The Campaign for Athletics at Boston University

CHANGING THE GAME

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TO THE FRIENDS OF BU ATHLETICS:

In the nearly century-long history of Boston University Athletics, there have been many extraordinary accomplishments and sensational moments, including five national championships in men's hockey, two national championship games for women's hockey (a mere eight years after the varsity program was founded), and seven appearances in the NCAA men's basketball tourney, including a trip to the Elite Eight.

Boston University has produced scores of Olympians, a member of baseball’s Hall of Fame, several NBA players, and over 60 members of the NHL—more than any other American university. In recent years, our programs have dominated their conferences. Boston University captured the America East Conference Commissioner’s Cup, awarded to the school with the strongest athletic program, seven years in a row and ten times in the last eleven years.

But just as important as these athletic accomplishments are the achievements of our students in the classroom and the community. In the past three years, they have put in more than 10,000 hours of community service. The graduation rate for BU student-athletes is 95 percent, and their cumulative grade point average is over 3.1. In 2012, we set a new record, with ten student-athletes receiving the prestigious Scarlet Key honor—the University’s highest recognition of outstanding scholarship, leadership in student activities, and service—and this year, another eight were honored.

Boston University student-athletes are our ambassadors. Whether performing at a track meet in Texas or facing a top-20 basketball team on national television, they are the lenses through which the University is seen. And when they come home and enter the classroom, they represent not only their team, but also the entire Athletics community.

It’s true: A great university deserves great athletics. In fact, a great university needs great athletics. By the same token, great athletes deserve a great education—the kind they can only receive at an institution able to strike the balance between student and athlete. In other words, the kind of education they can only receive at Boston University.

Please join us in our ambitious effort to support our student-athletes and strengthen BU Athletics.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Lynch
Assistant Vice President and Director of Athletics
“Being part of the soccer team definitely helped me at school and helped me as a person,” Cords says. “The two most important things I learned were how to manage my time and how to set goals.”
When you bring together the worlds of athletics and higher education, you have to embrace both challenge and change. True, some of the basic rules stay the same. But the thousands of moving parts—including changing regulations, fan expectations, and educational opportunities—all tend to complicate things.

At Boston University, we love challenge and change. We not only know how the game is played, we also know how to make it better. It starts with our team.

We recruit the best, brightest, and most talented student-athletes at BU. Thanks to our incredible coaches, we celebrate countless wins, and we recruit, foster, and graduate champions. Those students, our champions, have high expectations for our University both in the classroom and on the field. They hold us accountable. In exchange, we expect great things. We know that we can’t stop at winning teams and stellar coaches—though we certainly take pride in both. To shape the future of university athletics, we must also set the standard for academic achievement and community outreach. And then we must surpass that standard. That is the BU way.

And so we expect our student-athletes to be role models. We expect them to excel at a university known for its academic acumen. We expect them to take an active part in their community, strengthening the city that is their home—and the home of their fans.

Our student-athletes have proven themselves up to these challenges, and so have we. We’ve already begun.

Today, Boston University Athletics stands at the threshold of a new era. In the past decade, our teams and our student-athletes have enjoyed an extraordinary run of success, and we have opened new facilities that energized our programs and revitalized the campus and the city. Here are some highlights:

- BU has recently joined the Patriot League, an NCAA Division I conference with a strong commitment to academic excellence and athletic competitiveness. The Patriot League and its ten member institutions—American, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh, Lafayette, Lehigh, Bucknell, and the US Military and Naval Academies—share Boston University’s long-standing emphasis on the ideal of the student-athlete.
- The New Balance Field on Babcock Street, across from Nickerson Field, was designed to include seating for one thousand, an underground parking garage, and an adjacent small park. Supported with a generous gift from the Boston-based athletic shoe and apparel company, New Balance, this $24 million facility is contributing to the transformation of the University’s West Campus, and providing a much-needed playing field for varsity and club sports, as well as intramural and recreational programs.
- Boston University’s first-ever men’s lacrosse team is led by Ryan Polley, a two-time Division III coach of the year and former Yale assistant coach, and the team competes in the Patriot League, one of the NCAA’s strongest lacrosse conferences. This University is committed to building a program that, in a very short time, will compete for a national championship in what is the fastest growing sport in the United States.
- A women’s lightweight rowing program was added to BU’s lineup in the 2012–2013 season. Former BU Assistant Women’s Rowing Coach Malcolm Doldron was named head coach of the lightweight team’s inaugural season, and the team has already demonstrated strong promise for future success.

