

## 14-19 Albany

Danes lost a lot, but have always been title contender under Ford.

## 20-25 Bryant

Coming off inaugural NEC season, Bulldogs building toward 2012.

## 26-31 Central Connecticut State

Defending Champion Blue Devils are NEC preseason favorite.

## 32-37 Duquesne

Third-year league member Dukes look to make mark in the NEC.

## 38-43 Monmouth

NEC's all-time leading rusher is gone; who steps up?

## 44-49 Robert Morris

Bullish Finish to 2009 Has Colonials Hopeful in 2010.

## 50-55 Sacred Heart

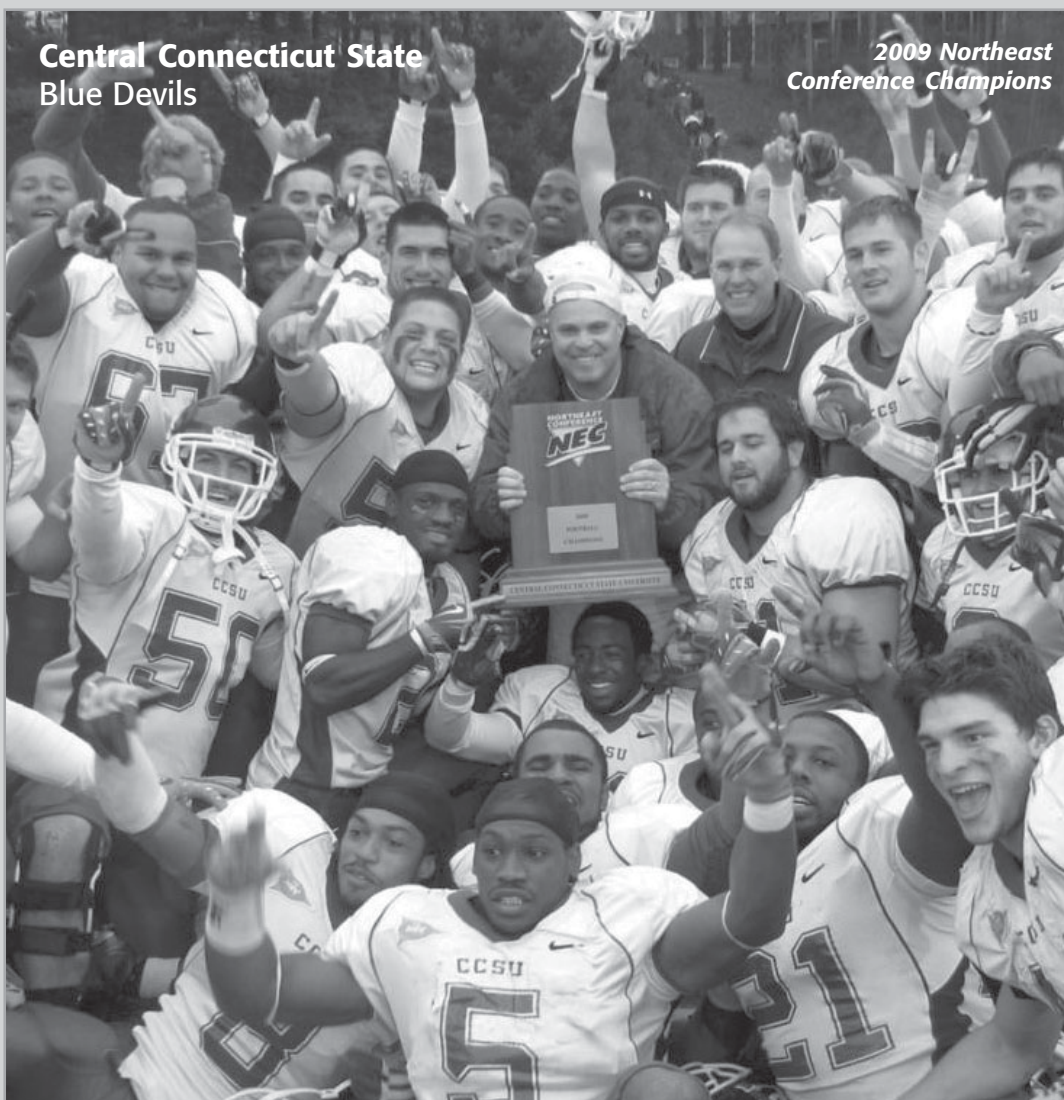
Pioneers Looking for 2008-type turnaround.

## 56-61 Saint Francis (PA)

New Coach, New Attitude in Loretto.

## 62-67 Wagner

Hameline goes for 23rd winning season & 200th career victory.



**Central Connecticut State Blue Devils**

*2009 Northeast Conference Champions*

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### Northeast Conference

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# About The Northeast Conference/Conference Membership



## Northeast Conference History

When the Northeast Conference (NEC) was first established as the ECAC-Metro Conference back in 1981, the league's founders had one goal in mind: to create a competitive NCAA Division I men's basketball conference for unaffiliated schools on the Eastern seaboard. A single-sport entity at its inception, the NEC has grown far beyond expectations over the past three decades, having transformed itself into a burgeoning 12-member, 23-sport conference. To mark the NEC's 30th Anniversary season in 2010-11, the Conference will proudly celebrate its heritage as it builds toward a promising future.

The NEC and its member institutions are committed to providing opportunities for student-athletes to achieve their fullest potential both in athletically and academically. Likewise, the Conference continually strives to be an NCAA Division I leader for athletic success, academic achievement and integrity, sportsmanship, equity and diversity, community partnership and national engagement.

The remarkable success story of the conference began to unfold in 1985, when the league began sponsoring additional sports. Three years later, a change of name was in order and the Northeast Conference as we know it today was born. With membership and sport sponsorship continuing to grow over the next 25 years, the NEC now enjoys qualification or play-in access to 14 different NCAA Championships (baseball, men's and women's basketball, field hockey, football, men's and women's golf, women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, softball, men's and women's tennis and women's volleyball).

Though the NEC has featured various incarnations since its inception, charter members Fairleigh Dickinson, Long Island, Robert Morris, St. Francis (NY), Saint Francis (PA) and Wagner remain part of the current 12-school alignment. They are joined by Monmouth (admitted in 1985), Mount St. Mary's (1989), Central Connecticut State (1997), Quinnipiac (1998) and Sacred Heart (1999). NEC expansion continues with the addition of Bryant University in 2012 as the league's 12th member, which will give the league a six-state geographic footprint with access to such major media markets as New York City, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Hartford and Providence.

NEC member institutions now compete in 23 championship sports: baseball, men's and women's basketball, women's bowling, men's and women's cross country, field hockey, football, men's and women's golf, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's outdoor track and field, men's and women's soccer, softball, women's swimming, men's and women's tennis, and women's volleyball.

## NEC New Media/Television

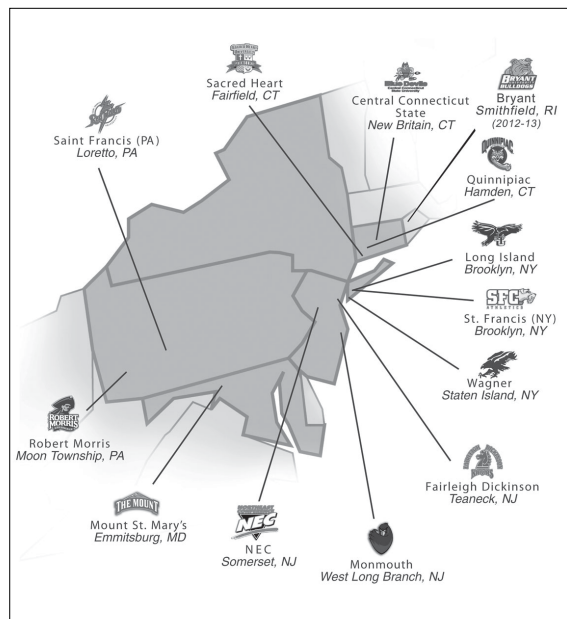
More widely-recognized than ever, the NEC continues to expand its new media initiatives to cater to a growing fan base.

The Conference has embraced social media with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages, all of which have attracted loyal followings. The NEC also provides its fans with NEC On The Run podcast segments, weekly NEC Notebook spots (that also air on Sports Radio 66 WFAN in New York City and ESPN Radio 1250 in Pittsburgh) and video blogs. To further enhance its multimedia efforts, the league launched satellite website, [www.northeastconference.tv](http://www.northeastconference.tv), last fall. The site serves as the league's webcast hub and offers an event archive dating back two years. A women's basketball regular season Game of the Week along with ten conference championships (men's and women's soccer, field hockey, volleyball, women's basketball, women's bowling, men's and women's lacrosse, softball and baseball) made up the 2009-10 webcast package. The Conference also plans a summer relaunch of its official website, [www.northeastconference.org](http://www.northeastconference.org).

To supplement one of the premier regional basketball television packages in the country, the conference also produces a football package and a preseason basketball show entitled NEC Countdown to Tipoff. Over the last five years, the Conference has televised nearly 150 events, as the league's coverage area expanded to over 50 million homes. Along with flagship station MSG Network, other regional television partners include MSG Plus, FSN-Pittsburgh, MASN, NESN, Fox College Sports, Cox Cable and the Connecticut Sports Network. In 2010, ESPN broadcast the men's basketball championship game for the 23rd straight year, while ESPNU carried the women's championship game, marking the third year in a row the women's contest reached a nationwide audience.

