

*Sports at Chestnut
Hill College
Continued
1924-2007*

The New Griffin

By

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Preface

My years at Chestnut Hill College serving as Physical Education teacher, coach and Athletic Director, have been both memorable and thoroughly enjoyable for me. I can honestly say I look forward to coming to the college each day. I enjoy the work, since hanging around the gym and sports fields has always been my love. I enjoyed the people that I worked with over the years, but mostly, I totally enjoyed the opportunity to teach and coach the students of Chestnut Hill College. Most of all I treasure moments shared on the playing fields and courts, and I remember so many moments and look back on them so often and smile.

As I moved from the athletic arena and settled solely with Physical Education, I thought that I should continue with the recording of events of the program since the writing of “Sixty Years of Sports at Chestnut Hill College 1924-1984” by Betty Buckley, who presided over athletics and the Physical Education program at the college from 1943-1977. Miss Buckley traced the history of athletics at the college from its beginnings and also incorporated first hand knowledge based on 35 years of involvement. Since her retirement, the college has seen many changes which are all important pieces of the history of sports at Chestnut Hill College. Feeling that these changes needed to be documented, I decided to cover the next 30 years of sports history at Chestnut Hill College, 1977-2007. Since I arrived on the scene in 1977, I thought that this would be a great year to start. This account will refer often to events of the college reported by Betty Buckley in years prior to 1977.

Miss Buckley’s writings cover the early years in more detail. I will cover those early years also, but will report in more detail the happenings from 1977 to the present. This writing will trace the growth of the athletic program using “Sixty Years of Sports at Chestnut Hill College” as a guide for the early years up until the late seventies, and my own records and knowledge based on active involvement in the programs from the late seventies until the present.

Introduction

Chestnut Hill College, originally named Mount St. Joseph College, was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph and opened its doors to students in 1924. At that time there were only 14 faculty members and 15 students, a very good faculty to student ratio (iii). Just two years after it was established, in 1926, the College, recognizing the importance of and need for physical activity for women formed a 6 player basketball team. The games were played in an old gymnasium on the fifth floor of St. Joseph hall where it was sometimes reported that lights swayed in the dorm rooms below during games. The College played a four game schedule, 2 home and 2 away games against Rosemont and Villa Maria with cheerleaders and refreshments at every event (10).

In 1928, the team, then called Mounties, moved into their new gymnasium after the completion of the main college building. Game rules took the women from the three court basketball system, to the two court, and eventually evolved to the current system after it was discovered that women could walk and chew gum at the same time.

In the fall of 1932 the college introduced field hockey as a varsity sport. Three games were scheduled and practices and games were held on the old field down by Germantown Avenue with the stone wall holding back the waters of the Wissahickon. The team was moved to a new field adjacent to the tennis courts in early seventies and players apparently had a hard time adjusting to the longer running area since the new field was a lot bigger (13).

Tennis was the third varsity sport introduced to the college in the spring of 1933. Four tennis courts below the grotto served as home court. Tennis players experienced a switch from playing in the spring to the fall and eight new tennis courts were added in the early seventies (16).

Next the golf team was added in 1935, the archery team in 1939, swimming in 1941 and badminton in 1944. Softball became a varsity sport in 1948 and the first diamond was placed on the old hockey field down by the Wissahickon. Outfielders often had to climb the wall and fish the balls out of the creek. In 1961, softball was dropped due to lack of participants and lacrosse was started, and then in 1978 the campus put in a new diamond and softball returned as a varsity sport (20). Volleyball was added in 1974.

Basketball, field hockey, tennis, badminton, lacrosse, softball and volleyball remained the mainstay of the athletic program until some 30 years later when additional sports were added. In 2003 women's soccer replaced field hockey. Also in 2003, the College began to admit men, and introduced a men's basketball team. In 2004, men's soccer, men's tennis and men's and women's golf were added and in 2005, men and women's cross country. Plans for additional sports teams are in the making.

The last 81 years have produced some very proud and exciting moments as well as some frustrating ones. Teams over the years have experienced high numbers and low numbers, high spirits and low spirits, many wins and many loses, many championship seasons, and many bomb-outs, as well as varying playing conditions. All of these

experiences, good and bad, have led to what appears to be the very bright and promising future of CHC athletics. As far back as 1924, the Sisters of St. Joseph recognized the importance of physical activity for women and incorporated it into their program with physical education and intercollegiate athletics. Just as these gutsy sisters of the past provided opportunities for women, the present administration also recognized the importance and educational value of sports for women in the new millennium, and now with the inclusion of men in to the undergraduate programs, this philosophy is extended to the men. Over the years, college athletics at CHC has played a vital role in the maturation of hundreds of undergrads who proudly wore the brown and gold (now red and white) uniform. The history of athletics at Chestnut Hill College has played a vital role in the history of the College.

The Facilities

Indoor Facilities

At its inception in 1924, the College planned for physical activity by including a gymnasium and indoor swimming pool and a hockey field and tennis courts in its building plans. For the first four years, home court was the Mt. St. Joseph Academy gymnasium located on the fifth floor of St. Joseph's Hall. In 1928, the main college building was completed and the CHC Mounties moved to their new gymnasium. The gymnasium was located in the basement of Fournier and remains basically the same today with minor changes and improvements over the years. At one point, the court had lines for tennis team practice, shuffleboard lines, volleyball and badminton as well as many different lines for basketball to accommodate new rules(1). The floor had to be redone numerous times because moisture warped the wood flooring in numerous spots due to moisture. Two huge fans were added to the windows to help alleviate the problem, but on humid days, the floor would be covered in a fine coating of condensation which was deadly to play on. One time, a badminton match had to be cancelled in the middle of play as the condensation kept appearing on the court faster than the students could wipe it up. The floor became extremely slippery and dangerous and the match was called.

The wooden benches that lined the walls of the gym provided some good, up close seating in the early years, but as the college grew and teams drew larger crowds, there was not enough room for the fans. Students, family, faculty wanting to see a basketball game almost took their lives into their hands if they went to a game. Bodies were tucked in as closely as possible and knees turned sideways or they would extend out onto the court. If you weren't paying attention, a misdirected ball would pop you in the face or a player would dive out of bounds and land in your lap.

And the low ceilings proved frustrating for volleyball players who regularly hit the ceiling with bumps that made play difficult. Other problems with the old gym included dark walls which were painted to help lighten up the area, inadequate lighting and mold on the ceiling. The closet in the gym saw numerous floods as the bathrooms upstairs occasionally overflowed and since the closet was underneath it all, water ran into the closet. The ceiling was eventually removed so that maintenance had easy access to the pipes, but this left the closet with no lights and walls which continually flaked due to moisture. The old gym was no longer adequate in a time when athletics were played a significant role in recruitment and retention of students interested in participating in sports at college. The small gym in the early years proved to be beau ideal, and it wasn't until the 80's and 90's that the needs for improved facilities became evident.

With the monies from a very successful fundraising campaign, the President, Sister Carol Jean Vale, approved the plans for a beautiful new center that would benefit the student athletes as well as the entire college community. The old science building was demolished and in June of 2000, the Sorgenti Arena was completed as part of the new convocation center. What an exciting time that was for the college. The arena provided pull-out bleacher seating for 400 spectators. The court was set up for one full regulation basketball and volleyball court, or 2 full practice basketball or volleyball courts with drop

down netting in between. The old gym is still used today for some overflow practices and intramurals and at times when the new building is in use.

The arena was located on the bottom floor of the new building with the upper sections of the area enclosed in glass so that anyone walking through the halls on the next floor could view what was going on in the gym. A large stage area was built into the arena so that other college events like open houses, convocations, conferences and special dinners could benefit from the facility. Vinyl floor covering was laid down whenever these events took place to protect the wood floor of the gymnasium.

The new arena also included a much needed large storage area used for physical education and athletic equipment. Also located off the gym floor were two offices, one utilized by the physical education department and one for athletics. Up until 2004, PE and athletics were housed in the same office since they were run by the Athletic Director who was also the Physical Education teacher. The office had different locations throughout the years. The office was at one time located in a storage space at the end of the old gym, in the closet at the entrance of the gym, in a space no longer in existence in the Tiffany Lounge (which is no longer in existence either), and in the office space near the pool. The small room at the foot of the stairs near the pool entrance had seen a lot of uses during its time. Early on it was used as a swimming suit room with small numbered boxes lining the wall. A student worker would hand out numbered swim suits from the numbered boxes to swimmers before class. Later, that space became the Athletic Association office and the boxes for the swimsuits were stored in the shower room (3). In 2004, Physical Education and athletics became separate entities. Now, one office in Sorgenti houses the physical education office and the other is used for athletics. Besides the office in the arena, other athletic offices are now located in the athletic training room and in the hallway of offices located in the former Tiffany Lounge.

An athletic training facility was sorely needed since none was in existence until the opening of the new building. Janet Columbro, a part time trainer who worked at the College for years, would carry her bag around with her for a training room on the road. Most of the time, any necessary treatment was performed right out on the court or field since there was no facility. Players had to get bags of ice from the cafeteria if swelling or bruising occurred during a game. The athletic trainer was present only for home games, so at practice, the athletes were on their own.

The new athletic training room was included in the plans for the new arena. It was built just off the new gym floor, complete with a large room to accommodate training tables, whirlpools, an ice machine and other equipment. An open space office was set up in the room for the new, full time athletic trainer and eventually another desk was added for the additional trainer who joined the staff in 2005.

The original locker rooms were located in the Tiffany Lounge. The room once contained several metal dressing booths where students could change for athletic activity (3). For the first 76 years, visiting teams showered and changed in the locker rooms located next to the pool area. Over the years, this area saw few changes except for the addition of handicapped-accessible showers. The new building included new home and visitor locker rooms with showers, toilets and large locker space for changing and meetings. This space eventually doubled as a women's area and a men's locker room area when the college went co-ed.

Another indoor facility that has grown with the college is the fitness room.

In the 80's and 90's, makeshift fitness rooms popped up throughout the college. At one time, one was located in a closet at the bottom of the steps at the old gym entrance. From there, a room was set up off the Tiffany Lounge in a space which once housed the washers and dryers. After that, various pieces of equipment were scattered around in different lounges for awhile when no space was available. The fitness center at that time contained a few new fitness equipment pieces, but mostly hand-me-down cardio and weight paraphernalia. The original fitness center included a weight bench, an exercise bicycle, a mini trampoline, a Total Gym, and hand weights. Anytime someone from the college cleaned out their basement, an old bike or rower wound up in the "fitness room".

Different plans for a proper fitness room were frequently generated, but it wasn't until 2002 that a new facility, funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield, finally came to be. The room, located in what was once the Green Lounge, is accessible through the tunnel or through Fontbonne dorm. The room currently houses 3 treadmills, 2 ellipticals, 2 bikes, one small universal weight piece refurbished from the old fitness room days, and various weight machines and hand weights. Mirrors, rubber flooring, fans and TVs were added to finish off the room. Security remains a problem in the center as various plans to monitor the area have not proved very successful. Many students as well as student athletes use the area daily. The athletes often participate in off season training programs so the athletic program benefits greatly.

The swimming pool has had some minor changes throughout the years. The addition of portable steps makes it more easily accessible. The diving board was removed; a new heating system as well as chlorination and filter systems was added. The lighting was improved and mold was removed from the ceiling. The chrome railings were eventually removed. The roach population which seemed many times out of control, was finally thwarted when the "bug man" came in and drilled holes in the columns and put in roach poison that would get to the thousands nesting under the pool deck. Sometimes roaches would hide in the noodles used for water aerobics class and the unlucky student who picked up that noodle would let out a blood curdling scream as the roach crawled out of the hole and scampered across the noodle. The Mount St. Joe's swim team often used the pool for team practice, that is until the day a roach caught a ride to the other end of the pool on the back of one of the swimmers. That was the last seen of the Mount swim team for a long time.

Outdoor Facilities

The fields and courts that comprised the outdoor facilities of the athletic department seemed continually plagued with the threat of flood waters from the Wissahickon Creek. A cement wall and the re-routing of the Wissahickon alleviated the problem, but to this day, the Wissahickon still remains superior.

