



2024-2025 DePaul Athletics

ANNUAL REPORT



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A Letter From DeWayne

Blue Demons,

As I wrap up my fifth academic year in Lincoln Park, I'm struck by the progress we've made together and how prepared we are for what's next.

College athletics is experiencing unprecedented change—new economic models, evolving competitive landscapes and accelerating expectations from student-athletes. Thanks to the groundwork we've laid over the last several years, DePaul is positioned to navigate this moment with strength and certainty. We remain committed to delivering a first-class experience for our student-athletes, coaches and staff while continuing to be an engaged and visible partner to our campus community.

This past year marked a major step forward in our pursuit of building a premier athletic department. On the field, in the classroom and throughout Chicago, our programs posted record-breaking academic success, competed in BIG EAST Championships, celebrated conference champions, cheered on Paralympians, honored All-Americans and created countless moments that define what it means to be a Blue Demon.

Our current five-year strategic plan has provided the compass for that progress. As we approach its conclusion next summer, we're already rolling up our sleeves to create a vision for the next five years. Over the coming months, we will engage coaches, staff, alumni, student-athletes, and fans to craft a forward-looking roadmap that keeps DePaul at the forefront of an evolving collegiate landscape.

The momentum is real, and we're just getting started.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for believing in our vision. Thank you for continuing to **DREAM BIG**.

Go Blue Demons!



DeWayne Peevy
Vice President and Director of Athletics



Men's Basketball



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March 8, 2025 | Head coach Chris Holtmann celebrates following an 83-77 victory over Georgetown to close the Regular Season.

Men's Basketball

One thing was clear heading into the 2024-25 season: this was going to be a different DePaul men's basketball team. Under the leadership of newly hired head coach Chris Holtmann and an experienced, talented staff – the energy surrounding the program was unmistakably renewed.

With a completely revamped roster featuring 14 new faces, the Blue Demons stormed out of the gate with seven-straight wins to open their non-conference slate, posting several eye-catching performances along the way. While BIG EAST play presented early challenges, the team notched its first road conference win in nearly three years with a victory at Georgetown.

Despite battling injuries to multiple starters, DePaul remained competitive throughout the season and closed strong. The Blue Demons earned back-to-back wins to close the regular season for the first time since 2006-07, including their first road win at Providence in seven years.

Entering the BIG EAST Tournament as the No. 10 seed, DePaul faced Georgetown for the second time in less than a week. The Blue Demons came away victorious, giving Holtmann his first BIG EAST Tournament win and marking the first time since 2000 that DePaul defeated the same opponent three times in a season.

In the quarterfinals, DePaul took second-seeded Creighton to double overtime in one of the tournament's most thrilling games. A 25-point performance by Layden Blocker helped capture the sold-out Madison Square Garden crowd in just the seventh multi-overtime game in BIG EAST Tournament history.

Though the Blue Demons fell short of advancing to the semifinals, their season wasn't over. DePaul returned to the postseason for the first time since the 2018-19 season, earning an invite to participate in Fox's inaugural College Basketball Crown.

With the graduation of Isaiah Rivera – who became just the fourth Blue Demon to earn Academic All-District honors and the first since Max Strus in 2019 – DePaul returns its three leading eligible scorers next season. The foundation has clearly been laid.

This season marked the emergence of a fast-paced, high-energy style centered on ball movement and perimeter shooting. Coupled with a strong off-court culture, the future of DePaul men's basketball is undoubtedly bright.

Women's Basketball



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Women's Basketball

On April 4, DePaul women's basketball began a new chapter with the hiring of Jill M. Pizzotti as the sixth head coach in the program's history. No stranger to the Blue Demons, Pizzotti served on staff for 14 seasons including the 2024-25 season as interim head coach. A proven winner and relentless recruiter, Pizzotti has helped the Blue Demons to six BIG EAST Regular Season Championships and five BIG EAST Tournament titles during her tenure in addition to 10 NCAA Tournament berths.

Since her hiring, Pizzotti has filled out a staff of coaching veterans alongside rising stars with numerous accolades from their playing days. The coaching staff worked to put together a roster with seven returners and seven newcomers set to help the Blue Demons return to national prominence.

In a 2024-25 season full of adversity, including the absence of longtime head coach Doug Bruno, Pizzotti and the Blue Demons remained together and surpassed preseason projections to finish 13-19 overall and 8-10 in BIG EAST action marking their best finish since the 2021-22 season. A youthful group led by sixth-year veteran Jorie Allen faced one of the toughest non-conference schedules in the country before starting BIG EAST play 3-1.

The Blue Demons saw a 28 percent uptick in overall attendance at Wintrust Arena while student attendance grew 164 percent. A program record 8,305 fans were on hand to watch DePaul's matchup against Connecticut on Jan. 29.

Allen made her mark in her final season in a Blue Demon uniform, earning a plethora of accolades for her work on and off the court. The graduate student was named the BIG EAST Scholar-Athlete of the Year for her academic and athletic prowess while also being selected All-BIG EAST First Team and the league's Most Improved Player. Allen finished all 32 games with 10 or more points and averaged 20 per game this season to rank second in the BIG EAST. She closed out her career 27th on DePaul's all-time scoring charts with 1,361 points while topping the single-season record for free throws (213) and attempts (253).

Allen and teammate Meg Newman were selected to the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District team for their athletic and academic accomplishments.



Volleyball





November 27, 2024 | The team celebrates following their 3-0 victory over St. John's in the BIG EAST Tournament.

Volleyball

In one word, the 2024 DePaul volleyball season can be described as historic.

The Blue Demons built on their success from 2023, qualifying for the BIG EAST Tournament for the third time in four years. DePaul defeated rival St. John's in convincing fashion, 3-0, marking the program's second BIG EAST Tournament win.

While at the tournament, it was announced that four Blue Demons had earned All-BIG EAST honors – Audrey Klemp, Aly Kindelberger, Jill Pressly, and Rachel Krasowski. In addition to tallying the most conference honorees in program history, Krasowski became the first Blue Demon to win the BIG EAST Libero of the Year award. Additionally, it was the first major conference award for the squad since 2001.