## Academic Success

The Northeast Conference's commitment to academic excellence led to national recognition for both individual student-athletes and the league's member institutions as a whole in 2009-10. NEC student-athletes graduated at an 84.7 percent rate, which is well above the national average of 79 percent according to NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data. Likewise, a total of 19 NEC teams garnered public recognition from the NCAA for their latest Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores. The league placed 33 representatives on ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District teams, one of whom - Monmouth men's soccer player Daniel Bostock - went on to garner Academic All-America Honors. On a conference-wide level, more than 2,200 student-athletes qualified for the NEC Academic Honor Roll, a 13 percent increase from the previous year, while nearly 500 were named to the Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll with GPAs of 3.75 or higher. Student-athletes at Fairleigh Dickinson and Saint Francis (PA) posted combined GPAs of 3.24 to share the NEC Institutional Academic Award.



## Northeast Conference Membership

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Institution	Joined NEC
Bryant University	2012
Central Connecticut State University	1997
Fairleigh Dickinson University	1981
Long Island University	1981
Monmouth University	1985
Mount St. Mary's University	1989
Quinnipiac University	1998
Robert Morris University	1981
Sacred Heart University	1999
St. Francis (NY) College	1981
Saint Francis (PA) University	1981
Wagner College	1981

## Associate Members

Football	Bowling
Albany, Duquesne	Adelphi, Kutztown, New Jersey City, Saint Peter's
Field Hockey	
Rider, Siena	

# Educating Student-Athletes On & Off Field

## Athletic Achievement

The NEC's exposure was widened on a national basis as the Conference sent representatives to NCAA Championship events in 13 different team sports in 2009-10, while NEC student-athletes individually qualified to compete for an NCAA title in women's tennis, along with men's and women's golf.

In the league's highest profile event of the year - played before the largest crowd in conference history at the TD Bank Sports Center - Robert Morris defeated Quinnipiac, 52-50, to become the first men's basketball program since the mid-90's to repeat as NEC champion; RMU then captivated a nationwide audience with a near upset of #2 seed Villanova in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Less than a month later, the Conference drew headlines as Fairleigh Dickinson won the NCAA Women's Bowling championship with a thrilling 4-3 win over Nebraska in the title match televised live by ESPN. The championship was historical in nature as it marked the first such title for a Northeast Conference institution in a league-sponsored sport. In just its second year sponsoring the sport, the NEC featured six teams ranked in the top-15 of the National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) poll during the 2009-10 campaign.

The Monmouth men's soccer program and Long Island softball team also found success on the national stage. After winning its fifth consecutive regular season crown, Monmouth went on to capture the NEC Tournament title and earned the opportunity to host #12 UConn on the Great Lawn in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Before a sellout crowd, the Hawks advanced past the Huskies in penalty kicks. The Hawks ranked as high as fifth and finished the season ranked 13th nationally in the NSCAA/adidas poll. Long Island softball completed an unprecedented season on the diamond by becoming the first team in NEC history to reach an NCAA Regional final in the sport. The Blackbirds defeated #21 UMass and Boston University before falling to #13 Arizona State.

In football, Central Connecticut State won its first NEC football crown since 2005 and represented the Conference in the fourth Gridiron Classic. The Long Island women's volleyball program continued its dominance with a sixth straight Northeast Conference championship last fall. In its first season of competition, NEC newcomer Bryant ran away with the baseball regular season title. The stage was also set for the official launch of men's lacrosse in 2010-11 as Mount St. Mary's advanced to the NCAA Tournament after capturing the MAAC Championship. Bryant claimed the biggest win of the season, a 9-7 conquest of #9 Yale in April, and Robert Morris was as high as #19 in the USILA national poll.

Individually, six NEC student-athletes received All-America honors in their respective sports. Monmouth senior attacker Ryan Kinne was named a first team NSCAA/adidas All-American in men's soccer, while his teammate, senior defender Daniel Bostock, was tabbed to the second team. Two members of the FDU national champion women's bowling team - Sara Litteral and Erica Perez - were named All-Americans by the National Tenpin Coaches Association. For Perez, it marked her fourth consecutive honor, while Litteral was recognized for the second straight year. CCSU baseball star Sean Allaire was tabbed a third team ABCA and Louisville Slugger All-American and Blue Devil running back James Mallory was named to the Associated Press and AFCA All-American teams, and was a finalist for the Walter Payton Award, presented annually to the outstanding college football player at the FCS level.

Sacred Heart captured its third straight Brenda Weare Commissioner's Cup. The Pioneers also claimed a fourth straight Joan Martin Women's Commissioner's Cup. The Men's Cup was won by Monmouth for the eighth time in the last nine years.

## On Campus/In The Community

The NEC welcomed the class of 2013 to campus last summer with a Freshman Orientation gift bag promotion, the first step in a new outreach program developed as a by-product of the NEC Strategic Plan. Over 10,000 freshmen students across the membership were introduced to the Conference with promotional items, including an informative NEC Fan Guide.

The NEC also participated in the NCAA's Respect Campaign, an effort to promote an environment of respect and integrity at Conference events. The marketing campaign included co-branded NEC/NCAA banners, logos and print ads, along with public address announcements and personalized spots that ran during institutional radio and webcasts.

The NEC, its member institutions and student-athletes have made community involvement an important piece of its mission. In 2009-10, the NEC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee made its annual visit to the Cancer Recovery Foundation in Hershey, PA in February. The SAAC coordinated a leaguewide "Penny Wars" fundraiser that resulted in a significant donation to the organization. NEC field hockey programs participated in a Be the Match Challenge, which helped facilitate matches for potential bone marrow donors. The drive resulted in more than 650 people signing up for the national Be The Match Registry. To assist in raising breast cancer awareness, NEC women's volleyball teams supported "Dig Pink" for the first time on a conference basis this season, while women's basketball teams also participated in the WBCA's "Pink Zone" promotion. Additionally, the Sacred Heart SAAC was the recipient of the 2010 NCAA SAAC Award of Excellence.

## Evolving and Expanding

In recent years, the NEC has taken aim at upgrading the caliber of the league's championship sports and enhancing the opportunities and experiences for the more than 4,000 student-athletes that compete in the conference. The Conference will contest its first men's lacrosse championship this year and has upgraded its women's swimming and diving championship venue with its move to MIT in 2011. This fall, the NEC will gain automatic access to the Division I Football Championship for the first time, making football the 14th team sport in which NEC student-athletes are guaranteed a chance to compete for an NCAA crown. Set to embark on a number of new initiatives as part of the league's Strategic Plan - including the creation of an NEC Athletic Hall of Fame - the NEC and its member institutions are committed to the future growth of the Conference.

## 2010-11 NEC Championship Dates

Championship	Date	Host Site
M/W Cross Country	Oct. 30	Stanley Quarter Park (New Britain, CT)
Field Hockey	Nov. 5-6	High Seed
Women's Soccer	Nov. 5 & 7	High Seed
Men's Soccer	Nov. 12 & 14	High Seed
Women's Volleyball	Nov. 20-21	High Seed
M/W Indoor Track	Feb. 12-13	P.G. County Sports Complex (Landover, MD)
M/W Swimming	Feb. 17-19	Mass. Institute Technology (Boston, MA)
Men's Basketball	Mar. 3, 6 & 9	High Seeds
Women's Basketball	Mar. 5, 8 & 13	High Seeds
Bowling	Mar. 26-27	Parkway Lanes (Elmwood Park, NJ)
M/W Tennis	Apr. 15-17	Mercer Tennis Center (West Windsor, NJ)
Women's Lacrosse	Apr. 29 & May 1	High Seed
Women's Golf	Apr. 21-23	TBD
Men's Golf	Apr. 29-May 1	TBD
M/W Outdoor Track	May 7-8	Monmouth (West Long Branch, NJ)
Softball	May 13-14	High Seed
Baseball	May 19-21	TBD

## 2009-10 NEC Championship Winners

Sport	Team Champion
Field Hockey	Lock Haven
Men's Cross Country	Central Connecticut State
Women's Cross Country	Quinnipiac
Women's Soccer	Monmouth
Men's Soccer	Monmouth
Women's Volleyball	Long Island
Football	Central Connecticut State
Women's Swimming	Saint Francis (PA)
Men's Indoor Track & Field	Long Island
Women's Indoor Track & Field	Long Island
Men's Basketball	Robert Morris
Women's Basketball	Saint Francis (PA)
Bowling	Sacred Heart
Men's Golf	Saint Francis (PA)
Women's Golf	Fairleigh Dickinson
Men's Tennis	Quinnipiac
Women's Tennis	Long Island
Women's Lacrosse	Sacred Heart
Softball	Long Island
Men's Outdoor Track & Field	Monmouth
Women's Outdoor Track & Field	Monmouth
Baseball	Central Connecticut State

