



PENN ATHLETICS

PRINCIPAL SEAN GALIHER
 ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AARON LENISKI
 ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR BRIDGET WILLIAMS

COLLEGE SIGNING DAY FALL 2017

NATHAN LOVISA	Purdue Northwest	Baseball
NATHAN VARGO	Kankakee C.C.	Baseball
SARA DOI	Huntington College	Basketball
CHAD PIATT	Lewis College	Cross Country/Track
KRISTINA LYNCH	Florida State University	Soccer
MOLLY McLAUGHLIN	Xavier University	Soccer
MACKENZIE WOOD	Northwestern University	Soccer
LEXI CLAY	Taylor University	Softball
HAILEY HISAW	Saint Mary's College	Softball
MAKENNA BOTTORFF	Ball State University	Swimming
A.J. ANTONELLI	Marian University	Tennis
JULIA BEERS	Concordia of Chicago	Volleyball
ITALIA FIELDS	Milw. School of Eng.	Volleyball
RACHEL HICKEY	IUPUI	Volleyball
RACHEL RUPERT	Vincennes University	Volleyball



MID-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE





PENN BASEBALL

HEAD COACH GREG DIKOS



NATHAN LOVISA, Purdue Northwest

Nathan Lovisa, who helped Penn reach the Class 4-A State Championship Game last season, will continue his academic and athletic careers at Purdue Northwest.



Lovisa, who played first base last season, batted .350 in 2017, driving in 18 runs. Lovisa hit nine doubles last season. He boasted an impressive .470 slugging percentage.

“I chose Purdue Northwest for a couple of reasons,” Lovisa said. “The first reason was the influence the coaches had on me when I visited. They treated me like I was already a player on the team, the same was true for the players on the team. They had a positive influence on me and sold me enough to later choose to further my academic and athletic career at Purdue Northwest. More importantly, I chose Purdue Northwest because of its academic standard. Getting a Purdue education and a Purdue diploma was very important to me ... not only the diploma, they have what I want to study in the Biology field, Biological Sciences with concentration on Microbiology and Immunization.”

Lovisa said that the Penn Baseball program has helped prepare him for the college game.

“Coach Dikos has been very helpful by running a successful program and establishing a winning atmosphere and a competitive culture,” Lovisa said. “The rigorous practices and winter workouts are similar to how a college program works, and I think that has had a positive impact on me and many other people in our baseball program. I can't thank coach Dikos enough for all that he has done for me through my entire high school baseball career.”

Coach Dikos said that he is counting on Lovisa and Nathan Vargo to be Senior Leaders this season.

“I look to Nate Lovisa and Nate Vargo to lead by example and create a positive atmosphere in our dugout,” Dikos said. “Team chemistry will be stressed this year and I expect them to make everyone around them better.”

“Nate Lovisa was First-Team All-Northern Indiana Conference at first base last year, and he can also catch. He is a very good defensive catcher and handles the pitchers very well and swings a good bat. He has a great arm.”



**NATHAN VARGO, Kankakee
Community College**



After every time he lines a base hit, whether it's in Penn's home pinstripes or road grays, Nathan Vargo kisses his finger and points to the sky to honor his 'Dzia' (grandfather).

Vargo, a catcher and outfielder who helped Penn reach the Class 4-A State Championship Game last season, will continue his heartfelt tradition at Kankakee Community College. Vargo announced that he will continue his academic and athletic careers at KCC after the 2018 Penn High School graduation. The Cavaliers won the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Championship last season.

Vargo hit .276, driving in 11 runs for the Kingsmen last season.

Following a tremendously strong summer season, Vargo was named a 2018 Under Armour Preseason All-American and landed prominently on KCC's radar.

“KCC was by far perfect for me, far enough away from home, but still close enough to come home on a weekend, and it has a winning tradition which was continued last year in winning the 2017 NJCAA National Championship,” Vargo said.

Vargo, who will play outfield for KCC, said that Penn Baseball and Coach Dikos supported him through the recruiting process. He said that Coach Dikos in particular put in good words about him with college coaches.

