Returning force

The Wheaton volleyball team is set to return all but one of its players from the 2016 season—a team that featured seven underclassmen and just three upperclassmen. The Lyons ended 2016 on a high note, earning a convincing 3–0 win on the road at Smith College in a New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) battle.

The Lyons wrapped up the season with an 11–18 overall record, posting the team's fifth straight 10-plus win season—29th in program history. The team led the NEWMAC in service aces, finished second in total attacks and finished fifth in digs.

Wheaton will build off the foundation set in 2016, which saw seven out of a nine-player rotation playing in a position for the first time in college. A young and exciting team to watch, the Lyons this season will return starters in every position and will have strong leadership from captain Stephanie Martin ’18. Paired with an incoming class that should make an immediate impact, the Lyons look to return to the NEWMAC Tournament.

Martin, who will again serve as captain, made her way into the top 10 all-time in digs at Wheaton last season. Heading into her final season, Martin is ranked ninth all-time, with 1,277 digs.

Academically, Cathryn MacGregor ’19 was named to the NEWMAC Academic All-Conference Team and earned Wheaton College Dean’s List honors in both the fall and spring.

Check out the team’s schedule, records, awards and more: athletics.wheatoncollege.edu/sports/wvball
Craig Letourneau is in his seventh season at the helm of the women's volleyball program. Since his arrival, Letourneau has steadily increased the squad's overall win total by four or more victories each year and also improved the Lyons' performance in conference play.

In 2014, Wheaton qualified for the NEWMAC Tournament for the first time in six years, with an 18–14 record overall and a 6–4 mark in league play. Also that year, the Lyons hosted their first playoff contest inside Emerson Gymnasium since 1997, and their fourth-place finish in the conference marked their highest since 2003. Additionally, Wheaton's six conference wins in 2014 are the most the Lyons have produced since 1998 (6–3).

A veteran head coach at the Division III level, Letourneau spent four years at Emerson College before his appointment at Wheaton. He guided the Lions to an 89–38 record and a trip to their first NCAA Tournament in 2009. Leading Emerson to a school record in wins that fall at 30–7, he steered the Lions to their initial Great Northeast Athletic Conference regular-season and tournament titles.

Before his Emerson appointment, Letourneau was a part-time head coach at Rhode Island College, his alma mater, from 2002–06. Improving the team's win total during each of his first four seasons, Letourneau led the Anchorwomen to a share of the Little East Conference regular-season crown in 2004 and to the league tournament title match in 2006, both program firsts.

Letourneau began his coaching career at the high school level, working as the head boys and girls volleyball coach at Mount Saint Charles Academy in Woonsocket, R.I., for four years.

Letourneau earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Rhode Island College in 2000. A personal trainer since May 2005, he has certifications from the American Council on Exercise and the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America.