The 2006-07 season was one to remember for the Mount Holyoke College basketball team. For the first time in school history, the Lyons captured the NEWMAC Tournament championship and advanced to the NCAA Division III National Tournament. Despite a 47-57 setback at top-ranked Babson College in the semifinals of the NCAA’s, Mount Holyoke finished with 21 & record (10-3 NEWMAC). Head coach Michelle Scioina was named NEWMAC Coach of the Year, while senior Anticia received Conference Player of the Year honors. Anticia was joined on the All-Conference Team by Josie Swaine.

Now in her fourth season at the helm, Scioina is optimistic that her program is on the cusp of remaining competitive in the region in 2007-08. For the first time in her tenure, she has assembled the largest squad in program history. With added depth comes a heightened expectation that the team can reach new levels of success in 2007-08.

Leading the way for the Lyons will be senior Grace Ziegel. The four-year varsity school record holder in the long jump, she should once again be one of the region’s strongest competitors in the event this season.

Mount Holyoke’s distance squad will be led by seniors Malina Demb, Meghan Lynch and Cynthia Rill, who all have the potential to qualify for the postseason.

The Lyons improved depth will be apparent in the sprints and relays, where the Lyons will be able to fill fields in each event. Senior captain Charissa Pickton will anchor the group.

Mount Holyoke’s throwers will enter the season in excellent shape. Hewit expects their output to improve under the tutelage of new assistant coach Diane Wil- liams. Highlighting the group will be junior Chelsea McCracken (weight) and sophomore Hillery Haber (shot put).

In the high jump, senior Caroline Gillis will be the Lyons top threat to qualify for the post-season.

The Lyons will enter the season with high hopes, as it looks to build upon an outstanding 2006-07 campaign which resulted in a 13th in the College Squash Association (CSA) national rankings. Last year’s 13th place finish was the best in the Lyons history and ranked 18th among Division III schools that compete in the CSA.

Head coach Pamela Saunders is eager for the season to begin, as she knows that the leadership of her squad’s captains combined with the overall strength of the team will establish a strong foundation for surpassing last year’s results. She will look to senior co-captains Pieth Seth, Lizzie Wright, and Jackie Wad to provide the Lyons with direction this season.

Nine players have returned for Saunders, who is now in her fourth season at the helm of Mount Holyoke. Included in that group are juniors Pamela Anckerman and Menusha Harricahlach, along with sophomores Laura Robinson. The trio who underwent an extensive off-season training in winter was Anckerman’s second straight unbeaten regular season. She finished 20th at the Individual National Championships, narrowly missing All-America honors.

Saunders has also added a pair of impact first-years.

Mount Holyoke indoor and outdoor track and field teams entered the season in excellent shape. Senior captain Dave Bristow has returned with a season’s best in his specialty, the triple jump. A second-year returnee, senior captain Kiki-Lin cross country team member Kiri-Lin McDiarmid bring Lady Lyons back to the top of the region in 2007. We are being so focused on our upcoming events, now our fields are the superior ones," she said. "The old tracks were worn and uneven, but running on the new tracks is decreasing injuries and wear and tear on our legs." The Lyons deepened their depth with the addition of first-year Felicity Walker to the distance team.

The Lyons enters this season with high expectations. The_shoulders, as the Lyons have been competitive in almost every event. The Lyons will be led by juniors, five sophomores and four first years.

The Lyons will be reliant on the return of senior captain Dave Bristow at the long jump. The Lyons also have the benefit of returning four-time All-NEWMAC performer, sophomore Hillery Haber.

Field hockey, lacrosse and soccer, the Lyons are hoping to have a truly successful season. "We are working on getting everyone to be better at each position," senior captain Dave Bristow said. "The Lyons have always been a team that has strong leadership at the top and strong leadership at the bottom."

The Lyons enter the season with high expectations. The Lyons will be led by juniors, five sophomores and four first years.

The Lyons enter the season in excellent shape. Hewit expects their output to improve under the tutelage of new assistant coach Diane Williams. Highlighting the group will be junior Chelsea McCracken (weight) and sophomore Hillery Haber (shot put).

The high jump, senior Caroline Gillis will be the Lyons top threat to qualify for the post-season.

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In addition to her numerous responsibilities at Mount Holyoke, Priest has also published many articles and is a frequent speaker at coaching clinics. She has received several awards for her contributions to women's athletics including the AAIHPERD's fields of excellence award and the National Association for College Women Athletes' Distinguished Service Award. She is also a member of the Mount Holyoke College Athletic Hall of Fame.

 Priest received her B.A. in physical education from the College of Wooster (OH) and her M.S. in exercise physiology from the University of Montana. She is currently an Offi  cer in the United States Army National Guard. Before moving to Massachusetts in 2005, Priest was an Offi  cer in the United States Army National Guard. She is currently an Offi  cer in the United States Army National Guard.

Laurie Priest was named to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008 and the American College Women's Athletic Association's 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America. She was also named to the United States Army National Guard's 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America.

Laurie Priest

In her fi rst year as head coach of the Mount Holyoke College Athletics Department, Laurie Priest has guided the Lyons to a 4-4 mark in seven games.

As head coach of the Lyons, Priest has been an offi  cer of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) since 1995. She is also a member of the Mount Holyoke College Athletic Hall of Fame.

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