According to Betty Buckley, "The first tennis court was located by the back wing of the Mount St. Joseph Academy, the present St. Joseph Hall. In the early thirties, four courts and a hockey field were constructed below the Grotto on the lower campus near the Wissahickon Creek. A cement wall was built to prevent water from overflowing onto the hockey field. But in the fall of 1947 and, again a few years later, the rapid waters cracked part of the wall and inundated the playing areas of both fields and courts, leaving heavy stone of all sizes. The hockey team was forced to hold practices and all home

games at the Springside School. The tennis team practiced at Mount St. Joseph Academy and played all of its matches away.” This proved to be only the beginning of problem that to this day still exists.

In the late 60’s the college decided to persuade the Wissahickon to take another route and this re-routing, along with the construction of the Logue Library, caused some changes in the athletic facilities. “In 1960, the archery range, site of many championship meets, was chosen as the site for the new Logue Library, and archery was relegated to the hockey field. The Canoe House, proudly built in 1939-1940, had to be demolished when the dam in the Wissahickon was removed and the course of the stream was changed. Canoeing, once a favorite pastime of the College students, became a fond memory.”(2)

The land that resulted from re-routing the Wissahickon was put to good use. A new regulation field hockey/lacrosse field was built along with 8 new tennis courts and an adjoining parking area. The old hockey field was demoted to use for inter-school games of a few local elementary schools. The old tennis courts became a parking lot. A primitive softball diamond, originally consisting of a pitching mound, 3 bases and a make shift backstop were added next to the summer house in 1978, where it remains today.

The tennis courts and field hockey/lacrosse, now soccer/lacrosse field, have seen the Wissahickon cause destruction numerous times. One storm destroyed the hockey cages and sent the benches floating down stream. This monster storm pulled out the fencing around the tennis courts, buckled the court area itself, and ripped the posts out of the courts. The courts had to be resurfaced numerous times as a result of devastating flooding and damage to the adjacent fields.

In 2003, CHC introduced soccer as an intercollegiate sport and converted the field hockey/lacrosse field to a soccer/lacrosse field. After trying unsuccessfully to acquire field space off campus, the college decided to utilize the existing facilities, but some major changes had to take place. Substantial expansion allowed for larger playing areas and bleacher space. Part of the parking lot was eliminated to make the field larger, trees which previously bordered the playing field were removed, and 2 permanent 8 row bleachers were added. The field was not playable in 2003, since the Wissahickon, again, soaked it thoroughly. The teams could use the fields only for limited times and played games surrounding schools (the Mount and Plymouth Whitemarsh) and a facility in Downingtown.

In 2003, two tennis courts were sacrificed to make an outdoor basketball playing area to help provide more recreational areas for the men and women. A sand volleyball pit was also added.

The softball field underwent some major changes when it moved from its original place on the “old field hockey grounds” with the cracked wall to its current location next to the summer house. Once a field with bases and a portable home made backstop that was put away after the last game, the field never really looked like a softball field, but remained a plot of uneven ground with some bases. Eventually, the infield was skinned out, bleachers were added, trees were cut down and holes and depressions filled in. The local groundhogs had to look for a new home because the groundskeepers were hot on their trail. The outfield still has its dips and depressions, but the field has come a long way since its meager beginnings as a grassy plot of land. A home run fence was also added.

Atmosphere

Student interest in athletics as participants and as spectators has varied tremendously since the beginning of CHC sports history. “When the college was small, a camaraderie existed among the students and a closeness between students and faculty existed.” Over the years, the college grew, more sports were introduced, yet changing times brought changes in attitudes. Sports became more time consuming as schedules increased from a four game schedule to a 24 game schedule. The availability of cars took students away from campus more often. Jobs became a must to pay bills. Competition became stronger, losses became frustrating. The fact that CHC was all women also was a determining factor. All played a toll in the changing atmosphere of CHC athletics. Betty Buckley, “At times the gymnasium was so crowded that the basketball players had difficulty finding space for an out-of bounds play, and the pool had to be roped off for swimming meets so that spectators would not interfere with the officials. At other times, the college publications berated the student body for failure to support the teams—1932: “Never before has there been so little enthusiasm”; 1949: “What happened to the spectators?”; 1975: “the problem of apathy in sports at CHC is evident.” Coaches bemoaned the lack of players and players bewailed the lack of spectators.”

In the late 70’s and early 80’s, teams’ numbers became plentiful with some sports even showcasing junior varsity programs. The spirit of the school was high and the athletic program flourished with varying degrees of success..

As in the past, teams were usually comprised of a mix of experienced players and beginners and the combination proved very successful for a long while. Beginner players had an opportunity to participate in a varsity sport and often times excelled to the point that after a couple of seasons, no one could tell who was the beginner and who was not. Players found the experience very rewarding and took away many great memories. And because other competing schools were comprised of the same types of players, CHC found much success with its programs.

In the late 1990’s, as the overall enrollment of the college was declining, so followed the enrollment of those interested in playing sports. Many teams had just enough to field a team with no room for anyone to get sick, have an injury or have a lab. Even sports requiring fewer team numbers like volleyball and basketball struggled with its numbers. Teams like field hockey, lacrosse and softball which required more to field a team, really saw some bad times. Team spirit dwindled right along with the dwindling of enrollment.

Because team numbers were low, the number of players that could show up for practices became problematic. If two or three team members happened to have a class when practice was scheduled, this reduced the number at practices often times to such a low number that practices became unproductive. Some teams opted to have 6 am practices in an attempt to get all of the players at practice at one time. This was not a very popular idea, but certainly practical for the situation.

At this time, not only was CHC struggling with numbers, but it was also struggling with the type of player that was suiting up. The 90’s saw a dramatic change in sports philosophy and as many schools entered the NCAA, they saw their athletic programs as a way to attract students to their schools, and to keep them. Most colleges beefed up their athletic facilities and programs, attracting a higher caliber athlete. CHC had not reached

that level yet. Chestnut Hill was still relying on walk-ons and beginners with no or very limited sports experience to man their teams. That which in the past proved rewarding and successful was not working in the late 90's. Competition from neighboring schools became tougher and tougher as their numbers of experienced players grew. One basketball game against a neighboring team netted a score of 100-7. That was a tough one for the CHC Griffins.

And while beginner players at the college were necessary in order to field teams, their lack of experience and often times athleticism became problematic. Although they were a warm body on the court, safety concerns were eminent. Matched up against more athletic and experienced players, many CHC players who were literally talked into playing, had their hands full when they got out on the field against their opponents. As a result, teams suffered many defeats and with the defeats came a decline in team spirit.

The athletic department tried its hand at recruiting, but found it very difficult to recruit top student athletes. First of all, the population was limited due to the fact that only a small amount were interested in attending an all women's institution. Secondly, the facilities were not attractive enough for players coming from high schools programs with gymnasiums and weight rooms far superior.

As the spirit and the numbers declined, acquiring coaches for some sports became increasingly more difficult. The salaries were low in comparison to other schools and although new coaches started off enthusiastically, it didn't take long before the low numbers frustrated them to the point where they didn't return. Continuity in coaching staff became a real problem. Volleyball and basketball were the two programs that suffered the most from turnover in coaching staff from year to year. This was of course very detrimental to the success of the programs.

The athletic department knew that it had to find some conference that would offer more compatibility in programs. Once it joined the Atlantic Women's Colleges Conference, competition was on an equal scale again and things started looking brighter. Since the conference was comprised of other all women's colleges all facing the same dilemma and having the same philosophies, a realistic chance to succeed athletically became possible again. Although the numbers remained low, spirit picked up a bit as teams racked up some long needed wins. The softball team won the conference championship in the first year, and field hockey and basketball were particularly successful. The women's soccer team also won its conference and went to the first round of NCAA regional play, but that was after the inclusion of males to the undergrad program which in itself changed the complexion of the athletes attending the college.

When the new athletic facility was added in 2000, some new life was breathed into the program. It was exactly what the college needed to give its athletic program a shot in the arm. Student athletes again felt pride in their programs and facilities and they felt that the school was doing what was needed to help them succeed.

The most dramatic change in atmosphere came as a result of the change in status from single sex to co-ed in 2002. With the inclusion of males, female student athletes who would never have given CHC a look, were now taking an interest. A higher caliber of athlete was joining the ranks. And, the recruitment of men for the new men's basketball and soccer programs brought a lot of excitement and energy to the program and the college. Suddenly the stands in the arena were packed with students for basketball games

and noise rose to high levels as baskets were scored. Students sat in a special cheering section and a group of male students dressed to cheer got the fans going.

The college mascot, the Griffin was present at home games, inciting the crowd and a dance team made up of anywhere from 5 to 12 college women performed well choreographed routines at half time.

By 2004, teams that once thought CHC not very competitive were starting to sit up and take notice. The college had survived the tough times and emerged full of prospect. CHC athletics was once again alive and well and the atmosphere was energetic.

Program Administration

From the beginning of the college's sports history, all aspects of the athletic program were handled by the Athletic Association which was made up of 4 student athletes and an adviser, and the Physical Education department. The Athletic Association (A.A) was first originated in 1926 with a purpose "to sponsor and further interest in athletic activities and to foster good sportsmanship and a spirit of cooperation." The Board along with the Physical Education staff worked together to develop a sports program which would meet the needs of the students at the time. The A.A. also arranged other events such as Doggie Roasts, AA Day, and an AA Fall Event. The AA also organized events for the entire college community such as skating parties, play days, splash parties, canoeing, the annual Aquacades, and intramurals. Varsity and junior varsity players received individual awards from the AA.

In 1970, the AA Board was dissolved and the athletic program fell solely under the umbrella of the physical education department. The department for many years had a full time PE/Athletic Director and remained as such until 2004 when PE and athletics split into separate entities. In the 1970's, as responsibilities of an ever growing athletic program increased, the group of students and the advisor of the AA must have found it too much to handle, just as the full time PE teacher/Athletic Director did in 2004. With all the responsibilities that go with running a program, such as scheduling, hiring of officials and coaches, game management, etc, as well as in the increase in sports offering and participating students, it soon became obvious that athletics was a full time enterprise of its own.

The first AA advisor acting for athletics, in 1926, was Ms. Nellie deF. Sinkinson. She was followed by Elizabeth Ford in 1927 who remained as AA advisor for the next 10 years. Marjorie Byrne Foley followed and in 1941-42, coaches actually managed athletics and a Miss Rogers, the student personnel director acted as program coordinator. In 1942, Betty Buckley, a director who stayed for a 35 year period (1942-1977), was instrumental in the development of the athletics program. Miss Buckley was a full time PE teacher and served as AA advisor until it was dissolved in 1970 when Miss Buckley took full charge. The department for many years was run by a full time Director of Physical Education and Athletics, with several part-time coaches assisting.

When Betty Buckley retired in 1977 after 35 years at the college, she was replaced by two full timers who ran the athletics program by coaching 3 sports each and teaching all of the physical education classes. They also ran intramurals, student alumnae games, faculty-student games, and sponsored outings such as ski trips, rock climbing and bowling. At that time, there were seven varsity sports, 3 coached by each of the two full

time hires, Lorraine Busch and Janice Rensimer Kuklick, and one part time coach hired to coach tennis. Lorraine Busch was hired in 1977 as Athletic Director and PE chair and would teach physical education and coach volleyball, basketball and softball. Janice Rensimer Kuklick, also hired in 1977, came on as the assistant AD and would teach Physical Education and coach field hockey, badminton and lacrosse. In 1983, Lorraine Busch retired from coaching volleyball and basketball so additional part time coaches were added to the staff. She would continue to coach softball until 1989. She remained teaching and serving as AD until 1990 when she passed the reins to then assistant, Janice Rensimer Kuklick, who continued to teach PE full time and coach field hockey until 2000, badminton until 1988 when the program was dropped, and lacrosse until 2000. Additional part time coaching staff was again added. Janice remained as the Athletic Director/PE chair until 2004 when the job was split into two separate programs. Janice retired from athletics segment in 2004, but remained as Associate Professor of Physical Education as of this writing and Mr. Bill Stiles was hired as the full time Athletic Director with no teaching responsibilities.

