

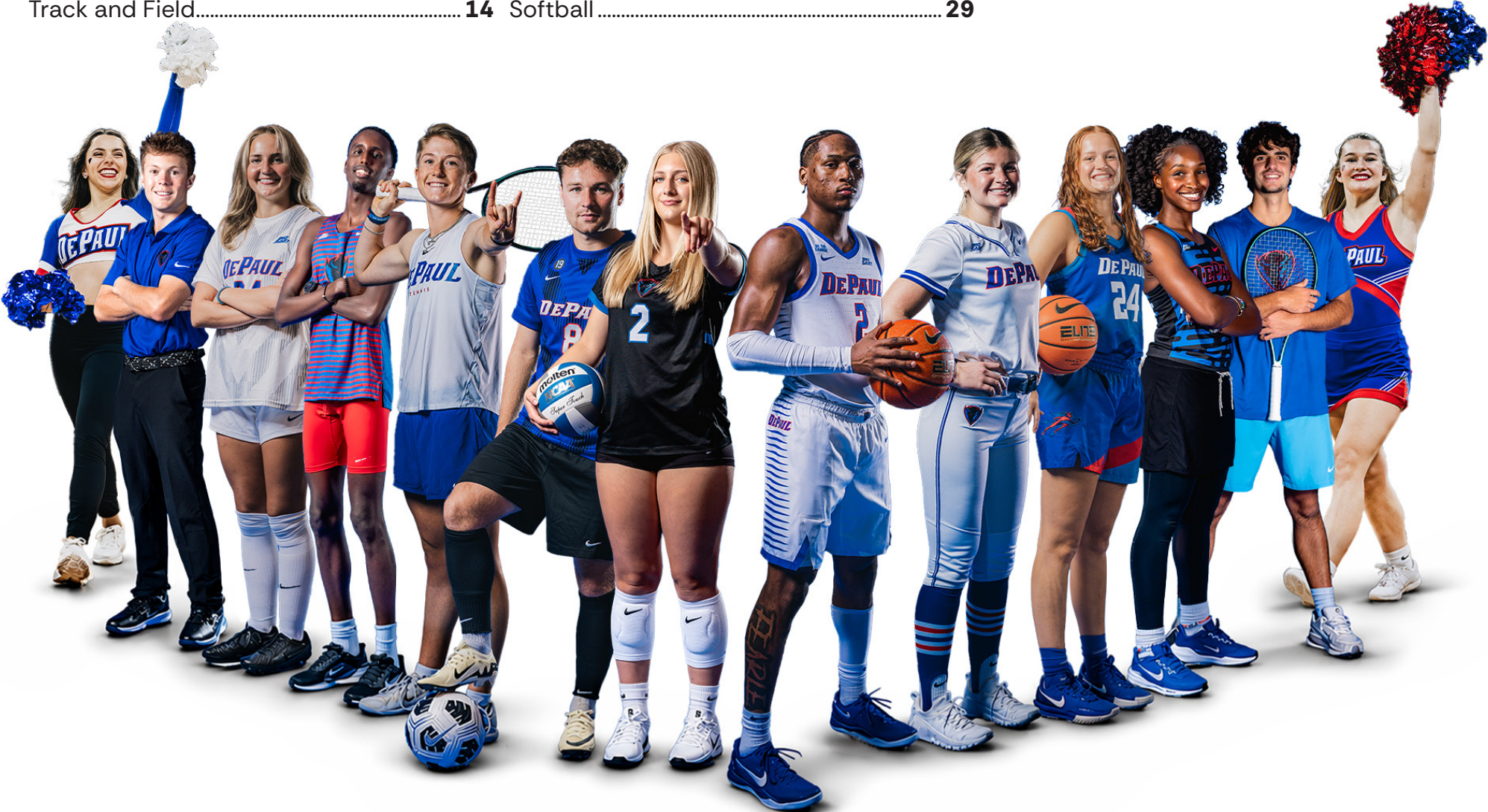
2025-26

ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From DeWayne Peevy	3	Men's Soccer.....	19	The 5 Guiding Principles.....	31
Men's Basketball	4	Women's Soccer.....	21	Feature: Practice Facility	37
Women's Basketball	7	Golf.....	23	Feature: Academics.....	40
Volleyball	10	Men's Tennis.....	25		
Cross Country	12	Women's Tennis.....	27		
Track and Field.....	14	Softball	29		



Blue Demons,

This past year, I signed a contract extension to continue leading DePaul Athletics, and the decision was easy. I believe in this program. I believe in this University. I believe in this city. Most of all, I believe in the people who are building what comes next for DePaul Athletics.

I am all in on DePaul.

The 2025–26 academic year was one of real, measurable progress. Under the leadership of head coach Chris Holtmann, our men's basketball program earned its highest BIG EAST finish in program history. We also saw record revenue growth and set several attendance records, clear signs that belief in the Blue Demons is growing. Across every sport, our student-athletes competed with pride, represented DePaul the right way, and helped build an energy that continues to grow.

That same commitment showed up in the classroom. DePaul student-athletes recorded a 3.579 grade-point average, marking the third-straight year our department has earned a GPA above 3.5. We also launched ELEVATE, a new student-athlete development program designed to give every Blue Demon a personalized path to grow academically, professionally and personally.

This year also brought one of the most significant milestones in recent department history. Together, we achieved our initial fundraising goal and formally advanced plans for our new training facility. This project is far more than a building. It is an investment in our student-athletes, a commitment to competing and recruiting at the highest level and a powerful statement about what we believe DePaul Athletics can become.

As we close this chapter of our strategic plan, we are not slowing down. Over the last several months, we have listened to and learned from our coaches, staff, student-athletes, alumni, donors and fans as we shape the next era of DePaul Athletics.

That work has led us to our next strategic plan, ***Beyond the Dream: Building the Future of DePaul Athletics***. It is an ambitious roadmap designed to build on the momentum we have created and position DePaul Athletics for long-term success in a rapidly evolving collegiate athletics landscape.

The opportunities ahead are significant, and we are prepared to meet them with ambition, innovation and a relentless commitment to our student-athletes and university mission.

The foundation is strong. The momentum is real. And the best is still ahead.

Go Blue Demons!