At Boston University, we build on a rich history of athletics and a record of successful strategic investment. This history has led us to the kinds of changes described above. But there is more to be done. To achieve our long-range goals, we need your help.

As part of The Campaign for Boston University, BU Athletics seeks to raise $45 million in private donations. Of that total, our goal is to raise $25 million to upgrade or expand our athletic facilities, $10 million to endow coaching positions and scholarships for student-athletes, and $10 million for the Athletic Department’s annual fund. All of it will help us support our student-athletes and raise the bar for university athletics.

This is a time of opportunity. We aren’t content with merely keeping up with the challenges and changes that athletics and higher education bring. We seek to challenge the expectations for student-athletes. We seek to set a new standard for university athletics. We seek to change the game.

We ask you to join us.
Since 2005, we’ve seen a nearly 400 percent growth in donor-funded scholarships. That is no small cause for celebration.

For long-term success in athletics, endowed scholarships are key. They are the foundation that enables us to attract talented student-athletes who might otherwise be unable to afford to attend BU.

It’s one of our oldest and proudest traditions: No student who belongs at Boston University should have to go elsewhere because of financial concerns. This is certainly true of our student-athletes.

It is equally true of our coaches. Competition among universities to attract and retain top-level coaches is intense. Endowments can also help us win this competition. Endowing a head coaching position (for example) not only ensures permanent, adequate funding for the post, it also lends prestige to the job, helping to bring the very best to Boston University.

And our opportunities don’t end with a roster of talented players and coaches. In the competitive world of Division I intercollegiate athletics, the cost of operating a team continues to rise each year, sometimes dramatically. Over the long term, we need to endow our varsity programs to keep pace with rising expenses. Donors who are passionate about a particular varsity sport can create a fund for it and ensure its success in perpetuity.
Since the late 1990s, we have renovated or replaced the facilities for almost all of our teams. The DeWolfe Boathouse opened in 1999 on the Cambridge side of the Charles River, at the starting line for the Head of the Charles Regatta. The Track & Tennis Center, opened in 2002, has a 200-meter, high-banked track that is one of the fastest in the country. The 7,200-seat Agganis Arena, opened in 2005, is one of the nation’s premier college hockey venues.

We can’t and won’t stop enhancing our resources. Just as our student-athletes must train and condition throughout the years, so must our facilities continue to improve. Our recent investments in athletic facilities have been substantial, but other universities in Boston, New England, and the rest of the country have kept pace.

This is where you can help. Donor funds go beyond the day-to-day support of BU Athletics, though they also do critical work in the daily realm. Investment in the department allows us to realize our goals for the program as a whole, and also supports solutions for some of our—and our student-athletes’—most pressing needs.

How can we get the edge?

Boston University students are success stories that are being written every day. Donor support plays a large part in those successes. In order to develop the best nationally ranked programs, we need state-of-the-art facilities to attract top recruits and student-athletes. For example:

With the growth and increased prominence of men’s and women’s soccer and lacrosse, these sports need their own locker rooms and office space. This could be accomplished with the creation of a West Campus athletic complex, connected to Nickerson Field, where the soccer and lacrosse teams play their home games.

Today, BU’s athletic facilities are spread across three blocks of Commonwealth Avenue. Athletes dress in one building, work out in another, and then double back for practice before returning to their lockers to change for class. Sports medicine, rehabilitation, academic assistance, and counseling are all in separate buildings. A new Athletic Support & Wellness Center would consolidate these functions and provide room for expansion.

