Kim McNeill is a realist. She knows that there are games during the season when her Hawks’ women’s basketball team will have an off night shooting. “But there are things we can control,” she emphasizes, “such as our defensive effort, how hard we play, and how many times we decide to dive on the court. I think our style of play is going to be extremely exciting and people are going to come and watch us play.”

On May 25, University of Hartford Director of Athletics Anton Goff introduced McNeill as UHart’s eighth head women’s basketball coach. She succeeds Jennifer Rizzotti, who resigned after 16 seasons last spring to become head coach at The George Washington University.

McNeill has spent the past 16 seasons as an assistant coach at the Division I level, distinguishing herself as an effective and successful recruiter and coach.

McNeill arrives at Hartford by way of the University of Virginia, where from 2011-13, she was an assistant coach under Joanna Boyle before being elevated to associate head coach in 2013.

McNeill is no stranger to winning. Five of the six programs she has been a part of have earned berths to either the NCAA Tournament or the Postseason WNIT. She has been a part of 10 teams that have qualified for the postseason, guiding seven squads to NCAA Tournament berths, and four to appearances in the Postseason WNIT.

“My goal is to create a positive student-athlete experience, where our success is found on the court, in the classroom, and throughout the community,” McNeill says.

FAMLIAR FACES

Two assistant coaches from last season find themselves leading their respective programs in 2016-17.

Richard Warren has been elevated to head coach of track & field and cross country, while Ryan Martin has been chosen to lead the Hartford Men’s Lacrosse program. Warren joined the Hawks’ family in 2015, and has over 10 years of experience as a collegiate coach, including four years with national power Ohio State.

Martin, who has been the Men’s Lacrosse program’s top assistant the past two years, played a key role in leading Hartford to the program’s second America East Tournament title in 2016.

GOING PRO


Gauthier had an outstanding senior campaign with the Hawks, going 5-2 with a team-leading 2.76 ERA. He struck out 48 batters in 75 innings with a .233 batting average against. He was named Second Team All-America East and earned four America East Pitcher-of-the-Week awards.

FOLLOW THE HAWKS

Fall sports season is in full swing. Basketball season is just around the corner. For schedules, results, ticket information, and multimedia features, visit HartfordHawks.com.
CLASSROOM STARS
A conference-leading nine student-athletes from the University of Hartford were named America East Presidential Scholar-Athletes for their outstanding academic achievements throughout their college years. The award recognizes student-athletes who graduated in May who compiled a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher as an undergraduate student.

The women’s soccer team had four members earn America East Presidential Scholar-Athlete laurels: Emma Donnelly, Elise Galipo, Kristen McAdams, and Erica Primovic. Also honored were Sara Buckley (women’s track and field), Christopher Helminski (men’s track and field), Erinn Lavelle (volleyball), Anthony LoBello (men’s soccer), and Christie Michals (women’s basketball).

ALL-AMERICAN
Dylan Protesto ’18 of Men’s Lacrosse received All-America laurels from the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA). Protesto, a sophomore, was named to the Division I USILA/Nike All-America Third Team as a face-off specialist.

He was a force to be reckoned with inside of the face-off circle all season, winning 70.8 percent of his duels (272-for-384), marking the best single-season performance in Hartford history. Protesto’s winning percentage at the X was the nation’s top mark. In addition, his 151 ground balls in 2016 were the second most in school history.

Men’s Basketball
Pancake Thomas ’17 had one of the finest individual seasons in program history, finishing with 566 points (eighth in school history) and earning Second Team NABC All-District honors.

Women’s Basketball
Darby Lee ’18 was one of two Hawks honored by America East, named Third Team All-Conference. Teammate Lindsey Abed ’19 was selected to the league’s All-Rookie Team.

Women’s Golf
Annmarie Mallat ’16 placed ninth to lead the Hawks at the MAAC Championship.

Men’s Lacrosse
Won the America East title with thrilling one-goal wins over Albany (ranked fourth nationally at the time) and Vermont, advanced to the NCAA Tournament, and was ranked 19th in the country in a late-season media poll managed by Inside Lacrosse.

Men’s Track
Chris Helminski ’16 delivered top-15 finishes in the mile at the New England Championships and in the 1,500 meters and 5,000 meters at the America East Championships.

Softball
Advanced to the America East Tournament for the first time since 2013.

Baseball
David Mackinnon ’17 led the Hawks to a school-record 37 wins in 2016, becoming the first player in program history to be named America East Player of the Year and First Team Academic All-America.

Men’s Golf
Evan Russell ’16 won the individual title at the Big Sky Championship and qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

Women’s Track
Sara Buckley ’16 took seventh place in the 10,000 meters at the New England Championships in her final season for the Hawks.