2018-19 Rutgers Athletics Points of Pride

- Rutgers Athletics unveiled "The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence," a strategic vision that outlines a plan and details quantifying measures towards achieving determined goals over a five-year time frame. The athletics strategic vision is the first in the history of The State University of New Jersey.
- Rutgers Athletics improved 25 positions in the Learfield Director’s Cup Division I standings, posting its best finish in 12 years.
- Hall of Fame coach C. Vivian Stringer eclipsed 1,000 career victories to become the sixth women’s head coach in NCAA history to join the elite 1,000 career victory club.
- R Fund hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Gary and Barbara Rodkin Academic Success Center on April 13. Scheduled to open in December of 2020, the “Rodkin” will serve all student-athletes and provide a range of resources, including academic advising, learning specialists, one-on-one and group tutoring, as well as housing soccer, lacrosse and administration.
- On April 10, R Fund announced that “R B1G Build” crested its $100 million goal, as head coaches Steve Pikiell and Chris Ash made significant contributions to realize the milestone.
- The RWJBarnabas Health Athletic Performance Center will begin welcoming tenants later this summer with an official grand opening slated for September. The Center represents a partnership between Rutgers and RWJBarnabas Health to create a comprehensive sports medicine program to serve Rutgers athletes, students and communities throughout New Jersey. The facility will also provide state-of-the-art practice facilities, training areas, locker room and office space for men’s and women’s basketball, wrestling and gymnastics.
- Longtime supporters Greg and Anna Brown made a $4 million commitment to renovate and create the Brown Family Football Locker Room, which will welcome student-athletes for preseason football camp in August.
- Victory, an imposing 12-foot high bronze statue mounted upon a 5½-foot black granite pedestal portraying the armored Scarlet Knight raising his sword, will greet fans at the North Gate Plaza area of HighPoint.com Stadium as Rutgers celebrates its 150th anniversary as the Birthplace of College Football in 2019. Ron and Joanna Garutti funded the majestic statue, which weighs 2,500 pounds and will be lighted both from above and below.
- R Fund supporters contributed to a record-breaking Rutgers Giving Day in March. Over $300,000 was raised in just 24 hours from over 1,000 donors.
- Deputy Director of Athletics Sarah Baumgartner has been selected to serve as the 2019-20 National Association of Athletic Development Directors (NAADD) President.
- The Office of Leadership Development and Strategic Partnerships (LDSP) completed an organizational redesign and unit rebrand that redefined its mission and vision and developed a credit based internship program.
- LDSP created a credit based global abroad program and fostered new relationship with campus entities RU Global, the Graduate School of Education, Rutgers Business School, Student Affairs, and the Office of Experiential Learning.
- A school-record 87 student-athletes of at least sophomore standing were recognized by the Big Ten Conference as Distinguished Scholars. Field hockey’s Nicole Profita, women’s soccer’s Adora Moneme, men’s soccer’s Brian Shushkovsky, swimming’s Francesca Stoppa and track & field’s Christopher Mirabelli all earned their third selection to the prestigious list while also maintaining perfect 4.0 grade point averages in 2018-19.
• A school-record 276 student-athletes of at least sophomore standing earned Academic All-Big Ten honors, comprised of 145 in the spring, 46 in the winter and 85 in the fall.
• Rutgers Athletics had a 990 average APR rate, well above the NCAA average of 983. A school-record nine programs earned recognition from the NCAA for their multi-year APR scores. Nine recognized programs ranked second in the Big Ten, behind only Northwestern.
• Seven programs produced perfect scores of 100, while 16 out of 20 teams earned marks above 80 percent in the NCAA Graduation Success Rate (GSR) report. The overall rate for the Scarlet Knights was 88.2%, marking the highest percentage in five years and 10th straight season with a score over 84.
• 134 student-athletes earned degrees in 2019.
• 37 student-athletes, representing 17 different programs, were inducted into the Delta Chapter of Chi Alpha Sigma Society.
• Women’s golf was recognized as one of the nation’s top 25 programs in academic performance by the WGCA for a third consecutive year. The Scarlet Knights maintained a 3.781 team grade point average to place first among all Power 5 conference women’s golf programs and eighth among Division I schools.
• Ten student-athletes representing field hockey, gymnastics, rowing, volleyball, women’s golf, women’s soccer, women’s tennis and men’s and women’s track & field were awarded the 1A FAR Academic Excellence Award based upon their academic and athletic accomplishments.
• Senior Anthony Ashnault (149 pounds) and junior Nick Suriano (133 pounds) claimed the first individual national titles in program history at the NCAA Wrestling Championships to lead RU to a program-best 9th place finish.
• Wrestling Head Coach Scott Goodale was named the NCAA National Tournament Coach of the Year and Dan Gable National Coach of the Year.
• Thirteen Scarlet Knights earned All-America status. Wrestling’s Anthony Ashnault (1st) and Nick Suriano (1st), women’s track & field’s Reanda Richards (1st), rowing’s Sarah Johanek (1st), Ella Toa (2nd) and Elizabeth Kogan (HM), women’s soccer’s Amira Ali (2nd), field hockey’s Daphne Groothuis (2nd), men’s track & field’s Chris Mirabelli (3rd), Max Edelmann (3rd), Kieran Mullins (HM) and Kyle Pless (HM) all received honors. Ashnault and Mirabelli concluded their careers as four-time All-Americans.
• Five student-athletes won Big Ten individual titles. Izaiah Brown captured his fourth 400m indoor crown to become the first Scarlet Knight to claim four Big Ten titles in the same event. Wrestling’s Anthony Ashnault and Nick Suriano, women’s track & field’s Reanda Richards (400m hurdles), and men’s track & field’s Chris Mirabelli (javelin) were also Big Ten champions.
• Reanda Richards earned Big Ten Women’s Track Athlete of the Year, Max Edelmann was named Big Ten Men’s Lacrosse Co-Specialist of the Year, and Richards and women’s soccer goalkeeper Meagan McClelland were both honored as Big Ten Freshman of the Year. Forty Scarlet Knights earned All-Big Ten honors or medaled at Conference Championships.
• Men’s basketball experienced five sell-outs, its most since 2004-05 (7) and grew its season ticket base for the third consecutive year. Average attendance improved 31.1%, as RU ranked 65th nationally in percent of capacity (78%) out of 353 D-I programs after placing 232nd in 2017-18 (59.49%).
• Women’s basketball experienced a three-year high in average attendance.
• Wrestling ranked third nationally in total attendance, fifth in average attendance, and sold a program-record 3,022 season tickets.
• Men’s basketball was named the Most Improved Team of the 2018-19 season by Sports Illustrated. The Scarlet Knights improved 70 positions in the KenPom.com rankings since the season’s initial rating, best among all Power 6 conference programs.