Krasowski put together one of the strongest seasons in DePaul volleyball history, eclipsing the DePaul career digs record with 2,524 total digs and rocketing past her own single-season digs record with 683. She led the BIG EAST in digs per set and ranked 11th nationally in total digs. Pressly and Krasowski were recognized as AVCA All-Region selections, the first time in DePaul volleyball history that two student-athletes were recognized in the same year. Krasowski was named AVCA Honorable Mention, while Pressly's selection to the first team marks DePaul's first since 2001. Pressly finished a decorated career in third on the all-time kills list with 1,842.

DePaul eclipsed 20 wins in a season for the first time since 2001, earning an impressive 21-14 record that included 10 home wins. The Blue Demons hosted the National Invitational Volleyball Championship (NIVC) inside McGrath-Phillips Arena, the second selection in two years to the NIVC, and the first time in program history hosting a postseason tournament. Playing into December for just the second time in program history, DePaul emerged victorious in two matches against Toledo and Omaha to reach the NIVC Great 8.

The team also excelled academically with Krasowski, Pressly, and junior Katelynn Oxley receiving College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District recognition for their accomplishments on the court and in the classroom.

Before embarking on her eighth season at the helm of the Blue Demons, head coach Marie Zidek will serve as the head coach of the USA Volleyball Under-23 Women's National Team at the NORCECA Pan-American Cup in Mexico this summer. Zidek was selected for the opportunity after more than a decade supporting the development of youth athletes at various USA Volleyball camps and clinics.

Track & Field / Cross Country



Track & Field

A historic leap forward. The 2024–25 DePaul track and field season was one of the most successful in program history, filled with historic firsts, championship hardware and All-American performances. From a wave of school records, to a staggering 14 BIG EAST titles, the Blue Demons delivered across every event group. Senior Darius Brown capped a decorated career by becoming the third athlete in program history to earn multiple First Team All-America honors, while a new wave of contributors made their presence felt early and often. For the first time ever, both men's and women's teams finished in the top two at the BIG EAST Outdoor Championships, a milestone moment that reflected the program's depth. DePaul broke 13 school records and sent a program-record 11 athletes to the NCAA West Preliminary Rounds, cementing this year as a landmark campaign for the Blue Demons.

The program also welcomed the addition of assistant coach David Thompson, whose presence was immediately felt throughout the roster and support staff.

Indoor Season

DePaul opened the 2024 indoor campaign with momentum across the board and closed it with one of the most well-rounded winter seasons in recent memory. Both the men's and women's teams finished among the top four at the BIG EAST Indoor Championships, collecting multiple individual titles and relay podiums while breaking a slew of program records along the way.

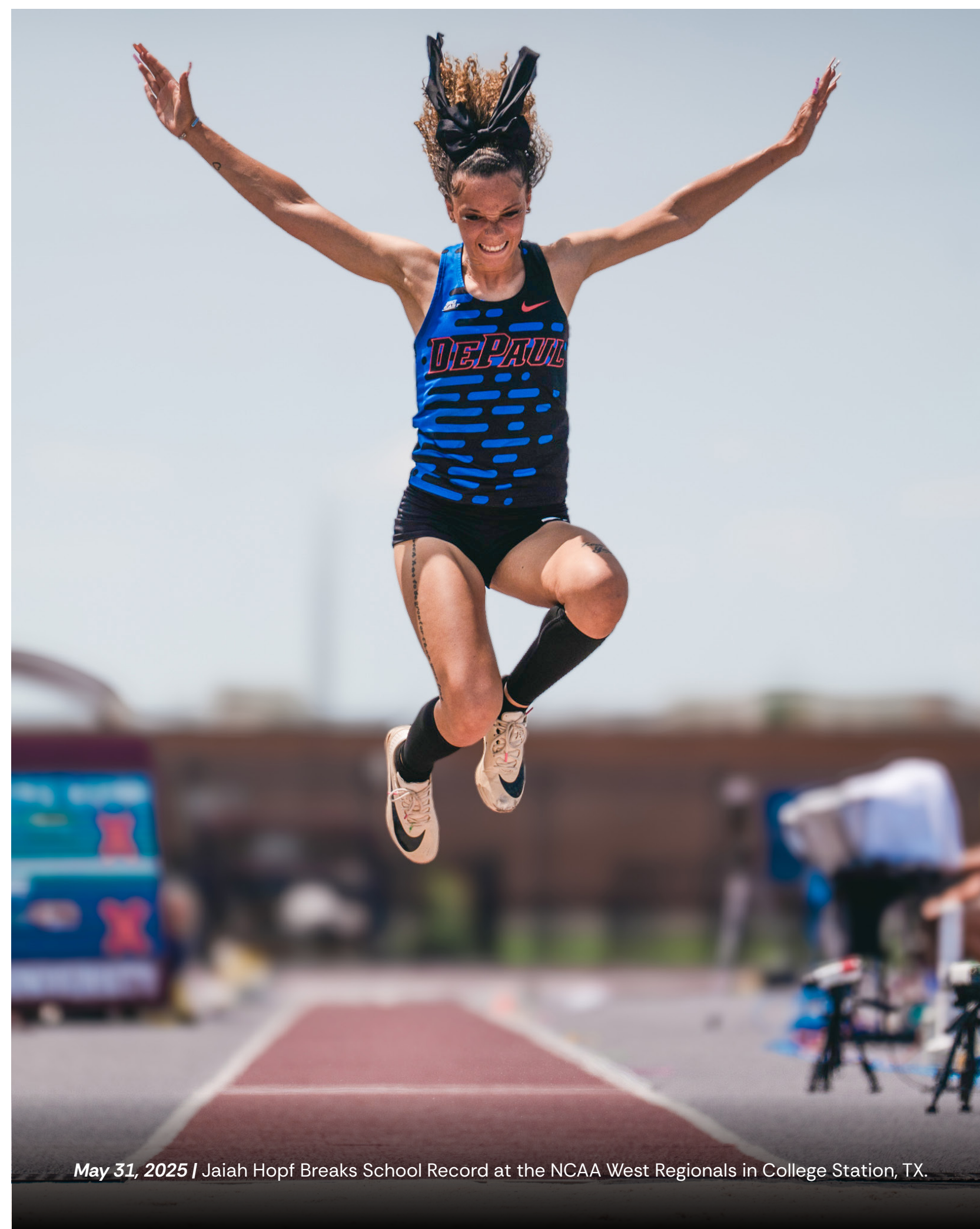
Sprint power and field dominance were on full display in conference competition. Demetrius Rolle claimed gold in the men's 60m, while Sade Miller matched that mark in the women's 60m with a school-record time of 7.46. Darius Brown defended his BIG EAST title in the 60m hurdles, clocking a DePaul and conference championship record 7.61, earning BIG EAST Men's Most Outstanding Track Performer honors. In the throws, Jaiden Gary and Alex Bernstein picked up championship wins in the shot put and weight throw, respectively, helping to anchor a strong showing in the field events.

