



West Chester University Men's Hockey
Pre-Season Press Release
September 10, 2010

The hockey season is underway, and the 2010-11 version of the West Chester University Men's Hockey Team will welcome in many new faces to the program. After advancing to the ACHA DI Final Four in 2009 for the first time in the programs history, the Golden Rams had a disappointing season last year, finishing the 2009-10 season with a record of 16-15-2. Despite their record, the national polls still recognized their talent, as the team was ranked 18th in the nation in the final poll. The 2010-11 season will mark a new era in WCU Men's Hockey, though, and all involved with the program have one common goal: return to the Final Four.

The changes in the WCU program begin within the coaching staff. Shawn Dorsey takes over the reigns of the team as its new Head Coach, taking over for Mark Gonsalves. Dorsey has tough shoes to fill, as Gonsalves led the program through its best era in its history. Dorsey served last season as an assistant coach with the program, focusing primarily with the forwards and recruiting. Dorsey, a Philadelphia native, will be one of the youngest coaches in all of Division I ACHA, and brings a new outlook and youthful approach to the program. "Our goal is to have the program right back in the hunt for the Final Four," Dorsey said. "We have a great mix of talented veterans, who know what it takes to get to that level, as well young talent that will make an immediate impact."

The rest of the coaching staff will made of up some familiar faces, as well as newcomers. Dominick Bellizzie returns to the program for his 13th season as General Manager. Bellizzie has been the single biggest factor in the program's success in the past decade plus. Brad Dempsey '04 returns for his third year as assistant coach. Dempsey is responsible for the defensive corps. The new additions to the coaching staff include Ryan Galles and Jeff Shockley. Galles served the last four years with Iowa State University Hockey Team, where he was responsible for breaking down game film and equipment management. He will serve in the same capacity with the WCU program. Although Shockley is not new to the program, he is new to the coaching staff. Shockley, who played for WCU for the past few seasons, joins the staff as the new strength and conditioning coach, and will also work with the defense and special teams.

The roster of the new version Golden Rams will also look very different this season. Seven seniors graduated from the program last May, including two-time All-American Pat Johnson, who will take his talents to the professional ranks. However, there are many familiar faces returning as well. The returners are led by senior Steve Jones (Danville, NJ/Jersey Wildcats EmJHL). Jones, who is the captain of this year's team, was named an All-American last season,

and finished second in the nation in points by a defenseman. Jones will be joined on the backend by junior defensemen Bob McNerny (Willow Grove, PA/Jr. Flyers U18AAA), Matt Slobodinsky (Philadelphia, PA/Team Comcast U18AAA), and sophomore Jon Reitz (Hatfield, PA/Little Flyers AJHL).

Up front, the forwards will be led by sophomore standout Steve Meade (Philadelphia, PA/Team Comcast U18AAA), and juniors Tom Scocozza (Kurkletown, PA/Jersey Hitmen EJHL) and Chris Campli (Havertown, PA/Jr. Flyers MJHL). Meade, who was named second team All-ESCHL, as well as to the All-Rookie Team, had a stellar freshman campaign that saw him rack up 34 points. Meade will also serve as an Assistant Captain this season. Scocozza and Campli both were plagued by injuries last season, and will both be looking to rebound and be strong pieces to the WCU squad. Also returning this season up front are seniors Joe Mango (Boothwyn, PA/Jr. Flyers MJHL) and Chris Baer (Lafayette Hill, PA/Jr. Flyers MJHL), who are both reliable, defensive forwards, and both are penalty kill specialists. The lone junior returner is Brian Ruskowski (Medford, NJ/Team Comcast U18AAA). The sophomore forwards will be looked upon as a key component to this year's team, as many of them saw significant ice time and roles last season as freshmen. The previous mentioned Steve Meade is joined in the sophomore class by Tim Margadonna (Sea Girt, NJ/Jersey Hitmen EJHL), Brandon Person (Brick, NJ/Junior Titans MJHL), and Sean Coll (Springfield, PA/Jr. Flyers U18AAA).

In goal, the Golden Rams return sophomore Matt Murnane (Smithtown, NY/Valley Forge Minutemen MJHL). Murnane had a standout freshmen season that saw him put up extremely strong numbers, especially for a freshmen. Murnane shouldered most of the goaltending duties last season. Sophomore Will Parra (Yorktown, NY/Brewster Bulldogs EmJHL) also returns this season. Parra was solid in limited starting situations last season, and was a strong back up. Parra will look to challenge his classmate, Murnane, for duty in the WCU net.

Joining the solid group of veterans will be a large, talented group of new faces, which includes transfers, junior players, and true freshmen. Up front, the first year players include Tim Higgins (Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ/Junior Titans MJHL), Dan Griffiths (Wappingers Falls, NY/Brewster Bulldogs EmJHL), Adam Ball (Forty Fort, PA/Binghamton Jr. Senators AJHL), Tyler Moll (Abington, PA/Jr. Flyers AJHL), JP Kuhlman (Severna Park, MD/Washington Little Caps MJHL), Tony Cordova (Lake Ridge, VA/Washington Little Caps MJHL), Seve Cordova (Lake Ridge, VA/Washington Little Caps MJHL), Bill Berenato (Cherry Hill, NJ/Little Flyers MJHL), and Karl Palmer (Lancaster, PA/Central Penn Panthers MJHL). The new members of defensive corps are Ari Nugent (Havertown, PA/Lebanon Valley College NCAA), Mike Ahle (Downingtown, PA/Team Comcast U18AAA), Jeff Dugan (Southampton, PA/Jr. Flyers AJHL), Ed Conrads (Andover, NJ/NJ Renegades MJHL), and Glenn Monkman (Drexel Hill, PA/Cardinal O'Hara). Freshman Matt Petitti (Philadelphia, PA/Father Judge) will join Murnane and Parra as the Golden Rams goaltender trio.

The team will once again compete in the Eastern States Collegiate Hockey League, along with Pennsylvania State University, University of Delaware, University of Rhode Island, and Robert Morris University. The team finished in fourth place in the league last season, and all five schools finished the season

ranked the top 20 nationally. Some of the non-conference opponents on this year's schedule include, Stony Brook, Rutgers, Towson, West Virginia, and Drexel. The team will also take part in the ACHA Division I Showcase in Youngstown, OH from October 8-10, as well as the second annual Mountaineer Invitational Thanksgiving Tournament, hosted by West Virginia University. The 2010-11 season will get underway Friday, October 2 at 8PM, at Ice Line Arena in West Chester, PA, when the Golden Rams play host to Niagara University.

For more information about the 2010-11 West Chester University Men's Hockey Team, please visit www.wcuhockey.com or contact a member of the team's staff.

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