DeWayne Peevy | Senior Vice President and Director of Athletics





MEN'S BASKETBALL



The 2025–26 season wasn't just a step forward for DePaul men's basketball – it was a look into what was possible.



Under the continued leadership of head coach Chris Holtmann, the Blue Demons delivered the program's most successful BIG EAST regular season in over two decades. With an experienced roster and a coaching staff built for this moment, DePaul matched the intensity of the BIG EAST's best.



The milestones came in bunches. DePaul defeated Marquette twice in the same season for the first time since 1991. The Blue Demons won three straight BIG EAST road games for the first time in program history and swept Creighton as conference opponents for the very first time. Each accomplishment carried weight on its own. Together, they signaled something larger.



DePaul entered the BIG EAST Tournament having earned the program's highest conference tournament seed in history. The Blue Demons' performance throughout the season reflected not just talent, but the sustained culture Holtmann and his staff have built since arriving in Lincoln Park.



Perhaps equally remarkable was what unfolded off the court. DePaul led the entire BIG EAST in attendance increase for conference games and set a program record for student attendance at Wintrust Arena. When Marquette visited, student tickets reached a record number. The energy inside the arena — loud, young, and genuinely invested — was unlike anything the program had seen in years.

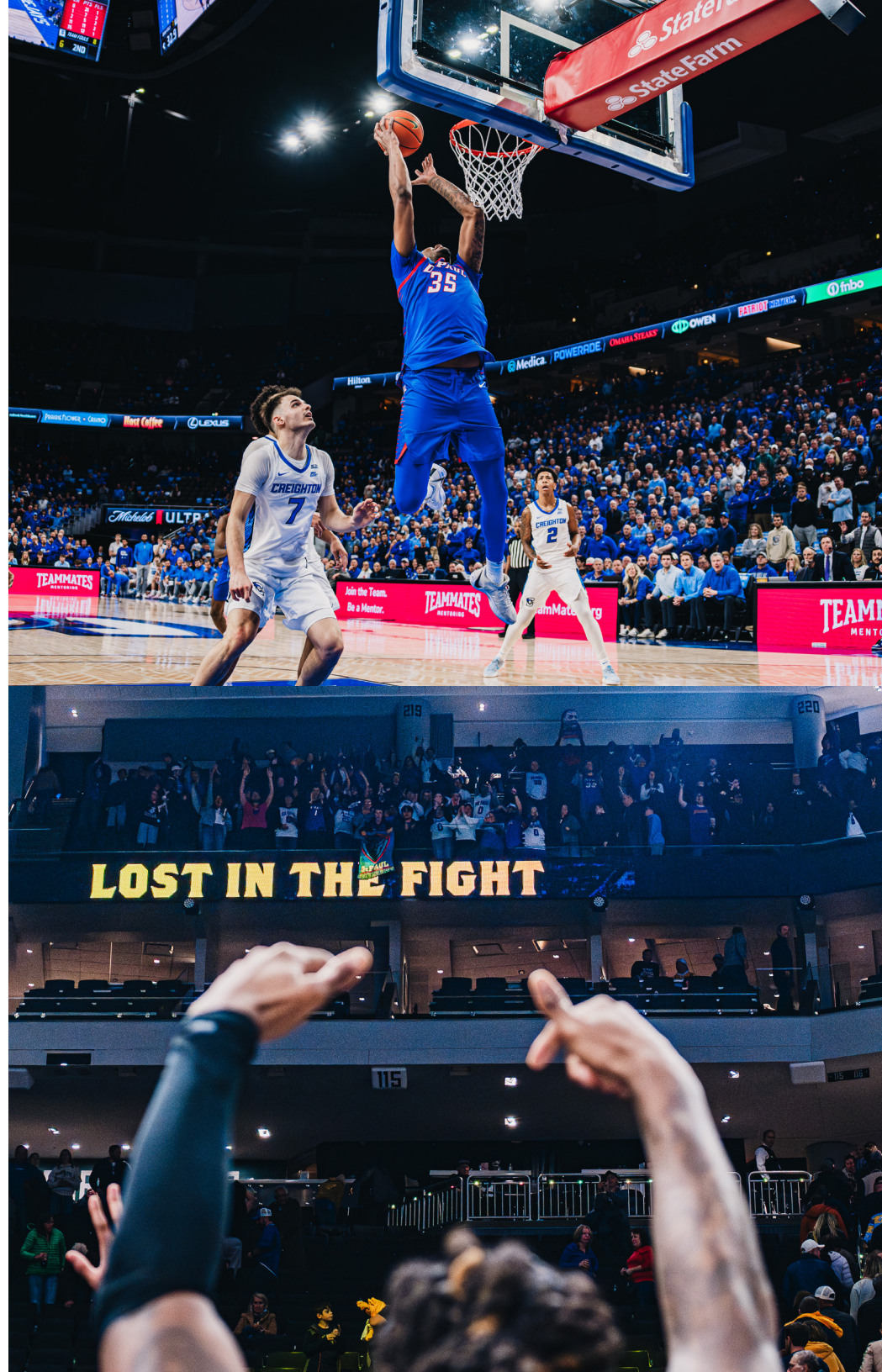
That connection between the team and its community has been central to Holtmann's vision from the start. It shows in the details: coaches on the road with student buses, impromptu celebrations in Lincoln Park after big wins, a program that treats its fans as part of the team. The results have followed.

Feb. 25, 2026

NJ Benson makes game-winning layup with 35 seconds left at Creighton. DePaul would win 72-71 for its first season sweep against the Blue Jays as members of the BIG EAST.

Jan. 12, 2026

DePaul students who traveled on the road celebrate a season sweep vs. Marquette. DePaul won 62-51 for its first season sweep over Marquette since 1991.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



DePaul women's basketball began a new chapter in 2025–26, re-establishing its identity under first-year head coach Jill M. Pizzotti while continuing to build on the program's tradition of success. The Blue Demons reached a historic milestone on Feb. 10, earning the program's 1,000th victory with a win over St. John's, becoming one of just 86 Division I programs to achieve the feat and only the second current BIG EAST member to do so, joining UConn.