• Women’s basketball posted 22-10 overall record, reaching the Big Ten Tournament semifinals and earning its 25th NCAA Tournament berth.

• Defensive backs Saquan Hampton and Blessuan Austin were both selected in the NFL Draft.

• Nationally-ranked for the first time in program history, rowing placed 11th at the NCAA Championships.

• No. 11-ranked field hockey qualified for its first NCAA Tournament since 1986.

• Softball competed in the National Invitational Softball Championship, its first non-conference postseason tournament since 1996.

• Swimming sent three student-athletes to NCAA Championships, its most since 2007, on the heels of earning the program's first Big Ten Championship medals since joining the conference.

• Women’s soccer earned an NCAA berth for the seventh straight season.

• Women’s soccer rising senior Chanetelle Swaby competed for Jamaica in the 2019 World Cup in France, as alumni Carli Lloyd helped lead the United States to its second consecutive title. Alum Shannon Woeller advanced to the round of 16 with Team Canada.

• Three former football standouts – Duron Harmon, Devin McCourty and Jason McCourty – earned Super Bowl rings as the New England Patriots defeated the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LIII. The three champions on the active roster were the most from any University.

• During the 2018-19 athletics season, RVision produced 108 live games for BTNPlus/BTN2Go, 87 video features, 327 game highlights/recaps & 41 weekly Top Plays, while streaming 50 live pressers, 14 additional events & uploading 98 media availabilities for 725 segments of unique video content. In addition, RVision generated 78 in-venue productions for games and events at the RAC and HighPoint.com Stadium.

• 91 Rutgers Athletics competitions were televised on national linear networks in 2018-19. 72 competitions were on BTN, in almost 60 million homes across the United States and Canada. In total, 354 Rutgers Athletics competitions were televised on linear networks or streamed online over 295 days, an average of 1.2 competition per calendar day of exposure.

• In order to better serve fans and consumers, athletics teamed with Dyehard Fan Supply to deliver an omni-channel shopping experience online.

• Creative Services developed a new visual identity guide to unify the department with a consistent visual identity.

• The Office of Athletic Compliance successfully hosted the 2019 Big Ten Conference spring meetings April 29-30, with over 150 representatives from the Big Ten and NCAA engaging upon a wide-range of compliance topics.

• The Office of Athletic Compliance hosted the inaugural New Jersey Compliance Summit on Dec. 13, welcoming compliance professionals from all of New Jersey’s Division I institutions and conferences to share best practice and discuss ongoing trends.

• The mascot made 238 appearances and the cheer & dance teams combined for 119 appearances.

• From August 1, 2018 through June 18, 2019, 1,592 previews, recaps, press releases or features were posted to the official Athletics web site by the Communications staff. In total, ScarletKnights.com generated 8,959,718 page views during this period.