NFHCA Collegiate Regional Coaches of the Year Announced

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GILBERT, Ariz. - After leading their teams to outstanding seasons in 2017, thirteen coaching staffs were selected as the NFHCA Collegiate Regional Coaches of the Year, it was announced on Thursday.

The NFHCA Division I Regional Coaching Staff of the Year honors went to the staffs from Maryland (Mid-Atlantic), Connecticut (Mideast), Boston University (Northeast), North Carolina (South) and Michigan (West).

In Division II, the NFHCA Regional Coaching Staff of the Year awards went to staffs from Shippensburg (Atlantic) and L Post (East).

The NFHCA Division III Regional Coaching Staff of the Year awards went to Centre (Great Lakes), MIT (New England East), Middlebury (New England West), University of Rochester (North Atlantic), Messiah (South Atlantic) and Franklin Marshall (South).

More information on each of the NFHCA Collegiate Regional Coaching Staffs of the Year is below.

NFHCA Division I Collegiate Regional Coaching Staffs of the Year

Mid-Atlantic: Maryland (Head Coach Missy Meharg; Assistant Coaches Katie Bam and Marvin Bam; Volunteer Assistant Coach Stefanie Fee)

The Terrapins got hot at the end of the season and carried their momentum all the way into a trip to the national title game. Maryland won the final six games of the regular season, which included four straight victories over ranked opponents to conclude the stretch with wins over Ohio State, Penn State, Virginia and Rutgers. Maryland then beat Wake Forest and second-seeded Duke to make the semifinals of the NCAA Division I Tournament, where the Terps took out third-seeded Michigan by a 5-1 final to advance to the championship. Maryland fell in a close 2-1 contest to top-seed Connecticut in the national title game and finished the season with a 16-7 record.

Mideast: Connecticut (Head Coach Nancy Stevens; Associate Head Coach Paul Caddy; Assistant Coach Cheri Schulz; Volunteer Assistant Coach Kealy Chipman)

The Huskies completed a perfect season by defeating Maryland 2-1 in the national championship game on Nov. 19. Connecticut finished with an unbeaten record of 23-0 which included 13 victories by shutout. A regular-season mark of was highlighted by wins over highly-ranked opponents including Michigan, Northwestern, Delaware, Stanford, Princeton, Boston College, Boston University and Harvard. Connecticut then won the Big East Tournament title to go with its conference regular-season crown, and defeated Boston University, Penn State and North Carolina in the NCAA Tournament leading to the championship victory over Maryland. The national champion Huskies led all schools with five honorees on the Longstreth/NFHCA Division I All-American Team announced earlier this week.

Northeast: Boston University (Head Coach Sally Starr; Associate Head Coach Sarah Shute; Assistant Coach Tracey Paul; Volunteer Assistant Coach Niklas Wellen)

The Terriers finished with a 14-8 record that was highlighted by both a regular-season and tournament title in the Patriot League. Boston University had an unbeaten 6-0 record in league action, and defeated Bucknell in the Patriot League title game on Nov. 5. The Terriers then knocked off Fairfield in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament before falling top-seed Connecticut in a first-round contest. Boston University had six shutouts among its 14 victories in 2017.

South: North Carolina (Head Coach Karen Shelton; Associate Head Coach Grant Fulton; Assistant Coach Mark Atherton; Volunteer Assistant Coach Kate Kinnear)

The Tar Heels made a return trip to the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament, falling to eventual national champion Connecticut 2-1 in a shootout on Nov. 17. North Carolina finished the season with an 18-5 record, and advanced in the NCAA Tournament with first and second-round wins over Saint Joseph's and Princeton, respectively. UNC played a challenging schedule throughout the year, and recorded regular-season victories over numerous ranked squads includ
Michigan put together an outstanding season that featured an 18-game winning streak that carried the Wolverines to the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament. After early-season wins over North Carolina and Wake Forest, the Wolverines went 0-2 in the Big Ten during the regular season with victories over NCAA Tournament squads Maryland, Penn State and Northwestern on that slate along with a win at Louisville. The Wolverines then posted five consecutive shutouts going into the NCAA semifinals, taking out Ohio State, Northwestern and Penn State to win the Big Ten Tournament title and knock off Syracuse and Northwestern in the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament. Sixteen of Michigan's 21 wins came via shutout in 2017.

NFHCA Division II Collegiate Regional Coaching Staffs of the Year

Atlantic: Shippensburg (Head Coach Tara Zollinger; Assistant Coach Jordan Page; Assistant Coach Brittney Randolph)

In their first season at Shippensburg, Zollinger, Page and Randolph led the Raiders to repeat national title and a 17-4 overall record. Shippensburg played its best in a dominating stretch in the NCAA Tournament, beating Stonehill 6-1 in a quarterfinal on Nov. 11 before knocking off East Stroudsburg 2-1 in a semifinal on Nov. 17 and beating LIU Post 4-1 in the national championship on Nov. 19. Shippensburg finished the year with a pair of wins over conference rivals Millersville East Stroudsburg, and won the regular-season title in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).