Throughout the season, the Blue Demons shattered six indoor program records. Distance standout Dustin Hudak rewrote the DePaul record book with top marks in the 600m, 800m, and 1000m, while Damien Rodriguez etched his name atop the mile leaderboard with a 4:00.94 performance. The women's 4x400m relay squad of Claire Dunn, Nadja Moll, Kayliah Motes, and Sonja Nagle set a new school-best time of 3:42.12.

The indoor season culminated at the NCAA Championships, where Brown placed 10th in the 60m hurdles to secure Second Team All-America recognition. It was his third career All-America honor and a fitting end to a winter that showed DePaul's ability to combine national-level performances with record-breaking progression.



November 6, 2024 | Darius Brown competes at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Virginia Beach, Va.



Outdoor Season

The Blue Demons carried their indoor momentum into the spring and turned it into one of the most dominant outdoor campaigns in program history. Brown again led the charge, capturing his third consecutive BIG EAST title in the 110m hurdles with a time of 13.43. He continued his postseason run at the NCAA West Preliminary Rounds, where he reset his own school record with a 13.37 and advanced to the NCAA Championships in Eugene. Under the lights at Hayward Field, Brown delivered a time of 13.50 to finish sixth in the nation and earn his second career First Team All-America honor.

Rolle and Miller swept the 100m titles at the BIG EAST Outdoor Championships, each posting school-record times of 10.24 and 11.65, respectively. The men's and women's 4x100m relays also came away with gold medals, with the men's squad (Dominic Cole, Charles Lewis, Brown, Rolle) clocking a program-best 39.55 and the women's team (Nevaeh Lowe, Maia Mays, Jetta Mays, Miller) running 45.40 to set a new school record.

In the field events, Jaiah Hopf won the women's triple jump title with a mark of 12.56m and later extended her school record to 13.26m at the NCAA West Prelims. Jessica Beckman broke the school record in the women's shot put with a throw of 52.97m, while Kash Allen also set a new women's shot put record at 16.10m and added a BIG EAST title in the event. Gary captured his second conference crown of the year by winning the men's shot put at 18.17m. Bernstein repeated as hammer throw champion with a throw of 66.02m, earning another NCAA Preliminary berth.

Distance runners also delivered in the postseason. Isabella Orozco broke the school record in the 1500m with a time of 4:22.60, while Tessa Roe lowered the program mark in both the 3000m steeplechase (10:16.34) and 3000m flat (9:38.20). Hudak reset the school record in the outdoor 800m with a 1:48.03, and the women's 4x400m relay team (Moll, Nagle, Lauren Pacsi, Dunn) broke the school record in 3:40.87.

In total, 11 Blue Demons qualified for the NCAA West Preliminary Rounds – the most in program history. Brown and Bernstein each advanced, making DePaul one of just five BIG EAST programs to send multiple athletes to the NCAA Final Rounds, and marking the first time since 2012 that the Blue Demons achieved the feat.

School records, All-America honors and championship hardware were matched by contributions from all class years. From national qualifiers to first-time scorers, the impact of newcomers across the roster helped define a season of growth and momentum. The 2024–25 season marked a turning point, and just the beginning for a program hungry for more.

Accolades & Records

23 RECORDS 14 CHAMPIONS 2 ALL-AMERICANS

BIG EAST Champions & All-Americans

Demetrius Rolle	Indoor	60m – (6.73)
	Outdoor	100m – (10.24)
Sade Miller	Indoor	60m – (7.46)
	Outdoor	100m – (11.65)
Darius Brown	Indoor	60mH – (7.61)
		Second Team All-American (10th place at NCAA Championships)
	Outdoor	100mH – (13.43)
		First Team All-American (6th place at NCAA Championships)
Jaiah Hopf	Outdoor	Triple Jump – (12.56m)
Kash Allen	Outdoor	Shot Put – (15.90m)
Jaiden Gary	Indoor	Shot Put – (17.74m)
	Outdoor	Shot Put – (18.17m)
Alex Bernstein	Indoor	Weight Throw – (20.57m)
	Outdoor	Hammer Throw – (66.02m)
Men’s	Outdoor	4x100m – (39.55) (Cole, Lewis, Brown, Rolle)
Women’s	Outdoor	4x100m – (45.40) (Lowe, M. Mays, J. Mays, Miller)

Records

Demetrius Rolle	Indoor	60m Dash	02/28/25 – (6.70)
	Outdoor	100m	05/15/25 – (10.24)
Darius Brown	Indoor	60m Hurdles	01/25/25 – (7.61)
		300m	12/06/24 – (33.28)
	Outdoor	110m Hurdles	05/30/25 (13.37)
Dustin Hudak	Indoor	600m	01/11/25 – (1:19.18)
		800m	02/14/25 – (1:47.94)
		1000m	12/06/24 – (2:23.51)
	Outdoor	800m	04/16/25 – (1:48.03)
Damien Rodriguez	Indoor	Mile	02/14/25 – (4:00.94)
Sade Miller	Indoor	60m Dash	02/28/25 – (7.46)
Isabella Orozco	Outdoor	1500m	05/17/2025 – (4:22.60)
Jaiah Hopf	Indoor	Triple Jump	02/08/25 – (13.03m)
	Outdoor	Triple Jump	05/31/25 – (13.26m)
Sonja Nagle	Indoor	600m	12/13/2025 – (1:33.12)
Tessa Roe	Outdoor	3000m Steeple	05/02/25 – (10:16.34)
		3000m	05/05/25 – (9:38.20)
Kash Allen	Outdoor	Shot Put	05/02/25 – (16.10m)
Jessica Beckman	Outdoor	Discus	05/02/25 – (52.97m)
Women’s	Indoor	4x100m	02/28/25 – (3:42.12)
			(Dunn, Moll, Motes, Nagle)
		4x400m	03/01/25 – (3:42.12)
			(Dunn, Moll, Motes, Nagle)
Women’s	Outdoor	4x400m	05/17/2025 – (3:40.87)
			(Moll, Nagle, Pacsi, Dunn)
Women’s	Outdoor	4x100m	05/17/2025 – (45.40)
			(Lowe, M. Mays, J. Mays, Miller)
Men’s	Outdoor	4x100m	05/17/2025 – (39.55)
			(Cole, Lewis, Brown, Role)

Cross Country



November 1, 2024
Men's Cross Country huddles before competing in the BIG EAST Championships, finishing seventh.

