

Lacrosse to host NE10 playoff game for first time

By Julian Markese
Sports Editor

Zero wins and 38 losses: this was the lacrosse team’s combined record against Saint Anselm College and Bentley University. This past week, they beat them both.

The historic charge guarantees the Owls a home playoff game, a first for the program. The wins give the team a record of 12-3 and 6-2 in the conference, both all-time highs.

“Our expectations aren’t to just go have fun anymore. We’re a program that’s built to come in and win. We expect it,” defender Auserehl Mazzulli, a senior, said.

After losing to Assumption University on senior day, the team

found themselves at a crossroads. The loss was devastating. It had a real possibility of derailing an already historic season. Morale was low.

“We were really upset after the game against Assumption. Everyone came in with a puss on their face. Kevin took the initiative. He said, ‘You guys are usually always smiling. I don’t see one smile,’” midfielder Anna Meserve, a junior, said.

The team dug deep. They found their joy again. Head Coach Kevin Siedlecki’s leadership and the willingness of the team’s seniors to take initiative helped the team refocus on their goals.

The team’s leaders were in their coach’s office, drawing up plays and making adjustments

for the Bentley game. It worked. Bentley was met with a different animal than they had seen in years past.

“It shows the growth in my four years here. My freshman year, when we went into the Bentley game, it was just about having fun and doing our best. But today, we went knowing we had the ability to beat them. We ended up crushing them,” Mazzulli said. “It’s such a great feeling to know that we’ve grown so much.”

The Bentley game was not close. The Owls scored the first four goals of the game on their way to a crushing 18-10 victory.

The game against Saint Anselm was not close, either. The Owls scored

the first four goals of the game on their way to an equally impressive 17-9 victory.

“This was the best this program has ever played. This game was an example of the best that this team can do,” Siedlecki said after the Bentley game. “We didn’t just beat them; we lit them up.”

The Owls are the ninth ranked team in the East Region, another first for the program. The team had never been ranked before.

Attacker Macy Vail, a senior, continues to lead the team in goals and points. She has scored 38 this season and is still riding a streak of 34 straight games with a goal.

Midfielder Abigail Nolan, a senior, has scored

35 goals. Meserve has 31 and leads the team in ground balls. Attacker Maddox Burton, a junior, leads the team in assists with 22.

The most vital contributor and the backbone of the team is goalkeeper Caelen Connors, a senior.

“She’s literally a brick wall,” Meserve said.

Connors is a top-50 goalie in the country for saves. She is top-15 in the country and No. 1 in the NE10 for save percentage at 48%.

“We would not be where we are, and our program would not be where we are without Caelen Connors in net,” Mazzulli said. “She saves our asses over and over and over.”

Almost every game is a milestone for the pro-

gram. The days of being overlooked are gone. No longer will the team be able to surprise their opponents.

“I think teams are taking us for granted. They think: ‘Oh, we got this. We’ll crush them.’ Clearly, that doesn’t work,” Meserve said.

When the playoffs roll around, the Owls will have to reengage with teams that know what is coming.

They will face Assumption, Bentley or Saint Anselm in the first round on Saturday, April 25 for their first home playoff game.

“The expectation is to win. Losing isn’t an option. And we are going to do the best we can to put our best foot forward,” Mazzulli said.



PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

The team celebrates after scoring against Bentley University on April 15.

Despite chemistry, baseball struggles

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The Owls have stumbled out of the gate this season, posting a 9-20 overall record as they battle through a wave of early adversity. Plagued by injuries and internal challenges, the Owls are still searching for consistency as they look to turn their season around.

The team has remained in good spirits. The camaraderie within the group has played a major role in keeping them grounded, serving as a steady foundation through the ups and downs of a challenging season.

“We’ve gotta take it game by game, pitch by pitch,” second baseman Michael Talavera, a graduate, said. “It’s a matter of time for us. It’s a new team from last year, and we’re ready to start clicking.”