“The whole coaching staff has truly helped with my development, Coach Lares in the beginning starting off the whole high school experience, to Coach Stanton and Coach Westra my Sophomore year preparing me for the Varsity level with Coach Dikos and Coach Kominkiewicz.

“Penn Baseball has taught me the importance of the little things, whether it's hitting a cutoff man or getting a bunt down in a key situation,” Vargo added. “It has instilled a winning tradition, but most importantly, it has taught me how to be a good teammate and a good person. I am blessed to be a part of this program.”

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“I look to Nate Lovisa and Nate Vargo to lead by example and create a positive atmosphere in our dugout,” Dikos said. “Team chemistry will be stressed this year and I expect them to make everyone around them better.

“Nate Vargo has excellent speed and will be a base-stealing threat every time he gets on the bases,” Dikos said. “He can play outfield and can also catch. I like the way he takes charge of the pace of the game behind the plate. He keeps everyone on their toes. He has a great arm.”



PENN GIRLS BASKETBALL

HEAD COACH KRISTI KANIEWSKI ULRICH

Penn
KINGSMEN



SARA DOI, Huntington College

Penn Girls basketball standout Sara Doi has committed to Huntington University.



“I like that fact that I am close to home”

Doi said about committing to Huntington. “I also like the campus.”

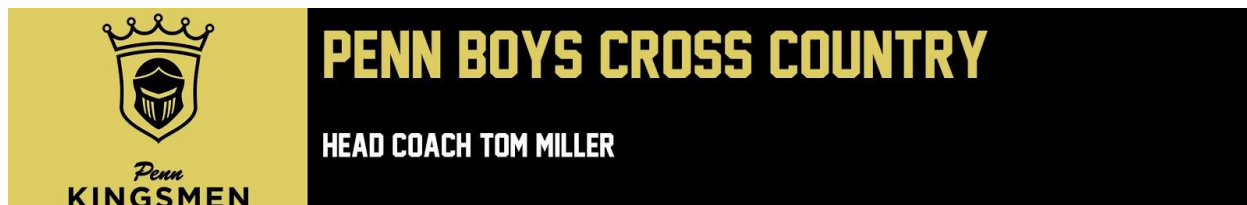
Doi is the first Penn Girls Basketball player to achieve a triple-double in a regular-season game -- scoring 24 points, grabbing 10 rebounds, and dishing out 10 assists against South Bend Washington last season.

This season, Doi scored 22 points in a victory against Northern Lakes Conference power NorthWood.

That isn't the only major accomplishment she has. Doi is a three-year varsity team captain, a 2016 state champion, and a Michiana McDonald's All-Star.

"Sara is a great fit for Huntington," Penn coach Kristi Kaniewski Ulrich said. "You are able to have a great team experience. At the NAIA level she will flourish and make an immediate impact."

Doi averaged 12 points a game last season.



CHAD PIATT, Lewis University

Chad Piatt said that the decision to continue his academic and athletic careers at Lewis University was easy.

A major reason why Piatt decided to commit to Lewis was because how welcoming the coach and team were. He believes this will help make the transition to college life much easier.



Piatt was not only was impressed with the Lewis Cross Country team, but the school as a whole. It has the community he is looking for, a 12:1 student-to-teacher ratio, and a comfortable/beautiful campus. Lewis University also has an excellent Nursing school, which is what Chad plans to study.

Starting his running career in Track, with the encouragement from friends, Chad decided to give Cross Country a shot. He fell in love with the sport from the beginning. He now has been doing cross country for five years. He has had a lot of success with it as well, including making the tournament team all four years of high school. Penn won Northern Indiana Conference, Sectional and Regional Championships on the way to finishing 13th in the state.

When asked what he has learned from Penn cross country gave high praise to his coach, Tom Miller.

“Penn Cross Country has helped me become the runner I am today,” Piatt said. “Coach Miller has taught me that I am physically and mentally capable of running fast and has always had faith in me. The most beneficial thing I have learned is to trust my training.”