East: LIU Post (Head Coach Raenee Savin; Assistant Coach Ellis Chance)

LIU Post made a return trip to the national title game and finished the season with a 19-4 record. The Pioneers started with a win over East Stroudsburg, and later went on to post regular-season victories over West Chester and Stonehill. LIU Post excelled in the Northeast-10 Tournament as it won the title by defeating Merrimack, top-seed Saint Anselm and Assumption. The Pioneers then knocked off Millersville by a 3-0 final in the semifinals of the NCAA Division II Tournament before falling to Shippensburg in the title game.

NFHCA Division III Collegiate Regional Coaching Staffs of the Year

Great Lakes: Centre (Head Coach Jenelle Anthony)

The Colonels capped off a 17-5 season by making it to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament. Centre won nine straight games before falling in that quarterfinal matchup against The College of New Jersey. Included in that run was a dominating stretch to win the tournament title in the Southern Athletic Association (SAA), with 5-1 wins over Hendrix and Ferrum by a 4-1 victory against Rhodes in the championship. Centre then defeated Washington & Jefferson in the first round and in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to advance to the quarterfinals. Jenelle Anthony coached the season with two official assistant coaches, but was helped out by four student managers.

New England East: MIT (Head Coach Cheryl Silva; Assistant Coach Becca Shaw; Assistant Coach Sarah Fay; Assistant Coach Julia Mauro)

MIT enjoyed a stellar 2017 campaign as the Engineers finished the season with a 16-3 record. After a regular season that included wins over Tufts and University of New England, MIT avenged one of its two losses by defeating Babson in the game of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC). It was the first conference title since 2016 and fifth overall for MIT, which advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth time.

New England West: Middlebury (Head Coach Katharine DeLorenzo; Assistant Coach Leslie Smith; Assistant Coach Andrea Way)

An outstanding overall season led to a dominant run to close the campaign as Middlebury won the NCAA Division III National Championship for the second time in three years and third overall. Middlebury defeated last year's champion, Messiah, 4-0 in the national title game on Nov. 19. That concluded an NCAA Tournament run that saw the Panthers advance to the NCAA Division III National Championship for the second time in three years and third overall. Middlebury defeated last year's champion, Messiah, 4-0 in the national title game on Nov. 19. That concluded an NCAA Tournament run that saw the Panthers defeat the University of New England, University of Rochester and Franklin & Marshall and outscore their four opponents by a total of 16-1. Middlebury was just as dominant in winning the tournament title in the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) by defeating Bates, Bowdoin and Trinity by a combined score of 14-3. Middlebury won final 16 games as it finished 20-2 overall and 9-1 in the NESCAC.

North Atlantic: University of Rochester (Head Coach Wendy Andreatta; Assistant Coach Margaret McConnell; Goalkeeping Coach Tara Lamberti)
University of Rochester capped off an 18-4 season that featured an undefeated regular-season record as well as a tournament title in the Liberty League. The Yellowjackets were a perfect 7-0 in Liberty League play in the regular season then defeated William Smith and Skidmore in the conference tournament to take home the title. They defeated Husson in the second round of the NCAA Tournament before falling to eventual national champion Middlebury in the quarterfinals.

**South Atlantic: Messiah (Head Coach Brooke Good; Assistant Coach Jen Jacobs; Assistant Coach Danae Hollenbach; Assistant Coach Kourtney Joyce)**

Messiah nearly completed a perfect season, going 22-0 and rolling off a 44-game winning streak dating back to last year before falling to Middlebury in the national title game on Nov. 19. There were plenty of highlights along the way for the Falcons, including regular-season wins over Ursinus, Salisbury, The College of New Jersey and Franklin & Marshall. Messiah won both the regular-season and tournament titles in the Middle Atlantic Conferences Commonwealth, and defeated Washington and Lee, Trinity and The College of New Jersey in its run in the NCAA Tournament.

**South: Franklin & Marshall (Head Coach Kaitlyn Eager; Assistant Coach Jenn Hanks; Assistant Coach Gabriel Nolt)**

After winning the Centennial Conference tournament title, Franklin & Marshall pulled out three victories in the NCAA Tournament to advance to the semifinals. The Diplomats defeated Misericordia in the first round, Montclair State in the second round and Kean in the quarterfinals to make it to the semifinals, where they fell 2-1 in overtime against eventual NCAA champion Middlebury. Franklin & Marshall finished the season with an 18-4 record which included a pair of wins Ursinus and a victory against Johns Hopkins in the Centennial Conference title game on Nov. 5.