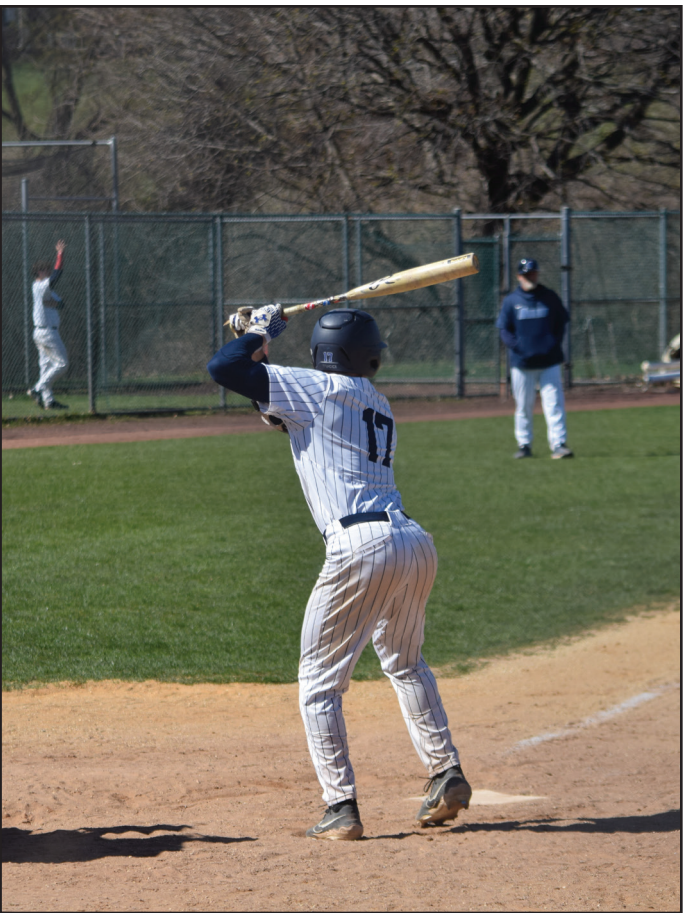


PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

Infielder Nick Karras, a freshman, at bat.

That mindset was put on full display after a difficult stretch away from home. Returning to their home field, the Owls responded in dramatic fashion with a walk-off victory against American International College, a game that may prove to be a turning point in their season.

The university found itself in an early hole, falling behind 6-0 after three innings as American International capitalized on scoring opportunities in the second and third frames. Despite the deficit, the Owls did not waver.

In the fourth inning, catcher Brennan Stauble, a junior, provided a spark, launching a two-run home run to get the Owls on the board and begin chipping away at the lead.

From there, the Owls relied heavily on their pitching staff to keep the

game within reach. Relievers Harry Roy, a sophomore, and Jake O’Connor, a junior, delivered crucial performances out of the bullpen, combining for multiple shutout innings while limiting American International’s offense.

Their efforts helped stabilize the game and allowed the Owls to stay competitive heading into the later innings.

Still trailing 8-2 heading into the ninth inning, the situation was bleak.

However, pitcher Wes Keayes, a freshman, gave the Owls a final chance by delivering a perfect top of the ninth inning, striking out two batters and keeping the deficit at six runs. His performance set the stage for what would become a remarkable comeback.

In the bottom of the ninth, the team’s offense came alive. Consecutive base hits immediately put pressure on American International, and an error helped load the bases with no outs.

The Owls capitalized on the opportunity, stringing together productive at-bats to steadily cut into the deficit. A groundout and a sacrifice fly brought in two runs, while Stauble continued his standout performance with a clutch two-run single that made it an 8-6 game.

With momentum fully on their side and the tying runs on base, the Owls turned to infielder Spencer Chard, a junior and the captain of the team.

After battling through a long at bat, Chard delivered the decisive moment, launching a three-run home run to complete the comeback and secure a 9-8 walk-off victory.

“Spencer Chard sets the tone of the clubhouse. He puts guys in their place, and everybody listens to him,” Stauble said.

This game highlighted the teamwork, determination and chemistry that define the Owls, regardless of their record. It also demonstrated the potential within the roster when all aspects of the game come together.

From timely hitting to strong relief pitching, the Owls showed flashes of the team they believe they can become.

This group is as tight-knit as it gets off the field. Whether it is living together, grabbing meals or staying late after practice to put in extra work, that bond continues to grow.