Women's Cross Country compete in the Huskie Opener, finishing first.
September 6, 2024



DePaul Cross Country continued its upward trajectory in 2024, building on the momentum of the past few years. Veterans provided reliable leadership while several underclassmen emerged as top-five scorers, helping both squads take a step forward.

Graduate student Damian Rodriguez closed his Blue Demon career with one of the best seasons in program history, leading the men's squad in all six meets and posting a personal-best 30:37.54 in the 10K at the NCAA Midwest Regional, one of the top finishes at that distance in program history. Rodriguez also notched three top-two individual finishes, including a win at the Huskie Opener and a runner-up performance at the Sean Earl Lakefront Invite. His 49th-place regional finish capped a season that saw the DePaul men secure 21st overall in Peoria.

On the women's side, freshman Tessa Roe quickly made her mark, leading DePaul in four meets and posting a 6K personal best of 21:12.59 at the NCAA Regional. Roe paced the Blue Demons to a sixth-place finish at the BIG EAST Championships and a 20th-place team finish at the regional meet.

Graduate student Meghan Dieball was a consistent front-runner, finishing in the top two for DePaul in every race and recording personal bests in both the 5K and 6K. Senior Madison Volz delivered the best race of her collegiate career at the Midwest Regional, while freshman Vivian Wyller and sophomore Isabella Orozco rounded out the scoring five.

The DePaul men turned in their best race of the year at the Bradley Pink Classic, where all five scorers posted 8K personal records to finish 11th in a nationally ranked field. Sophomore Mason Krieg, senior Griffin Lehnhardt, and graduate student Joe Knanishu provided consistent scoring depth throughout the season, helping DePaul secure top-five team finishes at the National Catholic Invitational and Sean Earl Lakefront Invite.

The women's squad opened the season with a team victory at the Huskie Invite and went on to place fourth at Notre Dame and sixth at both the BIG EAST and NCAA Regional Championships. First-year runners Roe, Wyller, and Amelia Montgomery each posted personal records in their debut seasons, contributing to one of the most balanced and competitive women's teams in recent memory.

Women's Soccer

A BIG EAST semifinal team. Talk about resilient.

DePaul women's soccer proved exactly what belief, cohesion, and persistence can produce in a season full of challenges. Written off in the preseason and picked dead last in the preseason poll, the Blue Demons embraced the doubts and turned them into fuel. Battling through an 0-4-1 start, the team followed with a 4-1-4 stretch. In the historic stretch, the Blue Demons fell just once in a span of nine matches, knocked off a nationally ranked opponent and made a run to the BIG EAST Championship semifinals.

It wasn't flashy; it was gritty. The breakthrough came on Oct. 13 when DePaul stunned the eventual BIG EAST Champions, No. 18 Georgetown at Wish Field while handing the Hoyas their only BIG EAST loss of the season. The win was bolstered behind a 57th-minute finish from graduate captain Beth Smyth and a lights-out performance from goalkeeper Elena Milam, who made seven saves in the 1-0 win. The victory marked DePaul's first over a ranked opponent since 2019 and the first such win under the tutelage of head coach Michele O'Brien.

The run continued into the postseason as No. 6 DePaul jumped out to a 2-0 lead against No. 3 Butler in the BIG EAST Quarterfinals. The Bulldogs forced a double overtime that turned into one of the most thrilling finishes in recent memory. In a nervy shootout, the Blue Demons delivered eight consecutive conversions and advanced on penalty kicks for the first time in program history, edging Butler, 8-7, in a marathon battle. Milam made four overtime saves and seven overall, and goals from Beth Smyth, Freya Jupp, and Tessa Fagerson kept DePaul surging.

Jupp led the way with six goals, ranking seventh in the BIG EAST while topping DePaul in points, assists, and shots on goal. Lea Eisenring added three goals and three assists. Smyth delivered three goals, including winners against Georgetown and St. John's, and Briley Hill chipped in two goals, two assists, and relentless energy. In goal, Milam started all 20 matches, ranking second in the BIG EAST with 82 saves and tying for third with six shutouts. She earned a league-high seven weekly honors and finished her career sixth in program history with 193 saves. Milam and Briley Hill were both named to the BIG EAST All-Tournament Team.

The season also marked the addition of Brendan Roth to the coaching staff, bringing fresh perspective and tactical insight that helped guide DePaul's resurgence. In January, O'Brien signed a multi-year contract extension through 2028, and a month later, she was inducted into the Long Island Soccer Player Hall of Fame, pointing to her legacy as both a player and leader in the sport.



November 3, 2024 / The team celebrates following their victory over Butler in the BIG EAST Tournament.



September 28, 2024 | Keagan Pace dribbles past a Xavier defender.

Men's Soccer

The Blue Demons defied all expectations of the preseason prognosticators and made a historic run to the postseason in 2024 behind a mix of youthful talent and veteran experience. Head coach Mark Plotkin and his squad broke through to the postseason for the first time since 2016 and did so while picking up some signature victories along the way.

DePaul started the campaign with a resounding 4-3 win over crosstown foe UIC in which four different Blue Demons found the back of the net. Sophomore forward Keagan Pace had a career night at Flames Field with a goal and a pair of assists for four points. Later in non-conference action, the scarlet and blue earned their first win over Loyola Chicago since 2013 with a 3-1 defeat of the Ramblers in Rogers Park.