KRISTINA LYNCH, Florida State University

Senior striker Kristina Lynch has created quite the legacy in her time at Penn High School. The Florida State commit has racked up an astounding 130 goals and 60 assists in her career.



Lynch has led Penn to two State Championships, three State Championship Game appearances, and was named the IHSAA Mental Attitude Award winner in 2017. This season, Penn was named the topdrawersoccer.com National Champion.

Lynch was named a First-Team All-American by USA Today, and by the popular soccer website, Top Drawer Soccer. She's been a back-to-back Northern Indiana Conference MVP. She has been invited to play in the All-American Soccer Game in Orlando, Fla., on Dec. 2.

“Kristina has all the qualities that coaches would look for in an All-American type player,” Penn Head Coach Jeff Hart said. “She’s an elite athlete with top-end speed and she’s strong and durable. She also possesses an unbelievable worth ethic and drive to get better. She is not content to be an average college player. Her competitive spirit will continue to help her raise her game at the next level.”

Lynch said that she chose Florida State because of its exceptional academic and athletic opportunities.

“I believe that Florida State will best prepare me for my future career as I aspire to play professional soccer and later go into the medical field,” Lynch said. “I will be challenged

every day in training, because I will be going up against not only the best players in the country, but the best players in the world due to their international roster.

“Florida State also has one of the best coaching staffs in the nation who can help take my game to a whole new level,” Lynch said. “I also love the campus and its location. There are palm trees everywhere. It is absolutely stunning.”



MOLLY McLAUGHLIN, Xavier University

Molly McLaughlin, who helped lead Penn to two State Championships and a National Championship, will continue her academic and athletic careers at Xavier University.



“Molly is a great athlete but just as important she is a competitor and a leader,” Penn Head Coach Jeff Hart said. “She wants the team to win above all else so she is always ready to do the little things that sometimes go unnoticed in the stats. Physically and mentally tough, her best days in soccer are still ahead of her.”

McLaughlin, a midfielder, scored Penn’s first goal in the 2017 State Championship Game, a 2-0 victory against Guerin Catholic. McLaughlin blasted a 20-yard laser for the score. She was named the WHME Student-Athlete of the Week after the State Championship Game.

McLaughlin's parents helped guide her through the recruiting process. Her father, Jim McLaughlin, is Notre Dame’s head volleyball coach. Her mother, Margaret, is a former Notre Dame Soccer assistant coach.

"By having both of my parents as coaches, it has helped me as a developing player and in the recruiting process as I was making a decision about my future," McLaughlin said.

Her father has taught her about the aspects surrounding the game, but never once mentioned soccer. He explained to her how important it is to be a good teammate and have a positive attitude.

"Both have played a huge role in my recruiting process, and my soccer career would probably be different if they weren't coaches and players themselves," McLaughlin said of her parents.

Regarding Xavier, McLaughlin loves the size and beautiful campus and loves how it is surrounded by the city of Cincinnati. McLaughlin can see herself having a future and finding a job in Ohio.



MACKENZIE WOOD, Northwestern University

Mackenzie Wood, a USA Today First-Team All-American, led the state with her 0.213 goals against average and had 19 shutouts this season. She is looking forward to competing for Northwestern in the Big Ten Conference. Before she goes to Northwestern, she will play in the Girls Soccer All-American Game in Orlando, Fla., in December.



"I decided on Northwestern, because I love the campus, coaches, the high level of academics, the high level of women's soccer, and the proximity to home. It is a perfect fit for me."

Wood made two amazing saves in the 2-0 victory against Guerin Catholic in the State Championship Game. She appreciates her Penn Soccer experience.

"Penn soccer has allowed me to make life-long friendships and learn how to be a leader. As a goalkeeper, I need to be able to communicate and organize my defense. Being the captain of the Penn Girls soccer team has helped me improve my communication and leadership skills I will need for college soccer."

Penn Head Coach Jeff Hart believes Wood will be a difference-maker at Northwestern.