# 2009 NEC Football Academic Honor Roll

Honorees must maintain a minimum cumulative grade-point-average of 3.20

Justin Anderson	Albany	Sherrod Evers	Robert Morris
Chris Blais	Albany	Josh Keil	Robert Morris
Frank Blasinsky	Albany	Adam Lawrence	Robert Morris
Justin Brancaccio	Albany	Mike Lovely	Robert Morris
Ben Carl	Albany	Eric Lowry	Robert Morris
Dan Di Lella	Albany	Greg Lucas	Robert Morris
Vince Gonzales	Albany	Kyle McGraw	Robert Morris
Matt Goss	Albany	Ethan Mengle	Robert Morris
Dan Halperin	Albany	Dan Mignogna	Robert Morris
Jordan Migliore	Albany	Logan Miles	Robert Morris
Wil Moushey	Albany	Nolan Nearhoof	Robert Morris
Keith Peifer	Albany	Ryan Nearhoof	Robert Morris
Chris Simpson	Albany	Jordan Schankweiler	Robert Morris
Tony Sparano	Albany	Timothy Scheidler	Robert Morris
Andrew Stevens	Albany	Michael Shaffer	Robert Morris
Eddie Tretina	Albany	Alexander Shiffer	Robert Morris
Rhakeem Wiggins	Albany	Zach Stanopiewicz	Robert Morris
Bobby Woods	Albany	Mark Szymanski	Robert Morris
Patrick Armenti	Bryant	Joey Wines	Robert Morris
Cody Aughney	Bryant	D.J. Zalewski	Robert Morris
Juan Aviles	Bryant	David Comerford	Sacred Heart
Jack Barons	Bryant	Adam Conger	Sacred Heart
Nicholas Candito	Bryant	John Cuneo	Sacred Heart
Ray Doucette	Bryant	Paul Graziadei	Sacred Heart
Julien Dumont	Bryant	Gary Harraka	Sacred Heart
Douglas Emerzian	Bryant	Gregory Ibe	Sacred Heart
Matthew Llewellyn	Bryant	Jo Jo Jamiel	Sacred Heart
Brandon Lockerby	Bryant	Sean Kessler	Sacred Heart
Timothy Mastrino	Bryant	Paul Link	Sacred Heart
James Meyer	Bryant	Nicholas Liquori	Sacred Heart
Timothy Pates	Bryant	Bill O'Brien	Sacred Heart
Brendan Brackett	Central Conn. St.	Steven O'Brien	Sacred Heart
Chris Dennison	Central Conn. St.	Jason Plescow	Sacred Heart
Robert Fisher	Central Conn. St.	William Romaniello	Sacred Heart
Mark Fritz	Central Conn. St.	Bryan Schweitzer	Sacred Heart
Ricardo Gibson	Central Conn. St.	Ray Sheehan	Sacred Heart
Marc Mignault	Central Conn. St.	Brett Swider	Sacred Heart
Nathan Pagan	Central Conn. St.	Justin Swisher	Sacred Heart
Daniel Radich	Central Conn. St.	Steve Tedesco	Sacred Heart
Danny Rodriguez	Central Conn. St.	Aaron Thomae	Sacred Heart
Dominick Tomanelli	Central Conn. St.	Mark Uyeno	Sacred Heart
Tyler Baker	Duquesne	Luke Wischnowski	Sacred Heart
Joe Cangilla	Duquesne	Charles Billy	Saint Francis (PA)
Derron Copeland	Duquesne	Zachary Blahovec	Saint Francis (PA)
Dane Faloon	Duquesne	Christopher Buzas	Saint Francis (PA)
Matthew Glose	Duquesne	Tyler Davidson	Saint Francis (PA)
P.J. Horne	Duquesne	Russel Fisher	Saint Francis (PA)
Matt Kikta	Duquesne	Andrew Gause	Saint Francis (PA)
Steve Kuhns	Duquesne	Tyler Gillmen	Saint Francis (PA)
Charlie Leventry	Duquesne	Kyle Harbridge	Saint Francis (PA)
Peter Manetas	Duquesne	Chad Iachini	Saint Francis (PA)
Willie Norton	Duquesne	John Kelly	Saint Francis (PA)
Casey Quinn	Duquesne	Jordan Kelly	Saint Francis (PA)
Zach Richert	Duquesne	Ryan LaDuke	Saint Francis (PA)
Kevin Rombach	Duquesne	Scott Lewis	Saint Francis (PA)
Jim Sabia	Duquesne	Luke McConnell	Saint Francis (PA)
Gus Sutura	Duquesne	Scott Mehall	Saint Francis (PA)
Mike Winsko	Duquesne	Paul Print	Saint Francis (PA)
Kenny Amsel	Monmouth	Benjamin Schultz	Saint Francis (PA)
Jonathon Blaydes	Monmouth	Jacob Smith	Saint Francis (PA)
Richard Burd	Monmouth	Jeffrey Wasilewski	Saint Francis (PA)
Garrett Culloo	Monmouth	Michael Zack	Saint Francis (PA)
Anthony D'Elia	Monmouth	Michael Alberque	Wagner
Dave Damirgian	Monmouth	Adam Brien	Wagner
Ryan Folsom	Monmouth	Matthew Connelly	Wagner
Tyler George	Monmouth	Adam Farnsworth	Wagner
Bradley Harris	Monmouth	Christopher Furner	Wagner
Alex Laipple	Monmouth	Luke Gambale	Wagner
Eric McCutcheon	Monmouth	Christian Hanna	Wagner
Andrew Musick	Monmouth	Joseph Harkins	Wagner
Josh Pack	Monmouth	Jason Hyland	Wagner
Justin Pandorf	Monmouth	Jorel Joseph	Wagner
Craig Peterson	Monmouth	Nicholas Linehan	Wagner
Matthew Plautz	Monmouth	Nicholas Mauceri	Wagner
Nick Romeo	Monmouth	Matthew McGuinness	Wagner
Jon Stolarz	Monmouth	David Meeks	Wagner
Andrew Sutton	Monmouth	Richard Morgan	Wagner
Tyler Verga	Monmouth	Kyle Muir	Wagner
Jacob Yates	Monmouth	Patrick O'Connor	Wagner
Brad Banas	Robert Morris	Olatunde Ogunlana	Wagner
Troy Besterce	Robert Morris	Kevin Orender	Wagner
Brian Bevilacqua	Robert Morris	Ryan Pentz	Wagner
Michael Bevilacqua	Robert Morris	Christopher Saunders	Wagner
Danny Bonaventura	Robert Morris	Justin Sciarra	Wagner
Anthony Caperelli	Robert Morris	Tyler Seling	Wagner
Kyle Cooper	Robert Morris	Nicholas Suppes	Wagner
Alex DiMichele	Robert Morris	Richard Vellucci	Wagner
Nick England	Robert Morris	Philip Weih	Wagner

# NEC Football

## Academic Honors



## NEC Scholar-Athlete Award

Albany senior linebacker **Chris Simpson (Victor, NY/ Victor Central)** claims NEC Scholar-Athlete honors in football. A key member of a defensive unit that ranked among the FCS national leaders in scoring, rushing and total defense, Simpson concluded the year fourth on the Great Danes with 58 tackles, including 4.5 for a loss, along with two sacks, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery in 11 starts. The Victor, NY product was named both NEC and ECAC Player of the Week on September 21st after he posted a career-high 11 tackles and forced a fumble that led to the winning touchdown in Albany's 20-16 upset of #20 Maine. In his four years, Albany posted a 24-4 record against NEC opponents and captured two league championships. Off the field, Simpson was named to the 2009 ESPN the Magazine Academic All-District I First Team and was a semifinalist for the National Football Foundation William V. Campbell Trophy, an award considered by many to be the "Academic Heisman." He is a Presidential Scholar, winner of the CRC Press Chemistry Award, member of both the Albany SAAC and Society of Physics Students, and serves as an academic tutor in math, physics and chemistry. Simpson has also served as a research assistant for the College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering and has aided in research of MOSFET alternatives for electronic devices. He has also given back to the community by participating in the Adopt-A-Family (for Christmas) program and Habitat for Humanity. A member of the school's 3+2 engineering program (all his classes in Fall '09 were taken at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Simpson will graduate with a degree in Physics from Albany this May and a degree in Mechanical Engineering from RPI in May, 2011. His grade point average is 3.97.



## NEC Football Scholar-Athlete History

Year	Scholar-Athlete	School
1998	Matt Farabaugh	Saint Francis (PA)
1999	Brian Russo	Wagner
2000	J.T. Herfurth	Albany
2001	Marvin Royal	Sacred Heart
2002	Justin Rosato	Monmouth
2003	Victor Camacho	Albany
2004	Jonathan LeDonne	Robert Morris
2005	Luke Palko	Saint Francis (PA)
2006	Ray Gensler	Robert Morris
2007	Ryne Nutt	Central Connecticut St.
2008	Adam Lawrence	Robert Morris
2009	Chris Simpson	Albany

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**Web Address** goredflash.com

## NEC Football

### NEC Directory/Alumni



### NEC Notable Alumni

#### Central Connecticut State

**Ricky Bottalico**, Former Major League Pitcher  
**Dave Campo**, Asst. Head Coach/Secondary, Jacksonville Jaguars  
**John Hirschbeck**, Major League Baseball Umpire  
**Jim Kelly**, Director of Player Personnel, Toronto Raptors  
**Rick Lantz**, Head Coach, Berlin Thunder (NFL Europe)  
**John Larson**, U.S. Congressman (First District, Connecticut)  
**Donna Fiedorowicz**, Director of Tour, Business Affairs, Senior PGA  
**Mike Sherman**, Head Football Coach, Texas A&M  
**Michael Ryan**, Head Athletic Trainer, Jacksonville Jaguars  
**Scott Pioli**, General Manager, Kansas City Chiefs

#### Fairleigh Dickinson

**Harry Carson**, Former NY Giant, Member of the NFL Hall of Fame  
**Seth Greenberg**, Head Basketball Coach, Virginia Tech  
**Tim Higgins**, NCAA Basketball official  
**George Martin**, Former Pro Football player  
**Peggy Noonan**, Former Speechwriter for Ronald Reagan  
**Greg Olson**, Third civilian to travel to the International Space Station  
**Bill Willoughby**, Former NBA Player  
**Fred Roedel**, Founder & Former CEO, Suisse Chalet

#### Long Island

**Rose Bird**, First woman named to California's highest court as Chief Justice  
**Jimmy Breslin**, Pulitzer Prize winning columnist/author  
**Bud Greenspan**, Olympic documentor & President, Cappy Productions  
**Dr. Louis Lemberger**, Member of team that developed Prozac  
**Ossie Schectman**, Former NBA player (Scored first point in NBA history)  
**Velma Scantlebury**, One of two African-American women transplant surgeons in the world  
**Terry Semel**, Former Chairman & CEO, Yahoo!

