

WOMEN'S DI: 20 NAMES TO KNOW

Breaking down the top stars of '09 in the women's game

By David Vatz

Hannah Nielsen, Attack/Midfield, Sr., Northwestern Trailblazer

From Adelaide, Australia, her play has put her way over the competition in any hemisphere. The 2008 Tewaaron Trophy winner will lead Northwestern's quest for a fifth consecutive national title. Last year, Nielsen had 51 goals, 63 assists and 63 draws. Three goals and three assists came in a victory over Penn in the national title game. With the Wildcats' entire starting offense returning, the Australian National Team member looks to be the favorite for the Tewaaron again.

Caroline Cryer, Attack, Sr., Duke

Scored 71 goals in a stellar 2007 season. Her encore? A foot injury requiring surgery, forcing her to take a redshirt year in 2008. At least Cryer's well traveled; from Centennial, Colo., she traveled with the U.S. touring team in the Prague Cup last summer. Without Cryer in 2008, Duke went to its fourth consecutive semifinal last season; with Cryer, the Blue Devils believe they can win the championship.

Jordan Trautman, Defense, Sr., Georgetown Trailblazer

A quick and versatile player who scooped 45 groundballs and caused 29 turnovers in 2008, this will be the Mystic, Conn. native's fourth year as a starter as she tries leading the Hoyas to their first NCAA Tournament win since 2006.

Katie Rowan, Attack, Sr., Syracuse Throwback

Enters the year 161 points from the NCAA career record of 445 set by Maryland's Jen Adams. (Incidentally, both were coached by current Syracuse coach Gary Gait.) It may be possible: Rowan scored 142 points last year, six shy of the NCAA single-season record. Her success has earned her first-team All-American honors twice, along with numerous Syracuse scoring records. The Orange have won two consecutive Big East championships behind Rowan.

Amber Falcone, Defense, Sr., North Carolina

One of the few current collegiate players to travel to Prague with the U.S. Team last summer, which is no surprise considering Falcone's a three-time All-America. She led UNC with 35 groundballs and forced 19 turnovers last season. With a new starting goalie, the Tar Heels will depend greatly on Falcone.

Hilary Bowen, Attack, Sr., Northwestern Throwback

Capable of scoring the important goals. To wit: During Northwestern's '07 championship run, Bowen netted 17 goals, finishing the year with 81. She needs seven goals to tie the NCAA postseason record of 39. Makes up for being a little undersized with speed and quick shooting.

Holly McGarvie, Midfield, Sr., Princeton

A true throwback to the days when players spent the fall playing field hockey, McGarvie started all 20 games for Princeton's field hockey team, scoring 12 goals and making the NCAA Quarterfinals. McGarvie will command the lacrosse team's midfield this spring. She's one of Princeton's best all-around players after having led the team in groundballs, draw controls and caused turnovers in addition to scoring 35 goals last year.



Caitlyn McFadden, Midfield, Jr., Maryland

Throwback

McFadden was the youngest player on the Prague Cup roster last summer — and also one of its fastest. The All-America scored 27 goals and 27 assists last season in a star-studded midfield with Dana Dobbie and Kelly Kasper. She takes a greater leadership role this season with five starters on offense graduated, including Dobbie and Kasper.

Brittany Kalkstein, Midfield, Jr., Virginia

Inside Lacrosse's 2007 Freshman of the Year displayed dominant skills in her sophomore season, taking most of the draws and scoring 30 goals. She holds Virginia's single-season draw control record (69 in 2007) and has started all 41 games in her college career.

Maggie Bremer, Midfield, Jr., Northwestern

Wildcard

Though she started only 10 games last season, her postseason performance was huge. She defended Katie Rowan during two Northwestern-Syracuse games, holding the 'Cuse attacker to zero points. She may see more starts this season with Christy Finch's departure.

© Hillary Fratzke, Midfield, Sr., Towson
Mid-Major

After leading her team to a Colonial Athletic Association title, Fratzke became the first first-team IWLCA All-America in Towson history. She holds numerous conference records, with a point in every college game she's played. She led Towson with 62 goals, 24 assists, 56 groundballs, 86 draw controls and 47 caused turnovers.

Laura Merrifield, Midfield, Soph., Maryland

Wildcard

Joining the Terrapins after coming straight from the English National Team, the sophomore, who stands 6-foot-1, scored 10 goals, primarily in garbage time. Last fall she saw more time on offense and draw controls. Expect Merrifield to see more action with Maryland getting new players involved on offense.

Hilary Renna, Defense, Sr., Penn

After earning All-American honors in 2007, her strong play was overshadowed by Sarah Waxman and Tarah Kirnan last year; with both gone, Renna becomes the leader of Penn's solid defense as their only returning starter. Last season she had 11 groundballs and six caused turnovers, numbers that should increase in '09.

Steph Coyne, Attack, Sr., Denver

Wildcard

Last season's best offensive player in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF), as evidenced by her league-leading 86 points. She helped lead Denver to the MPSF Finals after the Pioneers won their last seven games. With the conference losing a number of key players, Coyne and the Pioneers look to earn their first NCAA Tournament appearance.



Emma Hamm, Midfield, Soph., Duke

Super Sophomore

Looked like a seasoned veteran on both sides of the field last year. Her statistics speak for themselves: 31 goals, 51 draw controls, 28 caused turnovers and 38 groundballs. Hamm also scored either a goal or an assist in every regular season game. She suffered a sprained ankle during the NCAA Semifinal against Penn, and Duke clearly missed her on the field.

Liz Hogan, Goal, Soph., Syracuse

The Big East's best goalie last season. A perfect complement to Syracuse's powerful offense, Hogan led the conference in save percentage (48.9%) and allowed just 8.14 goals per contest. Only Northwestern and Virginia beat SU last year.

Corey Donohoe, Attack, Soph., North Carolina

Super Sophomore

Scored 50 goals as a freshman, including four game-winners. Her first postseason game surprised many (five goals in an 11-7 first-round upset of Virginia). Though North Carolina's strength is its midfield and defense, Donohoe's scoring will be key to any success.

Sarah Dalton, Midfield, Sr., Boston University

The Terriers won the America East and made the NCAA Quarterfinals for the second time in four seasons last season. Dalton's new BU single-season goals record of 71 made her a first-team All-America. Her postseason was strong, as she scored eight goals, including the game-winner against New Hampshire.

Michaela Hardy, Midfield, Sr., New Hampshire

Mid-Major

New Hampshire was last year's most surprising team, making the NCAA Tournament as the final at-large bid. Michaela Hardy played a big part in their success. Leading the Wildcats with 52 goals and 26 caused turnovers while recording 24 groundballs. She'll lead New Hampshire this season to break Boston University's hold on the America East.

Mandy Friend, Midfield, Sr., Richmond

Mid-Major

Despite a disappointing year for her team, Friend emerged as the Atlantic-10 Midfielder of the Year after winning Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year honors in '07. She led the conference with 89 points, 66 groundballs, 74 draw controls and 42 caused turnovers last year.

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