"'Z' is another top-end athlete that has all the tools the great goalies have – leadership, presence, great hands and movement (feel) for the position, outstanding foot skills, quickness and a fearless attitude," Penn coach Jeff Hart said. "She will make an early difference at Northwestern next year."



PENN SOFTBALL

HEAD COACH BETH ZACHARY



LEXI CLAY, Taylor University

Penn outfielder Lexi Clay has committed to continue her academic and athletic careers at Taylor University, which is located in Upland, Ind. Taylor's Softball program reached the NAIA Nationals in 2017, the second time the Trojans have reached the NAIA Nationals in Softball in program history.



"I'm excited to become a collegiate athlete because it's something I've been working towards my whole career, and I can't wait to go there and play (Taylor)."

Clay hit .421 in Northern Indiana Conference action this season and drove in eight runs.

"Lexi brings a positive attitude and contagious effort to practices and games every day," Penn coach Beth Zachary said. "I think because Lexi sustained a significant injury last season, she has a new appreciation for the game and her opportunity to play it when she hits the field. Lexi leads by example on and off the field and is a wonderful young lady that will do great things. We are lucky to have Lexi in the Penn Softball family."



HAILEY HISAW, Saint Mary's

Hailey Hisaw is a senior who has committed to the University of Saint Mary's College to further her athletic and academic careers. She plans to study Elementary Education in her academic pursuit.



Hailey started playing softball on a coach-pitch little league team in the Jimtown district as a third baseman. Eventually she made the local all-star team, then moving up to travel teams, where she developed as her true position, a pitcher, moving even farther up to elite travel teams to showcase her talent.

“My parents helped me get to the next level as soon as I was playing on an elite travel team, where I was discovered by Saint Mary's,” Hisaw said.

Hisaw said her parents, Bill and Kim Hisaw, have been her “biggest support system” on her journey not only academically but athletically. She chose Saint Mary's because, “it was the best fit for me and my family. I was really looking for somewhere close to home so I could be close to my family. Saint Mary's is a very strong school for academics and that was my goal while choosing where I wanted to go.”

“I was really driven by my failures,” Hisaw continued. “The harder things got, the harder I pushed myself to become a better player, which in the end, paid off.”

Hisaw has prepared in both aspects, by staying after school to receive help to ensure she was fully ready for college in the fall and by practicing multiple times a week to simulate a college-level performance. All-in-all, Hailey Hisaw is ready for Saint Mary's and more than excited to be part of their softball program.



Penn Swimming record-holder Makenna Bottorff will continue her academic and athletic careers at Ball State University.

Bottorff has been on three NIC and Sectional Championship teams, and was a Sectional Champion in the 100 butterfly in 2016 and 2017.

She earned two All-American awards for relays in 2016 and three All-American awards in 2017. Bottorff has been part of five relay records between 2016 and 2017.



Penn has finished in the Top 5 at state the past three seasons, with Bottorff contributing major points. She was second in the state and third in the state on relays in 2016, and was third in two relays and fourth in another relay in 2017.

Ball State had the right feel for Bottorff.

“A big factor in the end was just how comfortable I felt on campus and with the team,” Bottorff said. “Right when I got there, I knew it's where I needed to be. I could see myself going there as well as competing. My teammates have also made me realize how important it is to have one another. They're the reason I stay motivated. We're like a huge family. That's why the team aspect of things at Ball State appealed to me -- it felt like home.”

Competing at a high level of Swimming with the Penn program helped Bottorff develop her skills to be a Division I swimmer.

“Being able to compete in high school has definitely prepared me for swimming in college, especially with how competitive and different the atmosphere is from club swimming,” Bottorff said. “My coach does an amazing job with preparing us for what's to come at meets, and while practices may be awful at times I always know that if he thinks we're capable of doing them then we can get through it, this only pushes me to get better and get to where I need to be at college level.”

Penn coach Jess Preston said that Bottorff has a bright future with Ball State.

“I think Makenna will do great at Ball State,” Coach Preston said. “I believe that she hasn't even reached her full potential. With a lot of hard work, she could do great at the collegiate level.”