It is that kind of chemistry and connection that fuels successful teams. The Owls are a unit, and that togetherness is the foundation on which championship teams are built.

That connection shows up in the way they play, too. Guys are picking each other up after mistakes, celebrating the small wins and staying locked in no matter the score.

In a season that has not always gone their way, that brotherhood has been the constant. It is what keeps the energy up, the belief strong and gives them confidence that when things start to click, they will be a team no one wants to face.

“A win like this really helps,” Head Coach Tim Shea said. “Anytime you can come back in the last inning and score seven runs, good things have to happen.”

While the overall record may not yet reflect it, performances like this suggest that the team is capable of turning its season around. With renewed confidence and a signature win behind them, the Owls will look to build on this momentum as they continue conference play.

NFL Mock Draft

By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Writer

The 2026 NFL Draft is right around the corner, but outside of the top pick, there is uncertainty about how the board will shake out.

While everyone knows the Las Vegas Raiders are widely expected to go quarterback at No. 1 overall, things get interesting immediately after with teams like the New York Jets weighing multiple directions early in the draft.

Here is a look at how I think the first couple picks in the first round could play out.

1. Las Vegas Raiders — Fernando Mendoza (QB) (Indiana University)

It seems like a foregone conclusion around the league that Mendoza will be headed to Las Vegas. The real question is: will he take the helm right away or will Kirk Cousins?

2. New York Jets — Arvell Reese (LB/EDGE) (Ohio State University)

The Jets may need a quarterback, but they also need defensive help. Reese is the most pro-ready pass rusher in the group.

3. Arizona Cardinals — Francis Mauigoa (OT) (University of Miami)

The Cardinals need a stable offensive line, and drafting Mauigoa helps build that.

4. Tennessee Titans — Jeremiah Love (RB) (University of Notre Dame)

The Titans need to give quarterback Cam Ward a supporting cast. Adding a player like Love would give them a playmaker who finished third in the Heisman Trophy voting.

5. New York Giants — Sonny Styles (LB) (Ohio State University)

Head Coach John Harbaugh has always had a great defense with Baltimore. Targeting Styles just makes sense.

6. Cleveland Browns — Carnell Tate (WR) (Ohio State University)

Ohio State has produced many great wide receivers over the years, and the Browns need a quality player to pair with quarterback Shedeur Sanders.

7. Washington Commanders — Rueben Bain Jr. (LB/EDGE) (Miami University)

Bain is a versatile edge threat. Washington adds a defensive tone-setter in the top ten.

8. New Orleans Saints — David Bailey (LB/EDGE) (Texas Tech University)

The Saints added running back Travis Etienne in the offseason. They will use this pick to bolster their defense.

9. Kansas City Chiefs — Mansoor Delane (CB) (Louisiana State University)

The Chiefs need secondary help. If they do not go with Delane, then I could see them picking an offensive lineman.

10. New York Giants (Traded with the Cincinnati Bengals) — Jordyn Tyson (WR) (Arizona State University)

The Giants need a receiver to pair with Malik Nabers. Tyson has the size to contribute in the league. Quarterback Jaxon Dart needs more targets.

11. Miami Dolphins — Makai Lemon (WR) (University of Southern California)

The Dolphins traded away their best receiver in Jaylen Waddle and cut wide receiver Tyreek Hill. Drafting Lemon will help fill the gaps.

12. Dallas Cowboys — Dillon Thieneman (S) (University of Oregon)

Thieneman is an elite athlete and showed off a well-rounded skillset for the Ducks, making him an ideal fit for this pick.

13. Los Angeles Rams — Spencer Fano (OT) (University of Utah)

The Rams could look to replace tackle Warren McClendon Jr. come 2027 by drafting Fano here. Protecting old man Matt Stafford is the priority.

14. Baltimore Ravens — Vega Ioane (IOL) (Pennsylvania State University)

After some roster turnover, protecting Lamar should be the priority here. Interior offensive line struggles have led to Jackson missing games.

15. Tampa Bay Buccaneers — Keldric Faulk (EDGE) (Auburn University)

Faulk’s production at Auburn should catch the eyes of the Bucs front office. Faulk is a great pick. here.