Off the court, DePaul saw record-setting growth and engagement. The program set a new single-season revenue record and established single-game benchmarks in both revenue and attendance. A crowd of 6,277 for the Feb. 4 matchup against UConn marked a new single-game revenue record, while 9,526 fans attended Field Trip Day against Northwestern on Nov. 17, setting a new attendance high as part of DePaul's community-based initiative in partnership with Wintrust Bank. Overall, announced attendance increased by 4.5 percent year over year. DePaul also hosted the Female Forward Game in conjunction with the BIG EAST Conference on National Girls and Women in Sports Day during its Feb. 4 game against UConn.

On the court, the Blue Demons showed growth as the season progressed, earning four of their five conference wins in second meetings against BIG EAST opponents. Kate Novik led the way, earning All-BIG EAST Second Team honors after a standout campaign that included just the eighth triple-double in program history with 12 points, 12 rebounds, and 10 assists against UMass Lowell on Dec. 11. Meg Newman was recognized with the BIG EAST Sportsmanship Award, becoming the eighth Blue Demon to earn the honor and the first since the 2019–20 season. DePaul now boasts 52 All-BIG EAST selections since joining the conference in 2005–06. As a team, the Blue Demons finished the season leading the BIG EAST in offensive rebounds with 14.2 per game.

With a young core in place and momentum building, DePaul looks to continue its growth, compete at a high level, and climb back toward the top of the BIG EAST standings in the seasons ahead.

Nov. 4, 2025

DeWayne Peevy presents Coach Pizzotti with a game ball following her first official win vs. Valparaiso.



Feb. 10, 2026

Gina Davorija and Meg Newman celebrate following a 72-68 victory over St. John's.





VOLLEYBALL



Coming off a record 2024 season, many would have called 2025 a “rebuild”. But those people don’t know head coach Marie Zidek.



The 2025 season brought a youthful energy to DePaul volleyball, with a talented freshman class pushing the Blue Demons to compete with some of the BIG EAST’s best. The results – both on the court and in the record books – suggested the best was still yet to come.



The headliner was Kendall Timme, who became the first player in program history to earn conference Freshman of the Year honors. Timme also earned All-BIG EAST recognition, giving DePaul its 11th all-conference selection over the past five seasons – a streak that speaks to the sustained level of talent Zidek has developed in Lincoln Park. On the defensive side, the Blue Demons led the BIG EAST in blocks per set and ranked inside the top 60 nationally, a calling card of a program that competes with toughness and discipline regardless of roster age.



The excellence extended beyond the court as well. Jade Dudley-Epps, Katelynn Oxley, and Amanda Saeger each earned College Sports Communicators Academic All-District honors, reflecting the program’s commitment to developing complete student-athletes.

While her team was making its mark in the BIG EAST, Zidek was doing the same on the international stage. Last summer, she led the U23 National Team to gold at the NORCECA U23 Pan American Cup. This summer, she helped Team USA make history once again – coaching the U17 National Team in its first-ever appearance at the Pan American Cup. USA won the gold medal with a 3–1 victory over Venezuela, finishing the tournament 4–0 and dropping just one set throughout the event.

It is the latest chapter in a coaching career defined by a commitment to developing volleyball talent at every level. Now entering her eighth season leading the Blue Demons, Zidek has spent 15 years coaching with the USA Volleyball National Team Development Program and currently serves as the Division I Representative on the American Volleyball Coaches Association Board.

With its core group of players returning and a coach whose reach extends to the highest levels of the sport, DePaul volleyball heads into next season with momentum — and the quiet confidence of a program that never saw this year as anything but a beginning.

A group of male cross-country runners are captured in a race on a grassy field. The runners are wearing blue and red striped singlets and red shorts. The runner on the far right is wearing sunglasses and has bib number 2836. The runner in the center has bib number 2825. The runner on the left has bib number 2825. The background shows other runners and trees under a clear blue sky.

CROSS COUNTRY



DePaul cross country entered 2025 amid a generational shift, transitioning from a veteran-heavy lineup with nine seniors and graduate students to a youthful roster featuring just one senior and 10 freshmen. What could have been a transition year became defined by the rise of two young standouts and a fifth-place BIG EAST finish for the men, the program's best in recent memory.

Sophomore Mohamed Abdullahi emerged as one of the BIG EAST's top distance runners, tallying four-straight personal bests and earning BIG EAST Athlete of the Week honors after a 24:46.4 at the National Catholic Championship. His season included 23:55.07 at the Bradley Pink Invitational (fourth place, second-fastest 8K in school history) and 23:44.42 for 11th at the BIG EAST Championships, the highest conference finish by a DePaul man in the modern era.

On the women's side, sophomore Tessa Roe opened strong, winning the Huskie Opener in 17:55.26, 20 seconds ahead of the field, and earning BIG EAST Female Athlete of the Week honors. She followed with a 17:38.0 PR at the National Catholic Championship before her season was shortened. In her absence, sophomore Vivian Wyller led DePaul in the final four meets and broke 18 minutes for the first time at Notre Dame. She placed 28th at the BIG EAST Championships and paced the Blue Demons at the NCAA Midwest Regional (22:23.2). Newcomer Kalina Urbaniak posted four-straight PRs and a 44th-place BIG EAST finish, while Isabella Orozco and Gianna Sanchez added depth, with Sanchez trimming more than a minute and a half off her 6K time.

The women placed eighth at the BIG EAST Championships, using 2025 as a growth year that still included a third-place finish at the National Catholic Championship. Veterans Mason Krieg and John Bush anchored the men's lineup. Krieg led DePaul at the NCAA Regional (72nd, 32:28.5), while Bush capped his career with a 38-second personal record at the conference meet. Kyle Clark, Cole Tupper, and Daniel Grauer rounded out a scoring group that improved with each race.

From season-opening sweeps in DeKalb to Abdullahi's postseason run, DePaul's 2025 season signaled a program on the rise, with its next generation already leading the way.



TRACK & FIELD



INDOOR SEASON



DePaul opened the 2025–26 indoor campaign with immense momentum across all disciplines and closed it with a historic, record-shattering winter season. Building on the program's upward trajectory, the Blue Demons consistently delivered dominant performances across multiple meets, culminating in a spectacular display on their home track during the BIG EAST Indoor Championships at Gately Indoor.

