

MARIST COLLEGE '88 Lacrosse Guide



Cover Photo By Kathy McLaughlin

MIKE MALET

HEAD COACH

When Mike Malet assumed the head coaching duties of the Marist College lacrosse team five years ago, the program had fallen on hard times. However, it did not take him long to bring about a resurgence in the program.

Since becoming the Red Foxes' head coach prior to the start of the 1984 season, Malet has guided Marist to a 33-22 record. That 60 percent winning mark is a drastic improvement over the two years prior to his arrival during which Marist produced a 7-14 mark. In his maiden season, the native of Poughkeepsie, New York, restored respectability to the program by guiding the Red Foxes to a 5-6 record. The following year, Marist turned in a 10-6 slate. That set the stage for Malet's crowning achievement in 1986. That season, the Red Foxes produced a 12-2 record, the finest in the history of Marist lacrosse. The Red Foxes also won 11 straight and came within one game, make that one goal --a 12-11 defeat by New York Maritime --of winning their first Knickerbocker Conference Championship since 1981. Although the team did not perform as well as expected last season, they nevertheless managed a respectable third-place finish in the conference. For his efforts, Malet was awarded the inaugural sportsmanship award by the New York Lacrosse Official's Association.

In addition to his duties on the lacrosse field, Malet also is the head coach of the Marist football team. He has held that position for ten years.

A 1970 graduate of Cortland State University, Malet resides in Poughkeepsie with his wife Cindy and son Christopher.

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1988 SEASON PREVIEW

Last year's Marist College lacrosse team suffered from three problems which prevented it from performing at the same level at which it had in the two previous seasons. The first problem centered around the graduation of 11 seniors from the 1986 team which posted a 12-2 record and placed second to New York Maritime in the Knickerbocker Conference. Head coach Mike Malet also chose to upgrade the team's schedule by adding two tough Division I opponents, Stony Brook and Siena, and one of the top two teams on the West Coast, Whittier College. In order to improve the schedule, Marist dropped three teams which it had beaten by a combined score of 57-9. The Red Foxes were also plagued by injuries the first half of the season. Because of this the Red Foxes never found the chemistry that the 1986 team realized.

All told, Malet was left with an unseasoned team which lacked the essential consistency. Malet said, "I feel that the last four games of the season were indicative of the type of ability we had. It was not until that time that our players were healthy and playing together." Indeed, the Red Foxes won their last three games against Dowling, Southampton and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in order to secure a respectable third place position in the final conference standings.

This year's team, however, has yet to display the problems of a year ago. With eight of 10 starters returning, along with five other lettermen, Marist appears to be strong. Although the conference has added one more team, Pace University, the powerhouses of the league are not beyond the Red Foxes' reach.

With the top five scorers returning this season, Malet has good reason to be optimistic about his team's potential to be near the top of the conference. Senior attackmen Bill Drolet (19 goals, 28 assists), Tom Donnellan (30 goals, 16 assists) and Peter Oppenheim (12 goals, one assist) head the list of returnees. They are joined by junior Peter Cleary (31 goals, 12 assists). In 1986, Cleary established the Marist single-season scoring record with 92 points (47 goals, 45 assists). According to Malet, the key to the Red Foxes may be Drolet, the leading scorer for the 1987 season and also the team's best playmaker. "The team is in a difficult situation if he's failing to set the pace and create the offensive play," said Malet.

With only one of its members missing from last year, the midfield position will have at least two strong lines to depend on for the transition game. Tri-captain Dan Arnold, a 1985 all-league selection who was good for 15 goals and 11 assists last season, will provide the intensity and speed necessary to solidify the midfield. Also returning to the middle position will be seniors Todd Jesaitis (two goals, seven assists) and Mike Daly (seven goals).

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Tri-captains Jon Cannon and Bob Cowie will head the Red Foxes' defensive effort with a seasoned group of sophomores and juniors battling for the final starting spot. Talented sophomore Paul Cleary is among those attempting to land that last position.

