

ATHLETICS



**Leaders in All
Walks of Life**

FIFTY YEARS OF WOMEN AT BOWDOIN

Bowdoin Women and Athletics

Field hockey and women's track and cross-country change from club to varsity teams.

1972

Women's basketball and women's lacrosse change from club to varsity teams.

1974

Women's soccer changes from a club to a varsity team.

1977

1973

Women's tennis changes from a club to a varsity team.

1976

Women's swimming and diving and women's squash change from club to varsity teams.

1978

Women appear on the ski team roster.

Field hockey makes a post-season appearance.

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 field hockey team in 1972. She coached the team for twenty years, accumulating 131 victories and winning the MAIAW (Maine Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) Championship in 1976 and 1977, and finishing as a finalist in 1981, 1983, and 1984.

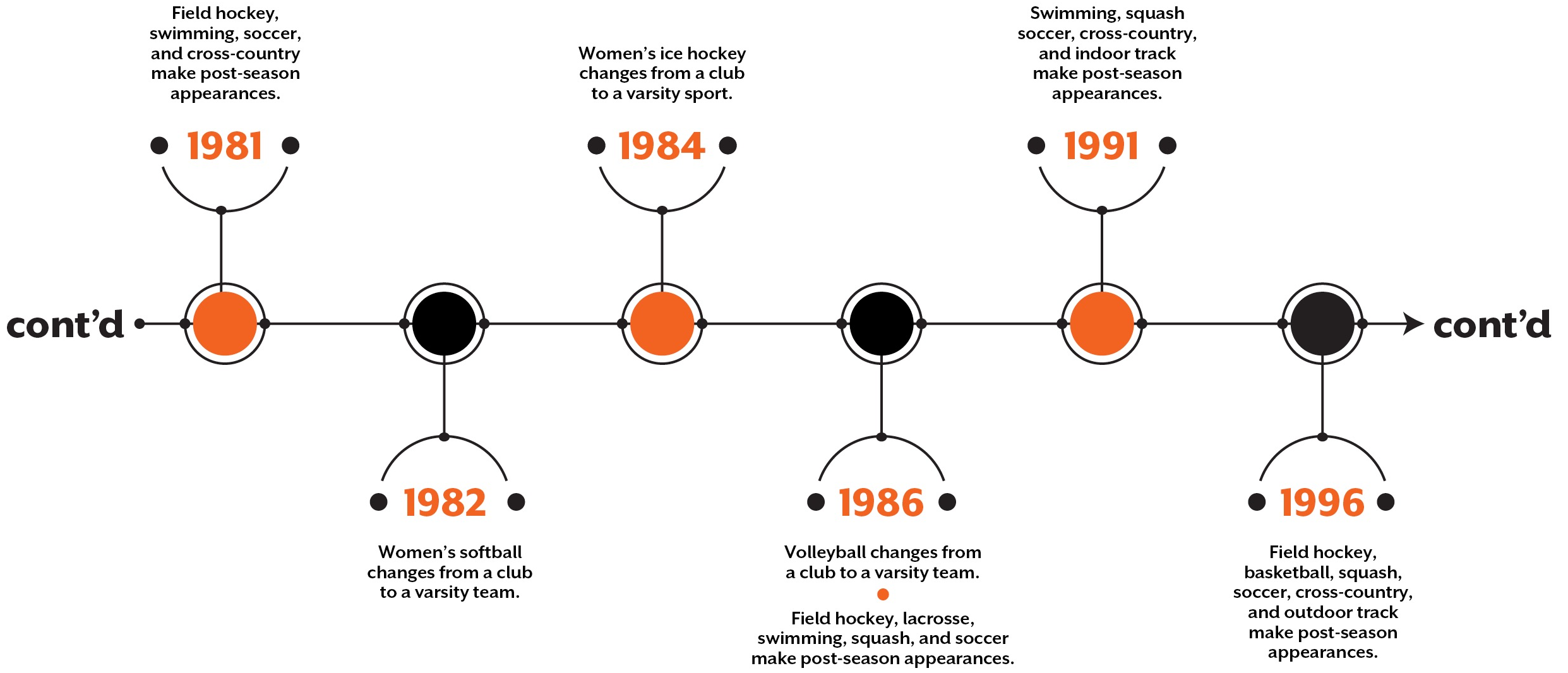


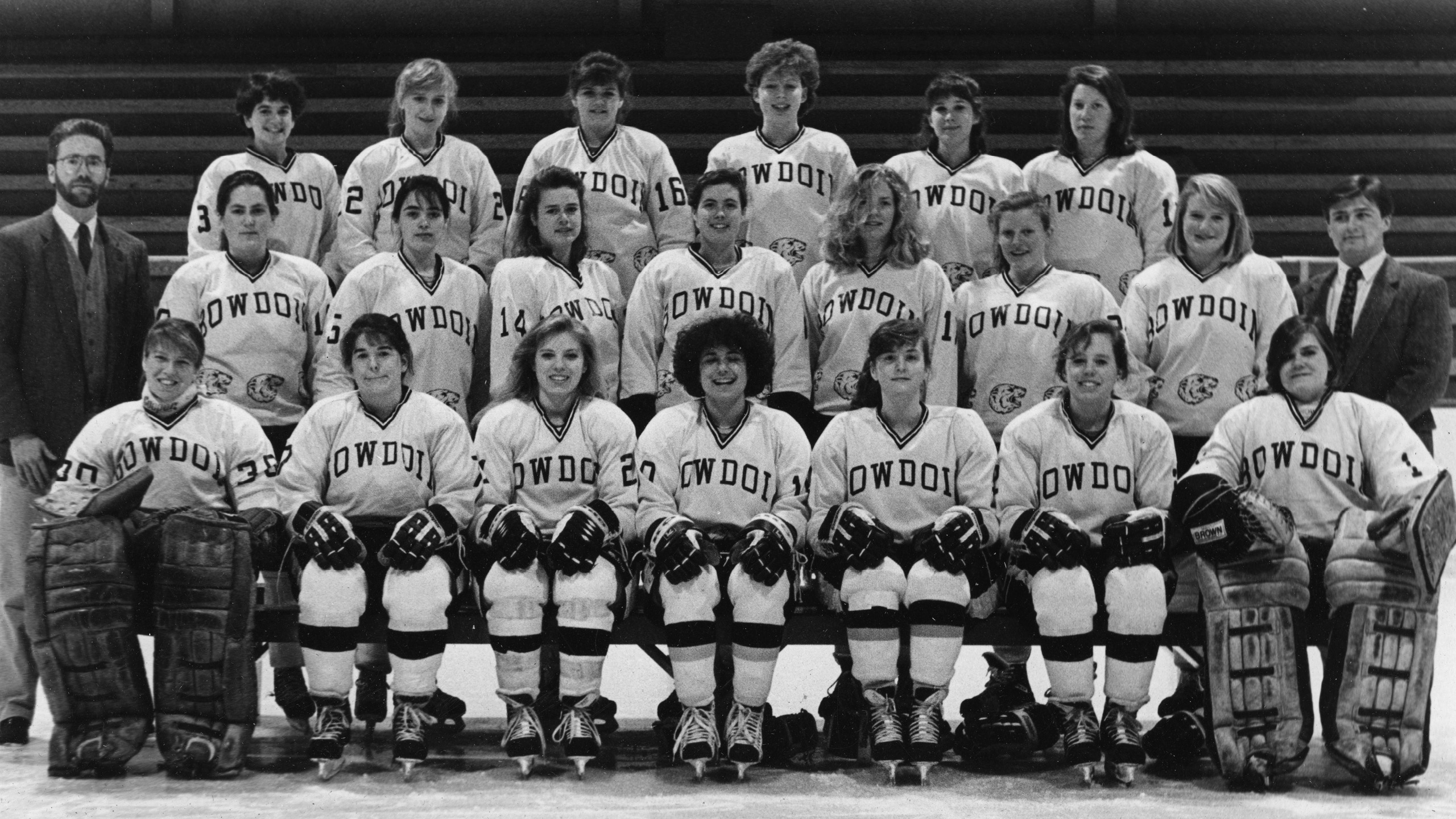
LaPointe founded the women's lacrosse team in 1974. She coached the team for nineteen years, compiling a 103-83-5 mark. In 1986, she guided the team to a perfect 15-0 record and the NIAC (Northeast Independent Athletic Conference) Championship.