Sprint power and field dominance reached unprecedented heights during conference competition. Sophomore standout Sade Miller delivered one of the most electric performances in program history, resetting the DePaul school records in both the 60m (7.34) and 200m (23.46) during preliminary action to lead the field. On the men's side, Demetrius Rolle matched his personal best with a blistering 6.69 in the 60m prelims, breaking the BIG EAST Indoor Championships meet record. In the field, the Blue Demons continued to stack the podium, highlighted by Jaiah Hopf capturing silver in the long jump with a 6.14m effort, and Katelyn Welsh securing silver in the pole vault by matching her own school record of 3.75m. Freshman Aubrey Phillips added a historic milestone in the pentathlon, rewriting the DePaul record book with a program-record score anchored by a pentathlon shot put victory (11.61m) and a runner-up pentathlon high jump finish (1.64m).

Throughout the season, the Blue Demons systematically dismantled the indoor program records across the board. Middle-distance star Isabella Orozco established a new school record in the 1000m with a winning time of 2:49.17 at the Notre Dame Invitational. In the vertical jumps, Katelyn Welsh remarkably extended and reset the DePaul indoor pole vault record four separate times over the winter, ultimately clearing a career-best 3.75m. Demetrius Rolle also etched his name into the record books prior to the conference meet, clocking a historic 6.69 in the 60m prelims at the Blue Demon Alumni Classic. Adding to the record-breaking surge, Ashleigh McArdle set a new school standard in the pentathlon with a total of 3,245 points at the Meyo Invitational.

The regular winter campaign was also defined by national-caliber marks and championship relay progression. At the Meyo Invitational, Daniel Fasasi captured the 400m Championship title in 46.62—a massive indoor personal best that fell just 0.18 seconds shy of the long-standing school record and, at the time, ranked 21st nationally in the NCAA. Fasasi later anchored the men's 4x400m relay squad (alongside Tyce Smith, Denhm Holt, and Christian Ortiz-Velazquez) to a meet victory in 3:09.67, a time that ranked 24th among university teams nationally and underscored DePaul's ability to compete at the highest level.



OUTDOOR SEASON

The Blue Demons carried their regular-season momentum into the spring and produced one of the most dominant outdoor campaigns in program history, highlighted by runner-up finishes for both the men's and women's teams at the BIG EAST Outdoor Championships – marking the first time in program history both earned runner-ups in the same season. The women's team totaled a program-record 184 points, while the men's squad scored 168 points, marking their highest outdoor championship totals in recent history.

Sophomore sprinter Sade Miller headlined the championship weekend by sweeping the women's 100m (11.55) and 200m (23.58) titles for the second consecutive year, earning BIG EAST Women's High Point Performer honors with 22.5 points. Miller also anchored the women's 4x100m relay team of Nevaeh Lowe, Claire Dunn, Helen Baumgarten, and Miller to a BIG EAST title. The quartet reset the school record with a 44.85 at the Drake Relays before lowering it again to a season-best 44.83 to secure conference gold. Dunn added to the track success by breaking the school record in the 400m with a third-place finish in 53.46, while Baumgarten captured the conference title in the 100m hurdles with a time of 13.62. On the men's side, the 4x400m relay team of Tyce Smith, Denhm Holt, Christian Ortiz-Velazquez, and Daniel Fasasi capped the championship meet with a gold-medal performance and a school-record time of 3:07.13. Distance runner Mohamed Abdullahi also broke the DePaul school record in the 1500m with a third-place finish in 3:43.84.

The throws group enjoyed an equally historic campaign. Alex Bernstein repeatedly rewrote the record book in the men's hammer throw, extending his own school record to a personal-best 71.84m at the Illini Tune-Up before securing his fifth career conference title with a facility-record toss of 70.33m at the BIG EAST Championships. Elena Opp completed the hammer throw sweep for DePaul by claiming the women's conference crown with a mark of 54.15m. In the shot put, sophomore Jaiden Gary delivered a final-round throw of 17.98m to secure the men's BIG EAST title. The horizontal jumps produced a memorable family achievement as siblings Jaiah Hopf (12.83m) and Isaiah Hopf (15.29m) both captured BIG EAST titles in the triple jump. Earlier in the season, Katelyn Welsh established a program milestone by recording the first outdoor pole vault mark in school history before extending the school record to 3.83m.

Championship success was also matched by significant contributions from a talented freshman class. Hurdles specialist Aisha Kazeem enjoyed a breakthrough season, breaking a 38-year-old school record in the 400m hurdles with a time of 59.33. Multi-event standout Ashleigh McArdle set a new DePaul heptathlon record with 4,748 points to place fifth overall at the BIG EAST Championships, including a javelin victory with a throw of 44.85m. Fellow freshman Aubrey Phillips followed in sixth place with 4,537 points, demonstrating the impact of DePaul's emerging talent and continued growth.



DePaul's success extended to the national stage, with eight student-athletes qualifying for the NCAA West First Rounds. Bernstein earned a second consecutive trip to the NCAA Outdoor Championships after placing fifth in the men's hammer throw at the regional meet with a mark of 70.81m. Baumgarten improved 19 spots from her regional ranking to finish 27th in the West in the 100m hurdles, Hopf climbed seven positions to place 34th in the triple jump, and the men's 4x400m relay lowered its school record to 3:06.53 while finishing 17th in the region. Bernstein capped his historic season at Hayward Field, earning Second Team All-America honors with a ninth-place finish in the men's hammer throw. His mark of 70.71m made him DePaul's first hammer throw All-American since 2010 and completed one of the most accomplished individual seasons in program history.