In BIG EAST play, the Blue Demons put together a 2-4-2 record to finish third in the league's Midwest Division, their highest conference finish in the divisional format. DePaul earned a 2-0 victory over Creighton on the road for its first win over the Bluejays since 2021, while also picking up draws against Marquette and Xavier. Vying for a postseason bid, the Blue Demons entered the final day of the regular season in need of a victory paired with some help around the league. DePaul answered the call in a big way, scoring its most goals in a match since the 2009 season to take down Butler in a 5-3 triumph, punching the programs' ticket to the 2024 BIG EAST Tournament.

Despite Logan Finnegan's seventh goal of the season, the Blue Demons season concluded in the first round of the conference tournament at the hands of a 3-1 decision to 13th-ranked Akron.

After leading the team in goals, assists, points and shots, Noeh Hernandez was named BIG EAST Midfielder of the Year after a vote by the league's head coaches. The sophomore was also selected to the league's First Team. Hernandez became DePaul's first major award winner since Brian Visser was named BIG EAST Goalkeeper of the Year in 2007.

As a team, the Blue Demons scored 32 goals in 2024, the most by any DePaul team in 30 years while boasting 13 unique goal scorers which was the most since at least 2002.

In the classroom, three Blue Demons were named to the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District team including Christian Baumgartner, Liam Mullins and Ryan Thomas. The trio each own a 3.50 grade-point average while playing a vital role on the pitch.

After his seventh season leading his alma mater, Plotkin signed a contract extension that will keep him in Lincoln Park through January of 2028.

Golf

An experienced squad of returners and talented group of newcomers set a strong foundation heading into head coach Marty Schiene's final season at the helm of the program.

A pair of freshmen – Dominic Lucchesi and Rohan Gopaldas – made themselves a force to be reckoned with early in the fall. In just his second collegiate performance, Lucchesi earned BIG EAST Golfer of the Week honors following a program-record score of 54 and third place individual finish.

The team closed out the fall season with Blue Demons' first team tournament title since 2021 at the HCU Husky Intercollegiate. DePaul led the entirety of the event, winning by an eventual seven strokes over the host, Houston Christian. Gopaldas and Chicago State transfer, Pablo Riveiro, tied for second individually behind big third rounds.

After a tough start to the spring slate, the Blue Demons began clicking as they closed out March with another second-place team finish. DePaul took second at the Don Benbow Invitational, behind another record-breaking performance by Lucchesi where he once again set a program best score for an individual in a round of 54 and finished second individually. The teams' overall score of 840 is the best in program history, dating back to records beginning with the 1999-2000 season.

With momentum like that, the Blue Demons were poised for a big performance at the BIG EAST Championships. After sitting in ninth through two rounds of competition, it was a massive performance for DePaul in the third and final round to jump the team's finish up to sixth. DePaul's third-round team score of 286 was the second-best of the day and gave the Blue Demons their best placement at the event since the 2021 Championship. The team finished 11-over par, marking the best score at a conference tournament in program history.

Freshman Dominic Lucchesi put the bow on a spectacular freshman season with a 12th-place finish, the third-highest of any freshman in the field. His 216 score is tied for the third-best individual round of 54 by a DePaul golfer in the BIG EAST Tournament while Riveiro, Gopaldas and Henares all finished inside the top 30 individually. Lucchesi ended his season with a program-record 73.00 stroke average, the best by an individual Blue Demon golfer in records dating back to the 1999-00 season.

Head coach Marty Schiene concluded his career as the Blue Demons' head coach where his impact will long be remembered. In his nine years with the program, Schiene helped DePaul post a pair of top-three finishes at the BIG EAST Championship and the development of numerous golfers.



October 7, 2024
Coach Marty Schiene and Dominic Lucchesi at the Dunes Club
Invitational in New Buffalo, Mich.



Women's Tennis

Women's tennis began its sixth season with head coach Marisa Arce in the fall of 2024, welcoming in four newcomers. Under Arce's leadership, veterans junior Hannah Smith and senior Eleanor Nobbs qualified for the ITA Midwest Regionals in October.

The Blue Demons finished with a 10-11 record during the 2025 dual season, earning the No.5 seed in the BIG EAST Championships and reaching the quarterfinal round against Villanova.

DePaul earned its first victory of the season on Jan. 25, defeating UIC 4-1 and setting the way for a 5-2 record at XS Tennis Village.

The No. 1 doubles team, Smith and Eva Goncharov, put together a historic season. The pair tallied a 16-3 record overall, including a 13-3 mark in dual play. Appearing in the ITA national doubles rankings poll in six of the eight weeks during the dual season, the tandem peaked at No. 49 on Feb. 20. Smith and Goncharov were selected as the BIG EAST Doubles Team of the Week four times, topping the conference.

Their performances in doubles competition translated to singles success. Starting all 21 matches on court one during the dual campaign, Smith earned All-BIG EAST First Team honors for the second consecutive season. Goncharov split time between slots two through four, amassing a 13-4 record in the spring and a 7-1 mark in conference to lead the team.

Sophomore Sasha Stula turned in stellar performances across the board during the 2024-25 season, earning an All-BIG EAST Second Team selection. Stula began dual action on singles court three, moving to the second slot midway through the season, and posted an 8-4 record. The second-year Blue Demon finished 19-9 overall and an 11-win increase from a season ago. Stula and freshman Eleanor Cochran totaled a 15-7 clip on the doubles court three this year.

DePaul continued its domination against conference foes against Butler, Creighton, Georgetown and Marquette. The Blue Demons defeated the Bulldogs 7-0 on March 8 for their ninth-straight win versus Butler. The Scarlet and Blue have won 9 of 10 matchups against the Bluejays all-time after a victory on the road in late February. DePaul downed Georgetown 4-3 for its first BIG EAST conference win of the season on Jan. 31 in Washington D.C, moving to 11-1 all-time against the Hoyas. In a one-sided rivalry, the Blue Demons holds a 22-4 series advantage against the Golden Eagles, including a 7-0 triumph this season on March 7 at XS Tennis Village.