The following listing traces the leadership of the CHC athletic program:

1926	Miss Nellie deR. Sinkinson	first AA adviser and PE instructor, coached basketball
1927-37	Miss Elizabeth Ford	AA adviser and PE instructor, coached swimming, tennis, field hockey, basketball
1937-41	Miss Marjorie Byrne Foley	AA adviser and PE instructor, coached tennis, field hockey, basketball
1941-42	Miss O'Mara	AA adviser and PE instructor
1942-1970	Miss Betty Buckley	AA adviser and PE instructor, coached swimming, tennis, field hockey, badminton
1970-1977	Miss Betty Buckley	Athletic Director and PE instructor
1977-1990	Miss Lorraine Busch	Athletic Director and PE chair, coached volleyball, basketball and softball
1990-2004	Miss Janice Rensimer (later Kuklick)	Athletic Director and PE chair, coached field hockey, badminton and lacrosse
2004-present	Mr. William Stiles	Athletic Director

As the programs grew, additional staffing was added to the athletic department (this in addition to part time coaches). In the 1990's a part time Athletic Trainer, present only on days of home competition, was hired. It wasn't until 2000, that other full time staff were added. In 2000, a full time assistant AD who also coached was added. In 2001, a full time Athletic Trainer was hired with the assistance of a grant from the NCAA. In 2003, a graduate assistant was hired to run the intramural program. In 2004, a full time Athletic Director whose sole job was to run the athletics program was hired and the full time Athletic Trainer was also named as an assistant making 2 assistants for the AD. A 10 month internship position was created for statistics and community service with the assistance of another grant from the NCAA. In 2005, another Athletic Trainer was hired for a 10 month position to help with the growing demands in the training room. In 2006, the head men's basketball coach was brought on full time as he was named Assistant to

the Athletic Director and in charge of summer camps. Other coaches were hired and combined with positions elsewhere in the college to give them full time employment.

In the late 70's, the Athletic Department reported to the Dean of Students. In 2003, the administration redefined roles and it was decided that the Director of Athletics would answer to the Vice President of Enrollment Management since athletics was playing a vital role in recruitment and retention of students (student athletes).

Scheduling and Conferences

In the beginning of the history of the program, matches were set up by invitation and then managers came to the games and set up future matches. Eventually, coaches took over this task at meetings. In the late 70's, the number of scheduled games increased significantly. When CHC became a charter member of the PAIAW (Philadelphia Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) in 1978, scheduling took a meaningful turn as surrounding colleges entered into divisions in a conference and competed for championships. The PAIAW established sports rules governing all varsity sports represented and colleges played teams in their perspective divisions. The badminton and tennis champion was determined at a tournament, but all other programs were based on win/loss records of the seasons conference play.

The schools in the conference were all local colleges in the Philadelphia area with Cedar Crest College in Allentown (approximately one hour away) being the furthest in travel time. Divisions were determined primarily by school size and sport offerings. These schools included Gwynedd Mercy, Cabrini, Haverford, Bryn Mawr, Widener, Swarthmore, Beaver (now Arcadia), Penn State Abington, Philadelphia College of Textiles, Philadelphia Pharmacy, Rosemont, Immaculata, Holy Family, Neuman, Eastern, Philadelphia College of the Bible, Cedar Crest, Academy of the New Church and Harcum Jr. College. This group of local colleges provided great competition and CHC enjoyed and prospered from its affiliation with the conference for many years. Many years of exciting competition and many championships and team honors were tallied (24 championships in all).

In the early 90's, many of the colleges in the upper divisions of the PAIAW, like Temple and West Chester, found the NCAA better fit their needs and quit their affiliation with PAIAW. It wasn't long before the smaller colleges started to follow suit and the PAIAW was eventually left with only a handful of local faithfuls. Eventually, many of these institutions joined the NCAA and banded together to create the PAC (Pennsylvania Athletic Conference). In 1996, along with most of the colleges in the area, CHC applied and was accepted in the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) as a Division III institution. The administration decided that joining the NCAA would be to the CHC's advantage. Not only could the NCAA provide better recognition for the college programs, it would also offer opportunities for post season championships. And most importantly, the NCAA was an advocate for the women's sports programs.

Although the college joined the NCAA, it chose to remain in the PAIAW (not NCAA affiliated), as did Philadelphia College of Bible, Penn State Abington, Academy of the New Church, a decision that would later come back to haunt them. When the dust finally cleared, CHC was left without a conference and was forced to play schools independently. The college scheduled whatever school had an opening in their schedule and many schools couldn't schedule CHC at all because their schedules were full. This was not a very desirable situation.

The athletic department started researching conferences affiliated with the NCAA that would help them out of this crisis. The college applied to the PAC but was refused admission because the conference felt that CHC was not serious enough about its athletic program. Facilities, transportation, policies for student athletes were all issues of concern, as was the strength of the program (more losses than wins in most sports). The college was looking for a conference with comparable enrollment, programs, athletic budget, and philosophy.

An all women's conference, the AWCC (Atlantic Women's Colleges Conference) turned out to be the conference that would fit that bill and it turned out to be a very good move for the college. In 2000, the College became an official member of the AWCC just as the PAIAW was becoming extinct.

For CHC, there were many advantages to joining the AWCC. Since CHC was still fielding most of its teams with players with little or no experience, the wins were hard to come by against teams with larger programs. The move to the AWCC put CHC back on equal playing ground since all of the colleges in the conference were small and comprised of women only. The colleges in this conference also found it difficult to compete with schools in co-educational conferences. The co-educational conferences usually had larger enrollments with larger athletic budgets. Women's colleges traditionally attracted only 2% of high school graduates and of those, only a small percentage were athletes or had some athletic background.

Affiliation with this conference also provided the student athletes with opportunities to stay over night in motels, either before, after or between competitions. It also provided opportunities to participate in championships, opportunities to be eligible for NCAA post season championships, recognition for outstanding players in all conference teams, and coaches recognition (all necessary for a desirable program).

The big draw back with the conference was the travel distance for competition. Not only was this a transportation issue, but there was significant impact on the budget for food and overnight accommodations, and also class time missed for student athletes. The closest colleges in the conference were College of Notre Dame in Maryland, Trinity College in Washington, DC, and Wilson College in Chambersburg (travel time approximately 2 hours). The other colleges in the conference were even farther. Hood College in Frederick, Maryland was 3 hours travel time, Chatham in Pittsburgh, 4 hours, Wells in Aurora, NY, 5 hours, and Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia was 5 hours away. At this point in time, coaches were still driving the 15 seater vans to and from the games.

To help curb the costs of the travel, distant AWCC matches were often scheduled at a neutral site, like Wilson and Hood which were about midway point between the furthest schools; Mary Baldwin, Wells, and Chatham. Schedules were prepared a year in advance to try to keep travel down to a minimum.

Despite the long travel, the conference proved very beneficial for the program. All teams were competitive, winning championships and many team and coach honors. It also proved a very successful avenue to NCAA regionals for women's soccer and basketball, something that the college might have had an almost impossible chance accomplishing independently or in a stronger conference.

When the college went co-ed in 2003, the athletic department had to worry again about conference affiliation. Since the AWCC was an all women's colleges conference,

CHC would have to look elsewhere for competition for its men's programs as well as a future home for the women. The AWCC agreed to allow CHC to remain a member for 2 more years since Hood College also went co-ed in 2003 and Wells announced they would be following suite in 2005. So while the athletic department researched other conference options for the program, the women remained active members of the AWCC and agreed to remain until 2005-2006.

The men competed independently in the NCAA Division III that first year. The college decided to join the ECAC (Eastern Colleges Athletic Conference). This move did not answer the need for a conference home, but did provide an avenue for opportunity for NCAA post season play. Based on record strength, colleges that were not conference champions, but had good season records or colleges competing independently might get a bid to the NCAA's thru the ECAC. This at least gave the men's programs some avenue to post season NAAs and an additional chance for the women if they had a good record in AWCC, but did not win the championship.

Also in 2003-2004, a group of independent schools and schools wanting to reposition themselves in a different conference met. CHC met with this group and became a charter member of a new conference organization called the NEAC (Northeast Athletic Conference). The college entered its men's programs only in 2004-2005 season and entered both men and women the following year. The conference provided the much needed opportunity for meaningful competition for the men's program as well as NCAA qualifying opportunities, end of season championship tournaments and player and coach recognition.

So in 2003-2004 the women competed in the AWCC, and the ECAC. Men competed independently and the ECAC. In 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 the women competed in the AWCC, NEAC and the ECAC and the men competed in the NEAC and the ECAC.

The NEAC presented its share of travel problems also. Most of the colleges that made up the NEAC were even farther away than the schools in the AWCC. The NEAC was comprised of 6 schools from New York, 5 from Pennsylvania and 1 from Maryland. The schools that CHC competed with in the NEAC were Baptist Bible in Clark Summit, PA, Bard in Annandal-on-Hudson, NY, Cazenovia in Caxenovia, NY, D'youville in Buffalo, NY, Keuka in Keuka Park, NY, Villa Julia in Stevenson, MD, Penn State Berks in Reading, PA, Keystone in La Plume, PA., Philadelphia Biblical College in Langhorne, PA, Polytechnical School in Brooklyn, NY, and SUNY Purchase in Purchase, NY. Whew, that's some distance to travel for games (excluding Bible in Langhorne). One of the furthest, D'youville, was 6 hours and 30 minutes away.

The college was also investigating an option to declare CHC a NCAA Division II school, an upward move from its current Division III status. The college applied for one year of exploratory application in 2005 and spent the year exploring the direction that the college wanted to go for the future. Division II would mean a substantial increase in the athletic budget as well as providing athletic scholarships to its athletes. Currently in Division III institutions, no money is awarded to student athletes based on athleticism. Student athletes receive money for academic scholarship or financial need only in Division III. This move would take place with the intention to join the CACC (Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference). Three other local college already participate in that conference; Holy Family, University of Science and Pharmacy and Philadelphia University. At least, three were in the neighborhood. It was officially announced in 2006

that the college had made the decision to declare NCAA Divisional II status so the college will compete Division II starting in the 2007-2008 academic year.

Conference Affiliations

1978-1999	PAIAW	Philadelphia Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women
1996	NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association, Division III
2000-2005	AWCC	Atlantic Women's Colleges Conference-women only
2003-2005	ECAC	Eastern Colleges Athletic Conference
2005-2007	NEAC	North Eastern Athletic Conference-men only 2005, women and men 2006
2007-		Division II status NCAA, CCAC

NCAA

Joining the NCAA back in 1996 proved a very beneficial decision for the college's program. Not only did it provide benefits to the student athletes, it also helped expand the program with funding for needed positions. In 2002, the college applied and was awarded a grant for an Assistant Director of Student Relations who was responsible for the student-athletes well being, compliance with NCAA regulations, and promotion through the local media as a member of a Division III athletic team..This positioned resulted in the hiring of a full time athletic trainer/assistant to the AD which was the start of expanding the athletic administration from one position to two. The grant provided funding over a 4 year period with the idea that the position would be permanent and fully funded by the college in the fifth year.

Another grant opportunity came about in 2004 when the college applied and was awarded a position for statician and student/athlete community relations. This helped to fund another much needed aspect of the program. In addition, money to help fund a speaker on alcohol, drugs and sex in excess was provided for by a grant from the NCAA.

Most significantly, though, was a prestigious graduation award presented to the college from the NCAA and USA Today in 2001. A \$25,000 award recognized that Chestnut Hill College was 29% higher than the rest of the nations Division III institutions in the student athlete graduation rate. President Sister Carol Jean Vale, Athletic Director Janice Kuklick and student athlete Mary Amrhein traveled to Washington, DC to accept the award.

After joining the NCAA, the athletic department was bound to the rules and regulations of the association. As a result, the department composed its own Student Athlete Handbook and Coaches Handbook which verified the rules and regulations of the NCAA and the college. The department also addressed the academic committee which proposed a 2.0 semester GPA eligibility for full time students competing in intercollegiate competition. Appeals could be made for those under a 2.0. Also, a 2 hour a week mandatory study hall were established for all freshmen student athletes with a GPA below a 3.0 to help keep the athletes on the right track academically. In addition, a system of academic reporting was devised for faculty to inform the athletic staff of athletes' academic progress.