#### Monmouth

**Alex Blackwell**, Former NBA Player  
**Ed Halicki**, Former Major League Pitcher  
**Christie Rampone**, Member of U.S. National Women's Soccer Team  
**David Wilson**, Editor, Bloomberg Financial Markets

#### Mount St. Mary's

**Fred Carter**, Former NBA player and ESPN NBA Analyst  
**Lou Grillo**, NBA Referee  
**Father Flanagan**, Founder of Boys Town  
**Matt McHugh**, Former US Congressman and Director of World Bank  
**Njuguna Mahugu**, Secretary General of U.N. Security Council and Kenyan Ambassador to the U.N.  
**Scott Newkam**, President & CEO, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts  
**Peter Rono**, Gold medal winner in 1,500 meters at 1988 Olympics

#### Quinnipiac

**Murray Lender**, Founder of Lenders Bagels  
**William C. Weldon**, Chairman/CEO Johnson & Johnson  
**Turk Wendell**, Former Major League Baseball Pitcher

#### Robert Morris

**Murray Cohn**, Senior Director of Ticket Sales, NBA  
**Kevin Colbert**, Director of Football Operations, Pittsburgh Steelers  
**Hon. William J. Coyne**, Retired U.S. Congressman (Pennsylvania)  
**Hank Fraley**, 11th-year National Football League veteran lineman  
**Vic Gregovits**, Former VP of Marketing/Broadcasting, Pittsburgh Steelers;  
 Current CEO RMU Island Sports Center  
**Bill Sutton**, VP of Team Marketing, NBA

#### Sacred Heart

**Kevin Nealon**, Actor/Comedian, Former cast member of *Saturday Night Live*  
**John Ratzenberger**, Actor/Comedian, Former cast member of *Cheers*  
**Craig Ryden**, Chairman, CEO and President of Yankee Candle Co.  
**Joseph V. Melillo**, Executive Producer, Brooklyn Academy of Music

#### St. Francis (NY)

**Joseph Browne**, Senior VP of Communications/Governmental Affairs, NFL  
**Robert J. Clark**, VP & Treasurer, Major League Baseball  
**Dr. Frank Macchiarola**, President of St. Francis (NY)/Former Chancellor of the NYC Board of Education  
**Donald A. McQuade**, Vice Chancellor of University Relations, Cal-Berkeley  
**Thomas Von Essen**, Executive VP Giuliani Partners/Former Commissioner of NYC Fire Department

#### Saint Francis (PA)

**Claire Ansberry**, Author and staff writer, Wall Street Journal  
**Jeffrey Bower**, Assistant Coach/Former GM, New Orleans Hornets  
**Dr. James P. Gallagher**, President, Philadelphia University  
**Mike Iuzzolino**, Former NBA Player  
**Scott Layden**, Asst. Coach, Utah Jazz/Formed VP and GM, New York Knicks  
**J. Randall MacDonald**, Senior VP of Human Resources, IBM  
**Tom Meredith**, Managing Director, Dell Ventures  
**Maurice Stokes**, Three-time NBA all-star with the Rochester and Cincinnati Royals and Naismith Memorial Hall of Famer  
**Norm Van Lier**, Three-time NBA All-Star,

#### Wagner

**Andrew Bailey**, 2009 AL Rookie of the Year/Oakland A's pitcher  
**Rich Kotite**, Former NFL Head Coach  
**Robert Loggia**, Actor, Appeared in *Big* and *Independence Day*  
**Dr. Donald Spiro**, Founder of Oppenheimer Fund

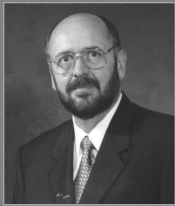
NEC Presidents



Hon. Ronald K. Machtley  
*Bryant*



Dr. John Miller  
*Central Connecticut State*



Dr. J. Michael Adams  
*Fairleigh Dickinson*



Dr. David Steinberg  
*Long Island*



Vice Admiral Paul G. Gaffney  
*Monmouth*



Dr. Thomas H. Powell  
*Mount St. Mary's*



Dr. John Lahey  
*Quinnipiac*



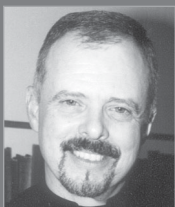
Dr. Gregory G. Dell'Omio  
*Robert Morris*



Dr. Anthony J. Cerna  
*Sacred Heart*



Brendan J. Dugan  
*St. Francis (NY)*



Rev. Gabriel Zeis, TOR  
*Saint Francis (PA)*



Dr. Richard Guarasci  
*Wagner*

NEC Football  
Commissioner/Presidents



Noreen Morris • NEC Commissioner



First Year

Noreen Morris begins her first full academic year as Commissioner of the Northeast Conference.

Morris, who has spent the last five years as a member of the Northwestern University Athletic Department executive staff, became the fourth full-time Commissioner in league history on January 4, 2010. She succeeds Brenda Weare, who passed away in June 2009 following a long battle with cancer.

Morris' extensive background in intercollegiate athletics dates back more than 20 years. She most recently served as Senior Associate Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator at Northwestern, with oversight responsibilities in the areas of academics, compliance, athletic training, strength and conditioning, and equipment. She also served as the primary liaison to the Admissions Office, served on the Big Ten Joint Group and Administrator.s Council, co-managed the department.s Strategic Planning process and supervised five Northwestern sport programs, including the five-time defending national champion women.s lacrosse program.

Prior to Northwestern, Morris spent eight years with Conference USA, overseeing the conference.s legislative and governance programs. She first served as Director of Legislative Services (1996-98) before being promoted to Assistant Commissioner (1998-02) and then Associate Commissioner (2002-04). Before moving to Conference USA, Morris spent five years as Compliance Coordinator and Sport Administrator at the University of Connecticut.

Morris has assumed numerous leadership roles throughout her distinguished career. She served on the NCAA Management Council from 2000-04 as an alternate and then permanent member, and chaired the NCAA Division I Men.s Soccer Committee in 2006. Morris recently completed her term on the Executive Committee and is a Past President of the National Association of Athletics Compliance Coordinators.

In October 2009, Morris was honored by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) as one of eight national recipients of its Administrator of the Year award.

Morris graduated from Cornell University in 1987 with a Bachelor's degree in Consumer Economics and was a two-year co-captain and four-year soccer letterwinner for the Big Red. Morris went on to earn a Master's degree in Sport Administration from the University of Massachusetts.

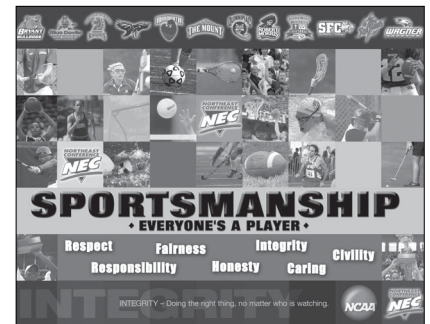
Commitment to Sportmanship & Respect

Northeast Conference member institutions value the principles of sportsmanship and the ideal of pursuing victory with honor in intercollegiate athletics. The Conference believes that athletics should be conducted in a way that reflects positively on the individual participants and institutions.

The essential elements of sportsmanship and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of character building and seven core principles: respect, responsibility, fairness, honesty, integrity, caring and civility. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these seven principles.

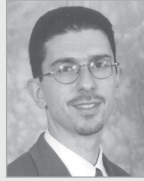
The NEC has communicated this message through public service announcements that air on televised football and basketball games, public address announcements at all events and signage on each member campus. The Conference also implemented a new Team Sportsmanship Award program in 2008-09 to recognize those teams and student-athletes who adhere to the principles of sportsmanship and pursue victory with honor. Saint Francis (PA) finished the year with a league-high six sportsmanship awards, which are voted on by student-athletes and coaches following the conclusion of each athletic season.

In 2009-10, the NEC is partnering with the NCAA on a "Respect" campaign to address sportsmanship and fan behavior issues through education, communication and enforcement when problems arise.



## Ronald Ratner • Associate Commissioner

**Ronald Ratner**, 41, begins his 13th year with the Northeast Conference. He was promoted to Associate Commissioner in June, 2002 after serving as Assistant Commissioner since December, 1998. Ratner was originally hired as the league's Assistant Director of Communications in July, 1998.



Ratner orchestrates the league's public relations efforts, and is the publicity contact for men's basketball and women's lacrosse. He serves as executive producer of the *NEC Countdown to Tipoff* preview show, as well as basketball and football telecasts on the NEC television network, where he is responsible for the scheduling of contests, acquisition of on-air talent and production of in-game and pre-taped features. Ratner oversees the league's new media initiatives, including podcasts, webstreaming, on-demand video archive, YouTube channel, Facebook page and Twitter updates. He also directs the content of the league's official website and facilitated the redesign and relaunch of the site this fall. Ratner also organizes and coordinates NEC Championships for basketball and tennis, and conducts the NEC Scholar-Athlete awards program. His 2003-04 NEC men's basketball guide was judged "Best In The Nation" among all conference publications by CoSIDA. Additionally, Ratner served on the NCAA FCS Region Advisory Committee from 2004-07.