While it remains a superlative venue, we have big plans for the continued development of Agganis Arena, to provide expanded practice times for hockey, a home for basketball teams and our administration, and to build a Hall of Fame to properly display the accomplishments of our student-athletes.

The planned creation of a Leadership Academy for our student-athletes—a program endorsed and encouraged by the Patriot League—will strengthen the focus of BU Athletics on character building and leadership development through sport. It is one of many opportunities for alumni and other friends of BU Athletics to make a difference in students’ lives.
Boston University is known for hockey, and deservedly so. Women’s hockey has been the most successful varsity team at BU for the past few years. Not only did the Terriers win the Hockey East tournament twice, but they also made it to the NCAA tournament each year, even playing in the national championship games in 2011 and 2013. The men’s team has five national championships and 21 Frozen Four appearances under its belt. Legendary retired coach Jack Parker is one of the “winningest” coaches in college sports history, with nearly 900 wins.

But BU Athletics is much more than ice hockey. The women’s soccer team has become a perennial league champion, making annual appearances in the NCAA tournament. In 2012, men’s crew ranked fourth in the nation following regatta wins over Brown, Syracuse, and Dartmouth. Women’s lacrosse has enjoyed national rankings and was an America East regular season champion in 2012. Our men’s basketball team, with its success in the 2011 NCAA tourney, was a driving force for our move to the Patriot League. And the list goes on.

We’re already ahead of the game, in a prime position to make a change for the better.

BU STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE A CUT ABOVE

Marisa Ryan (CAS’07, MED’10), a track and cross-country standout at BU from 2003 to 2007, looks back on her days as a college athlete as training for her career: a surgical residency at Duke University Medical Center.

“There are a lot of parallels between surgery and athletics,” Ryan says. “They both require a lot of patience and practice, and when things don’t go your way, you have to figure out ways to make them go right.”

At BU, Ryan was in the seven-year Liberal Arts/Medical Education program and the recipient of the J&Cliff Viner Family Scholarship. Athletics provided an important release from her studies.

“When you do seven years straight of undergraduate and graduate school, you can get burned out,” she says.

Ryan competed in middle- and long-distance events, from the mile to 10 kilometers. Her teams won several conference championships, and she went to the NCAA nationals twice.

“Although we worked hard as athletes, the coaches and administrators never forgot that academics and our development as people were the most important things,” Ryan says. “I was in an intense academic program, and I always felt that I had their support and understanding.”

J. J. Page (CAS’13, SMG’13), a record-breaking sprinter for the BU track and field team, also loves a good challenge: He holds the best time in the 200-meter dash (21.21) and shares with teammates the record for the 4×400 meter relay (3:08.41) and the 4×200 meter relay (1:24.24), among others. He also holds a dual degree in economics and business administration and management, and he graduated with a GPA of 3.5.

Page was courted by several universities, including some of the Ivies, but he knew precisely what he was looking for—challenging academics, athletic opportunities, and a great community—and he found it all at Boston University.

“I’ve been challenged here like I’ve never been challenged before,” Page says. “Everyone here is smart, and they bring a lot to the table. I’ve learned a lot from everything the University has to offer.”

Page graduated with a job lined up with Cigna Health Insurance in Philadelphia. Although he’s starting the next chapter of his life, he’s not sure if he can give up running just yet.

“When I accepted that job offer in the fall, I realized, ‘OK, this is going to be it for me running,’ but as soon as I had my first meet this year, I just said to myself, ‘I have to keep running—I’m going to miss it.’”

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All Terriers perform service beyond the BU campuses: In the past three years, student-athletes put in more than 10,000 hours of community service.

On an early spring day, students from Boston’s Jackson Mann School, a K–8 public school, journeyed to the BU campus and were greeted by members of the men’s basketball team. More than 80 percent of students attending Jackson Mann are from low-income families. Nearly a third have limited proficiency in English. And this is part of a bigger picture: Across the Boston Public Schools, only about one in four high school seniors expect to attend a four-year college.