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





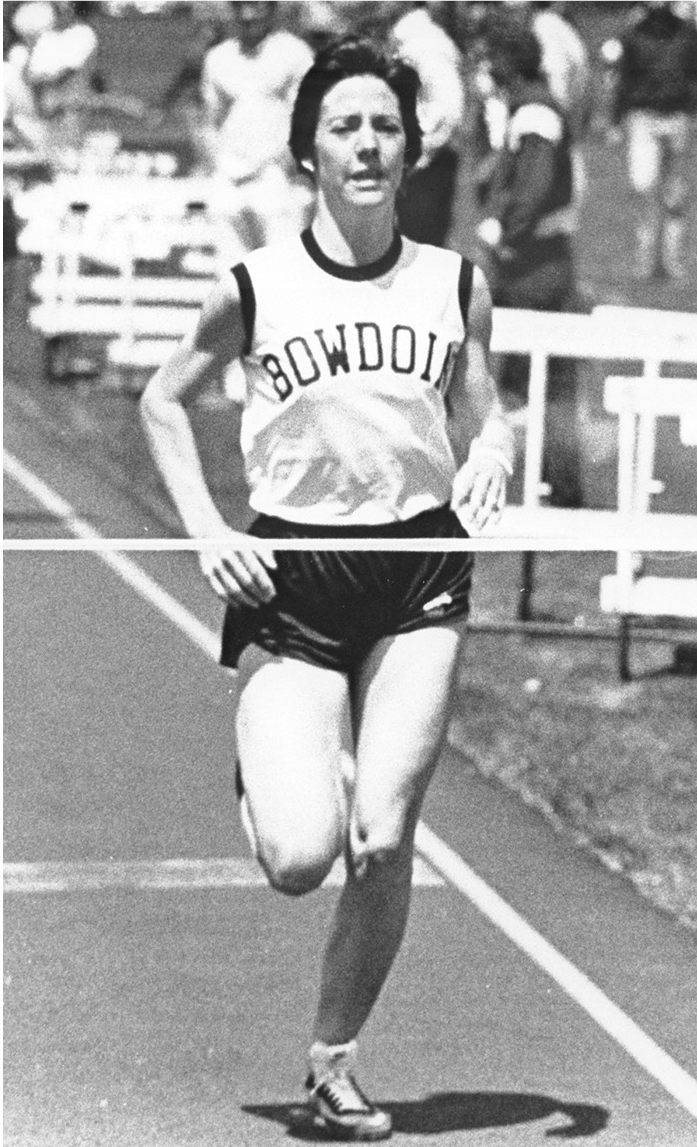
alumnae speak: **community**

“... 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.

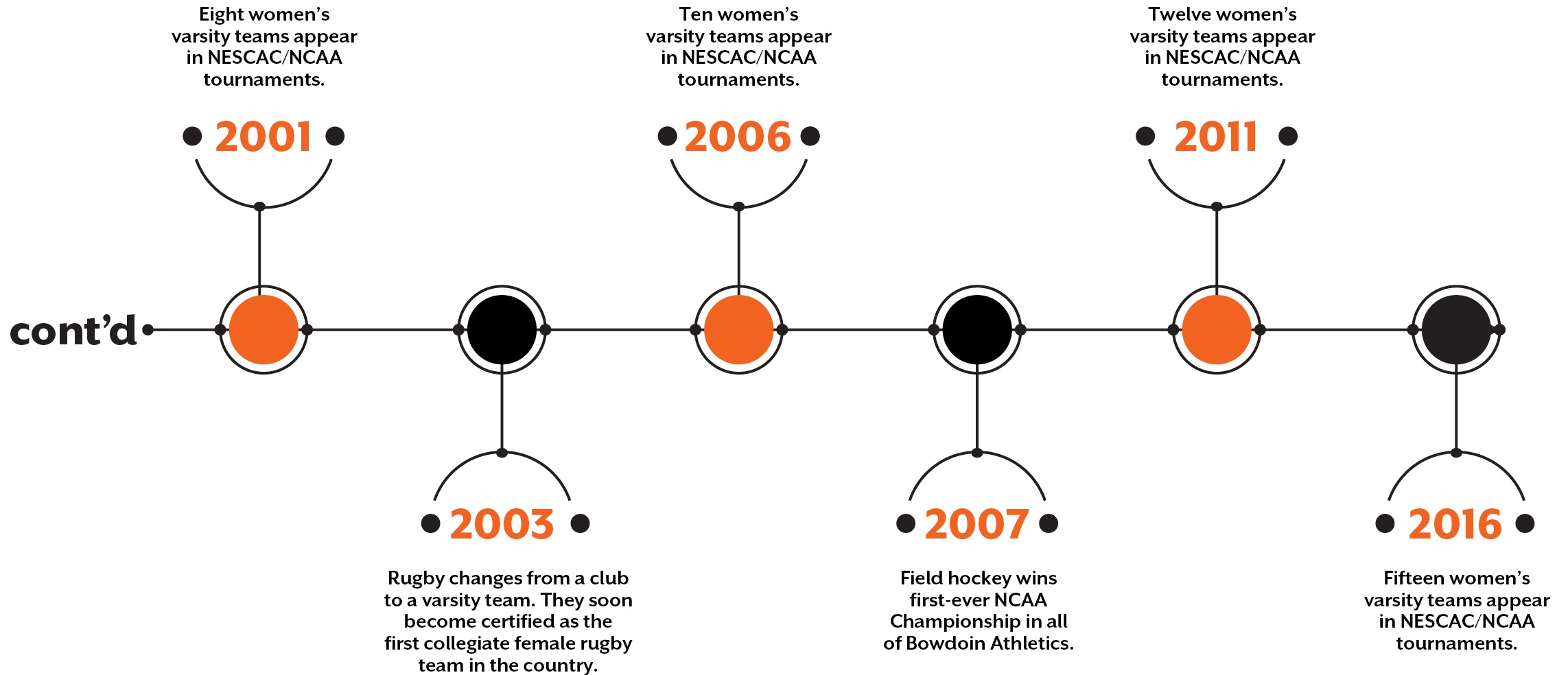
Samuelson is a two-time Boston Marathon champion (1979 and 1983), setting a world best of 2:22:43 in 1983. Two years later, she ran the Chicago Marathon with a time of 2:21:21.

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





Impactful Women of Bowdoin Athletics



Nicky Pearson

Over her twenty-five years at Bowdoin, Nicky Pearson has led the women's field hockey team to incredible success. Under her guidance the team has qualified for the post-season every year, making Final Four appearances in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015. In 2007, she directed the Polar Bears to a perfect 20-0 campaign and NCAA Championship—the first by any team in school history. She coached the team to three other titles in 2008, 2010, and 2013.

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