A.J. ANTONELLI, Marian University

Marian University will be the next level of athletic competition for Penn's No. 1 Tennis player, A.J. Antonelli.

Antonelli helped lead the Kingsmen to Northern Indiana Conference, Sectional and Regional Championships this season. He gutted out a nearly four-hour victory at No. 1 Singles against Marian's Cameron Rafinski in the Sectional Championship.

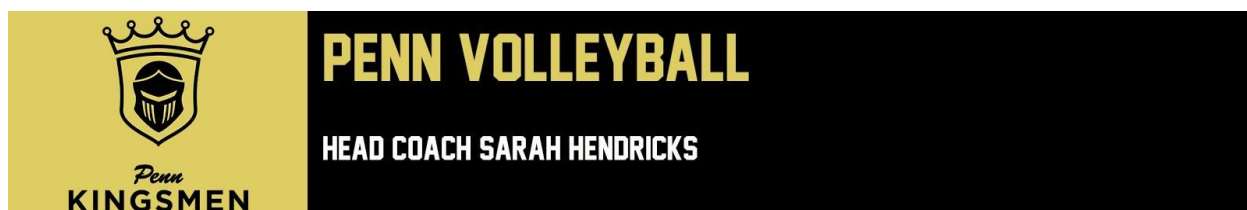


“Factors that went into my decision to choose Marian University are being close to a great city of Indianapolis, the affordability of the school, the athletic competition, and a cool student atmosphere just to name a few,” Antonelli said.

Antonelli flourished in Penn’s Tennis Program, which won its 16th consecutive Sectional title this year.

“Penn tennis has prepared me to play college tennis, because it has taught me how to win tough matches,” Antonelli said. “Also, Coach Bowers was a big help in me improving my game and helping me fulfill my potential throughout my four years at Penn.”

“A.J. has worked hard to improve his skills over the years,” Penn Tennis Head Coach Eric Bowers said. “I believe he will continue to do so at the collegiate level.”



JULIA BEERS, Concordia University of Chicago

After helping Penn earn Top 5 rankings in the state as a Junior and a Senior, Julia Beers will be attending Concordia University of Chicago in the Fall of 2018 and playing volleyball.

Beers chose Concordia because of the phenomenal education program that it offers. The head coach (Troy Campbell) was also a big influence in her decision. "He has a lot of integrity and a really good volleyball mindset."

As Beers takes on her college career, she is prepared for the college level thanks to the Penn Volleyball program.

"My Penn team prepared me for the college level by showing me how to compete and fight for what you deserve," Beers said. "I've learned on my own that in the end, the people who work the hardest will get the most out of what they work toward."



Penn Head Coach Sarah Hendricks said that Beers made a significant impact on the Penn Program.

"I really enjoyed coaching Julia this year," Hendricks said. "She has developed into not only a great player, but a great leader as well. She was one of our team captains and was always working hard on and off the court. She will be greatly missed next year."

Beers began playing volleyball when she was in the third grade, as well as many other sports. As she began her first year at Grissom Middle School, she realized that volleyball was her passion and that it was the only sport she wanted to be focused on.

"I just love the game and how fast paced it is. It is also filled with wonderful excitement and great momentum that makes it so much fun."



ITALIA FIELDS, Milwaukee School of Engineering

Penn Volleyball senior Italia Fields brings a lot of skill to her team as a captain this year. She is known for her leadership on and off the court. Being able to play multiple positions on the court she proves to be a strike force against other teams.



Fields' success has led to her choice to go to The Milwaukee School Of Engineering.

"I chose The Milwaukee School Of Engineering, because the campus is absolutely gorgeous and it's Top 10 in the nation for Engineering which is the field I'm going to study," Fields said.

Fields is looking forward to meeting all of the players at the college and she is very eager to finally see what it will be like when she is all on her own and is preparing herself for her life beyond college.

"Volleyball has always been a humongous part of my life," Fields said. "I started playing in seventh grade and have been playing ever since, it's definitely been the most challenging yet successful aspect of my life this far and I'm excited to see how far it will take me."