Men's Tennis

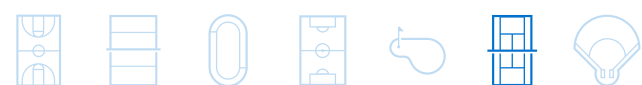
A continuation of the DePaul men's tennis dynasty, the Blue Demons picked up where they left off – one season removed from earning their third BIG EAST Conference title in four years. DePaul earned its first ITA national ranking since 2015, rising as high as No. 61 in the polls and reaching its highest standing since 2011, when the program climbed to a best-ever No. 47. The 2024–25 campaign featured rising stars, a historic class of seniors and the emergence of a new core that carried on the winning standard.

The season saw DePaul finish 13–11 overall and 4–2 in BIG EAST play, while going 5–2 at home, including three sweeps at XS Tennis Village, the program's most in a single season since 2017. That home dominance extended a run of 19 wins in the program's last 22 home matches over the past three seasons. DePaul opened league action with a 5–2 win at Marquette and went on to secure a top-four seed at the BIG EAST Championships for the 12th straight year with additional victories over Georgetown and Villanova.

The Blue Demons found rhythm in the spring, recording three separate three-match win streaks highlighted by key wins in and out of conference. February brought a 4–1 victory over Northern Arizona and a 4–3 win at Grand Canyon. Later that month, DePaul dominated the George Lott Classic at XS Tennis Village with sweeps of Northern Illinois (5–2), Belmont (7–0), and Eastern Kentucky (4–0). A 6–1 win at Davidson and back-to-back victories over Georgetown and Villanova capped the surge. Depth across the lineup fueled the team's success. Freshman Andy Hadziabdic led with 21 singles wins, including a 5–1 BIG EAST mark, and earned BIG EAST Singles Player of the Week on February 24. Senior Matteo Iaquinto anchored the top spot and collected his second career weekly singles honor on March 3. He also paired with freshman Tobias Leitner at the ITA Conference Masters. Leitner added 16 singles wins and earned BIG EAST Doubles Team of the Week honors with Jona Gitschel after a strong showing against Marquette.

The postseason brought more recognition as Hadziabdic became the fifth player in program history to earn BIG EAST Freshman of the Year. DePaul's five honorees for freshman of the year are more than any other school in the league since the award's inception in 2009. Both Hadziabdic and Iaquinto were named to the All-BIG EAST Team, marking the 16th time in the past 17 seasons DePaul has had multiple all-conference selections.

Under 18th-year head coach Matt Brothers, the Blue Demons leaned on the leadership of seniors Matteo Iaquinto, Jona Gitschel, and Sven Moser, veterans who helped power two BIG EAST titles and set the standard for a new wave of talent to follow.





June 17, 2024 / Newly appointed head coach Liz Bouck-Jagielski poses for a photo.

Softball

Softball welcomed Liz Bouck-Jagielski as their new head coach on June 11, 2024, a Blue Demon alumna whose name is littered across the DePaul record book. Bouck-Jagielski remains in the top five in a multitude of categories, including hits, runs scored, stolen bases, and double plays turned. A 2002 second team NFCA All-American and member of the DePaul coaching staff during their run to the 2005 Women's College World Series, she understands what it takes to succeed at the highest level.

Christina Sutcliffe was tabbed as associate head coach on August 6, 2024, bringing with her 15 years of head coaching experience from her time at Rhode Island and Northern Illinois. Sutcliffe was instrumental in guiding the DePaul pitching staff, including junior Bella Nigey, who posted a 3.32 ERA for the season, the lowest of her career. Overall DePaul's pitching staff improved its ERA by over a point.

On offense, Baylee Cosgrove excelled in the leadoff spot for DePaul, batting .320 at the plate and earning All-BIG EAST second team honors, the first regular-season recognition of her career. The Loda, Illinois native displayed her toughness all year, being hit by 12 pitches, the most in the conference.

Besides Cosgrove, true freshman Zoe Levine was the only other Blue Demon to start all 48 games for the Blue Demons, serving as batterymate for all six DePaul pitchers. Levine's awareness at the plate caught nine batters stealing, good for second in the league.

best of



2024 was full of victories for DePaul Track and Field alum Noelle Malkamaki. After breaking the Women's F46 Shot Put world record at the 2024 U.S. Paralympic Trials in July with a distance of 13.60 meters, Malkamaki was selected to compete for Team USA on the world's biggest stage, the 2024 Paralympics.

The Decatur, Ill. native landed a spot in the Women's Shot Put F46 Finals, with an opportunity to win Paralympic gold for the first time in her career. On her second throw, Malkamaki broke her previously set world record of 13.60 meters with a new distance of 13.95 meters. However, on her fourth throw, Malkamaki solidified herself as a gold medalist. With a distance of 14.06 meters, she not only set the world record for the second time that day, but also became the first woman in her shot put category to throw beyond 14 meters in competition.

As if Malkamaki hadn't accomplished enough, she became a world record holder, the 2024 BIG EAST Woman of the Year Honoree, a two-time World Champion, the first Paralympian from DePaul University and a Team USA gold medalist.

the best

A lasting legacy.

After 39 seasons as the architect of the DePaul women's basketball program, Hall of Fame Coach Doug Bruno stepped down earlier this spring. Bruno transitioned into a new role in his lifetime of service to the University as Special Assistant to the Vice President/Director of Athletics.

First hired in 1977 as the program's second head coach, Bruno went on to spend nearly four decades leading his alma mater, amassing a record of 786-405 (.660) while earning 25 NCAA Tournament berths and collecting 19 conference titles. His win total ranks 18th all-time in Division I women's basketball history. He is a five-time conference Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2022.

"I owe my professional athletic life to DePaul University, starting with Coach Ray Meyer offering me a basketball scholarship in 1968 and continuing through my Athletic Department roles as Ticket Manager, Facilities Director, Academic Advisor, Athletic Administrator and Head Women's Basketball Coach. DePaul University has been my home for 44 years. Athletic success is the result of three forces coming together and working together: a talented, hardworking and supportive administration, coaching staff, and most importantly, players, and I've been fortunate to experience all three at DePaul. I am grateful to DePaul's leadership, including President Rob Manuel, Vice President and Director of Athletics DeWayne Peevy, and Executive Associate Athletic Director Jill Hollembeak, for their unrelenting support of DePaul Women's Basketball, as well as all past Presidents and Athletic Directors including Gene Sullivan and Jeanne Lenti-Ponsetto who played vital roles in establishing Women's Athletics at DePaul. I would also like to personally thank Jill Pizzotti for being such a supportive assistant coach and stepping up fearlessly in my medical leave of absence. Jill Pizzotti's leadership of our program has been exemplary as has been the extra effort and teamwork of our entire staff. Finally, I would like to offer my deepest personal appreciation to all of those who helped grow our DePaul Women's Basketball program." - Doug Bruno

Synonymous with DePaul and women's basketball, Bruno is one of the most notable figures in the game. His legacy reaches every corner of the game as a lifelong educator and staunch advocate for the growth of women's basketball. With over 50 years of coaching experience, Bruno's contributions to the game are countless as he dedicated his life to the development of athletes from levels all the way from youth camps to the world stage with USA Basketball.





