



2002 OUTLOOK

The Blue Hen field hockey team will have a new look in 2002, both on and off the field.

After producing a five-win improvement from the 2000 season and winning their first-ever America East tournament game, Delaware waves good-bye to America East, their home for the last 10 seasons, and enters the revamped Colonial Athletic Association (CAA).

After posting a solid 13-8 record last season, Delaware advanced to the America East Championship game for the first time in school history. This off-season, Miller re-tooled her coaching staff, adding former VCU head coach Dawn Hill to her staff. A graduate of nearby William Penn high school and a former All-American at Old Dominion, Hill led the Monarchs to three-straight national titles from 1982-1984.

"Dawn is an outstanding addition to our coaching staff and program," Miller said upon announcing her hiring. "Her experience as an extremely talented player in an elite program and her tenure as both assistant and head coach at the Division I level speaks for itself."

Also added to the staff for the 2002 season was Lafayette graduate Amy Cohen. "She brings a stellar knowledge and passion for the game to our program, and her unbridled enthusiasm and experience working with the goalkeepers on the United States futures program will benefit our team tremendously," said Miller.

Joining the new assistant coaches are a talented group of incoming freshman who have the opportunity to make their impact felt immediately. The group is led by midfielders Amber Deimble, a first-team all-state selection as a senior at Hershey HS (PA), and Janine McMillin, a first-team all-county selection as a senior at East Brunswick HS (NJ). Both participated in the USFHA National Futures Tournament this past year and should see quality minutes in the upcoming season.

Joining Deimble and McMillin are a pair of former high school teammates i goalie Nancy Togar, a second-team all-state selection as a senior at Caravel Academy, and Sarah Mills, a two-time all-state second team selection at



Kim Wagaman

Caravel. The Blue Hens have also added Jennifer Adamek, a standout at forward for Methacton HS, and Kaili Koa, named team defensive MVP in 2000 and 2001 at State College Area HS (PA).

"All six of these young ladies bring great fundamentals to our squad. I look forward to coaching them and helping them develop into fine student-athletes and ambassadors for the program," said Miller.

Along with the freshmen, the Blue Hens will need their returning players to raise their level of play to help ease the loss of last season's leading scorer Juli Byrd, an All-America East selection for the third time last year. Bryd graduated tied for seventh all-time at Delaware in goals (39) and eighth in points (89).

One of the players Miller hopes to count on is sophomore Leah Geib, who finished second on the Blue Hens in shots (46), goals (10) and points (24) as a freshman. A native of Schwenksville, PA, Geib was a two-time all-state selection out of Souderton Area High

Quick Facts

LocationNewark, Delaware 19716
 Founded 1743
 Enrollment 16,000 Undergraduates
 NicknameFightin'Blue Hens
 ColorsRoyal Blue & Gold
 Home CourtFred P. Rull Stadium
 Capacity2,000
 Press Box Phone(302) 831-3526
 NCAA AffiliationNCAA Division I
 ConferenceColonial Athletic Association
(First Season)

President Dr. David P. Roselle
 NCAA Faculty Rep. Dr. John L. Burmeister
 Athletic Director Edgar N. Johnson
 Sr. Assoc. Athletic Director Mary Ann Hitchens
 Assoc. AD/Programs & FacilitiesKate Pohlig
 Assoc. AD/BusinessScott Eatough
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Sports Med. Physician Dr. Vincent Disabella
 Head Trainer Keith Handling
 Associate Head Trainer Joan Couch
 Strength & Cond. Coach Russell Barbarino

Head Coach Carol Miller (Delaware '82)
 Record at Delaware105-72 (nine seasons)
 Overall Record191-124-18 (17 seasons)
 Office Phone302-831-6721
 Office Fax302-831-4058
 Email Addresscamiller@udel.edu

Assisant CoachesDawn Hill (Old Dominion. '87)
Amy Cohen (Lafayette '02)

2001 Record13-8 (6-3, America East - 3rd)
 2001 Post-Season2nd, America East Tournament
 Letterwinners Returning / Lost16/4
 Starters Returning / Lost8/3
 2002 CaptainsKelly Coyle, Kim Wagaman
 All-Time Record343-189-39 (31 seasons)
 Conference Titles1982, 1985, 1988, 1990
 NCAA Tournament Appearances2 (1982, 1988)
 AIAW Tournament4 (1976, 1977, 1978, 1980)

School who was selected as an alternate to the U-19 national team.

