

## About the NESCAC

Founded in 1971, the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) is a group of eleven highly selective liberal arts colleges and universities that share a similar philosophy for intercollegiate athletics. The Conference was created out of a concern for the direction of intercollegiate athletic programs, and remains committed to keeping a proper perspective on the role of sport in higher education.

The formation of NESCAC originated with an agreement among Amherst College, Bowdoin College, Wesleyan University and Williams College first drafted in 1955. Along with these four institutions, Bates College, Colby College, Hamilton College, Middlebury College, Trinity College and Tufts University are sustaining charter members. Connecticut College joined in 1982, bringing the Conference's membership to its current total of 11 institutions.

NESCAC members believe intercollegiate athletic programs should operate in harmony with the educational mission of each institution. The Conference is committed to establishing common boundaries to keep athletics strong but in proportion to the overall academic mission of the member institutions. In pursuit of this mission, the Presidents of each NESCAC institution control intercollegiate athletic policy. Conference tenets are usually more restrictive than those of the NCAA Division III with regard to season length, number of contests and post-season competition.

NESCAC institutions also believe athletic teams should be representative of the entire student body. Thus, admissions and financial policies are consistent with the NCAA Division III policies that prohibit athletic scholarships and award financial aid solely on the basis of need.

In 1999, the NESCAC formally became a playing conference and now sponsors 26 conference championship sports (13 for men and 13 for women). Member schools offer extensive and broad based intercollegiate as well as club and intramural opportunities for both men and women. With member institutions sponsoring an average of nearly 30 varsity programs, NESCAC provides more than 7,500 opportunities for participation in intercollegiate competition at the Division III level. Teams and individuals have achieved great success on both a regional and national level. During the 2011-12 academic year, 55 teams participated in NCAA team championships. NESCAC student-athletes claimed 21 individual national championships and NESCAC teams won three national team championships.



## 2013 Season Preview

Sam Miller '14 and Kelly Leonard '15 help lead the Hamilton College softball program into 2013. Miller tied a team record with 31 runs batted in last year, and the catcher threw out 11 would-be base stealers, which was the second-highest total in the NESCAC. Leonard broke the program record with 116 strikeouts in her rookie year, and ranked fourth in the conference in strikeouts and innings pitched. She was the top pitcher for a staff that led the conference in fewest walks allowed. The seniors are Amy Appel '13, Lisa Faraci '13 and Melissa Kaknis '13. They aim to lead Hamilton to the NESCAC championship for the first time.

The Continentals compete in the NESCAC's West Division with Williams College, Amherst College, Middlebury College and Wesleyan University. The NESCAC sends its overall conference champion to the NCAA Division III regionals. Two NESCAC teams played in the 2012 regionals, and one advanced to the eight-team NCAA championship.

Hamilton is scheduled to play 12 games during a week-long spring break trip to Fort Myers, Florida, in March. The first home date of 2013 is scheduled for March 26 against Morrisville State College. Hamilton hosts Wesleyan for three games on March 29 and 30, and Middlebury for a three-game set on April 12 and 13.

Two returners hit over .300 last year. Jenn Rougeux '14 followed a fantastic first year with a solid sophomore campaign. Rougeux hit .317 and posted a .420 on-base percentage thanks to 17 walks. Miller hit for average (.311) and power (.592 slugging pct.). Her 61 total bases included seven doubles and six home runs. Faraci should provide the team even more offense after she hit .348 with eight doubles two years ago. In the circle, Leonard finished 14 of her 18 starts, and posted a 3.94 earned run average in 117.1 innings. Appel and Monique St. Jarre '15 combined for 12 starts and more than 70 innings.

Hamilton has won 10 or more games 10 times in 28 years of softball. The school record is 15, which was set by the 1996 squad. Several players have excelled at the regional and conference levels in the past. Kim Wysocki '90 made the Northeast Region all-region first team in 1989 after finishing second in the nation with a .508 batting average. Sam McNamara '90 (first team) and Heide Katerba '90 (second team) were all-region selections the following year.

Outfielder Krista Marran '04 was a NESCAC all-conference second team pick in 2004. Amber O'Connor '09 caught just about every inning during her 122-game career. O'Connor was voted to the all-conference team three times between 2006 to 2009. The Continentals led the conference and set a team record with a fielding percentage of .965 in 2011.

Great academic performance is an integral part of this program. Summer Bottini '14 and Ashley Perritt '14 made the 2012 NESCAC Spring All-Academic team. Liz Reid '11, Leigh Sherrow '11, Mandy Hyne '11 and Jen Sadowsky '08 were all two-time spring all-academic team honorees. Tracy Zaino '06 made the all-academic team three times.

## Blood Fitness Center

*The softball team takes advantage of the Charlean and Wayland Blood Fitness and Dance Center, which opened in 2006. The Center includes a state-of-the-art weight room that features five Olympic platforms, two jammers, a leaper, a squat machine, two GHRs, a reverse-hyper machine, safety bars, x-bars, fat bars and swiss bars, along with full sets of kettlebells and dumbbells.*



*The Blood Fitness Center includes a large, glass-enclosed aerobic/cardio training area that overlooks Steuben Field; two rooms for resistance and weight-training; a three-story, 39-foot climbing wall; a dance studio that can be transformed in 10 minutes from working studio to performance space; and a multipurpose room. Spinning classes are held on a group of bikes located on the second level cardio mezzanine that overlooks the main aerobic/cardio area.*



## Head Coach Bill Spicer



Bill Spicer is in his second year as the head softball coach at Hamilton College after he was an assistant in 2010 and 2011. In 2012, Spicer's pitching staff led the NESCAC in fewest walked allowed, and Kelly Leonard '15 ranked fourth in the conference in strikeouts. Leonard set a program record with those 116 punchouts, and Sam Miller '14 tied the record for runs batted in with 31. Two student-athletes earned NESCAC spring all-academic team honors.

