'S SOCCER			
		CAA	Overall
1	Drexel	0-0	5-1-1
2	William & Mary	0-0	5-2
3	UNCW	0-0	4-2-1
4	George Mason	0-0	4-4
5	Georgia State	0-0	3-3
6	Hofstra	0-0	3-4
7	Delaware	0-0	2-3
8	James Madison	0-0	2-4
9	Old Dominion	0-0	2-4
10	Northeastern	0-0	1-5
11	Towson	0-0	0-6-1

CAA VOLLEYBALL			
		CAA	Overall
1	Northeastern	0-0	8-3
2	Towson	0-0	8-3
3	Hofstra	0-0	9-5
4	UNCW	0-0	6-4
5	James Madison	0-0	5-5
6	William & Mary	0-0	5-5
7	Delaware	0-0	2-7
8	George Mason	0-0	0-0
9	Georgia State	0-0	2-8

CAA FIELD HOCKEY			
		CAA	Overall
1	Northeastern	0-0	5-0
2	Drexel	0-0	5-1
3	William & Mary	0-0	5-1
4	James Madison	0-0	3-2
5	Old Dominion	0-0	3-2
6	Hofstra	0-0	4-3
7	Delaware	0-0	2-3
8	Towson	0-0	0-5



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