Prior to joining the NEC, Ratner served as Sports Information Director at Hunter College in New York City for six years. Ratner was responsible for publicizing the program's 19 sports, facilitated the development and aided in the maintenance of Hunter's athletic website and was also involved in the internal and external marketing of the program. While at Hunter, Ratner served as the Publicity Director for the Skyline Athletic Conference from 1993-95 and the Met Wrestling Conference from 1994-98, while also serving as a radio analyst for CUNY Athletic Conference basketball from 1993-97.

He has taken on roles as a media relations assistant at the 1996 World Series and during the 1998 Goodwill Games at Madison Square Garden. Ratner also served as the Director of Computer Operations for the NCAA sponsored National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) at Hunter from 1993-98.

Ratner graduated summa cum laude from Brooklyn College in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Finance. He earned his master's degree in Sports Management from Brooklyn College in 1992. Ratner and his wife, Diane, reside in Flemington, NJ along with their eight-year old son Kyle.

## Joyce Bell • Assistant Commissioner

**Joyce Bell** was named NEC Assistant Commissioner (Compliance Services) in April 2008.

Bell oversees the NEC's compliance and eligibility programs, assist with rules interpretations and education, and handle compliance visits and reviews. The primary contact for NCAA coaches' certification and National Letter of Intent matters, she engages the membership in NCAA governance and national policy issues. Bell is the primary liaison to the NEC Faculty Representatives and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.



Most recently, Bell served as an NCAA Membership Services Intern for the 2007-08 academic year. In that role, she contributed to Member Services initiatives including providing legislative and interpretative assistance, coordinating the interpretation letter process and facilitating continuing education. Additionally, Bell processed academic waivers, including progress-toward-degree waivers, Academic Progress Rate adjustments and penalty waivers. She also assisted in organizing and conducting the NCAA Conference Intern Seminar.

Bell joined the NCAA staff from the University of Akron School of Law where she received her juris doctorate in 2007. While in law school, Bell was President of the Black Law Students Association in 2006-07 and served as a compliance intern at both Akron and the Mid-American Conference. A graduate of the Ohio State University, Bell earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in both Marketing and Accounting.

## Ralph Ventre • Assistant Director of Communications

**Ralph Ventre**, 27, enters his fourth year as NEC Assistant Director of Communications after having been named to the position on July 30, 2007.



Ventre handles day-to-day conference media relations for football, women's basketball, baseball, field hockey, tennis and track and field, and assists with conference championships, televised events, league publications and maintenance of the NEC's website.

Prior to his arrival at the NEC, Ventre spent two years as a Sports Information Assistant at Manhattan College. In that role, he served as primary media contact for a host of sports, including women's basketball and volleyball, and supervised the office's staff of student workers. Ventre took on additional responsibilities as a Production Assistant for the Manhattan Basketball Weekly TV show that debuted on SportsNet New York in January 2007.

Ventre has worked as a Field Reporter/Writer for PA SportsTicker since 2006, covering numerous sporting events on behalf of the newswire organization, including the U.S. Open Tennis Championships and NCAA Men's Basketball East Region. He also spent three years as an Administrative Assistant for The Hoop Group from 2001-04.

The Lincroft, New Jersey native is a 2005 graduate of Fordham University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. While at Fordham, he served as men's basketball team manager for three seasons. Ventre was the 2005 recipient of the Patrick Kenneally Memorial Award, presented to the Fordham student who best serves athletics in capacities other than athletic participation.

## Allison Whalen • Media Relations Intern

**Allison Whalen** joined the NEC staff as a Media Relations Intern on August 3, 2010. She will assist in the media relations efforts of the conference and handle publicity for a number of sports.

Whalen is a 2009 cum laude graduate of St. Bonaventure University where she majored in Journalism and Mass Communication and was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Academic Honor Society. She earned her Masters of Arts in Integrated Marketing Communications from St. Bonaventure in May, 2010.



## NEC Football NEC Office Staff



### Andrew Alia • Assistant Commissioner

**Andrew Alia**, 37, is in his twelfth year with the Northeast Conference. The 1998-99 NEC administrative intern was named Assistant Director of Operations in July, 1999, was promoted to Director of Operations in July, 2000, and was most recently elevated to Assistant Commissioner in July, 2002.



As Assistant Commissioner, Alia oversees the NEC's marketing program including areas such as corporate sponsorship packages and promotion of championships and special events. His other duties include serving as an executive producer of NEC Television Network broadcasts, acting as a liaison to marketing specialists at NEC member institutions, and directing the league's licensing and merchandising efforts.

Alia also organizes and administers selected NEC championship events, develops schedules for numerous sports, and serves as the conference office's business manager. Alia's professional experience includes working as a media relations assistant at three NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament events; the 2004 East Rutherford Regional, the 2000 first and second rounds in Buffalo, NY, and the 1999 East Regional, which was held at the Meadowlands in New Jersey. Nationally, Alia is a member of the NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee, beginning his term in September, 2006.

Alia's internship with the NEC enabled him to complete his master's degree in Sport Management, which he received from the University of Connecticut in December, 1998. While at UConn, he worked extensively with the athletic department's academic counseling program. A native of Saddle Brook, NJ, Alia graduated cum laude from Albright College in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in history and political science. Alia and his wife Catherine currently reside in North Brunswick, NJ.

### Michelle Boone • Assistant Commissioner

**Michelle Boone** was named NEC Director of Sports Services on July 21, 2008 and promoted to Assistant Commissioner in March 2009.

Boone is responsible for championship and regular season sport administration, supervision of officiating programs, and coordination of awards.



Prior to her arrival at the NEC, Boone spent 2007-08 working as a Regional Marketing Coordinator for CBS College Sports, concentrating on sponsorship activation at the Atlantic-10. She also served as the A-10 Shootout Manager, coordinating the season-long on-campus event at Atlantic-10 institutions.

Boone previously served as a Marketing and Championships intern at the Big West Conference in 2006-07. In addition to assisting with the organization and administration of championships, she traveled with the Big West Touring Display to promote championship events and sponsors.

While completing her graduate studies, Boone worked as a Street Team Member for the Anschutz Entertainment Group to promote the JP Morgan Chase Open Tennis Tournament. She also served as a Marketing and Promotions Intern at Cal-Riverside. Following her college graduation, Boone spent two years as an Assistant Softball Coach at Penn.

A Philadelphia native, Boone completed her Master's Degree in Sports Management from the University of San Francisco in 2007. She is a 2003 graduate of Lock Haven University with a Bachelor's degree in Health Science with a concentration in Athletic Training. While at Lock Haven, she pitched and was a four-year letterwinner on the women's softball team. In her senior campaign, she was named All-PSAC, All-Region and helped lead the Eagles to NCAA Regional runner-up honors for the first time in 14 years.

### Benjamin Shove • Director of Sport Services

**Benjamin Shove** was named NEC Director of Sports Services on November 12, 2008.

Shove is responsible for championship and regular season sport administration, and assists in the media relations and marketing efforts of the Conference.



Prior to his appointment, Shove spent three years as Associate Sports Information Director at Georgetown University. He also served five years in the Sports Information Office at NEC member Wagner College, including a stint as Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations from 2003-05.

Shove is a 1998 graduate of Marist College, where the Communications major was a three-plus year starting second baseman on the Red Fox baseball team. Benjamin and his wife Randi Larson, an Academic Advisor for student-athletes at Rutgers University, reside in Piscataway, NJ.

### Kevin Sanchez • Assistant Director of Operations/Events

**Kevin Sanchez** joined the NEC staff as Assistant Director of Events and Operations, on August 23, 2010. He will help coordinate and organize NEC meetings, events, and championships; assist with the Conference awards program; and serve as the primary operations contact for the Conference, including administrative and office manager support.



Sanchez is a 2006 graduate of the University of California-Santa Barbara where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society, and minored in Sports Management. He earned his Masters of Science in Sports Marketing and Management from Indiana University in 2009.

# Sacred Heart Secures Third Straight Commissioner's Cup

Sacred Heart won the Brenda Weare Commissioner's Cup for the third straight season, announced Northeast Conference (NEC) Commissioner Noreen Morris at the league's annual administrative spring meetings. Sacred Heart also concluded the 2009-10 athletic season as the Joan Martin Women's Commissioner's Cup champion for the fourth year in a row. Monmouth claimed the NEC Men's Commissioner Cup for the eighth time in the last nine years.

Sacred Heart racked up 221.96 Cup points on the year, the third-highest total in the history of the award. The Pioneers also posted the second-best ever Women's Cup tally with 132.95 points. Sacred Heart had established the overall (244.07) and women's (140.85) Cup records during a spectacular 2008-09 campaign.

The Pioneers captured NEC Tournament Championships in women's bowling and women's lacrosse in 2009-10. The Pioneers also finished in the top four in the league standings or at NEC championships in 13 different sports on the year.

In the closest Men's Cup race in conference annals, Monmouth finished with 89.96 points to edge out the Pioneers, who finished with 89.01. Since the Men's Cup was established in 1997-98, Monmouth has won the award 10 times in 13 years.