Spicer is the seventh head coach since Hamilton made softball a varsity sport in 1985. He has been an assistant football coach at the College since 2006, and was on the track and field coaching staff from 2007 to 2009. This is his first head coaching position at the collegiate level. He has previously been the varsity softball coach at two high schools.

Spicer coached Onondaga Central from 2004 to 2006, and the team captured New York State's Section III Class C-2 championship in 2006. He led the Woodmont High School softball program in 1997 and 1998, and guided the team from Greenville, South Carolina, to the second round of the state tournament his second year. He started his softball coaching career as an assistant at LaFayette High School just south of Syracuse.

Spicer, an assistant professor of physical education at Hamilton, coached Onondaga's football program to three state titles. He was a three-time state coach of the year selection and a 2003 recipient of the President Gerald R. Ford All-American Football Coach Award.

Spicer graduated from Chittenango High School. He went on to earn a degree in physical education from SUNY Cortland in 1994, and received his master's in physical education and health from Cortland in 1999. Spicer and his wife Jessica live in Marcellus with their two children, Michael and Makayla.

## Asst. Coach Liz Slupinski



Liz Slupinski is in her second year as an assistant coach for the Hamilton College softball program. Slupinski played softball at the University of Rochester from 2008 to 2011. Slupinski helped lead Rochester to a 113-58 record during her four-year career, and the Yellowjackets appeared in the NCAA championship regional in 2008 and 2009. She received University Athletic Association all-conference

second team honors in 2008, and was named Liberty League all-league honorable mention in 2008 and 2009. After missing her junior year due to a knee injury, Slupinski was an all-league second team selection in 2011.

Slupinski also enjoyed success in the classroom, as she was named to the Liberty League all-academic team and the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America scholar athlete team in 2011. Student-athletes must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or greater to qualify for the NFCA award.

Slupinski graduated in 2011 with a degree in studio arts and a minor in anthropology. She is from Hamburg, N.Y., and attended Hamburg High School.



## Roster

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
2	Lisa Faraci	Sr.	INF/OF	Cranbury, N.J.
4	Marian Eckermann	Fy.	OF/INF	Fairport, N.Y.
5	Sarah Moore	Fy.	C/UTIL	Elmira, N.Y.
7	Olivia Gozdz	Fy.	C/UTIL	Darien Conn.
9	Ellie Kiernan	So.	INF	New York, N.Y.
10	Jenn Rougeux	Jr.	OF	Oneida, N.Y.
11	Melissa Kagnis	Sr.	INF	New Windsor, N.Y.
12	Kelly Leonard	So.	P/UTIL	Lancaster, N.Y.
14	Talia Mercado	So.	P/INF	Somerville, Mass.
15	Chelsea Merritt	Jr.	P/INF	South Salem, N.Y.
16	Mary Farrington	Fy.	C/UTIL	West Milford, N.J.
17	Monique St. Jarre	So.	P/INF	Berlin, Conn.
19	Lauren Fairman	Fy.	P/UTIL	Houston, Texas
20	Sam Miller	Jr.	C	Willcox, Ariz.
25	Amy Appel	Sr.	P/UTIL	Mendham, N.J.



## The 2013 Schedule

March 18	vs. Wisconsin-Superior^	9 a.m.
March 18	vs. Smith^	11 a.m.
March 19	vs. NYU-Poly^	9 a.m.
March 19	vs. Worcester State^	11 a.m.
March 20	vs. Nichols^	9 a.m.
March 20	vs. College of Wooster^	11 a.m.
March 21	vs. University of New England^	11 a.m.
March 21	vs. SUNY Brockport^	1 p.m.
March 22	vs. Massachusetts-Dartmouth^	11 a.m.
March 22	vs. Wisconsin-Oshkosh^	1 p.m.
March 23	vs. Knox (DH)^	9 a.m.
<b>March 26</b>	<b>MORRISVILLE STATE (DH)</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>WESLEYAN (DH)*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
<b>March 30</b>	<b>WESLEYAN (DH)*</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>SUNYIT (DH)</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>
April 5	at Amherst College*	5 p.m.
April 6	at Amherst College (DH)*	Noon
April 9	at Utica College (DH)	5 p.m.
<b>April 10</b>	<b>ST. LAWRENCE</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>MIDDLEBURY*</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>MIDDLEBURY (DH)*</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>SUNY POTSDAM (DH)</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>
April 24	at Cazenovia College (DH)	3:30 p.m.
April 26	at Williams*	5 p.m.
April 27	at Williams (DH)*	Noon

\* - NESCAC West Division game

^ - Fort Myers, Fla.

Home games in **BOLD**

## Numbers to Know

Admission Office	1-800-843-2655
Financial Aid	1-800-859-4413
Athletics	315-859-4114
Athletics Department FAX	315-859-4117
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Mailing Address	198 College Hill Road Clinton, NY 13323

Check out Hamilton Athletics on the World Wide Web at:  
<http://www.hamilton.edu/athletics>

