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ABOUT AMERICA EAST

Since its inception as a men's basketball-only conference in 1979, America East has evolved into one of the most comprehensive conferences with a commitment to broad-based, competitive Division I athletics programs, complementing the academic integrity and missions of its member institutions. With a geographic footprint covering the Mid-Atlantic to Northeast regions of the United States, America East has a population base of more than 50 million people and nearly 30 million television homes. America East member institutions include over 150,000 students and boast more than 1 million living alumni.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH

Eight America East schools rank among the top 100 public institutions in the most recent U.S. News & World Report Rankings.

A common theme of highly-respected undergraduate and graduate programs with an emphasis on research ties America East institutions. The conference includes three key, land-grant institutions in New England and three of the four major University Centers of the powerful SUNY System.

America East boasts an AAU institution, a world renowned nanotechnology center, a top STEM program focused on minority students, one of the best schools for undergraduate teaching, the nation's No. 2 accounting program according to Business Week and one of 16 colleges to receive the highest "green rating" by the most recent Princeton Review.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

America East is consistently among the top achieving academic conferences by any NCAA metric. In 2011-12, America East had the third-highest Academic Progress Rate (APR). The conference continues an upward APR trend, maintaining or exceeding its previous score each year since 2004-05.

America East ranked seventh among all conferences in the most recent Graduation Success Rate. Eight institutions scored higher than the national average. The conference had 29 programs achieve a perfect score of 100 and another 22 score 90 or better.

America East is committed to continuing its academic success with demanding admissions and academic integrity policies, established by the leadership at each member institution.

ATHLETICS SUCCESS

America East teams combined for nine wins in NCAA Championships in 2011-12, the most in conference history, including the Stony Brook baseball team's memorable run to the College World Series. Thirty student-athletes earned All-America honors, including Lucy Van Dalen, who became the third NCAA national champion in conference history.

Each America East school earned points in the Learfield Sports NACDA Cup, with five among the top 150 of the 370 Division I members.

LEADERSHIP

The America East Conference and the You Can Play Project entered into a partnership in 2012 dedicated to ensuring equality, respect and safety for all athletes without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. The conference office along with student-athletes, coaches and administrators from all America East institutions will combine with You Can Play to help educate and change the culture regarding the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender athletes in the locker room and on the playing field. The America East is the first Division I athletic conference to partner with the You Can Play Project.

America East also enjoys a partnership with College For Every Student (CFES), providing student mentors and campus opportunities to help underserved elementary and middle school students prepare for, gain access to, and succeed in college. Each year America East honors a student-athlete with the CFES Service Award for leadership and dedication to CFES.

EXPOSURE

America East is committed to transforming the way the conference communicates with fans to promote its teams and student-athletes through the convergence of online video, mobile technologies and social media.

America East has joined forces with ESPN3 and WatchESPN, the most complete live stream destination for college sports, for more productions than ever in 2012-13 giving fans access to live events via multiple platforms across the country. Additionally, all team championships are streamed live via ESPN3 or the conference's website. As one of the world's leading digital networks, ESPN3 reaches more than 83 million homes throughout the country.

• *Developing Champions in Academics, Athletics and Leadership* •