

Climbing *the* Hill



Lafayette College Athletics
Annual Report | 2022-2023



In 2022-23, Lafayette athletics continued to make competitive strides as we closed out the five-year plan we began in 2018. As an institution, we have provided our student-athletes with unmatched educational opportunities. Our student-athletes' academic commitment equals that of the effort put forth by our teams in pursuit of Patriot League championships. Our dedicated alumni base, along with parents, fans and friends have helped give our student-athletes the Division I experience they sought on College Hill. Your economic support has made possible significant facility and staffing enhancements needed to keep pace in today's athletic realm and the in-venue commitment of our friends and families never wanes. Thank you!

The work is never done, but I am excited about the future of Lafayette athletics and happy to share this annual update with you.

GO LEOPARDS!



Sherryta Freeman, Director of Athletics





JIM BENJAMIN '84
Co-Chair of Athletics Steering Committee

Student engagement is an important part of the Lafayette ethos. It is impressive to listen to our students describe what they do, why they do it and how it motivates them. Our student-athletes immerse themselves in many challenging and rewarding academic and social ways and also commit a significant amount of time and focus to their sport. This dedication is tantamount to having two full time jobs! I am incredibly proud to support and advocate for our student-athletes and their coaches and administrators as they honor the school by leading the nation in graduation success rate



CARA MCCUTCHEON '10
Co-Chair of Athletics Steering Committee

One of the things that makes Lafayette special is that it offers Division I athletics and top-notch academics—a rare combination. I am consistently impressed by the caliber of our student-athletes on and off the field. I am honored to remain involved with supporting Lafayette Athletics because I know the impact my contributions have on the success of the teams and the college.



INDIA RALPH '25
Field Hockey Team Member
International Student

“My time at Lafayette has been incredibly rewarding, balancing both academic and athletic pursuits. The unwavering support from professors, coaches and the entire athletic department has fostered a sense of genuine welcome. Their keen interest in my well-being and overall success is truly remarkable, and I consider myself fortunate to be part of a community that consistently goes above and beyond to ensure I have everything I need.”



BOBBY OHRLEIN '23
Cross Country/Track
and Field Team Member

“I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to represent Lafayette these past four years. Watching the team grow and improve from when I came in as a freshman was extremely special and rewarding. While cross country/track and field can sometimes be looked at as an every man for themselves sport, we were truly one team and I am forever thankful for the friendships I have made through my time at Lafayette.”



MARCO OLIVAS '24
Former Student-Athlete

“I’m beyond blessed to be able to call Lafayette my home. No value can be placed on the life-long friends, lessons, and overall growth I have gained because of Lafayette. I’m so proud of my teammates for the hard work and commitment they have shown. I’m grateful for the administration supporting us and giving us the resources we need in order to thrive at the Division I level. It has been an honor to compete for Lafayette and be a part of an amazing transformation for this program. I’m a leopard for life and looking forward to seeing Lafayette thrive even more in the future.”

YEAR 5 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CREATING A CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE

STRATEGIC GOAL 1 Achieve Competitive Excellence

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Men's basketball advanced to the Patriot League championship game for the first time since 2015.
- ▶ Field hockey faced three nationally-ranked teams, including a victory over No. 7 Princeton
- ▶ Men's lacrosse qualified for the Patriot League Tournament for the first time in more than a decade (2010), playing five nationally-ranked teams in 2023.
- ▶ Softball's series win over Colgate was the first conference series win since 2018 and the Leopards won their most league games in five seasons
- ▶ Developed a plan to fully fund athletic scholarships in team sports by 2027-28



STRATEGIC GOAL 2 Strengthen Academic Excellence

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Lafayette athletics was ranked third in the nation for the NCAA Graduation success rate, placing only behind Columbia (1st) and Bucknell, Harvard, Villanova and Yale (tied for 2nd)
- ▶ Lafayette led the Patriot League with 12 teams with a perfect multi-year APR score of 1000.
- ▶ The 2022 fall student-athlete GPA (3.36) was the highest department GPA on record.
- ▶ Introduced our fourth class, a group of 120 juniors and seniors, who were inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma, a national scholar-athlete society
- ▶ Continued Dean's List recognition night where students are invited for dinner, games and on-court recognition for their accomplishment of achieving a 3.6 GPA or higher





STRATEGIC GOAL **3**

Provide the Most Positive Student-Athlete Experience Possible

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Executed a contract with Lehigh Valley Health Network support athletic initiatives; eight full-time athletic training positions which includes seven athletics trainers and one strength and conditioning coach
- ▶ Training table was piloted and established for football and men's and women's lacrosse for the spring 2023 semester
- ▶ Executed all Student-Athlete Welcome Picnic with department wide competition and everyone received the PARDS shirt and student-athlete academic planners
- ▶ Enhanced the annual PARDees event to include all student-athletes in celebration of our seniors and highest academic and athletic performers.
- ▶ Continued student-athlete welcome back event with dinner, fun competition, and all department shirts
- ▶ Successfully transitioned the golf team to its new home at Northampton Country Club which will an annual college tournament and the Maroon Club Gold Outing