The BU student-athletes and University officials talked with the youngsters from Jackson Mann about college admission and their futures. For many of these young students, it was their first time considering these options. Afterwards, they all went to a dining hall for lunch together, and the next day, the BU student-athletes traveled to Jackson Mann to work on murals for the school gym and auditorium.

Athletics Director Mike Lynch says the partnership with Jackson Mann provides a “window to the world” for the Boston public school children, who get to see what it’s like to be on a college campus. The student-athletes, too, gain a new perspective. “This is an educational experience for all of us,” Lynch says. “Our student-athletes gain insights into the tremendous challenges that today’s urban youth face.”

Community service is a vital part of our student-athletes’ daily lives, as they participate in a range of service activities both as individuals and teams. They read to elementary school children, organize charity fundraisers, and help to run events like the Special Olympics. Few student-athletes consider community service a chore, according to Lynch. “They do it once, and in 99 percent of cases, they come back and say they want to do it again.”
In 1971, Richard L. Taylor (COM’71) became Boston University’s first Rhodes Scholar. A three-year member of the varsity basketball team and co-captain his senior year, Taylor received a bachelor’s degree in philosophy, politics, and economics at Oxford to complement his bachelor’s in journalism from BU. Taylor later earned MBA and law degrees from Harvard.

As a student at BU, Taylor was involved in many activities. He co-founded the Afro-American Studies Center, served in student government, and was a student representative on the search committee for a new University president.

Taylor went on to become a successful attorney and real estate developer, and is now director of Suffolk University’s Center for Real Estate Development.

“Boston University represented an open laboratory of educational opportunity for a young kid coming out of New York City,” Taylor says. “All that I am has been a consequence of what I was able to do at BU.”

LEARNING FOR LIFE

While a significant number of BU student-athletes have gone on to play professionally, for most who wear the red or white Boston across their jerseys, athletics is part of the broader preparation Boston University provides for life after college.

“When I think about my players, I think about their struggles,” says women’s soccer coach Nancy Feldman. “Most of them struggle to be the best they can be. Reaching for excellence in any area teaches you a lot about yourself.”

Athletics fosters valuable skills and attitudes—teamwork, determination, self-discipline, time management, and how to handle both success and failure. Talk to former BU student-athletes today, and you will find that, regardless of their profession or path in life, they see a connection between their successes and their college athletics experiences.

BU STUDENT-ATHLETES BREAK AWAY

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In June 2012, Boston University and the Patriot League announced that BU would become the conference’s ninth member—and on July 1, 2013, we did. All of BU’s teams now compete in the league, with the exception of men’s and women’s ice hockey, which remain in Hockey East, and men’s rowing, which remains in the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges, as the Patriot League does not sponsor those sports.

Member schools of the Patriot League are American University, Bucknell University, Colgate University, The College of the Holy Cross, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Loyola University Maryland, the US Military Academy, and the US Naval Academy. Three associate members participate in one sport each: Fordham University and Georgetown University in football and MIT in women’s rowing.

Leaving America East was not an easy decision—in 1979, Boston University was a founding member of the conference—but, at a time of upheaval affecting almost every major conference, the Athletics Department and the University administration recognized the extraordinary opportunity the Patriot League presented.

“We are very impressed by the academic quality of the institutions in the Patriot League and by the league’s commitment to student athletes while effectively competing at the NCAA Division I level,” said Boston University President Robert A. Brown when the change was announced. “We believe that the philosophy of the league is a good match for Boston University and that the schools in the league will give our student-athletes a rich competitive environment.”

According to the NCAA, of all Division I conferences, the Patriot League has maintained the highest graduation rates for its student-athletes since 1998. Each school in the league calculates an academic index—a composite of grade-point average and other academic measures—for each of its student-athletes. Both individual indices and team averages are expected to be consistent with those of each institution’s overall student body, and member schools hold each other accountable for exceptions. In its commitment to excellence in the classroom, the Patriot League rivals the Ivy League, which is the principal out-of-conference competition for Patriot League teams in many sports. Excellence in athletic competition is another hallmark of the Patriot League. In the 2012 NCAA men’s basketball tournament, Patriot League champion Lehigh upset Duke. In the 2005 tourney, Bucknell defeated perennial powerhouse Kansas. Patriot League teams compete with the best in other sports as well. In 2012, the Patriot League had two teams ranked in the top 10 in the nation in men’s lacrosse and four in the top 25.