Penn Volleyball Coach Sarah Hendricks said that Fields is an impact player in many ways for the Kingsmen.

"Italia has developed into not only a great player but a leader as well," Hendricks said. "She is very dynamic on the court and can play multiple positions. She is a captain this year, and does a great job of leading on and off the court.

"I know (Fields) is going to do very well at the next level because she is constantly pushing herself to be better, and works incredibly hard," Hendricks added. "She is just an all around great person, and I am grateful to have had the privilege to be her coach."

Being a student-athlete is a tough job. Fields has proven that with hard work and dedication everything you do to become better will eventually pay off. She can't wait to get to the next level and is looking forward to see where her life takes her at The Milwaukee School Of Engineering.



RACHEL HICKEY, IUPUI

Rachel Hickey, the Northern Indiana Conference Most Valuable Player, has committed to IUPUI Volleyball. Hickey led Penn to NIC and Sectional Championships and a Top 5 ranking this season.



"When choosing what college to commit to, distance was a major factor," Hickey said. "I chose IUPUI, because it's only three hours away. Now my family and friends are able to come watch me play. On top of that, I now get to follow in my sister, Kaitlyn's, footsteps and play four years at IUPUI".

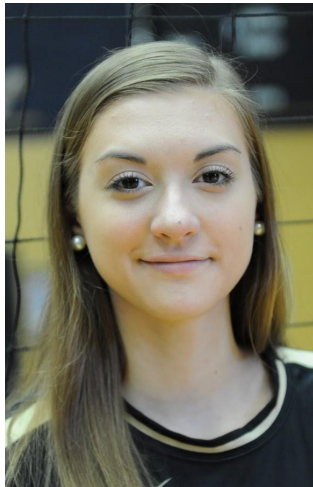
Rachel's older sister, Kaitlyn, is a four-time all-conference player at IUPUI, and Rachel's younger sister, Ally, is also on the Penn varsity.

"When I first took over the program seven years ago, I was lucky enough to coach Kaitlyn Hickey for her senior year," Hendricks said. "I now have both Rachel and Ally Hickey on the team. There are some things you just can't teach, like athleticism and court smarts -- two qualities that the Hickey girls all possess.

"These girls have grown up on the court watching and playing volleyball," Hendricks said. "They all have such a great volleyball IQ and can play any position that you put

them in. They are able to anticipate the next play and put the ball where the other team isn't.

"They are also highly competitive, which as a coach I love," Hendricks continued. "I have been very lucky to be able to coach all three girls and work with their parents. They come from a big family that is unbelievably supportive of their children and Penn Volleyball."



RACHEL RUPERT, Vincennes University

Rachel Rupert is one of the most skilled players on a very talented Penn Volleyball team that won the Northern Indiana Conference Championship, the South Bend Sectional Championship, and earned a Top 5 ranking in the state. Rupert was a transfer student her Junior year and experience a level of play at Penn that was "drastically different from my former high school."



However with the support of Coach Sarah Hendricks and her fellow teammates, she was able to adapt and prosper. Now, Rupert is taking her talents to the next level, committing to the Vincennes University Volleyball program.

"I didn't think Vincennes would be where I have ended up," Rupert said. "It was my third college visit and I had two more scheduled after it, but during my tour and getting to talk to the team, I knew it was home. I actually cancelled my last two visits (which included what I thought was my No. 1 choice), because I was so set on going to this school."

When asked what the most important things she has learned throughout her time playing at the Penn Program she stated, "You can't blame others when things aren't going your way. You have to own up and understand that you need to push yourself to be better and control the controllables."

Penn Volleyball Head Coach Sarah Hendricks sees a bright future for Rupert.

"Rachel has made such vast improvements over her time here at Penn," Hendricks said. "She has really developed as a player, and played a vital role in the offense and defense of this team. Rachel works unbelievable hard every time she steps on the court. She is a tremendous teammate who constantly puts the team first."