BIG EAST CHAMPIONS

Aisha Kazeem

Indoor 60m Hurdles - (8.45)

Alex Bernstein

Hammer Throw - (70.33m)

Daniel Fasasi

Indoor 400m - (46.64)

Helen Baumgarten

Outdoor 100m Hurdles - (13.62)

Isaiah Hopf

Indoor Triple Jump - (15.25m)

Outdoor Triple Jump - (15.29m)

Jaiden Gary

Outdoor Shot Put - (17.98m)

Jaiah Hopf

Indoor Triple Jump - (12.78m)

Outdoor Triple Jump - (12.83m)

Sade Miller

Indoor 60m - (7.34)

Indoor 200m - (23.52)

Outdoor 100m - (11.55)

Outdoor 200m - (23.58)

Men's 4x400m Relay

Indoor - (3:11.14)

(Smith, Ortiz-Velazquez, Bryan, Fasasi)

Outdoor - (3:07.13)

(Smith, Holt, Ortiz-Velazquez, Fasasi)

Women's 4x100m Relay

Outdoor - (44.83)

(Lowe, Dunn, Baumgarten, Miller)

Women's 4x400m Relay

Indoor - (3:41.35)

(Motes, Kazeem, Moll, Dunn)

SCHOOL RECORDS

Mohamed Abdullahi

Outdoor 1500m Record - 05/15/2026 - (3:43.84)

Outdoor 3000m Record - 04/09/2026 - (8:23.47)

Alex Bernstein

Outdoor Hammer Throw Record - 05/08/2026 - (71.84m)

Claire Dunn

Outdoor 400m Record - 05/15/2026 - (53.46)

Indoor 200m Record - 02/28/2026 - (23.46)

Jaiah Hopf

Outdoor Triple Jump Record - 05/15/2026 - (12.83m)

Aisha Kazeem

Outdoor 400m Hurdles Record - 05/02/2026 - (59.33)

Ashleigh McArdle

Outdoor Heptathlon Record - 05/15/2026 - (4748)

Sade Miller

Indoor 60m Record - 02/28/2026 - (7.34)

Indoor 200m Record - 02/28/2026 - (23.46)

Isabella Orozco

Indoor 1000m Record - 01/24/2026 - (2:49.17)

Aubrey Phillips

Indoor Pentathlon Record - 02/28/2026 - (3318)

Demetrius Rolle

Indoor 60m Record - 02/13/2026 - (6.69)

Kalina Urbaniak

Outdoor 1500m Record - 04/18/2026 - (4:20.89)

Katelyn Welsh

Indoor Pole Vault Record - 02/28/2026 - (3.75m)

Outdoor Pole Vault Record - 03/28/2026 - (3.83m)

Women's 4x100m Relay

Outdoor Record - 05/15/2026 - (44.83)

(Lowe, Dunn, Baumgarten, Miller)

Women's 4x400m Relay

Indoor Record - 02/28/2026 - (3:41.35)

Outdoor Record - 04/25/2026 - (3:40.54)

(Moll, Dunn, Motes, Kazeem)

Women's 4x800m Relay

Indoor Record - 02/28/2026 - (8:50.11)

(Urbaniak, Montgomery, Pacsi, Orozco)

Men's 4x400m Relay

Outdoor Record - 05/30/2026 (3:06.53)

(Smith, Holt, Ortiz-Velazquez, Fasasi)

Men's 4x800m Relay

Outdoor Record - 04/25/2026 (7:27.13)

(Bush, Abdullahi, Quinn, Larkins)

Men's Distance Medley Relay

Outdoor Record - 04/25/2026 (9:50.24)

(Broghammer, Bryan, Larkins, Abdullahi)



**SCHOOL
RECORDS &
CHAMPIONS**

A group of men's soccer players in blue DePaul jerseys are running on a field. The players are wearing blue jerseys with "DEPAUL" and their numbers (11, 10, 19) visible. They are also wearing blue shorts and socks. The background shows a stadium with blue seating and spectators. A large white Nike logo is visible on the blue wall behind the players. The text "MEN'S SOCCER" is overlaid in large white letters.

MEN'S SOCCER



DePaul men's soccer finished a the 2025 campaign with seven ties and four of its eight losses decided by a single goal, highlighting a season marked by narrow margins. The Blue Demons opened the year unbeaten through their first six matches, setting a program record for the longest unbeaten streak to start a season. DePaul secured a bright spot with back-to-back victories over Loyola for the first time since the 2012 and 2013 seasons, capped by Noeh Hernandez's game-winning strike.

DePaul generated plenty of offensive chances, ranking 22nd in the nation with 15.18 shots per game and 21st in Division I with 6.24 corner kick opportunities per contest. Junior forward Keagan Pace led the Blue Demons with four goals in just six appearances, while sophomore Jayden Waski added four assists. Seven players made their DePaul debuts in 2025.

Off the field, Christian Baumgartner, Ethan Gordon, Ryan Thomas, and Callum Watts earned CSC All-District honors, recognizing their excellence in the classroom.



A group of women's soccer players in white jerseys and blue shorts are celebrating on a green artificial turf field. They are running and high-fiving each other. In the background, there is a blue banner with white text, a white building with many windows, and green trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

WOMEN'S SOCCER



DePaul women's soccer 2025 season was a year defined by transition, resilience and the development of its next group of leaders. With long-time captains Jen Devona and Grace Menser finishing their fifth seasons under head coach Michele O'Brien, the program said goodbye to two of its most consistent leaders who anchored the team since 2021. Alongside fellow captain Danielle Fjeldsted, they formed the backbone of a leadership group that carried DePaul through a period of roster change and integration.

This season marked a clear shift in personnel, as key transfers and newcomers quickly became central to the team's identity. Graduate forward Sienna Gonzales provided immediate impact, finishing tied for the team lead in goals and delivering decisive moments in BIG EAST play, including game-winners against Seton Hall and Creighton. Midfield addition Mia Veldman brought stability and control in possession, consistently logging heavy minutes and helping connect DePaul's build-up play through the middle of the pitch. Menser's final season was defined by leadership and consistency, while Fjeldsted added attacking production and versatility in midfield.

The Blue Demons also saw the rise of a young group that signals the program's direction moving forward. Sophomore Katelyn Jamie built on her breakout start with another productive season, leading the team early in scoring and continuing to generate chances as a primary attacking threat. Sophomore Tewabech Seerup delivered one of the season's defining moments with her first career goal to earn a road point at Butler, while freshman Sydnee Maxwell carved out meaningful minutes in the back line, gaining valuable experience in a demanding conference schedule.

In goal, sophomore transfer Maddie Iro stepped into a major role, delivering multiple high-save performances in BIG EAST play and providing stability. Her presence helped the Blue Demons stay competitive in several one-goal decisions down the stretch.

While results fluctuated, the season reflected a clear roster transition: the departure of veteran leadership, the immediate impact of transfers, and the emergence of underclassmen forming the foundation for what comes next under O'Brien's continued leadership.