This League is a perfect fit for our Athletics program, and we welcome the challenges and opportunities the Patriot League is already bringing to Boston University.
There are 16 programs currently fielding lightweight rowing. At the top, you have Stanford, Wisconsin, Harvard, Princeton, and Bucknell. We are excited to break into that mix. I am confident we can be in conversation with those programs in the near future.

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>>COACH MALCOLM DOLDRON

Boston University has chosen to expand its varsity offerings by adding a men’s lacrosse and a women’s lightweight rowing team to the roster. Known as the “the fastest sport on two feet,” lacrosse has grown rapidly as a college sport in recent years. More schools are adding lacrosse, and more games are carried on national television. The only college sporting events that draw bigger crowds than the NCAA men’s lacrosse tournament are football and basketball games. The national title game in college lacrosse is played before 60,000 fans in an NFL stadium.

Participation in lacrosse is booming at high schools and youth programs across the United States. New England is a hotbed of lacrosse activity, and for Boston University’s new men’s lacrosse program, Massachusetts and surrounding states are proving fertile grounds for recruitment. Greater Boston, in particular, is an excellent area from which to draw talent. The only other university in the city with a Division I varsity men’s lacrosse program is Harvard.

Our women’s team, which moved from club to varsity level in 1996, has dominated the America East Conference. The team appeared in the NCAA tournament eight times, advancing to the NCAA quarterfinals in 2005 and 2008. With the addition of men’s lacrosse and the shift to the Patriot League, Boston University is poised to become a major player in America’s fastest-growing sport.

In February 2012, Boston University announced the addition of a women’s lightweight rowing program, beginning with the 2012-2013 season. Malcolm Doldron, no stranger to BU women’s crew, was named head coach of the lightweight team’s inaugural season.

The lightweight team made its debut at the “Foot of the Charles” race on November 10, 2012, and continued its inaugural season with a March race against Harvard and MIT. At the conclusion of the race, the team’s brand-new Resolute Racing shells were dedicated in honor of Boston University’s 1974 National Champion rowing team and longtime BU supporter Elliot Driben—the undisputed number-one fan of Terrier Athletics.

With these varsity program additions, Boston University has proven its commitment to moving forward: enhancing our athletic offerings, and attracting brighter and more talented student-athletes to our campuses.
For too long Nickerson Field, which was used by three varsity programs and nearly 200 intramural teams, was constantly booked solid—forcing student groups and athletic teams alike to find off-campus solutions that fell far short of what a university like BU can and should offer.

Our nationally ranked field hockey team, which once played at Nickerson Field, had to leave in 2000 because the field’s new surface was too slow for the fast-paced sport. As a consequence, the field hockey team had all of its home games and practices at RIT or Harvard. New Balance Field changed all of that.

In the fall of 2012, we broke ground on the New Balance Field on Babcock Street. The open-air field with an artificial surface and a brick façade replaces a vast expanse of asphalt on the University’s West Campus, and the 110,000-square-foot field effectively doubles BU’s field space and provides a vital link between Nickerson Field and the outlying Track & Tennis Center and softball field.

“The new field is a highly imaginative use of precious space in an urban environment,” said Todd Klipp, BU senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary of the Board of Trustees. “It will have an enormous impact on athletic and recreational life here, not only for our sports teams, but also for the entire BU community.”

>> TODD KLIPP, BU SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

“The new field is a highly imaginative use of precious space in an urban environment.”

IMPROVING THE LANDSCAPE
As we undertake this Campaign for Athletics at Boston University, we recognize that using our resources strategically is key. All of our accomplishments in recent years have come about because we have chosen to invest in areas where we know we have a good chance of success. We will continue to operate on that model of strategic investment.

