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Front Rush/NFHCA Collegiate Regional Coaches of the Year Announced

CHANDLER, Ariz. – After leading their teams to outstanding seasons in 2016, thirteen coaches were selected as the Front Rush/NFHCA Collegiate Regional Coach of the Year honorees, it was announced on Thursday.

The Front Rush/NFHCA Division I Regional Coach of the Year honors went to Delaware’s Rolf van de Kerkhof (Mid-Atlantic), Penn State’s Char Morett-Curtiss (Mideast), Harvard’s Tjerk van Herwaarden (Northeast), Duke’s Pam Bustin (South) and Louisville’s Justine Sowry (West).

In Division II, the Front Rush/NFHCA Regional Coach of the Year awards went to Shippensburg’s Bertie Landes (Atlantic) and Saint Anselm’s Carolyn King-Robitaille (East).

The Front Rush/NFHCA Division III Regional Coach of the Year winners were Kenyon’s Jacque DeMarco (Great Lakes), Babson’s Julie Ryan (New England East), Tufts’ Tina Mattera (New England West), St. John Fisher’s Victoria Bothner (North Atlantic), Messiah’s Brooke Good (South Atlantic) and Salisbury’s Dawn Chamberlin (South).

More information on each of the Front Rush/NFHCA Collegiate Regional Coaches of the Year is below.

Front Rush/NFHCA Division I Collegiate Regional Coaches of the Year

Mid-Atlantic: Rolf van de Kerkhof, Delaware

van de Kerkhof led Delaware to its first-ever national championship as the Blue Hens defeated North Carolina 3-2 in the title game on Nov. 20. Delaware finished with a 23-2 record and won its final 19 games capped by the national championship run. Van de Kerkhof was named the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Coach of the Year after leading the Blue Hens to regular-season and tournament titles.

Mideast: Char Morett-Curtiss, Penn State

Morett-Curtiss was named the Big Ten Coach of the Year for the sixth time and led the Nittany Lions to the conference's tournament title with a 2-1 win over host and top seed Maryland in the championship on Nov. 6. Penn State captured the No. 4 seed in the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship.

Northeast: Tjerk van Herwaarden, Harvard

van Herwaarden led Harvard to the Ivy League title for the first time since 2004 as the Crimson finished unbeaten and untied in league action for the first time in school history. He led the Crimson to their fifth NCAA Tournament appearance and to a program record-tying 12 wins on the season. van Herwaarden was named the Ivy League Coach of the Year.

South: Pam Bustin, Duke

Bustin led a Duke squad that was ranked No. 1 in the nation at the end of the regular season and captured the top seed in the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship. She led Duke to its first-ever regular-season title in the Atlantic Coast Conference and was honored as the ACC Coach of the Year for the second time.

West: Justine Sowry, Louisville

Sowry led Louisville to a 15-6 overall record and a berth in the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship in 2016. The Cardinals qualified for the postseason tournament for the third straight season and have posted 15 wins in three of the last four years.

Front Rush/NFHCA Division II Collegiate Regional Coaches of the Year

Atlantic: Bertie Landes, Shippensburg

Landes led the Raiders to their second national championship in the past four years as Shippensburg finished with a 20-3 overall record. The Raiders won their three games in the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship by a goal apiece, topping fellow Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) members East Stroudsburg and Millersville before defeating LIU Post by a 2-1 final in the title game on Nov. 20. Shippensburg also finished the regular season as the No. 1-ranked team in the Penn Monto/NFHCA Division II Coaches Poll.

East: Carolyn King-Robitaille, Saint Anselm

King-Robitaille led Saint Anselm to a memorable season as the Hawks claimed made their first appearance in the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship after also taking home the regular-season title in the Northeast-10 Conference for the first time. The Hawks advanced to the semifinals after picking up a victory over Stonehill in their first NCAA appearance, and King-Robitaille was honored as the Northeast-10 Coach of the Year.

Front Rush/NFHCA Division III Collegiate Regional Coaches of the Year

Great Lakes: Jacque DeMarco, Kenyon

DeMarco led Kenyon to a 15-7 record and big wins down the stretch as the Ladies won three-straight overtime games in the postseason. Kenyon defeated Denison and DePauw by 2-1 finals to win the North

Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Tournament title, then pulled off another 2-1 overtime victory to top Elizabethtown in the first round of the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship.

New England East: Julie Ryan, Babson

Ryan led Babson to historic success for not just the field hockey program but the entire athletic department as the Beavers became the school's first women's athletics team to advance to a national semifinal after defeating Franklin & Marshall and St. John Fisher to make the NCAA Division III Final Four. She was selected as the Coach of the Year in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) for the second year in a row as Babson won the conference's regular-season and tournament titles and posted a school record for victories in a 21-3 season.

New England West: Tina Mattera, Tufts

Mattera directed the Jumbos all the way to the national championship game, going to a shootout before ultimately falling to Messiah 1-0. Tufts had a long line of success along the way, defeating University of New England, Skidmore and Salisbury in their run in the NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship and winning both the regular season and tournament title in the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC). Tufts finished with a 19-3 record and had a 10-game winning streak going into the national title game.

North Atlantic: Victoria Bothner, St. John Fisher

Bothner led St. John Fisher to the best season in program history as the Cardinals finished 19-3 overall and won both the regular-season and tournament title in the Empire 8 Conference to qualify for the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship for the first time, where they defeated Rhodes in a first-round matchup. Bothner was named the Empire 8 Coach of the Year as the Cardinals won 18 consecutive contests before falling to Babson in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

South Atlantic: Brooke Good, Messiah

Messiah won its first-ever national championship in dramatic fashion, beating Tufts in a shootout in the title game on Nov. 20 after the teams had played to a scoreless draw. The national championship was the culmination of an outstanding season for the Falcons, who finished 22-1 and won all of their contests against Division III competition with the only loss coming in the season opener against Division II national champion Shippensburg. Messiah won the regular-season and tournament title in the Middle Atlantic Conferences (MAC) Commonwealth and defeated Keene State, Middlebury and Babson in their NCAA Tournament run before the title-game victory over Tufts. Good was named the MAC Commonwealth Coach of the Year for the second straight season and Messiah was ranked No. 1 in the Penn Monto/NFHCA Division III Coaches Poll for the final seven weeks of the regular season.

South: Dawn Chamberlin, Salisbury

Chamberlin led Salisbury to the semifinals of the NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship as the Sea Gulls shut out Kenyon and Ursinus on their way to the Final Four before falling to Tufts. Salisbury won both the regular-season and tournament title in the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) as the squad captured the championship for the fourth year in a row. Chamberlin was named the CAC Coach of the Year for the 15th time in her career.

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