A photograph of two men on a golf course. The man on the left is wearing a light grey polo shirt with 'DEPAUL' and 'EST. 1865' on the chest, dark blue trousers, and a white glove on his left hand. The man on the right is wearing a blue polo shirt with a Nike logo and a blue baseball cap with a logo. They are both looking at a book or a set of papers held by the man on the right. A golf bag is visible in the lower right corner. The word 'GOLF' is overlaid in large white letters in the center of the image.

GOLF



DePaul golf entered a new era in 2025–26 under first-year head coach Ryan Jamison, a former Blue Demon who returned to his alma mater with a vision for sustained success. Jamison was joined by assistant coach Jeremy Wu, a fellow PGA Tour caddie and former collegiate golfer, forming a coaching staff committed to elevating the program on and off the course.

Perhaps ahead of schedule, the Blue Demons delivered one of the most successful seasons in program history. Throughout the year, DePaul showed steady improvement, culminating in a fifth-place finish at the BIG EAST Championship. The Blue Demons also finished under par at the conference championship for the first time in program history, marking a significant milestone for the program and a clear sign of the future under Jamison's leadership.

DePaul's success was fueled by a young and talented lineup that consistently produced record-breaking performances. Sophomore Dominic Lucchesi etched his name into the program's record books at the Hawkeye Invitational, carding a 54-hole score of nine-under par, the best tournament score in school history. Freshman North Chery finished with a 73.27 stroke average and a program record 17 rounds under par.

At the conference championships, DePaul was led by Rohan Gopaldas, who recorded a team-best ninth-place finish. Gopaldas paced a balanced Blue Demon lineup that saw multiple golfers contribute to the program's historic showing.

Senior Billy Gneiser concluded his DePaul career playing the best golf of his four seasons in Lincoln Park. A fixture member of the program throughout his career, Gneiser finished among the program's top 25 in career rounds played and posted a career-best 74.48 stroke average during his final campaign. His career came to a culmination with a personal-best round of 68 (–4) at the BIG EAST Championships, helping propel the Blue Demons to their record-setting finish.

The 2025–26 season also marked a transformative year for the program in many ways. In January 2026, the new DePaul Golf Indoor Facility was unveiled, providing student-athletes with a dedicated year-round training space designed to enhance development and performance. The facility features two state-of-the-art Foresight GC Hawk simulators, team lockers and lounge space, with the addition of PuttView technology scheduled for Summer 2026 to further advance putting instruction and training opportunities.

With a young roster returning, a talented incoming signing class and significant investments in player development, the future of DePaul men's golf is bright. The record-breaking achievements of 2025–26 appear to be only the beginning as Jamison continues to build the foundation for sustained success at his alma mater.



MEN'S TENNIS



A continuation of DePaul men's tennis success, the Blue Demons returned to the BIG EAST Championship match for the fourth time in the last six seasons while continuing to elevate the program's national profile. Before the dual season, DePaul hosted the ITA Midwest Regional Championships at XS Tennis Village for the first time in program history, bringing one of the nation's premier fall tournaments to Chicago. The event helped set the tone for a season that featured a dramatic spring turnaround, an undefeated BIG EAST regular season and another postseason run under head coach Matt Brothers.

After opening the spring 3-11, DePaul surged late with wins in eight of its final 10 matches to finish 11-13 overall while posting a perfect 6-0 mark in BIG EAST play. The undefeated conference campaign marked the program's first since 2022 and secured the most BIG EAST regular-season wins in program history. DePaul also went 6-2 at home and closed the regular season with a dominant 7-0 Senior Day sweep of Creighton at XS Tennis Village.

Momentum carried into the postseason, where the Blue Demons recorded three-straight sweeps for the first time in head coach Matt Brothers' tenure. DePaul opened with a 4-0 quarterfinal victory over Marquette before shutting out Xavier 4-0 in the semifinals to punch its ticket to the conference title match. The run ended against St. John's in the championship, as DePaul finished runner-up and closed the year with five-straight victories entering the conference final.

The season featured several defining moments, including DePaul's first victory over an ITA-ranked opponent since 2015 with a win over No. 62 Cal Poly and a dramatic 4-3 comeback victory at Coastal Carolina after trailing 3-0, the program's largest comeback in three years.

A new-look lineup fueled the turnaround. Reigning BIG EAST Player of the Year and graduate transfer Alejandro Gandini, alongside sophomore transfer Sebastian Medica, both earned unanimous All-BIG EAST First Team honors after leading the Blue Demons throughout conference play. Gandini posted an 11-10 record at the No. 1 singles position and went unbeaten in BIG EAST action, while Medica led the team with a 15-6 dual singles mark and closed the season on an 8-1 run. Medica also earned BIG EAST Singles Player of the Week honors after helping DePaul complete its undefeated league season.

Veteran leadership remained central to the program's success. Seniors Gandini, Pablo Torres Almeida and Sven Moser helped guide DePaul back to championship contention while continuing the standard built under Brothers in his 19th season leading the Blue Demons.

WOMEN'S TENNIS



CE TEN
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at Olarre
Pointe

DePaul

TOURNAMENT
RUNNER-UP

DEPAUL
UNIVERSITY



DePaul women's tennis entered the 2025-26 season with the youngest squad in head coach Marisa Arce's seven-year tenure, and concluded the campaign with arguably its best season under Arce. Led by only one senior and two juniors, the Blue Demons showed no signs of inexperience, instead displaying resilience and togetherness at every hurdle. DePaul dominated throughout conference play and deep into the postseason, finishing 6-1 against BIG EAST opponents and reaching the finals of the BIG EAST Championship.

The Blue Demons finished the dual regular season 10-10 and earned a bye along with the No. 2 overall seed in the BIG EAST Tournament. DePaul defeated Creighton and St. John's before falling to Xavier, claiming the runner-up spot in the conference regular season and tournament.

In the fall, six Blue Demons qualified for ITA Midwest Regionals, with the doubles tandem of Clara Nilsson and Hannah Smith reaching the Round of 16. Smith and Nilsson continued their success into the spring by pacing the team with a 13-9 doubles record, all on No. 1 court. The pair collected BIG EAST Women's Doubles Team of the Week honors on two separate occasions. Not only did Smith and Nilsson shine in doubles play, but DePaul's courts No. 2 and No. 3 went an undefeated 9-0 in all conference battles as well.