Our leadership has identified the top three priorities for the coming seasons and beyond: our people, our facilities, and our operating expenses. With the right resources in the right places, we can and will set a new standard for university athletics, bringing in coaches, student-athletes, and fans dedicated to the love of sports, the importance of a quality education, and the support of the community.

Boston University Athletics has a proud history, a successful present, and a bright future. In the sports we field, our goal is to win championships, and we have achieved this objective often and in impressive fashion. In addition, our student-athletes learn to succeed in the classroom and the community. They gain skills that make a lasting impression on the world—skills that will last a lifetime.

Everything Boston University Athletics has done in the past leads up to this moment. As BU conducts its first-ever comprehensive campaign, it is only fitting that Athletics helps lead the charge. We have trained for this. We are conditioned for it. We have tested our limits and sharpened our focus. We know what works, and what could be done better.

It’s no longer enough to win this game. Now, it’s time to change it.
William Bloom (CGS’82, SMG’84)
William is the retired vice chairman of the Chelsea Property Group Inc., a family-run business that owned, developed, and managed factory outlet centers in the U.S. and Asia and was a top-performing real estate investment trust. He is a University overseer and a member of the Athletic Director’s Council. An avid Red Sox fan, he chose to attend Boston University in part because of its close proximity to Fenway Park—and as a student, he played rugby all four years.

Robert Trump (DGE’68, CAS’70)
Robert is chairman and CEO of Trump Village Construction Corp, a holding company based in Brooklyn, NY, and president of Trump Management of Garden City, NY, a privately owned firm focused on residential and commercial real estate ownership and investments. He is a member of the College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Advisory Board and a former University trustee. While a student at BU, he was captain of the soccer team, and he remains a loyal fan.

BU OLYMPIANS
Joseph Hassenfus, canoeing, 1936
John Lee, ice hockey, 1936
Paul Rowe, ice hockey, 1936
Jack Garrity, ice hockey, 1936
Joseph “Red” Czarnota, ice hockey, 1952
Jack O’Callahan, ice hockey, 1960
Veronica Malfio, ice hockey, 1960, 1968, 1982
Dave Stib, ice hockey, 1960
Jean ‘Jose’ “Chicco” Vidal, soccer, 1960
Grant Conop, ice hockey, 1964
Mark Graham, diving, 1964
Douglas Hayenga, hockey, 1964
Camer McCallling, hammer, 1964, 1968
Thomas Maltby, diving, 1964
Nick Saunders, high jump, 1964, 1968
Tony Strem, basketball, 1964
Clion Duvanelli, ice hockey, 1968, 1992
Lynne Jewell, sailing, 1968
Scott Young, ice hockey, 1968, 1992, 2002
Peter Braw, ice dancing, 1991
Scott Lachance, ice hockey, 1991
Eric Meun, fencing, 1992
Shawn McDermott, ice hockey, 1992
David Quine, ice hockey, 1992
Joe Sacco, ice hockey, 1992
Adrian Duzan, ice hockey, 1994
Julie Libby, ice hockey, 1994
David Sacco, ice hockey, 1994
Andrew Balto, rowing, 1995
Jonathan Brown, rowing, 1996
Jacek Scort, rowing, 1996
Tony Antonelli, ice hockey, 1998, 2002
Roxanne Ryan, 5000m, 2000
Chat-Orange, ice hockey, 2000, 2006, 2010
Tom Peep, ice hockey, 2002
Tim Wadlow, sailing, 2000, 2006
Rich Allegani, ice hockey, 2008
Witt Daly, rowing, 2008
Tanja Williams-Murray, ice hockey, 2008
Marie-Philip Poulin, ice hockey, 2010
Catherine West, ice hockey, 2010
Ryan Whitney, ice hockey, 2010
Brett Bureau, men’s basketball, 2012 coach
Natalie Dell, rowing, 2013
Ella Gunson, field hockey, 2012
Rachel Vanderwal, basketball, 2012