Steady rise

The Wheaton men’s basketball team enters the 2017–18 season after making it to the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Tournament last season. Wheaton closed out the 2016–17 campaign with a 10–16 overall record and a 5–9 conference standing, which is the Lyons’ best conference record in seven seasons.

Quinton Dale ’17 led the way for the Lyons last season, concluding his four-year career with his first-ever NEWMAC All-Conference honor. In addition to leading the NEWMAC in several statistical categories, Dale had an impressive season on the national stage. He ended the year ranked 37th in defensive rebounds per game (7.28), 39th in blocked shots per game (2.08), 41st in total blocks (52), 44th in double-doubles (12) and 49th in rebounds per game (9.7).

Despite graduating six seniors from last year’s squad, the Lyons still are poised to be a NEWMAC contender this season. Wheaton will return 11 players from the 2016–17 team, including guard Ryan Fogarty ’18 and forward Liam Bruno ’18. Fogarty led the team offensively last season, averaging 14.9 points per game, while Bruno ended the year averaging 7.1.

Academically, Ben Christopher ’17, Alex Sugarman ’20 and David Carbonello ’19 were recognized by the NEWMAC for their work in the classroom, earning Academic All-Conference accolades. The trio also were named to both the Wheaton College fall and spring Dean’s Lists.

Check out the team’s schedule, records, awards and more: athletics.wheatoncollege.edu/sports/mbkb
Brian Walmsley is entering his 21st season as head coach of the men’s basketball team. Walmsley is the winningest coach in program history and five seasons ago became the second Wheaton basketball coach to reach the 200-win milestone.

Nine years ago, Walmsley led the Lyons to a third-place finish in the highly competitive NEWMAC. In 2007–08, he guided a young squad to Wheaton’s ninth NEWMAC Tournament ninth NEWMAC Tournament semifinal appearance in 10 seasons. Walmsley coached the 2005–06 team to the program’s second straight Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Tournament title.

Walmsley’s teams have strung together seven of Wheaton’s top nine single-season victory totals in the 22-year history of the program. In 1999–00, the Lyons captured their first NEWMAC regular-season championship after posting a 9–3 mark in conference play (16–9 overall). During his tenure at Wheaton, Walmsley has posted six seasons of 16 or more wins and earned six ECAC Tournament bids.

Walmsley serves on the NCAA Tournament regional selection committee and has directed the Basketball Dimensions summer camp at Wheaton since 1998. He formerly served as director of the Rising Star Basketball School in Waltham, Mass., and was co-director of the adidas-Israel Basketball Camp in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1997.

Before arriving in Norton in 1997, Walmsley spent six years as an assistant men’s basketball coach at Division I Harvard University while also serving as director of athletic promotions. He played a significant role in helping to guide the team to its most successful season in 51 years, as the 1996–97 squad went 17–9 and tied for the runner-up spot in the Ivy League.

A 1988 Bentley University graduate with a bachelor’s degree in finance, Walmsley began his coaching career at his alma mater, where he was assistant coach, head junior varsity coach and director of summer camps for three years. As an undergraduate at Bentley, Walmsley was a team captain, Most Valuable Player and the school’s Outstanding Senior Male Athlete.