The NCAA recognized the importance of a student athlete voice in their program so the college started SAAC, the Student Athlete Advisory Council in 1998 to provide that involvement for the student athletes at CHC. The SAAC provided athlete input, opportunities for athletes to represent the college in the divisional and national level

SAAC programs and opportunities for community service. The SAAC met for breakfast, lunch or night time meetings. Representatives from each sports team were selected, but it was very difficult trying to get everyone together at one time. Officers were elected, a constitution drawn up, and minutes taken at each meeting.

The athletic department in conjunction with SAAC organized two very successful fund raising events to benefit the Chestnut Hill Hospital Women Against Domestic Violence Center. In 1997, the event raised \$800 and in 1999, during the College's Anniversary Year Celebration, raised \$1,000. The event started at the college with a warm up on the tennis courts and then the walk/run proceeded up Germantown Ave. to Morris Arboretum, thru the Arboretum out to Northwestern Ave. and terminated at the college. The student/athletes were stationed out around the route to ensure participants followed the right path. Participants received a t-shirt and spent a great morning getting some exercise thru the Arboretum. The money raised was used to help domestic violence victims who were seen at the hospital with temporary lodging, food, transportation and other needs to transition the women and their children to a safe environment.

Going co-ed presented some challenges to the college in regards to the NCAA and satisfying Title IX. Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 ensured no gender discrimination in education and intercollegiate athletics. Most institutions developed action plans with the resulting outcome being equal treatment of women participating in intercollegiate activities. CHC needed to focus on the men's programs to meet compliance. As a result, the college requested a 3 year waiver to meet NCAA requirements of 5 sports offered in 3 seasons. The college was granted permission to gradually add men's programs over a 3 year period.

This also effected other aspects of the program. The athletic department had to make sure that all aspects of the women and men's programs were on a par. If the men's basketball coach was offered a certain salary, it must be matched to the women's program. If the men had opportunity for 4 coaches, the women of that comparable program must be offered the same opportunity. One can see how this could positively effect both programs,

Transportation

Coaches providing transportation to away games in their own private vehicles was not uncommon in many institutions in the early years. CHC coaches jammed many a student-athlete into the backs of their little cars, piling as many as possible. They would impatiently wait for that last minute player to get out of class, then would then speed away hoping to get to the field in time for some kind of a warm up. This situation, needless to say, was very dangerous, but a reality because there was no other way to get to a game. Luckily, in those days travel times were no farther than an hour away.

Finally, in 1982, the brown van was donated to the college by a parent of one of the athletes. It was to be used primarily for athletic department, but when not needed, others in the college community benefited. The van got christened with big bold gold CHC letters painted on it and was the prime source of transportation for athletic travel for 12 years. Finally, another 15 seater van was donated to the college to give the old buggy a rest. This van was white (obtained after the school colors were changed from brown and gold to white, scarlet and gold). This van was christened the Hill Hop which did not go over well with the athletes.

The vans were shared with other departments and organizations, but athletics had priority for use. The athletic department would enter all game day use in a little black book and other van requests were entered and honored if there were no athletic events scheduled that day. The problem came when games were rescheduled due to rain cancellations. Some organizations requests were bumped or occasionally the athletic department would have to rent a van from a nearby dealer.

The biology/environmental departments were able to purchase a van which added to the athletic fleet. This white van had air conditioning and cushioned seats. It soon became the most desired vehicle of the three. Eventually, the brown van was officially retired.

The athletic department was concerned about the coaches driving the vans. Since the scheduled competing schools were farther and farther away, concerns arose about the long hours the coaches had to spend behind the wheel. Imagine having to work a full day at your full time job, then coming to the college, driving 15 rowdy student athletes to a game three hours away, coaching the game, then getting back into the van and driving the return trip home. Sounds like a long and exhausting day to say the least. Many times the weather was not cooperative and often it was late at night. Luckily there were never any accidents, but it was evident that it would be just a matter of time.

As research started coming out from the NCAA about the roll over propensity of 15 seater vans, major concerns erupted. Many times the teams would travel with one coach as the driver, and a van filled beyond capacity. Often, the van would carry 17 or 18 seated on the wheel well or on the floor. A policy was presented from the athletic department stating that all vans would carry no more than 12 passengers counting the driver to games. This policy was certainly a good policy, but in practicality not very feasible. Most teams had more than 11 players on their rosters and only one coach. Who would drive the other players and was there another van available? The department did start renting additional vans, but had trouble finding drivers. Because of the college insurance policy, drivers had to be full time employees of the college which would eliminate players, parents, or other volunteers.

At this time, many colleges were making a commitment to their athletic program, realizing the danger of coaches transporting players in 15 seater vans. CHC athletic department pushed for bus transportation for many years and it was finally granted in October of 2003. The college granted permission for all teams to travel in a hired coach complete with a driver. Since this was not in the approved athletic budget, the department had to move funds around to cover anticipated costs of the undertaking. Since funds were limited, it was decided that the tennis team and teams with a legal driver traveling close to home would use vans and all others would travel in buses. This policy would be in effect until the following year when all teams would travel in buses since the budget would better represent the costs.

Some of the buses were small and others were enormous, equipped with VCR's. The student athletes were extremely excited about this for the most part. Some smaller teams that traveled in the not so luxurious coaches were heard to be complaining that they should have a bigger bus with more comfortable seating and a VCR. The expense for 6 or 7 players didn't warrant a change for this!

All coaches certainly enjoyed this addition to the program. It certainly was a safe move for the coaches and the players and proved a lot less stressful on the coach. So, for

2004, the varsity sports traveled in buses contracted from the Kraft Co. Vans still were used for small numbered teams traveling locally, though.

Since that first donation of the brown van in 1982, the program has seen many up grades with transportation. In 2005-2006, two women's basketball players actually were flown out to Pittsburgh to make an AWCC scheduled game at Chatham College. The two players had classes that they could not miss.

Championship Seasons

The teams over the years have tallied many wins and many losses. Some teams suffered long bouts of losing seasons, some with off and on seasons, and others had much success. Conference affiliation, continuity in coaching, and recruiting all have played a role in each teams ability to be successful. CHC won 24 championships over the years in the PAIAW, 4 championships in the AWCC and qualified for NCAA regionals three times (twice in women's soccer and once in men's soccer).

PAIAW Championships

Field Hockey	Tennis	Lacrosse
1978	1980	1979
	1981	1980
Volleyball	1983	1984
1979	1994	1985
		1986
Softball		1987
1980		1988
1981		1989
1982		1990
1997		1991
		1992
		1993
		1995
		1999

AWCC Championships

Softball
2002

Women's Soccer
2003
2004

Women's Basketball
2004

NCAA Division III Regionals

2003 Women's Soccer

2004 Women's Soccer
2006 Men's Soccer

In 2004, banners displaying the accomplishments of championship teams were hung in Sorgenti Arena. Alumni members from the championship teams were invited to a ceremony which was held at half time of one of the basketball games. One player from each championship team was selected to pull a ribbon which released the championship banner. The banners hang from the walls of Sorgenti with room for future championships to be added.

Team Name

The athletic teams were called "the Mounties" in the early years when the college was known as Mount St. Joseph's College. The team mascot was later changed to the mythological "Griffin". With the head, wings and beak of an eagle, a symbol of St. John, and the body and legs of a lion, a symbol of St. Mark, the team mascot changed its face a few times over the years. The original griffin costume seemed to last way beyond its years. In its final days, the mascot was held together with a lot of athletic tape and looked like it was in dire need of some washing. The costume was finally replaced in 2000 with a more modern, professional version of the symbol. Various students volunteered to dress in the gear to help get the fans riled up, but, Jennifer Mowad, an undergrad student who graduated in 2004, was perhaps one of the best. She attended most home basketball games and even traveled to away championships in her quest to spread the CHC spirit. No one yet has come close to her enthusiasm and performance during events.

Although the team mascot was known as the Griffin, another icon that was informally known as the team mascot was Father John Casey. Father Casey, the college Chaplain in the 70's, 80's, and early 90's and his dog Flyer were a presence at almost all the home games. He was always very supportive of the teams and the girls just loved him to pieces. He was truly a wonderful person and was a very important part of the athletic program for many years. He always attended the athletic program at the end of the year and gave the opening prayer. He was sorely missed by all when he left the college due to health problems.

Uniforms

Uniforms have changed dramatically over the years. The early "Mounties" sported long black cotton stockings and gymsuits, as the early griffins raced around in tunics with belts. Teams eventually moved to clothing appropriate for their sport. Tennis went from tunics to dresses to shorts then skirts. Field hockey and lacrosse shared the same uniforms since they were played in different seasons; tunics, kilts, wrap around skirts to shorts. Softball went from tunics to polyester long pants then to very stylish shorts. Volleyball also went from tunics to shorts and then briefs and basketball moved from the tunics to shorts of varying lengths.

The colors of the college were brown and gold for a very long time. Uniforms were tough to come by in those colors, so many teams had variations of the colors; sometimes more maroon than brown. In 2002????, the college decided to change the colors from

brown and gold to scarlet, white and gold. The color change was met with mixed reviews by alumnae, but it sure made purchasing uniforms a lot easier.

In the past, the basic uniform or tunic was provided by the college. Eventually, teams started to fund raise to get some extras for the season. Teams would buy on their own or fund raise for bags, sweat shirts, warm-up suits, shoes or jackets. Presently, teams still fund raise for some of their gear, but the athletic department provides most of the accessories including jackets and practice jerseys.

Sociability

What was an athletic contest without a social to follow? The early days of sports at CHC saw oranges and drink provided by the home team at half time and a gathering of both teams together for some refreshments after the games. Eventually, this tradition ended as most players seemed to be in a hurry to leave immediately after a contest.

As early as 1926, teams celebrated the culmination of their seasons with team get-togethers. Sometimes it took the form of pizza and soda, sometimes dessert and punch, or dinner at a restaurant, social room, or at a coach or teammates home. Captains and teammates spent a lot of time and thought coming up with awards and speeches for the occasion and seniors and 4 year players were recognized. In 1954, all teams decided to come together at the end of the year for one big sports banquet which was held at Whitmarsh Country Club. It was recorded to have been a gala occasion, but teams decided to return to their individual programs because it was more personal and meaningful.

This tradition continued until the mid 1980's when teams met again all together at the end of the year for an awards program. Each sport made a presentation of awards to players and summarized the season play. Academic achievements of the players were also recognized at this ceremony (the names of those student athletes that achieved a 3.6 or higher during the playing season were also read at the Honors Convocation Ceremony held in the Fall and the Spring). Dessert was provided by the coaches and a guest speaker addressed the girls with words of wisdom. Some of the speakers included Libby Williams, ex-US Women's Lax coach, Pete Hess, ex-Swarthmore lax and hockey coach, Louise Manly Powers-well known tennis coach and ex CHC coach, Joanna Myers, ex CHC faculty and once member of British field hockey team, Andrea Gianinni Carr, alumni field hockey, badminton and lacrosse player, and Kelly Greenburg, ex women's basketball coach at University of Penn. As the number of sports increased, so did the program and speakers were eventually eliminated as the program became too lengthy. Slides taken throughout the seasons set to music were always a big hit at the end of the program as the girls eyes were riveted to the screen in the hopes that they may catch themselves or teammates in various stages of play.

The program moved from dessert socials to dinner banquets in 2000. All teams met in the Rotunda until Sorgenti was opened and then the dinner program was held there. To keep the night from being long winded, a Master of Ceremony, Dave Arnold who was also the announcer at the home basketball games, was added. It proved very worthwhile and kept the program down under 2 hours. The slide show was updated to a power point presentation set to music to keep up with modern technology.

Coaches

The role of the coach at CHC has drastically changed over the years. The number of games played in a season during the first years of varsity existence were very few and the amount of time involved in coaching a season of play was very limited. Coaches were paid very little, but there was very little pressure for winning seasons. If a team was undefeated, that was considered nice, but if they were not very successful, winning very few games, their effort was the emphasis and all were congratulated on a job well done.

In the 1990's, as colleges started to realize the importance of successful athletic programs to the overall success of the institution, more emphasis was placed on athletics. Co-educational colleges started adding money to their athletic budgets, increasing staff size, improving facilities, recruiting student athletes and increasing coaching salaries. The all women's colleges tried to follow suit, but due to lack of funds, their programs were not moving at the same pace as other co-ed institutions. It became increasingly difficult to attract quality student athletes to the women's institutions who could not match what was being offered at the co-ed schools. As a result, the women's sports programs at CHC, suffered.

