



# University of Delaware Field Hockey News 2003 Colonial Athletic Association Tournament Notes

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**Hens seeking first CAA Tournament victory:** Delaware owns a lifetime record of 0-1 in the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament, having dropped a 4-1 decision to the Tribe of William & Mary last October. Ann Ekberg scored twice for the Tribe while Jordan Steele added a goal and an assist.

**Four years in the making:** The Blue Hens enter the 2003 Colonial Athletic Association Tournament riding a three-game winning streak - all coming by identical 2-0 scores. Delaware blanked Hofstra on October 24, shutout Drexel two days later and capped off the season with a win over Towson on senior night at Rullo Stadium. The last time a Delaware team recorded shutouts in three consecutive games was back in 1999, when it shut out the same three teams. Overall, the Blue Hens have not allowed a goal since Anja Boettcher scored for Maryland on October 19, a span of 213:14.

**Delaware in the national polls:** Delaware has been ranked all but two week in the STX/NFHCA Coaches poll this season. The Blue Hens entered the poll September 22 at No. 15 and enter the CAA Tournament at No. 17. Here's a season recap:

9/8 - Received votes; 9/15 - Received votes; 9/22 - No. 15; 9/29 - 12th; 10/6 - 11th; 10/13 - 15th; 10/20 - 17th; 10/27 - 18th; 11/3 - 17th.

**Take the Huggies off these Hens:** Delaware's starting lineup this season features four freshman - **Amanda Warrington**, **Katie Evans**, **Stephanie Swain** and **Megan Allen** - who started all 19 games this season. In addition, redshirt freshman **Kaili Kao** started the team's last 14 contests. Overall, first-year players combined to score 10 goals and seven assists for 27 points. Also, Allen has recorded five shutouts (one shared), a 1.73 GAA and a .701 save percentage.

**Climbing the charts:** Junior All-America candidate **Erica LaBar** moved into 4th place on UD's all-time assist list with 22 and her 68 career points places her in a tie for 13th place with Debbie White (1977-80) and Laura Domnick (1985-88). LaBar has also scored the team's last four goals. In addition, senior **Jessica Breault** has 59 career points, good for 14th place all-time, and her 15 assists places her in a tie for 9th place with former teammates Kim Wagaman (1999-2002) and Megan Fortunato (1997-2000).

**Winning Tradition:** With a 13-6 finish to the 2003 regular season, Delaware has now finished with a .500 or better record in nine of the last 11 seasons.

**Delaware in the post-season:** The Blue Hens own a mark of 23-22 all-time in the post-season, including a 1-8 record in their last nine contests. Delaware's last post-season victory came in 2001, when it defeated Boston University, 2-1 in the semifinals of the America East Tournament. The Hens have advanced to the semifinals of their conference tournaments eight consecutive seasons.

2002: Lost vs. William & Mary, 4-1 (CAASemifinals)  
2001: Won vs. Boston University, 2-1 (AE Semifinals)  
Lost vs. Northeastern, 4-1 (AE Finals)  
2000: Lost vs. Boston University, 2-1 (AE Semifinals)  
1999: Lost vs. Boston University, 2-1 (AE Semifinals)

1998: Lost vs. Northeastern, 2-1 (AE Semifinals)  
1997: Lost vs. Boston University, 2-1 (AE Semifinals)  
1996: Lost vs. Boston University, 4-1 (AE Semifinals)  
1994: Lost vs. New Hampshire, 2-1 (NAC Semifinals)

**In the conference:** Delaware owns a 9-6 record all-time against Colonial Athletic Association opponents, including a 4-5-1 mark versus 2003 CAA Tournament participants.

**vs. Old Dominion (0-2-1)**

2003: Old Dominion 6, Delaware 5 (OT)  
2002: Old Dominion 5, Delaware 1  
1981: Delaware 1, Old Dominion 1

**vs. William & Mary (1-4)**

2003: William & Mary 2, Delaware 1  
2002: William & Mary 4, Delaware 1  
William & Mary 3, Delaware 2 (2OT)  
2000: William & Mary 2, Delaware 1  
1997: Delaware 5, William & Mary 3

**vs. Virginia Commonwealth (3-0)**

2003: Delaware 1, VCU 0  
2002: Delaware 1, VCU 0  
2001: Delaware 3, VCU 1

**Twice is nice, but third time's the charm:** The University of Delaware has appeared in the NCAA Tournament twice - 1982 and 1988. The Blue Hens defeated Princeton (3-2) and Temple (3-2) in 1982 before being ousted by Connecticut, 2-0. Delaware rebounded to defeat Penn State, 4-0, in the consolation game to finished in third place. In 1988, UD was knocked out of the tournament in the first round by Penn State, 3-1, at Franklin Field in Philadelphia.

**Four Hens honored by CAA:** The Blue Hens captured three Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Week Honors and four Rookie of the Week honors in 2003. Junior **Jessi Balmer** was named Player of the Week twice while LaBar has garnered the award once in 2003. Additionally, Allen has been named Rookie of the Week three times and fellow freshman **Katie Evans** has won the award once.