A lasting legacy.

Under Bruno's leadership, the Blue Demons reached new heights including four Sweet Sixteen appearances while spending 221 weeks ranked in the Associated Press Top 25. In 2020, he became the all-time winningest coach in DePaul basketball history with 725 victories to surpass the legendary Coach Ray Meyer.

He was a three-time WBCA National Coach the Year finalist and was Conference USA's Coach of the Decade in 2005. Additionally, he was a three-time BIG EAST Coach of the Year and three-time WBCA Regional Coach of the Year. The Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) has named him Coach of the Year on 23 occasions and on May 5, 2018 he became the first recipient of the Rich and Ron Herrin Award for lifetime contributions to the sport.

Along with his induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Bruno has been enshrined into the DePaul Athletics Hall of Fame, the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame and the IBCA Hall of Fame. He was ushered into the National Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame on Nov. 18, 2017. Bruno has also been awarded the Leonardo Da Vinci Outstanding Achievement in Education Award by the Sons of Italy. He received the Carol Eckman Award in 2008, presented annually to an active WBCA coach who exemplifies Eckman's spirit, integrity and character through sportsmanship, commitment to the student-athlete, honesty, ethical behavior, courage and dedication to purpose. In the professional landscape, Bruno was named the head coach of the Chicago Hustle in 1978, where he coached in the inaugural game of the Women's Basketball League (WBL) on Dec. 9, 1978. The WBL served as the precursor for the WNBA and was the first professional women's basketball league in the United States. Following two seasons at the helm of the Hustle, Bruno served as the associate men's head coach at Loyola-Chicago for eight years under Gene Sullivan, helping the Ramblers reach the 1985 Sweet Sixteen.

Ahead of the 1988-89 season, Bruno returned home to the Blue Demons as the women's basketball program's head coach. In his first season, the team achieved a 23-10 record, sharing a North Star Conference regular season title.

Bruno oversaw DePaul's transition into Conference USA ahead of the 1995-96 campaign and went on to win the regular season crown in the first season with a record of 13-1. He later helped lead the Blue Demons into the BIG EAST in 2005-06, achieving a 23-7 record and qualifying for the Sweet Sixteen in the first year as a conference member.

A lasting legacy.

Throughout his career, a total of 15 DePaul players were drafted by the WNBA, including WNBA All-Star and two-time Sixth Player of the Year, Allie Quigley. His academic standards for his program were no different than the highly competitive standards on the basketball court. Under Bruno's guidance, DePaul was ranked in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Academic Top-25 on 13 occasions since its inception in 1998 and finished in the top-eight in six of the last 10 seasons. The program also earned the BIG EAST Team Academic Award in 10 of the last 12 seasons, for having the top team grade point average in the conference.

A true leader among his peers, Bruno completed a two-year term as president of the WBCA beginning in the summer of 2007. He also served as the chairman of the WBCA/State Farm All-American Committee and was the East Regional representative for the NCAA Division I Tournament selection. He also served on the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame committee, the Wade Trophy committee and represented District I on the WBCA Ethics Committee.

Bruno also worked with athletes at the highest level through his involvement with USA Basketball as an assistant coach for the Women's Senior National team from 2009-16. He helped lead the USA to the 2010 and 2014 FIBA World Championships and its fifth and sixth straight Olympic gold in 2012 and 2016. He is the only coach in history to be recognized twice as USA Basketball's Developmental Coach of the Year after leading the U18 team in 2006 and the U19 team in 2007 to gold medals at the FIBA Americas and World Championships.

His influence, dedication and contributions to the sport will undoubtedly be remembered for many years to come. The playing surface at McGrath-Phillips Arena was dedicated in Bruno's honor on November 6, 2010 before the program announced that all women's basketball games at Wintrust Arena would be played on Doug Bruno Court ahead of the 2022-23 season. At the time of the original dedication in Lincoln Park 15 years ago, Bruno was one of just three Division I women's basketball coaches with courts named in their honor joining North Carolina State's Kay Yow and Tennessee's Pat Summitt.

A steward of growth in the women's game for more than 40 years, Bruno mentored over 80,000 young athletes from the Chicagoland Area at his Doug Bruno Girls Basketball Camp. Additionally, he tirelessly championed for greater media coverage and exposure for the women's game, understanding that increased limelight can help elevate the sport and provide female athletes with the platform they've earned. His continued advocacy has helped pave the way for the future of the game, ensuring the next generation of players and coaches have the access, support and opportunities needed for sustained excellence in the sport for many years to come.

A Chicago native, Bruno first arrived on DePaul's campus in 1969 to play for Hall of Fame coach, Ray Meyer. As a player under Coach Ray, Bruno earned three varsity letters and was a two-year starter for the Blue Demons. His coaching career began at the high school level in 1973-74 where he was an assistant at Francis Parker High School before serving as a head coach in 1974-75 for the boys' team at St. Vincent DePaul High School. Bruno then returned to his alma mater in 1976 after being named the head coach of the DePaul Blue Demons women's basketball program. In just his second season, the team achieved a 16-6 record, the most wins in the program's history at the time. Bruno received his B.A. in English in 1973 and his M.A. in English in 1988 from DePaul University. He and his wife Patty have six sons and 12 grandchildren.



the Strategic Plan

The five guiding principles of DePaul Athletics

- ★ **Academic Excellence**
- ★ **Building the DePaul Brand**
- ★ **Championship Experience**
- ★ **Developing & Equipping Future Leaders**
- ★ **External Outreach**



5 Guiding Principles

Academic Excellence

- Set a department academic year record with a 3.607 GPA for the 2024–25 school year. All 15 of DePaul's programs were above a 3.0 with 11 over a 3.50. A total of 89 percent of DePaul's student-athletes earned over a 3.0 followed by an outstanding 73 percent with a 3.5 or higher. A total of 29 student-athletes recorded a perfect 4.0 across the year.
- Launched a comprehensive entrepreneurship and brand development program in collaboration with the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center, Driehaus College of Business and College of Communication – providing interdisciplinary learning opportunities at the intersection of athletics and business.
- Established a new NIL legal clinic in partnership with the College of Law, offering student-athletes free contract review services to support informed decision-making in the evolving NIL landscape.