It soon became this vicious cycle that due to lack of funds and commitment, there were inadequate facilities. Because of inadequate facilities came the lack of student athletes and coaches. It was difficult to attract quality student athletes and coaches to a program whose facilities were less than what they were used to playing on in high school. New coaches coming in came with much enthusiasm, but left very frustrated feeling incapable of overcoming the lack of funding, lack of athletes and commitment needed to succeed in an increasing competitive athletic arena.

Along with the frustration, coaches were being asked to do more and more and commit more and more time. Seasons lengthened as pre-season camps and extended practices were a necessity to compete. Fall sports teams coaches monitored summer training programs and had a week of pre-season camp before the start of classes. Many coaches had to take their vacation time or juggle other responsibilities to make this a reality. Winter and spring sport coaches started their preseason with training and work-out sessions prior to the traditional season start. Student athletes also had to be monitored throughout the year academically so coaches were responsible for making sure that their athletes were academically eligible to play.

Conference play in the AWCC and NEAC all increased travel and week-end time spent at long distance competition. Competition moved from playing colleges in our backyard (Gwynedd Mercy and Beaver, now Arcadia) to 4 or 5 hour distances (Mary Baldwin and Wells). Coaches drove the vans on these long road trips and overnights became a necessity so the coaches time commitment to a season increased immensely. Besides the time commitment, the coaches had a tremendous amount of responsibility driving packed vans of team members long distances, many times in inclement weather. They would often have to take off a day of work or leave early from work or succumb to driving those distances after working a full shift at their other jobs. Many entire weekends were now devoted to their teams.

In the past, teams consisted of students interested in playing, some with experience, most without. Some of these players were athletic, some were not. Now, in order to compete with other schools, coaches had to assume the added responsibility of recruiting players for their teams, not just during the season, but all year round. If done properly,

recruitment is an extremely time consuming commitment and one that has become a vital tool for the success of a program.

The opening of the new Sorgenti arena was the start of the slow but steady move to get CHC some athletic respectability. Coaches started to have some success with their recruitment efforts. But, it was the decision to go co-ed which gave the program the jolt it needed. As a result, the pool of perspective athletes increased from those wishing to attend an all women's institution and play sports (which were few) to those wishing to attend a co-ed college and play sports (which were many). This increased the colleges chances of attracting quality student athletes to its programs.

The CHC college administration made the much needed commitment to the athletic program. Not only their wise vision to build a new athletic facility, but they also showed their commitment to the program by greatly increasing the monies allocated to sports. Coaching salaries increased and became more competitive with other institutions offerings. Buses with drivers were hired which eliminated the stress and responsibility of transporting players to and from games. These few changes (better facilities, better pay and bus transportation) started to make a big difference in obtaining quality coaches and keeping them around for some continuity.

In the early years, coaches were usually obtained from the physical education staff who took on many times, multiple sports. In the late seventies, two full time physical education teachers were hired to coach three sports each as well as teach the physical education classes. Eventually, they were replaced with part time coaches who had no other affiliation with the school. Realizing that a season sport was becoming a year long commitment (recruiting, retention, academic eligibility, training, scheduling), the move now was to have a full time athletic staff on campus. Recruitment and retention was a vital issue for the college and the athletic department was seen as a way to help keep the numbers of the college up.

As of 2004, the athletic department made a split from the Physical Education department. The college made attempts to bring coaches on a full time capacity by combining them with dual positions .Athletic coaches and staff are being hired as combinational positions; coach and assistant to the AD (2002) , coach and sports information and community relations (2003), coach and equipment and operations manager (2006). Other coaches were hired and were fitted for positions in other parts of the college community; coach and admissions(2003), coach and activities director(2003), coach and business office(2003), coach and career services(2005).

The Varsity Program

The first varsity program started at the college was the basketball program in 1926. Since that time, sports have been added, dropped, added again, or continued. At this writing there are 11 varsity programs, 6 for women, 3 for men, and 2 for men and women. Basketball and tennis have continued since their start in the beginning days of the college. The following is a list of varsity programs in the order of their inception to the college:

Women's Programs

Basketball	1926-present
Field Hockey	1932-2002
Tennis	1933-present

Golf	1935-37,1942-45, tournament entries in 1949, 1950's, 1960's
Archery	1930-1945, 1946-61, 1963-66
Swimming	1941-1973
Badminton	1944-1988
Softball	1948-60, 1976-present
Lacrosse	1960-present
Volleyball	1973-present
Soccer	2003-present
Men's Programs	
Men's Basketball	2003-present
Men's Soccer	2004-present
Men's Tennis	2004-present
Men and Women's Programs	
Golf	2004-present
Cross Country	2005-present

As of this writing there are 11 intercollegiate varsity sports in action at the college with baseball in the planning for 2007. Eight intercollegiate sports opportunities presently exist for women and 5 for men (2 sports are co-ed). Seven sports are offered in the fall semester (women's soccer, women's tennis, women's volleyball, men's soccer, men and women's cross country, women's basketball and men's basketball) providing 5 sports opportunities for women and 3 for men. Spring semester offers the continuation of women's basketball as well as lacrosse, softball, and men and women's golf for the women, and men's basketball (continued from the fall), tennis and the co-ed golf for the men. Very few student athletes play all three sports seasons now. The majority of student athletes concentrate on playing one sport only, while some do participate in two.

Women's Basketball

Basketball has been around as a varsity sport since its inception. It was always one of the most popular sports, maybe because it was inside and convenient for fans to walk down stairs to catch a few minutes of a game. The first home court was located on the fifth floor of St. Joseph's Hall. In 1928, the old gym in the basement of Fournier would become the home court for the next 72 years. The fans would line the tiny gym and cheers could be heard up the stairwell to the third floor. Teams were comprised of anyone interested in playing, with varying degrees of basketball know how. Some years saw large numbers and junior varsity teams were added to the program. Other years surfaced barely enough to play a game. From a 4 game schedule, the number of games grew to 26 stretching the season from mid October to the beginning of March if the team made it to play-offs. The game evolved from the three court system and rovers to the present system of full court play when it was finally realized that women were capable of moving up and down an entire court.

The college had varying degrees of basketball success. The 1931-32 team posted a winning record of 8-1, but was not matched again for over 30 years. In 1964 and again in

1965 the teams were undefeated, and then not until another 40 years did the women come up with another championship team.

There were major differences to the pre- Sorgenti era and the post Sorgenti era. Pre-Sorgenti hosted teams composed primarily of players brought in through admissions, not recruited for their basketball skills. Quality basketball players turned their noses up at the little school on the hill because the facilities were not up to snuff. What was satisfactory in the early years sure did not fit the bill in the 90's. The home court, locker rooms, fitness and the athletic training facilities (or lack of) did not match what other schools were offering young prospects. Although it was a difficult task to attract players, amazingly some top quality ball players came and did very well regardless of the physical features of the program. Joanne Sauer in the early 80's was believed to have been the first thousand point scorer, but records during that time were not as carefully taken and no real proof exists. Another unrecruited player to shoot over 1,000 points (validated) was Ruairi Sullivan in 2000.

But after the college joined the NCAA in 1996, the athletic department realized that it needed to make some major changes. The administration heard the cries of the athletic department and responded with a major fund raising campaign, and a promise of a new athletic convocation center equipped with locker rooms, training room and offices. This all became a reality in 2000. Typically, athletic facilities of women's colleges, fell far behind those in co-ed institutions, so the commitment by CHC was very exciting and spoke volumes. On 2000, an enthusiastic President, Sister Carol Jean Vale, tossed up the ball for the first time in the new facility in front of packed stands. This was the start of a slow but steady improvement to the women's basketball program. Soon, the admissions department at the college was instructed to no longer advertise the fact that "anyone" could play on CHC teams.

The post Sorgenti era also brought with it the inclusion of men to the undergraduate school. This significantly changed the make up of the athletes in the programs. Now the college could recruit from the pool of student athletes wanting to attend co-ed institutions. The small number of student athletes desiring an all women's college was replaced with those interested in co-ed. What a huge difference this made on the athletic program and the basketball team.

Along with the lack of adequate facilities, another problem that plagued the team was the acquisition of quality and consistent coaching staff. In the early years of the teams history, the women's basketball team had only 15 different coaches in a period of 58 years. Anyone who knows anything about sports knows how important having the right coach who is committed to the program and who is willing to stick around for awhile is to the success of the program. This appeared to be the problem in the years post 1984. Since 1984, the coaches position changed 12 times in only 21 years. The time commitment of a long season, October to March, recruitment responsibilities, travel time, driving responsibilities, low salary, and lack of facilities all were factors in obtaining and keeping quality coaches at the college. As a result, the basketball program experienced some very rocky times for quite a few years as it struggles to find the right coach to manage the team.

During this time, coaches were hired and resigned, hired and released, or hired and injured, many times in the middle of the season, leaving the ship without a commander. Understandably, numbers and morale became very low. It was not until 2004, that the

team finally found the leadership needed to pull the program together. In an effort to increase the likelihood that the coach would remain, the college used an NCAA grant for a statistician and community relations position to keep the coach on campus full time. This coach, Jackie DeMarteliere, is presently the coach of the women's program, but has since changed roles at the college from the NCAA grant position' to a member of career services staff, and now to academic advisor. In the first year of coaching the team, she coached the team to win their first AWCC championship which enabled them to make their first NCAA tournament appearance. This was a great accomplishment for a program that struggled for so many years.

The new facility, the right coach, and the right conference have all played significant roles in the improving success of women's basketball. The team has always had rivalry against the local teams in the area, and especially the all women's Catholic schools like Rosemont and Immaculata, and others like Beaver, now Arcadia and Gwynedd Mercy. When the PAIAW folded in 1999, the college enjoyed competition with AWCC conference schools and since going co-ed, played its last AWCC conference competition in 2005. The program will compete in the ECAC in 2006 and then the CCAC as a Division II college in 2007.

Other significant accomplishments during the program's history include three additional 1,000 pointers; Jennifer Banks in 2004 scoring 1,126 points, Bethanne Castone in 2005 scoring 1,174, and most recently, Kate Quintus, scoring in the 2006-2007 season. Also, in 2005, Andrea Carter was named to the D3 Hoops National Team after having back to back games notching 22 rebounds.

Women's Basketball Coaches

1926-28 Nellie deR.Sinkinson
 1928-37 Elizabeth Ford
 1937-40 Marjorie Foley
 1940-54 Catherine McPeak
 1954-55 Nancy Chance
 1955-56 Louise Esher
 1956-59 Mildred Anders
 1959-60 Elenore Pepper
 1960-66 Maria McHugh
 1966-72 Barbara Longstreth
 1972-74 Judy Bencoter
 1974-75 Joan King
 1975-77 Marjorie O'Brian
 1977-83 Lorraine Busch
 1983-86 Margaret Mary Sills
 1986-90 Kathy Kravitz
 1990-91 Lorraine Busch
 1991-92 Anne Walsh
 1992-93 Megan Sullivan
 1993-95 Terrance Brown
 1995-96 Yolanda Laney
 1996-97 Butch Andre
 1997-99 Joe Gibbons AWCC Coach of the Year 1998-99

1999-02 Paul Reiser
2002-04 Brian Morris
2004 my Gillespie
2004-present Jackie DeMarteliere AWCC Coach of the Year 2004-2005

Men's Basketball

The decision to open the college doors to men helped to project the athletic program forward. Men's basketball was the first team to be added to the program and, so, for preparation for success, the college hired Jesse Balcer in 2003 to do some recruiting in order to suit up a team for the 2003- 2004 season. The first season of men's basketball saw 11 players who competed independent of a conference. . Sister Carol Jean Vale tossed up the first ball for the first play of men's basketball at CHC in front of a packed and excited crowd.

It took only 2 games for the team to get their first win in CHC history against Penn State Berks. The first win on home court was against Valley Forge Christian College on December 9 and the team finished with a 12-13 overall record in their inaugural season.