"Winning the Commissioner's Cup is a special honor, especially when the achievement is matched against the efforts and quality of so many quality institutions in the Northeast Conference," said Don Cook, Sacred Heart Director of Athletics. "Winning the overall Cup three consecutive years, with our women winning the last four, is a wonderful tribute to all who have had a stake in Sacred Heart's success - the University administration, including Athletics, our coaches and most of all the terrific student-athletes who sacrificed much on and off the field to make it happen."

Sacred Heart outpaced second place Monmouth (200.57 points) by over 20 points in the overall standings. Long Island finished in third place for the second straight season and set a new school mark with 179.15 points. Robert Morris improved from seventh place in 2008-09 to a fourth place finish this past year with 166.61 points.

## 2009-10 Commissioner's Cup Overall Standings

1. Sacred Heart	221.96
2. Monmouth	200.57
3. Long Island	179.15
4. Robert Morris	166.61
5. Saint Francis (PA)	165.95
6. Central Connecticut State	163.21
7. Mount St. Mary's	156.55
8. Quinnipiac	156.32
9. Fairleigh Dickinson	128.09
10. Bryant	113.70
11. Wagner	102.64
12. St. Francis (NY)	86.68

The NEC Commissioner's Cup was instituted during the 1986-87 season with Long Island winning the inaugural award. Fairleigh Dickinson and Monmouth lead all NEC schools with six Cups to their credit. Cup points are awarded in each NEC sponsored sport. For men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, football, women's bowling, softball, field hockey, women's lacrosse and baseball, the final regular season standings are used to determine Cup points. In all other sports, points are awarded based on the finish at NEC Championship events.

## NEC Commissioner's Cup Past Champions

2009-10	Sacred Heart
2008-09	Sacred Heart
2007-08	Sacred Heart
2006-07	Monmouth
2005-06	Monmouth
2004-05	Monmouth
2003-04	Monmouth
2002-03	UMBC
2001-02	UMBC
2000-01	UMBC
1999-00	UMBC
1998-99	UMBC
1997-98	Monmouth
1996-97	Mount St. Mary's
1995-96	Mount St. Mary's
1994-95	Mount St. Mary's
1993-94	Fairleigh Dickinson
1992-93	Fairleigh Dickinson
1991-92	Fairleigh Dickinson
1990-91	Monmouth
1989-90	Fairleigh Dickinson
1988-89	Fairleigh Dickinson
1987-88	Fairleigh Dickinson
1986-87	Long Island

## NEC Football Commissioner's Cup



# Weare's Legacy Lives On Through Cup



Brenda Weare (middle), SHU AD Don Cook (L) SHU SWA Alicia Alford (R)

In May 2009, the Northeast Conference Commissioner's Cup was renamed in honor of the late Brenda Weare, who passed away in June following a courageous fight against cancer.

During her short time as the NEC's third-ever Commissioner, she introduced a number of new programs aimed at upgrading the caliber of the league's championship sports and enhancing the opportunities and experiences for the more than 4,000 student-athletes that compete in the conference. In addition to securing Bryant as the NEC's 12th full-time member, Weare was instrumental in the NEC gaining automatic access to the NCAA Division I Football Championship beginning in 2010, spearheading the conference's new strategic plan and implementing a new league-wide sportsmanship policy.

"I am deeply touched by this tremendous honor," said Weare following the announcement. "I truly was overwhelmed, not just by the recognition, but by everyone's kind words that were shared. It was an amazing night for me and my family. This gesture on the part of the League was above and beyond what I ever expected for my work. I'm looking forward to continuing to do great things with this group of exceptional administrators for years to come."

"The conference is fortunate to have found and landed Brenda as our Commissioner," said Monmouth President Paul Gaffney, who also serves as the Chair of the NEC Presidents Council at the time. "She has done wonders in the conference with automatic qualification, inspiring management and improved conference visibility and reputation."

"Brenda Weare's leadership of the Northeast Conference has displayed vision, passion and integrity providing for a dynamic framework for the administrators and student-athletes at each conference institution," said Bob Krimmel, Director of Athletics at Saint Francis (PA) and Chair of the NEC Athletic Directors Committee. "The renaming of the Commissioner's Cup, which is the symbol of athletic excellence in the Northeast Conference, reflects the impact Brenda Weare has made on the league as our Commissioner. As a conference family, we have been blessed to have Brenda leading us to new opportunities and in meeting the challenges that conferences face in today's world of college athletics. Brenda truly represents the best of college athletics and the Brenda Weare Commissioner's Cup will forever reflect the excellence she has inspired in all who are part of the Northeast Conference."

# Northeast Conference On the Tube

Entering a landmark season in which the Northeast Conference (NEC) will receive its first-ever automatic bid to the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs, the league announced plans to televise five football games in 2010. The five-game package is the largest in NEC history.

The NEC Television Network and its growing list of broadcast partners will air the games regionally in the Northeast, as well as nationally on Fox College Sports (FCS), which is available on digital cable in approximately 56 million homes nationwide. FCS will air all five contests live.

The opener is set for September 18th at noon as Saint Francis (PA) and first year head coach Chris Villarrial welcome Sacred Heart in a game to air live on FCS, the Connecticut Sports Network (CTSN) and WATM-ABC 23 in western Pennsylvania. FSN-Pittsburgh will televise the game two days later on September 20th with a 7:00 pm prime time showing.

One week later on September 25th, Robert Morris visits Wagner in a battle of two of the NEC's preseason favorites. MSG Network, FCS and PCNC in Pittsburgh will carry the game live at noon.

The package resumes on October 16th as Bryant travels to Monmouth for a noon kickoff on FCS and Cox Cable (CT/RI).

In one of the marquee matchups on the conference slate, Albany hosts defending NEC champion Central Connecticut State in a special Friday night showdown on October 22nd at 7:00 pm. MSG, FCS and Cox Cable (CT/RI) will carry the game live, while CTSN will air it on a delayed basis.

The final game of the package spotlights crosstown rivals Robert Morris and Duquesne. With FCS broadcasting the game nationally and PCNC (Pittsburgh) providing the local coverage, the two teams battle in Moon Township on October 30th at noon. FSN-Pittsburgh will air the game on delay on November 1st at 7:00 pm.

The 2010 season marks the eighth straight that the NEC has broadcast football games as part of its extensive regional sports package. This coming winter, the league will air more than 20 men's and women's basketball games.

"This is a very exciting year for Northeast Conference football as our teams battle to earn the league's first ever AQ to the FCS Championship," said Noreen Morris, NEC Commissioner. "With the help of our television partners we will showcase our programs with the largest television package to date, highlighting five games and boasting 17 live windows."

Paul Dottino enters his eighth season as the play-by-play voice of NEC football. He is also a member of the NEC basketball broadcast team and the New York Giants gameday reporter with the WFAN/Giants Radio Network. Former Cal quarterback Steve Levy is set to make his debut on color commentary. Eric Singer is the Producer of NEC football telecasts

## NEC Football On Television



### NEC Network Partners



### Northeast Conference Broadcast Personalities



Entering his twelfth year, **PAUL DOTTINO** has become a familiar face in the Northeast Conference and its numerous media markets through his work as sideline announcer on conference telecasts and as the league's play-by-play announcer on football and women's basketball broadcasts. He is also the host of NEC on the Run podcasts as well as Two-on-2:00, an NEC halftime segment where one player from each team address various topics in a style similar to ESPN's Pardon the Interruption. Dottino, who is known for his enthusiasm and high energy style, is the New York Giants' beat/gameday reporter for 50,000-watt WFAN in New York City.

**STEVE LEVY** enters his first season as a color commentator for Northeast Conference football. In September 2009, he began broadcasting out east as part of the Madison Square Garden Network. A former quarterback at Cal, Levy's football career includes professional stints with the Arena Football League's San Jose Sabercats, Colorado Crush, and Tampa Bay Storm. Before heading out to the San Francisco Bay area, Levy played his high school ball at New Jersey's Don Bosco Prep where he earned All-State honors.

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### FLASHBACK on the Web

Couldn't catch the action live? Be sure to log onto [northeastconference.org](http://northeastconference.org) for highlights of ALL NEC-TV games through the website's extensive video on-demand archive. **NEC FLASHBACKS** is the destination for on-demand video of recent and classic Northeast Conference games and events.



**NORTHEASTCONFERENCE.org** is

### Illustrious Careers McCarty and Sinisi Come to Close

Monmouth's **David Sinisi (Cedar Grove, NJ/Cedar Grove)** and Albany's **David McCarty (Gansevoort, NY/LaSalle Institute)** each entered their senior seasons as the all-time leading rushers in the history of their respective programs and each will graduate as one of the top three rushers in Northeast Conference annals. Sinisi (5,049) rushed for 65 yards in his final collegiate game to become to first-ever Northeast Conference player to reach 5,000 career rushing yards. A three-time all-NEC tailback, Sinisi is the conference's all-time leader rusher and scorer (432 pts.). Meanwhile, McCarty managed only 17 yards on the ground before leaving Albany's finale in the second quarter due to a hip injury. Despite being plagued by nagging injuries throughout the year, McCarty is the third-leading rusher (4,287) in NEC annals. His 246 career points are fifth amongst all-time league leaders. Both men earned Preseason All-America status from The Sports Network and were candidates for the Walter Payton Award, the most-coveted individual honor in DI FCS.