"Leah is coming off a great freshman season and had an excellent spring," said Miller. "She is a confident player who possesses strong leadership skills. Leah's play will be a key factor in how we perform this season."

Another member of Miller's squad who will be leaned on heavily to produce offensively this season is senior back and co-captain Kim Wagaman. Held scoreless in her first two seasons in the blue and gold, Wagaman burst onto the scene in 2001, scoring six goals and registering five assists to compliment her rock solid defense. Her ability to score on penalty corners will be key to fill in the spot that Byrd was so vital in the last couple of seasons.

"Kim makes her offensive impact felt primarily on offensive corners, which is where she is able to create a lot of scoring opportunities for us," Miller explained, "but her presence on the defensive unit is her most valuable asset to our team."

The other Blue Hen co-captain, senior Kelly Coyle, also had a breakout season in 2001, posting a team-high nine assists to go along with three goals en route to being named to the second team All-America East. She will be moved into the backfield in 2002 to help compensate for the loss of graduate Kate Johnson, who earned America East All-Tournament team honors last season.

"Their leadership (Coyle and Wagaman) both on and off the field enables the two of them to lead our defense and attack," said Miller. "They are two players we will rely very heavily on to take care of the ball for us."

Junior Erin Shaklee returns after posting two goals in 17 games last season, matching her output from 2000. "Shaklee has great game sense in the circle and has improved her quickness and speed this spring," said Miller, "Her off-season improvements should enable her to see more playing time and contribute."

Midfielder Jessica Breault, also a junior, posted eight points in 2001 (2g, 4a), placing her seventh on the Blue Hens in scoring. Junior Meghan O'Meara and sophomore Carly Campana should also receive minutes at either forward or midfield. Senior Katie Kelly will also be in the rotation on offense. A speedy forward, Kelly saw action in 14 games last season, recording one assist.

A trio of second-year players round out the offense for Delaware. Lauren Carr led last season's freshman class in scoring with four goals, including two in the season opener against



Erica LaBar

Pacific, while Jessi Balmer chipped in with two. Erica LaBar, an America East All-Rookie team selection, added one goal and two assists after missing all of the 2000 season with a torn ACL and medial miniscus. LaBar started all 21 games in 2001, while Balmer participated in all 21 matches, starting 18 games, and Carr played in 18 games, starting six.

The defense will also undergo a facelift in 2002, as several players will be asked to raise their level of play in order to compensate for the departed Johnson and Byrd. The unit will be led by a plethora of seniors, headed by Wagaman and Coyle. While Wagaman will also be counted upon to continue to contribute offensively, her defense is her calling card.

Senior Stacey Thomas, who saw action in five games last season, will provide depth in the backfield and help ease the loss of senior Stephanie Dorsch, who will not play due to a severe case of compartment syndrome.

Three juniors – Jillian Stevens, Meghan Henry and Gloria Compello – complete the defense for Delaware. Henry saw action in 11 games last season, making five starts, while Compello played in seven games, starting four. Stevens played in five games for the Blue Hens.

The Blue Hens biggest question mark, however, comes in goal. Entering last season, Miller hoped one of her three goalkeepers – juniors Andrea Grasso and Stephanie Judefind, and freshman Heidi Hibshman – would step to the

forefront and take a stranglehold on the job. After Grasso was lost for the season because of injury, Miller rotated Hibshman and Judefind between the pipes, giving the nod to whoever had the hot hand.

Both posted solid numbers in 2001, notching six wins apiece. Hibshman, who was selected to play in the United Airlines Summer League this past summer, posted a 1.26 GAA and recorded two shutouts as a redshirt freshman last year. Judefind, a senior this year, boasted a GAA of 1.83 with four shutouts.

The two will battle for the job in the pre-season, but have company. Freshman Nancy Tokar will push Hibshman and Judefind for playing time.

The Blue Hens begin the season on August 31 with a home game against longstanding rival West Chester, then welcome Duke to town September 1 before hosting Richmond and Villanova in the Blue Hen Classic. Conference play begins with a bang October 6, when the Blue Hens take on defending CAA Champion and national-power Old Dominion.

"We've been gearing up for this move since the last game of the season," Miller said of the team's move to the Colonial Athletic Association. "Our players and coaching staff know the CAA is a more competitive conference, but change is a great motivator. It will be exciting to see new teams, and this opportunity will allow us to see where we stand nationally with our program."



Erin Shaklee