Other significant accomplishments for the young men's program included: freshman Issac Greer was named to 2 All-Tournament teams, freshman Shawn Bolling earned Small Colleges Association Player of the Week honors, freshman Delton Morgan Hines earned All-Tournament honors, Issac Greer scored 40 points in a game against Lincoln University, team posted a win against 23rd ranked Christopher Newport University at their tournament (CNU had been 57-6 on their home court),

The men's team added to the spirit of the college. Often, men's and women's basketball games were scheduled as double headers with the dance team performing at half times. A group of energetic fans would dress up and along with the Griffin mascot, would incite the crowd to chants and cheers. Often, a student willing to show off her voice would sing the National Anthem and one time, one student played his electric guitar. With announcements and music and some special events, like alumnae appearances, the basketball games, both women's and men's, singularly or together, became special events for the college community.

The men's program competed in the NEAC for the 2004-2005 season and finished with the NEAC regular season title with a conference record of 12-2. The first NEAC conference game in men's school history was against Polytec at CHC. Other outstanding accomplishments the second year of the program: Issac Greer became the first 1,000 points male basketball player in the college's history, defeated Division III top 25 team King's College, Issac Greer tope his own school record for points in a game scoring 43, senior Ryan Albany was named the Sam Cozen Small College Basketball Coaches Association Player of the week, Ryan Albany and Dan Galbally are the first men to be recognized as graduating basketball players.

The 2005-2006 season saw the team advancing to the NEAC quarter finals and Issac Greer adding 500 more points to his already tallied 1000. Both Issac Greer and Shawn Bolling received All-Tournament honors and the team had a big win over nationally ranked University of Scranton. Now, in the 2006-2007 season, Senior Shawn Bolling scored his 1,000th point in a game against Valley Forge Christian College and Isaac Greer doubled his 1,000 points, scoring his 2,000th point in a game against Philadelphia College of the Bible.

Men's Basketball Coaches
2003-present Jesse Balcer

Badminton

Badminton was started as a varsity sport at the college in 1944 and its last intercollegiate competitive matches were played in the winter of 1988. The program saw its demise not because of lack of interest or participation, but because of lack of competition. The sport of badminton was once a very popular and inexpensive sport to offer. CHC enjoyed competitive matches against schools like Drexel, University of Penn, Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr, Rosemont, Harcum, and Ursinus. But, as colleges entered the NCAA and the PAIAW started disbanding, schools sponsoring badminton became scarce. Most schools dropped their badminton programs leaving very few schools to schedule. Swarthmore and Bryn Mawr remained two mainstays to the program, but the lack of competition combined with the deterioration of the gym floor in Fournier proved all that was needed to end its run at the college. The gym in the basement of Fournier had low ceilings which made badminton and volleyball challenging to say the least, but it was the flooring which presented the real risk. Because of moisture from its location underground, the floor buckled, causing dangerous footing. And, when it was very humid outside, the gym floor became coated with condensation leaving a surface as slippery as ice. The basketball team also experienced hard times on this surface. Eventually two large fans were placed in the windows and drains dug around the exterior as well as new flooring. When the new floor was put in, no badminton lines were added, so intercollegiate badminton was officially over at CHC. The lines have since been added again when the floor was resurfaced, but the use is strictly for physical education classes.

The badminton teams over the years were comprised of players with very little background in the sport other than what might have been played in backyards or high school physical education classes. Some of the tennis players would venture to the badminton courts and enjoyed the switch. The backyard badminton version of the game consisted of pitty pattying the birdie back and forth over the net. Those that came out for the team soon learned that badminton was a very challenging game where quickness, agility, and athleticism as well as game strategy were all necessary in order to be successful. The players showed much improvement as the seasons progressed and some players excelled in the sport. They attended tournaments at Drexel, Bryn Marw, Swarthmore and Harcum and many strived to improve at many clinics. Over the years the win loss record of the teams were nothing to write home about, but if you asked anyone who was a member of the team, I think you would find that they thoroughly enjoyed their experiences. The 1952 team came very close to an undefeated season with a record of 5-1. In 1981, Mari Ambrogi won consolation singles at the PAIAW badminton tournament and 1983 proved a very competitive team.

Besides the tournaments and clinics, other highlights of the badminton program included scrimmages against Springside school, matches at the Philadelphia Badminton Club, and family and faculty matches. Badminton is still enjoyed by the students in physical education today.

Coaches
1944-45

1945-47 Betty Buckley
1947-48 Sandy Nelson
1948-49 Anne Reilly
1949-50 Antoinette Loughran
1050-56 Betty Shellenberger
1956-57 Anny Reilly Mattson
1957-58 Maria McHugh
1958-59 Anne McKernan
1959-60 Betty Buckley
1960-61 Betty Shellenberger
1961-64 Betty Brown
1964-77 Betty Shellenberger
1977-88 Janice Rensimer Kuklick

Women's Tennis

Tennis as a varsity sport at CHC was the third sport to be added to the program behind basketball in 1926 and field hockey in 1932. Tennis came on as a spring sport in the spring of 1933 and proved undefeated that first year winning all two of its scheduled matches.

The tennis complex consisted of 4 courts below the Grotto which, for awhile, served the college well for the size of the teams. When the numbers started growing, the number of matches increased and the play on the courts many times lasted well into dusk. In the early seventies, eight courts were built and this rectified the problem.

Tennis was moved from the spring to the fall in the late sixties when the college schedule moved graduation up to early May, cutting down the available spring playing days. That and the fact that spring usually has a lot of "rain outs" forced the change of the playing season. The team did play both fall and spring for a short period before switching entirely to the fall where it remains today.

Tennis numbers and talent have varied over the years. Some teams consisted of as many as 20 players, while others had only the bare minimum (6). The talent ranged from having a decent tennis background to having very little experience competitively at all. A notable accomplishment occurred in 1949 when Anne Gutekunst made it all the way to the semi-finals of the Middle States Intercollegiate Tennis Championships. In 1968, the team was undefeated winning all 5 of its matches and then in 1973, undefeated again under the leadership of coach Louisa Manly-Power. When the college joined the PAIAW in 1978, the tennis team found its most success winning 4 championships; 1980 and 1981, both again under Coach Manly-Power, 1983 under Coach Mary Schwartz and 1994 under Coach Susan Beausang. There were other very successful, competitive seasons during this time.

When the PAIAW folded in 2000, the team competed independently, with varying degrees of winning success, because the AWCC which became CHC's new conference affiliation, held its tennis season in the spring and it was not feasible for the team to switch. In 2005, as the college entered into the NEAC for some of the sports programs, tennis found a home, temporarily at least. That year they posted wins over Wesley,

Keystone, SUNY Purchase and Division II Goldey Beacon with Colleen Reasoner leading the team with 9 singles wins.

Over the years, the tennis team met its most fierce match against Mother Nature. In the 11988, the courts were resurfaced due to damage caused by the overflow of the Wissahickon. Then, in January of 1996, a devastating winter storm left 28 inches of snow and warm weather that followed that next week resulted in the overflow of the Wissahickon Creek. The Creek raged over the parking lot and the force of the water tunneled under the courts and jacked them up. Then, of course, the temperatures plummeted and the freezing water under the courts expanded, cracking and buckling the courts. All 8 courts were totally destroyed. The team was forced to practice at the nearby Mt. St. Joseph's Academy and the Water Tower in Chestnut Hill. The team struggled to get players together for practices at off campus sites.

The courts were completely done, but then, yet another storm, better known as Hurricane Floyd in 1999, angered the Wissahickon which rolled through the lower campus, across the tennis courts, ripping up fence, nets and playing surface. Once again the courts were out of commission.

The courts were downsized from 8 courts to 6 when the college turned the two end courts into outdoor basketball courts, one full and one half, in 2004. Other storms have flooded the Wissahickon, but the courts have survived the attack so far.

Besides the competition, the tennis teams enjoyed some other diversions during the seasons such as attending the Federation Cup in Atlantic City, experiencing play at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, and indoor practices in January and February at Magarity Tennis in Flourtown.

Tennis Coaches

1933-37 Elizabeth Ford
1937-40 Marjorie Foley
1940-41 Mr. Babb
1941-42 Catherine McPeak
1942-60 Betty Buckley
1960-66 Betty Brown
1966-70 Nancy Wood (fall)
1966-67 and 1969-70 Betty Buckley (spring)
1970-82 Louise Manley-Power
1982-90 Mary Schwartz
1990-93 Susan Beausang, Joanne Gilligan
1993-98 Susan Beausang
1998-2000 Darcy Rabenda
2000-2001 Jane Calavari
2001-2005 Roger Mallery
2006 season-Mike Fitzgerald

Lacrosse

According to the records, lacrosse took the place of softball as a varsity sport in 1961. The team consisted of many inexperienced players ready to learn this new, fast game. Since 12 players are needed to field a team, sometimes the numbers were a little low because it was such a demanding sport as far as conditioning goes. But, after 1977,

numbers starting picking up and so did the wins. Of all the varsity sports programs sponsored at the college, the women's lacrosse team proved the most successful in terms of championships. The team won 14 championships under coach Janice Rensimer Kuklick (1979,1980,1984,1985,1986,1987,1988,1989,1990,1991,1992,1993,1995,1999).

In the late 70's and 80's, the teams were comprised of many beginners who learned to love the game that originated from the North American Indians. Practices started in January so players had about 6 weeks to learn the sport and hone in on their skills to be able to play a game that most of them had never seen played before. With winter and early spring weather being unpredictable, the sticksters had limited outdoor practice before the scheduled games came upon them in March. Being able to catch, cradle and throw in a gym was one thing, but it was a totally different thing to be placed on a field that had no set boundaries and strange markings. It usually took about half the season for beginners to grasp what was going on in the game they were playing. More experienced players were strategically positioned on the field to nullify the effects of a beginner player.

By the end of the season, though, most of the beginners became excellent players and many found it very hard to believe that they never held a stick in their hands before that first January practice. One beginner, Marie Bailey, single handedly marked the top scoring attack wing from rival Eastern college in a superb display of defensive skill and allowed only one goal which helped secure a win for the Hill.

Nothing was more satisfying as a coach then to see the players make connections down the field resulting in a goal. Unlike field hockey, lacrosse was typically a game of high scoring so it proved a much more exciting game to watch and play. Many of the players (beginners and experienced) went on to play on the club level after graduation . Some even went on to coach the sport, even the beginners.

Participation saw high numbers in the late 70's and 80's and the later years had varying numbers. The combination of a slowly decreasing enrollment and the fact that the sport required a high level of fitness since there was continual running for two thirty minute halves acted as a deterrent. Also, the numbers were affected by class schedules and injuries which were unavoidable.

Besides the thrill of the many victories, another highlight was participating in Sanford weekend where the team faced a diversified level of play which would help to prepare them for the up and coming seasons. One particular memory stands out when the goalkeeper got stuck in the goal cage when she went to retrieve a ball that had gotten past her. A piece of the helmet got caught in the netting and she was held captive for awhile until the coach came and rescued her. Eventually, the tournament was discontinued due to liability issues.

In 2000, the game of lacrosse started to see some drastic changes; face masks, molded head sticks, boundaries and more rules regulating the game. The field was expanded to fit NCAA regulations with the area behind the goal cage expanded.

The program entered the AWCC in 2000 when the PAIAW disbanded. In 2002, Megan McHugh was recognized by the NCAA Division III as being the highest goal scorer for a game scoring 14 goals in one game against Hood College. She also was ranked 4th in NCAA Division III with 49 total goals per season and second for goals per game in 2003. In 2005-2006, freshman Katie Donovan was ranked fifth nationally for goals per game in the NCAA Division III with an average of 4.69 goals per game.

Lacrosse Coaches

1960-64 Eleanor Pepper

1965-77 Betty Shellenberger

1977-2000 Janice Rensimer Kuklick PAIAW Coach of the Year 1986,1991,1997

2000-01 Natalie Gozzard

2001-02 Shannon McGlynn

2002-03 Erin Flannery

2003-05 Jebb Chagan

2005-2006 Megan McHugh

2006-

Softball

The softball team was started as a varsity program in 1948, without much of a playing field. The early team saw its home field on the old hockey field down by the Wissahickon with many a ball being retrieved from the water. Those early days saw an undefeated season in 1954 under coach Eleanore Pepper. Those early successes were enough to keep the interest up in the sport for awhile, but in 1961, it was decided that softball would be dropped due to lack of interest. Lacrosse was added to fill the gap.