Building the DePaul Brand

- Completed a comprehensive brand audit, redefining visual consistency across all platforms. New brand guidelines, standards and digital assets were launched to the public via DePaulBlueDemons.com/Brand.
- Expanded the Billy Blue Demon "Vault Collection", featuring throwback gear and Allie Quigley replica jerseys.
- Achieved a school-record in merchandise and licensing revenue, totalling \$162K in FY25 – a nearly 80 percent increase since 2021.
- Introduced The Blue Demon Room, the department's first-ever podcast, offering behind-the-scenes storytelling and insights from student-athletes, coaches and supporters.
- Renewed a broadcast partnership with Marquee Sports Network, expanding Olympic sport coverage across the Midwest. Additionally, the department created a new Assistant AD for Broadcast Operations & Live Events role and enhanced its production technology capabilities to benefit the entire university.





Championship Experience

- Completed a nine-month renovation of the Sullivan Athletic Center and McGrath-Phillips Arena, delivering dedicated locker rooms for all 15 varsity teams for the first time in school history. Enhancements include a modernized weight room, advanced sports medicine and recovery areas, resurfaced competition court, LED lighting and a 29-foot LED videoboard – reinforcing DePaul's elevated athletic profile within the BIG EAST and beyond.
- Installed a camera-based video analytics system at Wish Field, Cacciatore Stadium and McGrath-Phillips Arena to support performance tracking and coaching development.
- All head coaches finalized sport-specific strategic plans to align recruiting, training and competitive benchmarks across each of the Blue Demons programs.
- Selected to host the 2025 ITA Men's Tennis Regional Championship, reaffirming DePaul's leadership in bringing high-level collegiate competition to Chicagoland.
- Opted into the federal NIL settlement and introduced a forward-thinking revenue-sharing model, underscoring the department's commitment to student-athlete empowerment and sustained national competitiveness in recruitment.

Developing & Equipping Future Leaders

- All athletic venues earned sensory-inclusive certification through KultureCity, improving accessibility and fan experience.
- DePaul's celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day included expanded storytelling and visibility campaigns to elevate underrepresented voices.
- In February 2025, departmental policies and procedures were comprehensively reviewed and updated for enhanced clarity and service.
- Launched a CARE Team to focus on employee well-being, morale and professional development.
- Executive Associate AD Taylor Stapleton was appointed to the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee and then later named the national chair of the committee, expanding DePaul's leadership influence at the national level.

External Outreach

- FY25 fundraising reached \$8.8m from 2,524 donors.
 - The DePaul Athletics Fund (DAF) launched in July 2024, introducing revamped donor benefits and a new priority points system to elevate the giving experience.
- Achieved all-time ticket revenue highs across multiple sports, including men's and women's soccer, volleyball and women's basketball.
- Expanded the Coaches Caravan to three new locations across Chicagoland, driving fan enthusiasm and broadening community connection.

In Memoriam

Forever a Blue Demon. This year we lost several dear members of our DePaul family. Though no longer with us, we will cherish our memories of each forever and they will always be a part of our family.

Sevira Brown (Men's Basketball), Greg Bush (Men's Basketball), Jerry Girsch (Former Trustee), Phil Gutsell (Manager), Marc Jacobson (Mascot), Mabel Landry (Track & Field), Natalie Pearson White (Track & Field), Joe Tulley (Men's Basketball)



"My journey as a student-athlete at DePaul has been filled with ups and downs, but through it all, I've found a supportive community that cares about me. From waking up in the hospital with my coach by my side to scoring my first college goal, I've experienced the highs and lows of playing this sport. It's helped me learn the value of resilience, dedication, and representation. The DePaul community has meant everything to me, and reminded me every day that I'm living my dream." – Chase Stegall via written story February 2025

Chase Stegall 2004-2025

A beloved member of the DePaul men's soccer program, sophomore Chase Stegall passed away June 2, 2025.

Chase was a cherished member of the DePaul Athletics community, a dedicated teammate and a kind-hearted friend. Known for his warmth, strength of character and vibrant presence.

Arriving at DePaul in 2023, Chase made an immediate impact in the DePaul family, touching student-athletes and staff from every program. He made an impact for the Blue Demons in his sophomore season, playing in 16 of DePaul's 17 games.

In memoriam to Chase's legacy, DePaul and the Stegall family created the Chase Stegall Memorial Fund, to help support DePaul Men's Soccer and future student-athletes.



"[Malik] was the very embodiment of what it means to be an alumnus—loyal, generous, and deeply committed. Always just a phone call away, he never hesitated to lend his time, insight, or resources to uplift DePaul and our student-athletes. His presence was constant, his support unwavering, and his impact immeasurable. Malik's legacy will live on through the lives he touched and the many ways he helped shape our community" – DeWayne Peevy

Malik Murray 1974-2025

A friend, father, husband, teammate, dedicated supporter and so much more. DePaul University and DePaul Athletics lost a one-of-a-kind soul April 20, 2025 with the passing of Board of Trustee member, Malik Murray.

Malik was a four-year letterwinner on the Blue Demons basketball team where he played under head coach Joey Meyer from 1992–96.

Following his time at DePaul, Malik launched a successful business career where he was a senior executive at Ariel Investments before his passing. Named to the DePaul Board of Trustees in 2023, Malik served as the co-vice chair of the Athletics Committee, consistently giving back and supporting the Blue Demons in every way possible. He established the Malik T. Murray Endowed Scholarship for Excellence in Basketball and was a consistent presence around the program.