"Our big question this year is in the goal position," said Malet. Last year's goalie, Chris Reuss, who guarded the Red Fox net 807 of a possible 840 minutes and ended the season with a .664 save percentage, chose to take a year off for personal reasons leaving upperclassmen Chris Gagliano and John Blake and two freshmen to vie for the starting position. "At this time," said Malet, "whoever plays goal has never played for us before."

Aspirations for the upcoming season are naturally high and the Red Foxes would like nothing more than to walk away with their first conference title since 1981. "The key to the season is our first contest against Kean College which is returning its entire 1987 team," said Malet. The Red Foxes also must manage to maintain their intensity throughout the entire season. The most difficult stretch of the Marist schedule occurs in the final week of the season when they face three league opponents, Dowling, Southampton, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. All of those contests will be played on the road.

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1988 MARIST MARIST COLLEGE NUMERICAL LACROSSE ROSTER

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos</u>	<u>Ht</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Cl</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
1	Lorenzo Fusaro	G	6-0	190	Fr.	Farmingville, NY/Sachem
2	Mike Daly*	M	5-8	165	Sr.	Port Jefferson, NY/West Babylon
3	Dan Arnold*	M	6-0	180	Sr.	Bay Shore, NY/St. John the Baptist
4	Michael Perrego	A	5-7	160	Fr.	Albany, NY/Guilderland
5	Paul Cleary*	D	5-11	195	So.	Freeport, NY/Freeport
6	Peter Oppenheim*	A	5-8	160	Sr.	Yorktown Heights, NY/Yorktown
8	William Burns	M/A	6-0	190	Fr.	Dix Hills, NY/St. Anthony's
9	Steven Maloney*	A	5-7	155	So.	Brightwaters, NY/Bay Shore
10	Jon Cannon*	D	6-0	190	Sr.	Port Washington, NY/Schreiber
11	Brian Hanifin	M	5-10	165	Fr.	Suffern, NY/Albertus Magnus
12	Kevin Eversen*	M	6-1	175	So.	Long Valley, NJ/West Morris
13	Chris Gagliano	G	5-11	180	Sr.	Oceanside, NY/Oceanside
14	Jack Ford	M	5-10	165	Fr.	Nanuet, NY/Nanuet
16	Peter Cleary*	A	5-11	180	Jr.	Freeport, NY/Freeport
18	Andrew Harrington	M	5-9	160	Fr.	Valley Cottage, NY/Albertus Magnus
20	Alex Messuri*	M	5-9	180	So.	Bedford, NY/Foxlane
21	Todd Jesaitis*	M	5-8	160	Sr.	Port Jefferson, NY/Lomsewoque
22	John Blake	G	5-11	175	Jr.	West Hartford, CT/Conard
23	Carl Marinaccio	D	5-11	190	Fr.	Brewster, NY/Brewster
24	Tom Donnellan*	M	6-1	195	Jr.	West Hartford, CT/Conard
25	Robert Naylor	D	6-0	195	Fr.	Fairfield, NY/Roger Ludlowe
26	Glenn Mattson	D	6-4	220	Fr.	Simsbury, CT/Simsbury
28	Robert Norothy	G	5-10	165	Fr.	New City, NY/Albertus Magnus
30	Bill Lynch	D	6-2	190	Fr.	Brewster, NY/Brewster
32	Dan Massett	D	6-3	210	So.	Hastings-on-Hudson, NY/Stepinac
33	Chris Corwin	D	6-1	210	Fr.	Massapequa, NY/Massapequa
55	Bob Cowie*	D	5-10	185	Sr.	Elmont, NY/Elmont Memorial
77	Bill Drolet*	A	6-0	190	Sr.	West Hartford, CT/Conard

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	Tony Horvath	M	5-10	180	Fr.	Jackson, NY/Monsignor Donovan
	Hugh McGuire	D	6-2	210	Fr.	New Hyde Park, NY/St. Mary's
	Ron O'Neill	M	5-8	170	Fr.	Park Ridge, NJ/Park Ridge
	Pete Stackpole	M	5-7	150	Fr.	Naugatuck, CT/Holy Cross
	Bill Stolpe	M	5-8	165	Fr.	New Vernon, NJ/Madison

*Lettermen Returning