In 1978, the sport breathed some new life at the college and the program was reinstated. A new “diamond” was added, but in reality it was merely a grassy plot of land with some bases located down below the summer house. But, this was a step up from its prior location. The new field consisted of a home made backstop, bases, a pitching mound, and some benches. This served as the home field for the Griffin softball team for many years. In fact, unless the team was out practicing or playing on the field, anyone passing by would not even know that that area was a softball field. The resident ground hog was often seen ducking when a ball was hit into his home territory which was deep left field. Dips and holes made chasing down a fly ball very tricky.

Finally, in , the field was given the much needed face lift. The in-field was skinned out and leveled, holes were filled, trees in the outfield were given a major pruning. A gift from the class of 1949 provided the team with 2 portable 4 row bleachers and a gift from the class of 1984 provided 6 team benches (softball utilized them in the spring and field hockey and tennis used them in the fall). A new back stop completed the look.

Interest in the sport throughout its existence at the college has been high and low. At one point, a few lacrosse players doubled as softball players when they didn't have a lacrosse game. But regardless, the softball program has seen many successful years. Besides the undefeated season in 1954, the team won the PAIAW conference championship for successive years in 1979, 1980 and 1981 under coach Lorraine Busch. They reclaimed the PAIAW championship in 1997 under coach Valerie Interrante and again in 2002, with the help of ace pitcher Jaime Lester. This was the first AWCC championship claimed by the college since entering the conference. This served as a great source of excitement and pride for the college at the time. The President of the College, Sister Carol Jean Vale, presented championship jackets at a special halftime ceremony at one of the home basketball games honoring Coach Val Interrante and her championship team.

By the way, that year, Jaime Lester, was named the Division III NCAA most outstanding softball player. She was ranked second in NCAA Division III batting with an average of 0.569. She ranked 6th in the nation Division III with 33 runs batted in , 5th in home runs with 7, and 4th with 6 triples. That was a pretty significant achievement.

Coaches

1948-52	Annette Danehower
1952-53	Patricia Morris
1953-56	Elenore Pepper
1958-59	Anne Louise McKernan
1959-60	Mary Jane Christian
1976-77	Gloria Schaab
1977-89	Lorraine Busch
1989-90	Jeannie McCandless
1990-91	Lorraine Busch
1991-93	Anne Walsh
1993-98	Valerie Brennen Interrante PAIAW Coach of the Year 1997
1998-99	Joe Gibbons
1999-03	Valerie Brennen Interrante
2003-present	Steve Carr

Field Hockey

According to Betty Buckley, *Sixty Years of Sports at Chestnut Hill College 1924-1984*, "Hockey is first mentioned in the A.A. Minutes of October 5, 1927 when it was decided that a day be appointed, preferably Thursday of each week from four to five o'clock, for hockey for Juniors and Seniors. In 1931 interclass hockey began. A year passed before hockey became a varsity sport. In 1933, according to the Fournier News, hockey "was raised to the dignity of major sport with regular practices." Three games were scheduled."

The interest in field hockey over the years remained fairly high until about 1998, when the numbers started dwindling. Perhaps it was the popularity of soccer replacing the interest of young girls, or the difficulty of the game itself, or the decrease in the enrollment of the college, but it was becoming increasingly difficult to get enough players to field a team. Prior to this time, teams numbered anywhere from 16-25 participants and some years fielded a JV program, but with a very limited playing schedule. Practices were held 4 days a week in the late 70's and 80's, and then moved to 5 days with a one week pre-season camp consisting of double sessions a day. Some seasons found it necessary to hold some early morning practices. Six o'clock in the morning was certainly not a very popular time for college students, but often it was the only time that all players could get to practice due to heavy afternoon class schedules.

For many summers, players spent a week at Camp Tegawitha, a field hockey camp in the Poconos run by Constance Applebee. (p14). Coach Betty Shellenberger later started her own pre-season bringing back players a few days before classes started. The pre-season camp proved very successful for better preparing teams, especially since many of the players were beginners who often times found themselves starting. The camp was expanded to 5 days with morning, afternoon, and sometimes evening sessions. Different

events were scheduled throughout the week and the players got know each other quite intimately by the end. Early morning aerobics warm-up sessions and the loop around campus (maybe a couple of times) started off each day.

The old hockey field was located down by the Germantown entrance along the Wissahickon, with a stone wall holding back the waters. One time noted was in 1947 when the water pushed through the wall flooding the field and depositing its debris leaving the field in pretty bad shape. That would prove not the last time the team had to deal with the problem. They managed to find little sections of ground to practice on or some alternate field off of campus for home games, though. In the early seventies, a new regulation field was added which was substantially larger than the old field. It took awhile for players to get used to having to run further to chase down a ball.

The field, which was located next to the tennis courts and doubled as the lacrosse field, provided different playing experiences throughout the years. Some summers left the field scorched, providing the players with their own brown turf. It sure led to some great hockey as players were more easily able to show-off their stick skills. Other seasons saw the Wissahickon's raging waters flow over the field, picking up goal cages and bleachers and smashing them along trees down stream.

From tunics with bloomers and belts in the early days, the uniforms moved to kilts and eventually to skirts. The gold and maroon striped shirt and brown kilt was a signature of the team in the 70's and 80's and then wrap-around skirts (actually hand made, compliments of Lorraine Busch's father), replaced the kilts. Velcro strips kept the skirts closed, but sometimes it didn't hold and in a few instances, players would go streaking down the field. This provided quite a bit of excitement to say the least. Then in 1993, brown plaid kilts with yellow away and white home shirts became the uniform until the colors of the college were changed to scarlet and white. The uniform moved from red and white plaid kilts and eventually to red and black wrap-around skirts.

The win/loss record over the years was so-so, with some years more impressive than others. If you know anything about hockey, you know that it is hard to get the ball in the cage to score, so teams were often frustrated by the lack of goals tallied even though they played hard the whole game. In 1950, the Fournier News reported that the team "scored six goals more" than in the previous year. The first significant reporting of a winning season was in 1959, when under the leadership of Coach Mary Jane Christian, the team had a 5-1-1 season. It wasn't until 1978 that the college could boast a championship season, winning the PAIAW Division IV conference title in a game against Philadelphia College of the Bible (now Philadelphia Biblical University). Other noteworthy seasons with particularly good records included the seasons of 1980, 1988, 1991 and 1994. The teams hit a dry spell for awhile and it wasn't until 2002 that the team came close again to grabbing a championship. The 2002 team, under Coach Leslie Wilson went 8-0 in the AWCC, but lost the championship game. The hockey team received national recognition that year for NCAA Division III schools, placing 19th for winning team percentage, and 14th for scoring defense. Also receiving national recognition was goalkeeper Kasha Shreffler, who ranked 13th for goals against average and Kelly McGrath ranking third for assists per game and 14th for points.

Sadly, that 2003 season would be the last one to produce a field hockey team at CHC. It seemed that the cards were not in their favor as the team was heavy with seniors who would be graduating, the resignation of the coach, and few prospects on the horizon for

the following year forced the department to make a very difficult decision. The decision was made to terminate the sport of field hockey at the college, at least for time being. It was sad to see the end of program which brought a lot of wonderful memories and experiences to many women who ventured to play.

The team participated in the PAIAW. The conference was divided into 4 divisions and CHC competed in the Susan B. Anthony division. The teams played anywhere from 10 to 14 games. In 2000, they competed in the AWCC. Over the years, the teams participated in tournaments such as Alvernia and Philadelphia College of Bible. In 1949 and the early 50's, Rosemont, Immaculata and Chestnut Hill held their own tournament and selected an all-Catholic team to compete in the Intercollegiate Tournament (p.14) The teams held scrimmages against club teams comprised of many CHC hockey alums, the Chestnuts and the Hillers founded by CHC Betty Shellenberger, the Merion Cricket Club, and Mount St. Joe's. Teams enjoyed special events such as alumnae games and special half-time ceremonies like the one honoring ex-CHC coach Betty Shellenberger, officials Pete Hess and Suzie McKinney for their contributions to the sport and their affiliation with the college over the years.

Coaches:

1932-37 Elizabeth Ford
1937-41 Marjorie Foley
1941-43 Anne Parry Tillman
1943-49 Betty Buckley
1949-52 Annette Danenhower
1952-55 Patricia Morris
1955-56 Nancy Vadnor Chance
1956-58 Maria McHugh
1958-59 Ann Louise McKernan
1959-64 Mary Jane Christian
1964-77 Betty Shellenberger
1977-2000 Janice Rensimer Kuklick
2000-01 Natalie Gozzard
2001-02 Jenny Merrill
2002-03 Leslie Wilson AWCC Coach of the Year

Volleyball

The earliest recordings of any volleyball happenings at the college were in 1956 when it was reported that a group of students got together for a match against Penn. Regardless of the early "pick-up" type play, it wasn't until 1972-73 that a team was finally organized (p.32). In its short history, the teams had varying degrees of success. Some years posted winning seasons, while others struggled to come up with a win. Regardless, teams showed much enthusiasm and improvement each season. Many matches proved very competitive, and in 1979, CHC won the PAIAW Conference championship under coach Lorraine Busch. Levels of interest varied also, with some years producing a varsity as well as a JV squad.

The volleyball program's biggest challenge in the late 90's was coaching continuity. The year 1998, saw a new coach come in every year and is still looking for one to hang around to give the program the consistency it needs. It takes awhile for a coach to settle

in and for a team to adjust to a coaches style and just as a team was getting it all together by the end of the season, a new season brought a new coach and the adjustment had to take place all over again. It is not the best scenario for a sports program.

When the new Sorgenti Arena was completed, the volleyball team benefited a great deal. The team moved to a home court with high ceilings, better lighting, and plenty of room to play the ball. Sorgenti also provided the opportunity for the college to host conference tournament play since a drop down curtain allowed for 2 separate courts.

Volleyball Coaches

1973-74 no regular coach
1974-76 Joan King
1977-83 Lorraine Busch
1983-86 Kevin McGlynn and Kevin Fretz
1986-90 Lorraine Busch
1990-95 Pat Smith
1995-96 Pat Smith and Jeanne Flickinger
1996-98 Dan and Jeanne Flickinger
1998-99 Joe Gibbons
1999-2000- Brooke McLaughlin and Alissa Leinmiller
2000-01 Nora Dollarton
2001-02 Alycia Carrol
2002-03 Mary Jane White and Jen Pagen
2003-04 Rich Comley
2004-05 Matt Kerr
2005-07 Jessica Coyne

Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team started as a club in the spring of 2003-2004. The team was coached by the women's team coach, Roger Mallery. The first club team consisted of 9 men with varying levels of experience. They played a limited schedule and came up with 2 wins that first year. In 2004-05, they produced their first varsity team, but no team wins. The 7 members on the team came up with some individual wins, but not enough to pull together a team victory. The second year as a varsity program produced 3 teams wins; Immaculata, Lincoln, and Philadelphia Biblical University. The 8 man squad traveled to the NEAC conference tournament and held its own.

Men's Tennis Coaches

2004-2006 Roger Mallery
2006-

Women's Soccer

With the plans to add women's soccer in 2003 to the varsity sports program, the college hired Shawn Ferris ahead of time so that he could recruit some players. In the meantime, he started the program off at the club level in 2002 with a team comprised of soccer enthusiasts already enrolled in the school. An 8 member team had its early beginnings in the old gym.

In 2003-04, the team was ready to move to varsity status. Shawn was able to bring in 16 players for his first team and provided much excitement for the premier program. The team racked up a remarkable 16-2-1 record winning the AWCC and advanced to the first

NCAA tournament in the college history. Player Annie Ruckdeshel finished second in the nation in total points per game in Division III and Donna Westfield finished third in Division III assists. What an exciting night when the team took off in a large coach bus to the beautiful athletic complex and turf field at Stephen's Tech in Hobokin, NJ for the NCAA Division III regional championship. It definitely proved a defensive game for the new soccer Griffins, but the team came home proud of their accomplishments.

In 2004-05, Coach Ferris turned the reigns over to his assistant, Michelle Mocarsky, as he focused on getting the new men's soccer program off to a good start. Under Coach Mocarsky, the team successfully defended its AWCC championship beating Notre Dame to advance to the college's second appearance in the NCAA Division III Regional Championship. The team traveled this time to Gettysburg College where they played their hearts out, but were no match for their opponent.