### Colonials Close 2009 Strong, Defense Could Carry Them in 2010

The key to Robert Morris' season-closing five-game win streak was no secret. The Colonials did it through defense. RMU's 23-9 win over Monmouth in the season finale marked the fifth consecutive game in which an opponent failed to score more than 10 points against the Colonials. Known around National Football League circles for his offensive playbook, legendary head coach Joe Walton watched his defense allow an average of 7.2 points per contest (36 total pts. in 5 games) during the season-ending surge. Robert Morris is slated to return seven members from that unit in 2010, including leading tackler linebacker **Alex DiMichele (Pittsburgh, PA/Sto-Rox)**.

### Preseason All-American Sets Program Record; NEC Mark Next?

It took linebacker **Scott Lewis (South Fork, PA/Bishop McCort)** exactly three full seasons to become the all-time tackles (386) leader in Saint Francis (PA) football history. A Preseason All-America Second Team selection according to The Sports Network, Lewis has led the Northeast Conference in both total tackles and tackles per game for each of the past three seasons. His 14 tackles against Central Connecticut State in the 2009 season finale gave him a league-leading 118 one year after he set the NEC single-season mark (140). In addition to ranking ninth amongst NCAA Division I FCS leaders in total tackles, Lewis 10.73 per game average sits 11th nationally. In terms of career numbers, Lewis' 12.1 stops per game average make him the active leading tackler in all of FCS while his 386 total tackles are second only to Appalachian State senior Jacque Roman. Lewis, who was the 2007 NEC Defensive Rookie of the Year, is a two-time all-NEC first team linebacker.

### Not a Bad Start for Bryant

Bryant's 20-0 shutout of Duquesne evened the Bulldogs league record at 4-4 and completed their first season as a Northeast Conference member. Bryant opened its inaugural NEC campaign by posting a 3-1 record out of the gate, which included a pair of NEC wins (Robert Morris, Wagner), before stumbling upon a five-game losing streak that saw the Bulldogs drop four straight league contests following a non-conference loss at Fordham. In snapping their slide Bryant outscored Saint Francis (PA) and Duquesne by a combined score of 55-12 in closing the season on a high note.

### Placide Picks Up Preseason Accolade

Wagner senior defensive back **Frantz Placide (Miami, FL/Archbishop Curley)** has been named a 2010 Consensus Draft Services (CDS) Preseason All-American, earning second team honors at return specialist. An all-NEC first team return specialist in 2009, Placide had a pair of 89-yard kickoff returns for touchdowns - vs. Stonehill (Sept. 5) in the season opener and against Albany (Nov. 21) in the season finale. On his way to the first of four NEC Special Teams Player of the Week awards he would earn, Placide also blocked a punt that he returned for a touchdown and recovered an onside kick in the opener. His 89-yard kickoff return touchdown and two punt blocks against Albany capped a remarkable campaign that ended with Placide sitting atop the NEC leader board in kick return average (26.8 ypr). In addition to bringing back 29 kickoffs for a total of 777 yards, Placide accounted for six blocked kicks.

### Saint Francis (PA) Celebrates Sportsmanship Honor

Saint Francis (PA) and sportsmanship are becoming synonymous on the gridiron. For the second consecutive season, the Red Flash won the Northeast Conference's Team Sportsmanship award for football.

"One of the Northeast Conference's core values is to foster and celebrate good sportsmanship by our student-athletes and coaches," said Noreen Morris, NEC Commissioner. "These teams were recognized for their enhanced commitment to the ideals of sportsmanship and integrity, and as such, they serve as tremendous representatives of the NEC."

Instituted by league Presidents in 2008, the award is designed to acknowledge the team in each conference sport that, in the opinion of its peers, most closely demonstrates good sportsmanship based on the NEC Principles of Sportsmanship and Standards of Conduct. Voting is conducted at the conclusion of each season by each team captain and head coach, who rank teams within the conference based on a predetermined set of criteria.

As an institution, Saint Francis (PA) saw a league-high four of its teams claim NEC Sportsmanship awards.

## NEC Football News & Notes



### NEC Champion FCS Playoff Bound

There's a little extra incentive to win the Northeast Conference football title this season. After 14 years on the gridiron, the conference has finally secured automatic access to the NCAA Division I FCS playoffs.



In 2010, the bracket expands from 16 to 20 teams with the addition of two automatic qualifiers and two at-large berths. The NEC has been awarded one of the auto bids and will place its champion into the postseason tournament for the first time in league history.

"Not only does this enhance the Conference's football pedigree, but it allows our student-athletes and coaches to compete with the best teams in the country in an NCAA sponsored postseason event," commented NEC Commissioner Noreen Morris. "The excitement and exposure that comes along with competing in a national championship is invaluable, and will be a fantastic experience for our teams and fans."

Monmouth head coach Kevin Callahan, who has been at Monmouth since the birth of NEC Football in 1996, was equally as excited.

"Having an opportunity to play for a postseason berth is something that players in our program have looked forward to for a long time," said Callahan, who also praised former NEC Commissioner the late Brenda Wear for her efforts.

"Brenda was outstanding in her preparation and presentation of the facts on why the NEC deserved a bid," said Callahan. "She was diligent and relentless in her approach to the NCAA and coaches committee and slowly over time won them both over. Everyone in this conference owes her a tremendous amount of gratitude."

2010

### NCAA FCS Championship Game

January 7, 2011 at Pizza Hut Park in Frisco, Texas

The championship game, which will be hosted by the Southland Conference, the City of Frisco and the Hunt Sports Group, will be played at 23,500-seat, multi-purpose Pizza Hut Park each of the next three years. The championship game will be the culmination of a newly expanded 20-team championship bracket, with the field being announced Sunday, November 21, at 10 a.m. (ET) on ESPNU



# CCSU Tabbed Northeast Conference Football Favorite for First Time Ever

## NEC Football Preseason Poll/Preview



### 2010 Northeast Conference Football Preseason Coaches Poll

1. Central Connecticut St. (4)
2. Robert Morris (3)
3. Albany (1)
4. Wagner (1)
5. Monmouth
6. Bryant
7. Duquesne
8. Sacred Heart
9. Saint Francis (PA)

*First place votes in parentheses*

The Northeast Conference (NEC) has a different preseason football favorite for the first time in five years.

Central Connecticut State halted Albany's bid for a third consecutive league title last season, and has followed up by ending UA's four-year run atop the NEC's preseason poll.

Coming off their best season in four decades, the defending NEC champion Blue Devils garnered four first-place votes to earn the No. 1 ranking in the annual summer survey of the conference's nine head coaches for the first time in program history.

If the preseason prognostication holds true, CCSU will become the first NEC champion to earn the league's newly-acquired automatic berth into the NCAA FCS playoffs.

Following a bullish finish to the 2009 season, Robert Morris has its eyes on the prize, too. RMU garnered three-first place votes to finish second in the preseason poll, the re-

sults of which were announced by the NEC during its annual preseason media teleconference.

Albany, which pulled in one first-place nod, took third. Claiming the lone remaining first-place vote, Wagner was fourth ahead of fifth-place Monmouth. Bryant earned the sixth spot followed by Duquesne in seventh. Sacred Heart (eighth) and Saint Francis (PA) (ninth) rounded out the predicted order-of-finish.

As a prelude to its 15th season on the gridiron, which kicks off on Sept. 3, the Northeast Conference also announced a 25-member Preseason All-NEC Team during the media call.

## NEC Postseason Evolution From ECAC to the GRIDIRON to FCS

The Northeast Conference's postseason opportunities have evolved over the years since the league began Division I football competition in 1996. Now 14 seasons later, a bid into the NCAA championship bracket has arrived as the NEC will gain automatic access into the NCAA Division I FCS playoffs in 2010. The championship postseason opportunity that awaits the league will be the next chapter in a history that began with the league's victory in 1996 ECAC Football Classic. After claiming the inaugural Northeast Conference football crown, Robert Morris edged MAAC champion, and cross-town rival, Duquesne, now a NEC member, 28-26, in the 1996 ECAC Classic, the first-ever postseason game in conference annals. The game went on hiatus from 1998-2000 before Sacred Heart bested Duquesne in the 2001 Classic in Pittsburgh. The Dukes returned to the ECAC game as the MAAC representative for each of the next two seasons. Albany defeated Duquesne, 24-0, in the 2002 postseason before DU bounced back to edge Monmouth, 12-10, in the final ECAC Classic on November 22, 2003. In 2006, Monmouth hosted San Diego as the West Coast met the Jersey Shore in the first-ever Gridiron Classic broadcast live by CSTV. Jim Harbaugh's Toreros prevailed in West Long Branch, 27-7, as the NEC and Pioneer Football League began a tradition that pitted the champion of each conference against one another in a post-season battle. The original agreement between the two conferences instated the exempted postseason football game for the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Following a successful inaugural game, the two leagues extended the agreement through 2009 at which time the Gridiron Classic was disbanded when the NEC was awarded automatic qualification into the FCS Championship.