STRATEGIC GOAL **4**

Build More Community and Spirit for Lafayette Athletics

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Broadcasted 90+ home events on ESPN+ in 2022-23
- ▶ Inducted Harrison Bailey '95, Veronica Canto-Ponce, Javier Fente '95, Ray Moyer '63, Tom Odjakjian '76 and George Yolich '87 along with the 1988-89 women's lacrosse teams into the Maroon Club Hall of Fame
- ▶ Hosted 1,300 Easton Area School District students for the School Day game, introducing them to the Lafayette campus, what it means to be a college student-athlete, lessons on leadership and a ton of fun.
- ▶ Welcomed girls in grades 3-7 for National Girls and Women in Sports Day
- ▶ Hosted a soccer clinic and game at Easton High School's Cottingham Stadium



STRATEGIC GOAL 5

Ensure Integrity in Everything We Do

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Completed department Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Review in collaboration with The Inclusion Playbook that served as the required NCAA DEI Review. Athletics is operating in best practice/sufficient in 20 of 27 categories.
- ▶ Take part in the Athletic Equality Index, an annual audit through Athlete Ally
- ▶ Continued to support student-athletes in a variety of personal development workshops and conferences including the NCAA Career In Sports Forum
- ▶ Sent a group of student-athletes to the U.S. Naval Academy Leadership Conference
- ▶ Fostered an environment that has led to the development of affinity and support groups for unrepresented student-athletes
- ▶ Added a Senior Associate Director of Athletics to the athletic administration who has sport oversight
- ▶ Took over supervision of the Recreating Services Department which is housed in Kirby Sports Center



STRATEGIC GOAL 6

Secure the Funding Necessary for Success

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Oversaw the construction of Gummeson Grounds, Lafayette's state-of-the-art soccer facility at the Metzgar Fields Athletic Campus
- ▶ Transitioned the planning for the Wallach Sports Performance and Lacrosse Center to the Metzgar Fields Athletic Campus, larger campus master planning endeavor
- ▶ Successfully executed a contract with Lehigh Valley Health Network to provide marketing support, hep fund athletic initiatives and full-time staffing for eight full-time positions
- ▶ Added an assistant tennis coach funded by significant gifts from student-athlete parents



LEOPARDS ON THE RISE

PROMINENT ACHIEVEMENTS REALIZED DURING THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR



90+ HOME EVENTS

DURING THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR
COULD BE SEEN ON ESPN+ THROUGH
GOLEOPARDS.COM



394 LAFAYETTE STUDENT-ATHLETES

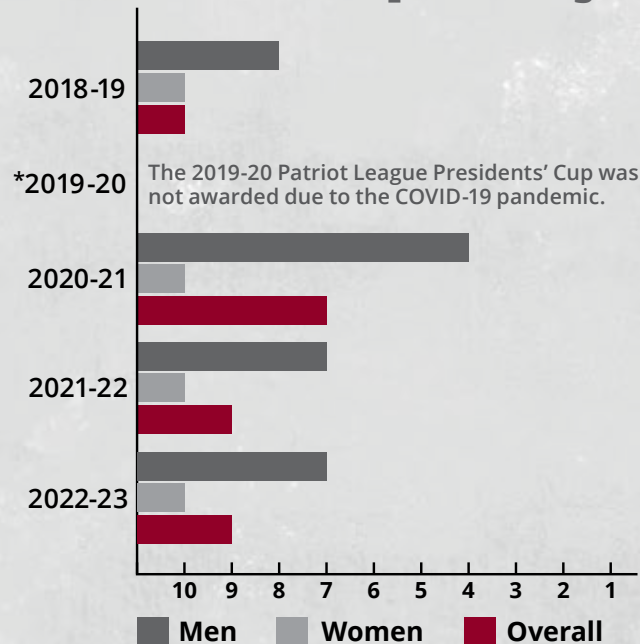
EARNED THEIR SPOTS ON THE
PATRIOT LEAGUE ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL.

120 STUDENT-ATHLETES

INDUCTED IN **CHI ALPHA SIGMA**, A NATIONAL
SCHOLAR-ATHLETE HONOR SOCIETY




President's Cup Standings



**through fall sports seasons*

1

LENGTHY CELEBRATION 
AFTER HEAD COACH
JOHN TROXELL LED THE
LEOPARDS TO A 14-11
VICTORY OVER LEHIGH
IN **#RIVALRY158** AT
FISHER STADIUM.




10

LAFAYETTE ACCUMULATED
**10 ALL-PATRIOT LEAGUE
FIRST-TEAM SELECTIONS**
FROM FIELD HOCKEY (2), MEN'S
SOCCER (1), FOOTBALL (4)
AND BASEBALL (3).




98

LAFAYETTE ACHIEVED A 
**NCAA GRADUATION
SUCCESS RATE OF**
98, TRAILING ONLY
COLUMBIA, BUCKNELL,
HARVARD, VILLANOVA
AND YALE. LAFAYETTE
LED THE PATRIOT
LEAGUE WITH 12 TEAMS,
POSTING A PERFECT
MULTI-YEAR NCAA
ACADEMIC PROGRESS
RATE SCORE OF 1000.