2026 was a season to remember for junior standout Sasha Stula, as she had the best singles season of any DePaul women's tennis player of the last 10 years. Her 15-4 record on No. 1 court offered consistent winning for the Blue Demons at the top of the lineup. Some of Stula's accolades include unanimous All-BIG EAST First Team Selection, five-time BIG EAST Women's Singles Player of the Week winner, most duals wins in a season for DePaul since 2016, most wins in a season (fall play included) for DePaul since 2015, most wins at No. 1 court for DePaul since 2013, and most ranked wins without a loss in a season for DePaul since 2010. The spectacular season was highlighted by Stula's first collegiate-ranked wins, beating Northwestern's No. 43-ranked Margot Phanthala on Feb. 22 and Notre Dame's No. 63-ranked Bianca Molnar on Apr. 12.

Yasemin Pehlivan, the freshman from Turkey, also had a stellar campaign, going 13-9 predominantly on court No. 3. Her dependable play near the top of the lineup earned her Second Team All-BIG EAST honors in her rookie year, the first freshman to do so for the Blue Demons since 2015. Roberta Sechi finished with the second-best mark on the team at 14-8 across dual-singles play. The moment of the season came in the BIG EAST Semifinals against St. John's, when the Blue Demons came back from a 3-0 deficit to win, 4-3, keeping their season alive thanks to a three-set clincher from Helin Alvarez.

This season was the last for the senior Smith, who was nothing short of an exemplary Blue Demon, both on and off the court. During her four years at DePaul, Smith tallied nearly 60 singles wins, over 80 doubles wins and was a 2025 All-BIG EAST First Team honoree. Her time in Lincoln Park will be cherished.



SOFTBALL



The DePaul softball team wrapped up the 2026 season with a 20–30 overall record, marking a four-game improvement over the previous year and a sign of growing momentum within the program. The Blue Demons picked up eight conference wins, the most league victories in the past three seasons and opened the year with six consecutive wins, the program's best opening stretch since 2019. Additionally, the team defeated Illinois State, Northwestern and UIC in the same season for the first time since 2002. Those victories over in-state foes served as a milestone that underscores the team's rising competitiveness on the regional stage.

Offensively, DePaul turned in one of its best collective efforts in years. The Blue Demons batted .287 as a team, their highest mark since 2015, while swiping 66 bases, the most since the 2009 season and second-best in the BIG EAST. The combination of contact hitting and aggressive baserunning gave DePaul a dynamic offensive identity that opposing teams had to account for throughout the season.

The offense was fueled by standout individual performances, headlined by outfielder Jolie Adams and her .403 batting average, the highest by a Blue Demon in a decade, which earned her BIG EAST All-Conference Second Team and NFCA All-Region Third Team honors. Chelsea Parker complemented Adams with a power-hitting display for the ages, slugging 15 home runs on the season to rank second in the BIG EAST and second in program history for a single season.

The Blue Demons' impact in 2026 extended well beyond the field. DePaul hosted a community home run derby to raise funds for Cal's Angels, a pediatric cancer awareness foundation, collecting over \$1,500 in the process. The event reflected the program's continued commitment to giving back and using the platform of athletics to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. That same dedication carried into the classroom, as five Blue Demons were named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District team. Lydia Ettema, Kelly Greene, Bella Nigey, Lexi Houge, and Chelsea Parker each earned the distinction by maintaining a 3.5 cumulative GPA while appearing in at least 90 percent of the team's contests in 2026, a testament to the program's commitment to excellence both on and off the field.



Academic Excellence | Building the DePaul Brand
Championship Experience | Developing & Equipping Future Leaders | External Outreach

5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF DEPAUL ATHLETICS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Prioritized academic achievement across all 15 varsity programs, reinforcing DePaul Athletics' commitment to developing student-athletes who excel in the classroom and competition. As a department, DePaul recorded a 3.579 GPA for the 2025-26 academic year. The department GPA is the second-highest in recorded history.
- DePaul placed a school-best 198 student-athletes on the BIG EAST All-Academic team, over 85 percent of all student-athletes.
- Completed a comprehensive review and redesign of student-athlete programming, culminating in the April 2026 launch of ELEVATE, a new development model built to meet the evolving needs of student-athletes in today's college athletics landscape.
- Repositioned the former Athletics Academic Advising (AAA) unit as the Center for Student-Athlete Development, with updated roles, titles and responsibilities that better reflect the scope of student-athlete support and align with the NCAA's Core Guarantee Model.



BUILDING THE DEPAUL BRAND

- Partnered with Chicago-based Rank + Rally to manage online and in-venue retail, expand apparel offerings and enhance the game-day shopping experience for fans.
- Continued to grow and expand merchandise and apparel offerings, reaching a 30 percent growth in licensing over the academic year.
- Reached over \$2 million in branded product sales for the first time in program history.
- Launched a co-branded beer can with Revolution Brewing, creating a new licensing opportunity and a fresh way for fans to connect with the DePaul brand at Wintrust Arena and throughout the city.
- Renewed and expanded DePaul's partnership with NIKE, securing enhanced uniform, apparel, equipment and financial resources to support student-athletes and strengthen the department's brand presence.
- Enhanced DePaul Athletics' website and social engagement strategy to improve fan engagement, support revenue generation and strengthen storytelling across key audiences. DePaul's social media accounts saw over a 50 percent increase in impressions, reaching nearly 51 million accounts, and an 11.5 percent growth in total followers.
- Advanced strategic brand partnerships with the NASCAR Chicago Street Race and the Chicago Bears, working in collaboration with the University to increase DePaul's visibility across Chicago and reach new audiences.



CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Reached the initial fundraising milestone to formally advance DePaul Athletics' training facility project, a transformational investment in student-athlete development, recruiting and the future of DePaul Basketball.
- Created a robust NIL program informed by market analytics, providing nationally-competitive opportunities for student-athletes while building in safeguards to support long-term sustainability through growth in self-generated resources and targeted expense reductions.
- Added a dedicated information technology role to advance the department's specialized technologies and drive innovation in data systems to enhance efficiency, security, revenue generation and competitive performance.
- Opened the new men's golf simulator room within the Sullivan Athletic Center, providing student-athletes with enhanced access to year-round practice and player development resources.
- Awarded a bid to host the 2025 Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Men's Tennis Midwest Regional for the first time in school history, reflecting DePaul's continued growth in hosting championship-caliber events.
- Advanced a comprehensive, department-wide policy review to support consistency, operational clarity and alignment with the current needs of DePaul Athletics.



