Bowdoin Women and Athletics

- **1972**: Field hockey and women's track and cross-country change from club to varsity teams.
- **1973**: Women's tennis changes from a club to a varsity team.
- **1974**: Women's basketball and women's lacrosse change from club to varsity teams.
- **1976**: Women's swimming and diving and women's squash change from club to varsity teams. Field hockey makes a post-season appearance.
- **1977**: Women's soccer changes from a club to a varsity team.
- **1978**: Women appear on the ski team roster.

(cont'd)
Impactful Women of Bowdoin Athletics

Sally LaPointe

In 1972, Sally LaPointe became the first-ever female coach at the newly coeducational Bowdoin. A pioneer and advocate for women’s sports, LaPointe founded and coached four different programs. She served as a mentor, teacher, and friend for a generation of Bowdoin student-athletes. It is fair to say Bowdoin athletics would not be what it is today without her profound shaping of women’s sports.


LaPointe founded the women’s lacrosse team in 1974. She coached the team for nineteen years, compiling a 103-83-5 mark. In 1986, she guided the team to a perfect 15-0 record and the NIAC (Northeast Independent Athletic Conference) Championship.

LaPointe coached the women’s basketball team for its inaugural season (1974–1975). She also coached the squash team alongside Ed Reid.
Bowdoin Women and Athletics

- **1981**: Field hockey, swimming, soccer, and cross-country make post-season appearances.
- **1982**: Women’s softball changes from a club to a varsity team.
- **1984**: Women’s ice hockey changes from a club to a varsity sport.
- **1986**: Volleyball changes from a club to a varsity team.
  - Field hockey, lacrosse, swimming, squash, and soccer make post-season appearances.
- **1991**: Swimming, squash soccer, cross-country, and indoor track make post-season appearances.
- **1996**: Field hockey, basketball, squash, soccer, cross-country, and outdoor track make post-season appearances.

*cont’d*
alumnae speak: community

“... I loved the sense of community amongst the women’s and men’s teams, waiting in line for uniforms from Link in the field house, or watching each other’s games. I was also blown away at the interest that professors and administrators took in cheering us on from the sidelines.”

MOLLY HOAGLAND KING ’80
Impactful Women of Bowdoin Athletics

Joan Benoit Samuelson

The most recognizable athlete in Bowdoin’s history, Joan Benoit Samuelson ’79 is one of the most decorated runners in the world. She was a four-time All-American and held numerous Bowdoin and New England indoor and outdoor records, including regional marks in the 1,500- and 3,000-meter races and the US women’s record for the 10,000 meters.


In 1984, she was presented with the Jesse Owens Award. She also won the gold medal in the inaugural women’s marathon at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. In 1985, she earned the Sullivan Award as the top US amateur athlete.

Samuelson was inducted into the International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame, the Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs of America National Hall of Fame, the Maine Women’s Hall of Fame, the Maine Sports Hall of Fame, and the International Women’s Sports Foundation Hall of Fame.
Bowdoin Women and Athletics

Eight women’s varsity teams appear in NESCAC/NCAA tournaments.

- 2001

Ten women’s varsity teams appear in NESCAC/NCAA tournaments.

- 2006

Twelve women’s varsity teams appear in NESCAC/NCAA tournaments.

- 2011

cont’d

Rugby changes from a club to a varsity team. They soon become certified as the first collegiate female rugby team in the country.

- 2003

Field hockey wins first-ever NCAA Championship in all of Bowdoin Athletics.

- 2007

Fifteen women’s varsity teams appear in NESCAC/NCAA tournaments.

- 2016
**Nicky Pearson**


Pearson has been honored as the NESCAC Coach of the Year seven times: in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2010. She earned her profession’s highest honor when she was recognized as the Division III Coach of the Year following each of Bowdoin’s national championships in 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2013.
alumnae speak: discipline

“As a female athlete, I was taught discipline—how to organize my time, train, be there for my teammates, and regardless of injury or how hard it was, be disciplined.”

RENATA MERINO ’95