13


 HOME RUNS THAT **PETE CIUFFREDA**
BLASTED IN HIS SENIOR CAMPAIGN TO
SET A NEW LAFAYETTE SINGLE-SEASON
RECORD. HE WAS ONE OF THREE ALL-
PATRIOT LEAGUE FIRST-TEAM HONOREES
IN BASEBALL, JOINING MICHAEL ZARRILLO
AND ALEX WASH.



2

 **SIMONE HEFTING '23** GARNERED ALL-PATRIOT
LEAGUE FIRST-TEAM HONORS IN 2022. A NATIVE
OF THE NETHERLANDS, HEFTING QUALIFIED
FOR THE ACADEMIC ALL-PATRIOT LEAGUE
FIELD HOCKEY TEAM AND THE NFCA DIVISION I
NATIONAL ACADEMIC SQUAD.

32

MALIK HAMM BECAME THE FIRST  PLAYER IN PATRIOT LEAGUE HISTORY TO BECOME A FIVE-TIME ALL-PATRIOT LEAGUE SELECTION. THE TWO-TIME PATRIOT LEAGUE DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR LEFT LAFAYETTE AS THE SCHOOL'S CAREER SACKS LEADERS (32) BEFORE SIGNING A CONTRACT WITH THE BALTIMORE RAVENS.




24


 ALL-PATRIOT LEAGUE HONOREES

5

 LAFAYETTE **MEN'S LACROSSE**  PLAYED FIVE NATIONALLY-RANKED OPPONENTS IN 2023 AND MADE THE PROGRAM'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN THE PATRIOT LEAGUE TOURNAMENT SINCE 2010.

1899

 **LAFAYETTE GOLF** MOVED ITS OPERATION TO NORTHAMPTON COUNTRY CLUB, JUST SEVEN MILES FROM COLLEGE HILL. THE CLUB, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1899, HOSTS THE TEAM'S ANNUAL COLLEGIATE TOURNAMENT AND THE MAROON CLUB GOLF OUTING.



2,143,734 DOLLARS

IN MAROON CLUB ANNUAL FUNDRAISING, THE LARGEST TOTAL IN SCHOOL HISTORY

JOIN US!

“
ATHLETICS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ARE **INTEGRAL TO WHO WE ARE**. WITH APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF OUR STUDENTS COMPETING ON ONE OR MORE OF OUR 23 DIVISION I TEAMS, ATHLETICS CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO OUR EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS AND COMMUNITY LIFE ON CAMPUS.
”



← **NICOLE FARMER HURD**
Lafayette College President



BOB SELL '84
Board of Trustees Chair

BRIDGING THE SCHOLARSHIP GAP

While some sports are at their maximum number of scholarships, many are not. In 2017, a group of dedicated alumni contributed \$1 million to establish the **Leopard Champions Scholarship Fund**, a general scholarship for Lafayette athletics. Fundraising, particularly for scholarships, is critical for building a championship culture and enabling student-athletes to compete at the highest level. The Leopard Champions Fund is at the heart of this. But \$1 million is not enough, and this fundraising continues.

“The establishment of the Leopard Champions Fund has been a huge step in fundraising to help our student-athletes compete for championships in our 23 Division I sports. Now we need the continued support of our loyal alumni base to build on this and help create a sustainable championship culture as we #ClimbTheHill.”

BILL TUCKER '81 | *Maroon Club President*



ATHLETICS GIVING

MAROON CLUB ANNUAL FUNDRAISING

2014-15 → \$1,773,318

2015-16 → \$1,564,555

2016-17 → \$1,507,896

2017-18 → \$1,590,695

2018-19 → \$1,801,354

2019-20 → \$1,790,448

2020-21 → \$1,762,277

2021-22 → \$1,847,877

2022-23 → \$2,143,734 (all-time record)

2014-15 → 3,393 donors

2015-16 → 3,219 donors

2016-17 → 2,785 donors

2017-18 → 2,752 donors

2018-19 → 3,098 donors

2019-20 → 2,824 donors

2020-21 → 3,419 donors

2021-22 → 3,269 donors

2022-23 → 3,182 donors

2022-23 FACTS & FIGURES

\$3,921,341 raised for Lafayette Athletics
(through the Maroon Club, endowments,
capital projects, Leopard Champions Fund, etc.)

31% of Lafayette former student-athletes made a gift in support of Lafayette College in 2022-23 (down from 33 percent in 2021-22)

21% of student-athlete alumni made a gift in support of Lafayette athletics in 2022-23 (up from 20 percent in 2021-22)

33% of young alumni (in classes of 2013-22) made a gift to support Lafayette athletics in 2022-23 while 26 percent of Lafayette's young student-athlete alumni donated to Leopard athletics

*Patriot League rankings reflect only the member institutions who reported data.



#ClimbTheHill