*Below is a year-by-year look at the NEC's Postseason History*

Postseason Game (Location)	Result	Date
2009 Gridiron Classic (Butler, IN)	Butler 28, Central Conn. St. 23	Dec. 5
2008 Gridiron Classic (Albany, NY)	Albany 28, Jacksonville 0	Dec. 6
2007 Gridiron Classic (Dayton, OH)	Dayton 42, Albany 21	Dec. 1
2006 Gridiron Classic (W. Long Branch, NJ)	San Diego 27, Monmouth 7	Dec. 2
2003 ECAC Classic (Pittsburgh, PA)	Duquesne 12, Monmouth 10	Nov. 22
2002 ECAC Classic (Albany, NY)	Albany 24, Duquesne 0	Nov. 23
2001 ECAC Classic (Pittsburgh, PA)	Sacred Heart 31, Duquesne 15	Dec. 1
1997 ECAC Classic (Washington, DC)	Robert Morris 35, Georgetown 13	Nov. 22
1996 ECAC Classic (Pittsburgh, PA)	Robert Morris 28, Duquesne 26	Nov. 23

## 2010 Preseason All-NEC Team

### Offense

Pos	Name	School
QB	Nick Doscher	Wagner
RB	Myles Russ	Robert Morris
RB	Dominique Williams	Wagner
WR	Josue Paul	CCSU
WR	Dave Williams	Duquesne
TE	Matt Tracey	Bryant
OL	Mike Allison	CCSU
OL	Joe Feriozzi	Wagner
OL	Cleveland Green	Wagner
OL	Andy Sparano	Albany
OL	Shawn Wright	Monmouth

### Defense

Pos	Name	School
DL	Trevor Anderson	Albany
DL	Thaimu Bangura	Duquesne
DL	Justin Emblor	Sacred Heart
DL	Dave Ogden	Monmouth
LB	Jose Gumbs	Monmouth
LB	Alex DiMichele	Robert Morris
LB	Scott Lewis	Saint Francis (PA)
DB	Rolf Bathold	Robert Morris
DB	Kendall Haley	Monmouth
DB	Dominique Rose	CCSU
DB	Alondre Rush	CCSU

### Special Teams

Pos	Name	School
K	Garrett Clawson	Robert Morris
P	Kyle Muir	Wagner
RS	Frantz Placide	Wagner

## All-time NEC Champions

Year	Champion	NEC Rec.	Overall Rec.
1996	Robert Morris	3-1	9-2
	Monmouth	3-1	7-3
1997	Robert Morris	4-0	8-3
1998	Robert Morris	4-1	4-6
	Monmouth	4-1	5-5
1999	Robert Morris	7-0	8-2
2000	Robert Morris	8-0	10-0
2001	Sacred Heart	8-0	11-0
2002	Albany	6-1	8-4
	Monmouth	6-1	10-2
2003	Albany	6-1	7-4
	Monmouth	6-1	10-1
2004	Cent. Conn. St.	6-1	8-2
	Cent. Conn. St.	5-2	7-4
2005	Stony Brook	5-2	6-5
	Monmouth	6-1	10-2
2006	Albany	6-0	8-4
2007	Albany	7-0	9-3
2008	Cent. Conn. St.	7-1	9-3
2009	Cent. Conn. St.	7-1	9-3

# Officiating Northeast Conference Football



## Milton J. Halstead Coordinator of Football Officials

Milton J. Halstead enters his 13th season as Coordinator of Football Officials for the Northeast Conference.

Well-known and respected along the east coast as a football official and assignor, Halstead also serves as the Commissioner of the Eastern Collegiate Football Officials Association. There, he handles assignments for the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (Division II) and Middle Atlantic Conference (Division III).

Halstead's officiating experience includes the 1994 NCAA I-FCS National Championship game and the NCAA I-FCS National Championship Tournament from 1983-92. Recently, Halstead was honored by the All-American Football Foundation for his dedicated service.

A 1964 graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and Engineering, Halstead lives in Pipersville, Pennsylvania with his wife, Vicky.



Thirteenth Year

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## NEC Officials for 2010 (by position)

### REFEREE

Mike Davis  
Steven Dobis  
John Gerbino  
Vance Harris  
Steven Keller  
Ray Skold  
Robert Webb, Jr.  
Jim Winterberg

### LINE JUDGE

Robert Hefferon  
Tommy Meehan, Sr.  
Daniel Bush  
Kenneth Broome  
Mark Tarleton  
Frank D'Angelo  
Phil DiDomenico  
John Wilson

### BACK JUDGE

Joseph Yochim, Jr.  
Jack Zilles  
Melvin Riddick  
George Trout  
Frank Usseglio  
Ron Roberts  
Bob Frazier  
Michael DeBerdine

### UMPIRE

Jim Kauffman  
Tom Tierney  
Tony Donato  
Rob Kinter  
Tim Linnartz  
Rick Shavensky  
Tim Gover  
Terry Moore

### FIELD JUDGE

Daniel Aminoff  
John Svorinich  
Matt Brewer  
Dan Carr  
Joseph Cosenza, Jr.  
Mark McCarter  
Scott Weidner  
Joe Benda

### SUPPLEMENTAL OFFICIALS

Greg Allen (Referee)  
Fred Yawger (Umpire)  
N.J. Cogliati (Linesman)  
Jonathan Perry (Line Judge)  
Will White (Side Judge)  
Sean O'Callahan (Back Judge)

### LINESMEN

Jeffrey Bower  
Robert Schuster  
Anthony Ciccaglione  
Joseph Mate  
Joseph Cook  
Peter Ciriello  
Frank Miranda  
Anthony Solimine

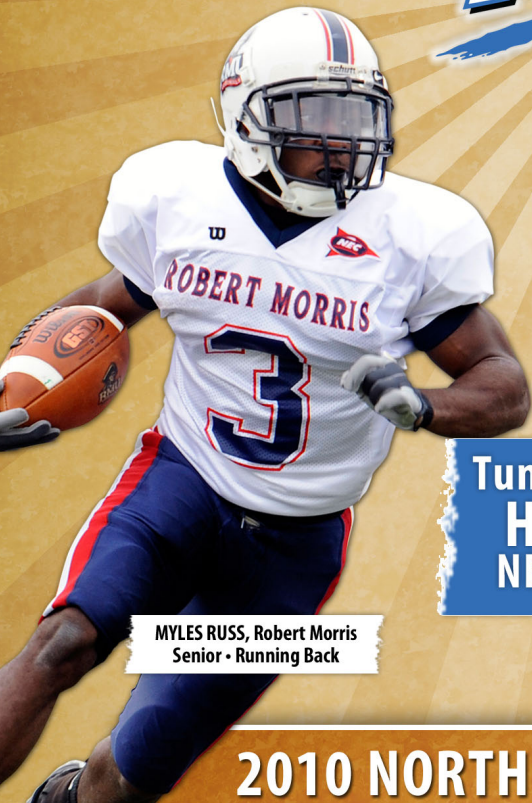
### SIDE JUDGE

Richard Donofrio  
Charles Costanza  
Ron Reidinger  
Tim Kehoe  
John O'Brien  
Doug Donnelly  
James Snyder III  
Eric Cantell



# Division I Football Championship Subdivision

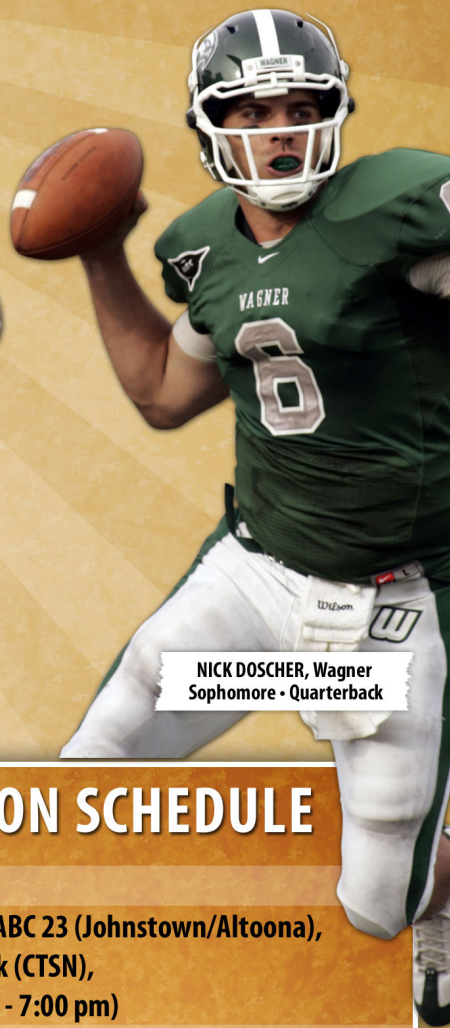
# The road to the NCAA FCS PLAYOFFS begins now!



**MYLES RUSS, Robert Morris**  
Senior • Running Back



**ALONDRE RUSH, CCSU**  
Senior • Safety



**NICK DOSCHER, Wagner**  
Sophomore • Quarterback

Tune in this season for  
**HARD-HITTING**  
NEC gridiron action.

## 2010 NORTHEAST CONFERENCE TELEVISION SCHEDULE

DATE	MATCHUP	TIME	BROADCAST OUTLET
Sept. 18	Sacred Heart at Saint Francis (PA)	12:00 pm	Fox College Sports, WATM-ABC 23 (Johnstown/Altoona), Connecticut Sports Network (CTSN), FSN-Pittsburgh (TD on 9/20 - 7:00 pm)
Sept. 25	Robert Morris at Wagner	12:00 pm	MSG Network, Fox College Sports, PCNC (Pittsburgh)
Oct. 16	Bryant at Monmouth	12:00 pm	Fox College Sports, Cox Cable (CT/RI)
Oct. 22	Central Connecticut State at Albany	7:00 pm	MSG Network, Fox College Sports, Cox Cable (CT/RI), CTSN (TD)
Oct. 30	Duquesne at Robert Morris	12:00 pm	Fox College Sports, PCNC (Pittsburgh), FSN-Pittsburgh (TD on 11/1 - 7:00 pm)



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