Women's Soccer Coaches

2003-04 Shawn Ferris

2004-2007 Michelle Mocarsky AWCC Coach of the Year 2005

Men's Soccer

Men's soccer started out on the club level in 2003-04 with 17 players. The team under Coach Shawn Ferris played a 4 game club schedule and posted a win against Valley Forge Military College. In 2004-05, with his recruited players on board, the team competed in the NEAC and posted a 4-3-1 record in their inaugural season. The first men's soccer win in CHC history came against Philadelphia Biblical University with Boyd McCorkle scoring the game winning goal in overtime.

The second season posted a winning record of 11-8 and a second NEAC championship tournament appearance. Goalkeeper Stephen Foster impressively tallied 7 shut-outs that season.

Men's soccer coaches

2004-2007 Shawn Ferris

Golf

"Golf was started as a varsity sport at the college in the mid 1930's. In 1935-36, MSJ journeyed to the College of St. Elizabeth to compete in golf and tennis. The following year, the Fournier News reported "ten out for the golf team" and matches played with St. Elizabeth and Swarthmore. However, The Fournier News (6/19/38) stated that "The Mount Golf Team, which meets every Tuesday afternoon at Whitemarsh Country Club from two to five, will not compete in any other school tournaments." The reason, according to Coach Foley was "too much competition in the past few years." P.18

After that, the team as a varsity program disbanded. It never made a comeback at the varsity level although individuals sometimes played in local college tournaments. In 1949, Helen Robertshaw represented CHC in the National Women's Intercollegiate Golf Tournament held at Ohio State University. Helen did not make the cut off score of 87 (she posted a 90) so she did not move on to the championship match. The program had no regular coach or regular practices until 2004-2005 when it resurfaced again, but this time with male participants, and not for long. Although it was offered for men and women, a team of 5 men competed in the program under Coach Tim Kelly. The men competed in regular season tournaments hosted by Holy Family University and Widener.

Their first season culminated at the NEAC Conference Championship. 2006 saw a lull in the renewed program and was not even mentioned at the awards banquet in the spring.

Golf Coaches

1935-37 Peggy Foley—women's coach

2004-present Tim Kelly

Cross Country

A varsity cross country team was started in the fall of 2005 and the first year saw three men and three women participating. The team participated in the NEAC conference tournament and competed in various meets throughout the season. The team is looking to build in the coming years.

Cross Country coaches

2005-present Lowell Ladd

Swimming-all excerpts taken from B.Buckley p.20,21

“ In 1935, swimming was offered at the college as a varsity sport. The premier season ended with a 0-3 record with events entered in 50 yard freestyle, 25 yard breaststroke, backstroke and crawl. The team was dropped as a varsity sport in 1938 and picked up again in 1942. Just two years later three of the Hill swimmers entered the All-College Swimming Championships. In 1949, the team placed fourth in the Eastern Regional Telegraphic Swimming Meet.

As more experienced swimmers enrolled at the college, the team found many successful years in the years from 1951 through 1960. Over that time period, they compiled a record of only 12 losses in 67 dual meets. From 1954-57, the 75 yard medley relay team was undefeated. When snow forced the cancellation of an important dual meet with West Chester and Swarthmore, CHC's strongest rivals, the team surfaced with an undefeated season.

Events for the dual meets included the 50 yard free-style, breaststroke and backstroke, and the 75 yard medley relay, the 200 yard freestyle relay and diving. Butterfly was added in 1956 and later became part of the medley making it a 200 yard medley event.

With such success brought great fan support. The pool area had to be roped off to leave space for the officials and swimmers.

The annual Women's Eastern Intercollegiate Swimming Championships, held in the Philadelphia area, attracted the best swimmers in the Northeast US. CHC first entered the competition in 1946 and produced successful teams in 1950, placing fourth, 1951 placing fifth, 1952 placing eighth, and 1954 placing sixth. CHC placed second behind Swarthmore in 53,56,57, and 58. In 1957, swimmers Mary Lou Steppacher, Jean Campbell and Connie Halpin set a new meet record of 1:43.7 in the 150 yard medley relay. Two sets of sisters swam for the Brown and Gold in 1953; all placed in their events; Peggy and Betty Watson, first and second in diving; Ann Whiteside, second in the 50 yard freestyle; Ellen (Sperky) Whiteside, on the relay team which placed second. Again, in 1966, Chestnut Hill placed second, this time behind West Chester.

Many Chestnut Hill swimmers were named in the 1955-57 “Summary of Swimming and Diving in the Middle Atlantic Area,” published by the Philadelphia Swimming Directors' Society. This booklet listed the best times of swimmers from the A.A.U., schools, colleges, country clubs, and leagues.”

A lack of interest developed in the sport after some time and swimming was dropped from the program in 1973. Various attempts to revive the sport failed after a short period of time. Now, under NCAA regulations, the CHC pool would not satisfy the specifications for competition so if a team would be started, the team would have to compete all meets away.

Swimming Coaches

1935-37 Miss Elizabeth Ford
1943-59 Betty Buckley
1959-68 Dolly Schnorr
1968-69 Martina Johnson
1969-70 Edith Rowland
1970-71 Bunny Mirth
1972-73 Connie Halpin Nicholas

Archery

As noted in Betty Buckley script, Reverend Anthony J. Flynn, professor of religion at the College, started the first archery team in 1939. The team had much success from the start placing in national and regional tournaments. The team continued on its successful path under Father Brown with 5 undefeated seasons. Patricia Hollingsworth, a National Junior Women's Champion certainly helped to boost the skill of the team. Eventually, the interest died down and the team was disbanded. Then, in 1963 it returned for a short splurge before it was ended in 1966.

Archery Coaches:

1939-1950 Rev. Anthony J Flynn
1950-1960 Rev. Andrew P. Brown
1963-1966 Mrs. Patricia Bader

Intramurals

Besides administering for the varsity sports program, the athletic department also offered sporting activities for other students not interested in competing on the varsity level. Over the years, intramurals provided a lot of excitement for those that participated. While still a single sex institution, many attempts at intramurals were made with varying degrees of success. According to Betty Buckley's writings, the Athletic Association ran scant intramural competitions, the first being a tennis tournament in 1926. Two years later, inter-class competition in basketball and swimming were added. Class challenges produced big rivalries and a class plaque was awarded to the class with the most points won by intramural competitions at the end of the year. Intramural events included tennis, badminton, archery, basketball, hockey, volleyball, softball, ping pong, swimming meets and a swimming marathon.

Interest in intramurals varied from year to year with 42 percent of the student population involved in 1950-51. The end of the 50's and early 60's brought a drastic change in the interest level and the sports page of the *The Fournier News* (12/14/66) read: "A.A. Intramurals Lack Support." The intramural program ceased to exist in 1970 when the A.A. was disbanded.

When the new athletic administration was hired in 1977, intramurals was fired up again. Competition between classes, between dorms or halls or just random teams were

assembled. Varsity players, boyfriends, faculty, and staff often participated as an attempt was made to keep the interest going. By the 1990's, it became increasingly too difficult to get enough students to participate and occasional programs were offered with varying success. Competition was offered in volleyball, basketball, swimming, street hockey, flag football and badminton.

When the college went co-ed, the need for an intramural program became evident as young men with lots of energy sought out some outlet. With a limited staff at this time, the athletic department found it very difficult to run a program. So in 2003-2004, the college accepted a Temple University Sports Management intern who put together an all male and a co-ed basketball intramural program for the spring semester of that year. Since that time, the soccer coach offered indoor soccer intramurals which was popular and a few other programs were offered sporadically with talks of expanding the program for the future.

Aquatics

In 1990, the department offered a community aquatics swim program which consisted of deep and shallow water aerobics programs two days a week and a Saturday morning swim lessons program for children from ages 5 to 13. It also included Scuba Lessons, Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor certification, adult swim lessons, family swims, and competitive stroke clinics. The Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor students were usually hired as the instructors for the swim lessons and lifeguards and the program ran in the summer as well as school year. The program was administered by the athletic/pe department and when the athletic segment split from pe and became separate, the aquatics program fell under the umbrella of athletics. Presently, only the community water aerobics programs remain, although Lifeguarding, WSI, and beginner swim for the college students are offered through Physical Education.

Clubs

Over the years, the athletic department sponsored various clubs that were of interest at the time. The stables across from the college facilitated the formation of the very popular Boot and Saddle club in the thirties. After that died down, the Fillies, another riding club, erupted in the fifties. The Swimming Club was started in 1932 and evolved to the produce a water ballet, which resulted in the formation of the Aquacade. The Aquacade remained very popular for 15 years and its finale was presented in 1965. Other clubs included an outing club, bowling club and a dance club. In the 1980's, the karate club had a strong following. One student, Lisa Long, under the guidance of club director Dr. Vince Muscarella, reached her black belt which was a very significant accomplishment. The club often demonstrated their skills at karate demonstrations. The more modern version of the dance club was started in 2003 when a group of students choreographed routines set to music and performed at basketball half-times. Some of their hip hop gyrations prove a bit much for the older spectators attending games, but they are very entertaining.

Other events sponsored by the athletic department over the years included alumnae sporting events, particularly field hockey and lacrosse, rock climbing, skiing, bowling, pool parties, faculty-student games and various fitness clubs.

Publicity

For years, reportings of losses and successes of the college teams were almost solely covered by the Chestnut Hill Local news. Tom Utescher has been covering the program since the 70's and certainly has become a regular at many home sporting events over the years. Still today, the Local is ever present, and other papers are reporting CHC college scores. But, since the internet and websites are up and running, constant updates and athletic achievements are available daily on-line.

Posters and signs were the typical means of communicating the up and coming games and results, but the internet has made it a lot easier to find out when, where and results with a click of a mouse. A grant, made available from the NCAA, provided the college athletic department with a much need statistician position whose sole responsibility now is the recording, reporting, and publicizing of all sports teams game scores. This is of great benefit to the program.

Open House

It soon became evident that athletics played a tremendous role in the recruitment and retention of students at the Hill. The department soon became intimately connected to the admissions department and together they worked to identify students interested in the academic programs of the college who may also be interested in playing a sport. In 90's the athletic department became a presence at the CHC Open Houses. Interested students attending the Open House who might want to play a sport met with the AD and coaches. A joined effort was made to keep the interest of these perspective students. Letters from the athletic office followed the visit and perspectives were encourage to return. The AD and coaches attended various recruiting affairs.

In an attempt to attract better athletes to the program, a letter was sent out to the head of admissions stating that athletics would no longer be advertising the fact that "anybody" could play on CHC teams. The program was looking to step up a notch and even though anyone was welcome to try out, having little or no experience was not a favorable attribute.

Eventually with the growth of the program, the first Athletic Open House (only interested student athletes invited to attend) debuted in 2004. It proved a very successful endeavor and continues today. A member of the admissions staff was named specifically to handle student/athlete admissions which helped keep perspective students interested in intercollegiate sports connected to the athletic department.

Conclusion

Chestnut Hill College has certainly seen some drastic changes in its athletic program since it first opened its doors in 1924. A majority of these changes have all come about in the last decade of CHC athletic history. A beautiful, new facility, full time athletic staff, red and white uniforms and big coach buses and overnight trips all have changed the complexion of the program. Changing conferences, joining the NCAA and sharing the gym with fellow students of the opposite sex have taken the program to higher levels even more. Who would have ever conceived that the college would emerge with such a different look over these past years?

Although the athletic program has grown and has built a more solid competitive reputation, the games themselves and the student athletes that play them are little changed. The excitement on the face of members of the 1931 winning basketball team are not much different than the faces of those who play today. The pride felt when Anne Gutekunst and her teammates came off the court after giving the best effort they could in 1949, is the same pride felt by the tennis teams today. The 1948 softball team that played on that grassy plot of land called a field, was just as determined to come off that field victorious as the 2002 champions.

The college administrators from the earliest of years through the present have always valued sports as an integral part of the educational experience. This philosophy has provided hundreds of student athletes with intercollegiate opportunities that have enhanced their undergraduate years at Chestnut Hill College. The foundation has been solidly laid down to ensure continued educational experiences through athletics and the future looks bright.