DEVELOPING & EQUIPPING FUTURE LEADERS

- Hosted the BIG EAST National Girls & Women in Sports Day, expanding the event's impact through enhanced activations and storytelling that celebrated women in sport.
- Sent student-athletes to the Black Student-Athlete Summit, BIG EAST Well-Being Forum, Women's Basketball Coaches Association Convention, NCAA Common Ground program, and several additional conferences and events designed to support their personal growth, leadership development and professional readiness.
- Elevated DePaul's national leadership presence when Deputy AD, Taylor Stapleton was named Chair of the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Committee.
- Strengthened the connection between athletics, academics and industry leadership as DeWayne Peevy joined the DePaul University School of Hospitality & Sports Business Board of Directors.
- Hosted the BIG EAST Well-Being Forum in June, bringing together student-athlete voices with administrators and staff members from across the conference.



EXTERNAL OUTREACH

- Achieved a record fundraising year in FY26, raising \$15.6 million through 2,594 unique donors in support of DePaul student-athletes and programs.
- Recorded the highest volleyball season and single-match revenue in school history, reflecting growing momentum and fan support around the program.
- Set a new women's basketball attendance record against Northwestern on November 17 during the annual Field Trip Day, welcoming more than 9,000 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students to Wintrust Arena.
- Announced a 10-year multimedia rights partnership with Playfly Sports, positioning the department for long-term revenue growth through expanded sponsorship sales, brand activations, broadcast production, digital monetization and naming rights opportunities. The partnership will also enhance student engagement through collaboration with Paragon Marketing Group on future academic offerings, including a sports internship program and sports business symposium.
- Returned the DePaul Athletics 50/50 raffle, creating an additional fan engagement opportunity while supporting revenue generation for the department.
- Developed a more intentional parent engagement strategy, including quarterly updates from the Director of Athletics and stronger integration of parents and families into annual giving and department-wide communication efforts.



BRINGING THE DREAM HOME



It's been talked about for years. You've seen the renderings. You've heard the vision.

This year, it started to become real.

The DREAM BIG Campaign launched in September 2023 with an ambitious goal: transform the student-athlete experience at DePaul through enhanced athletic facilities, dedicated locker rooms for every varsity program and the construction of a dedicated basketball practice facility. The first phase of that vision became reality with the renovation of the Sullivan Athletic Center, completed in Fall 2024.

Now, with the first step of campaign's fundraising goal officially reached, the next chapter is set to begin. Construction on the new basketball practice facility will start in Summer 2026, with completion anticipated in Fall 2027.

Designed to serve as the future home for both DePaul men's and women's basketball, the facility represents far more than two practice courts. It is a commitment to providing student-athletes with the resources, support and environment necessary to compete at the highest levels of collegiate athletics while enhancing the experience for every Blue Demon.

The facility will feature dedicated practice gyms for men's and women's basketball, giving both programs year-round access to their own training spaces. Beyond the hardwood, the building's first floor will be dedicated to the health and wellness of more than 230 DePaul student-athletes, featuring expanded sports medicine services, hydrotherapy, nutrition and fueling stations, team dining space, meeting rooms and a second state-of-the-art weight room. The expansion will create greater flexibility for training and competition schedules, improve access to student-athlete care and increase opportunities to host community and third-party events. The project will also foster collaboration across campus through the addition of a broadcast production studio and interdisciplinary learning spaces.





Perhaps most importantly, the facility represents what is possible when an entire university community rallies around a common vision. It is a statement about where DePaul Athletics is headed and a commitment to providing future generations of Blue Demons every opportunity to succeed.

The building itself has yet to open its doors, but its impact is already being felt. Through the DREAM BIG Campaign, DePaul Athletics continues to invest in its future, creating opportunities for student-athletes, enhancing the university experience and building a foundation that will serve the Blue Demons for decades to come.

LEARN MORE AT
DEPAULBLUEDEMONS.COM/CAMPAIGN

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



At DePaul, success isn't confined to the scoreboard. It shows up in the classroom, too. The 2025-26 academic year continued DePaul's unwavering commitment to academic excellence as the Blue Demons recorded a 3.579 department GPA in 2025-26 – the second-highest in school history.

For the second consecutive year, every one of DePaul's 15 varsity programs finished the year above a 3.0 GPA, and 12 of those 15 climbed above 3.5 – the most programs ever to clear that bar in a single year. Leading the way, was women's tennis which posted a 3.804 team GPA. Two programs, Women's Indoor Track & Field and Men's Soccer, set new team GPA records of their own.

The BIG EAST All-Academic team tells the same story. A record 198 of DePaul's 232 student-athletes, over 85 percent of the Athletics Department, earned a spot on the conference's All-Academic Team this year, the most in program history. Within that group, 156 student-athletes posted a 3.5 GPA or better and 28 students closed the year with a perfect 4.0.

This year's academic results arrived alongside a major investment in how DePaul supports student-athletes every step of the way. In April, DePaul Athletics unveiled ELEVATE, a reimagined student-athlete development structure built for the realities of today's college athletics landscape.

Inspired by Chicago's iconic "L" train system, ELEVATE replaces DePaul's traditional four-year developmental curriculum with flexible, individualized pathways. Whether a student-athlete arrives as a first-year, transfers in mid-career, or returns for an extra season of eligibility, the program is designed to meet them where they are and support where they are headed.

The curriculum is built around four pillars: Personal and Professional Development, Leadership Development, Community Engagement and Service, and Health, Wellness and Nutrition. Supporting the launch, DePaul's Athletic Academic Advising department has been renamed the Center for Student-Athlete Development, adopting the tagline "Where your path meets your purpose".

Taken together, this year's record-setting classroom performance and the rollout of ELEVATE reflect the same commitment: at DePaul, developing complete student-athletes who are ready to succeed at DePaul and long after is the standard.



