Athletics and Physical Education

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Intercollegiate Athletics

Carnegie Mellon emphasizes excellence in its intercollegiate athletic programs, as well as in its classrooms. The university strongly believes that academic and athletic excellence can successfully coexist. Intercollegiate athletics are important in student life and make a positive impact on the educational experience. Experience as a student-athlete additionally provides benefits in professional and social endeavors following graduation.

Carnegie Mellon sports teams have competed intercollegiately since the early 1900s. In the past 16 years, the program has experienced extensive success. The Tartans have won 92 conference championships and competed in over 165 national championships since 1976. This success has been achieved while meeting all of the academic requirements of demanding programs and without athletic scholarships.

In 1986, Carnegie Mellon became a charter member of the University Athletic Association (UAA), an eight-team league of similar institutions with regard to academic and athletic programs. The UAA, a national association which geographically reaches as far north as Massachusetts, as far south as Atlanta and as far west as St. Louis, sponsors intercollegiate competition in 23 sports including 10 for men and 10 for women. UAA members include Brandeis University, Case Western Reserve University, Carnegie Mellon University, Emory University, New York University, the University of Chicago, the University of Rochester and Washington University in St. Louis.

Carnegie Mellon, like the other seven UAA members, is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Its intercollegiate teams compete on the Division III level, which prohibits athletic scholarships and operates under the true meaning of amateurism. Student-athletes who play at the varsity level are students first and athletes second. All students, both athletes and non-athletes, are treated equally with regard to admission and financial aid policies. Carnegie Mellon fully supports a policy of equity in resources and opportunities for women and men.

The university fields competitive teams in 19 sports. The Tartans compete in football, men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s cross-country, men’s and women’s tennis, women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s swimming and diving, men’s and women’s indoor and outdoor track and field, and softball.

Carnegie Mellon’s intercollegiate programs have consistently produced winners. The men’s golf team won the university’s first national championship in 2023 after placing sixth in 2022 and fourth in 2021. At the conclusion of the 2022 season, senior William Knauth was named the recipient of the Byron Nelson Award for his achievement in the classroom, on the course, and in the community, and a finalist for the Jack Nicklaus National Player of the Year Award.

The Tartans’ football team has won 19 conference championships, the latest coming in 2022, had a string of 35 consecutive winning seasons from 1975-2009, and has appeared in the NCAA Division III Championship playoffs seven times. The Tartans have also played in seven ECAC Bowl games. In 1979, Carnegie Mellon was awarded the Lambert Trophy as the best small college team in the northeast. In 2019, senior defensive lineman Michael Lohmeier became the fifth Tartan named as a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, an award that recognizes an individual as the absolute best scholar-athlete in the nation amongst all divisions.

The men’s cross country team won its most recent conference championship in 2021 and has had a student-athlete or team compete at nationals for 21 straight seasons. The Tartans have accumulated 192 Academic All-America honors given out by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) since 1973. There have been 147 that have earned the honor since the 2004-05 season. The Tartans have also produced 22 NCAA Postgraduate Scholars since 2007-08, which is a scholarship that is awarded to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are in their final year of intercollegiate athletics competition.

In 2019, Carnegie Mellon Unveiled its Inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame. In October, 17 individuals and one historic team were inducted into the inaugural class.

To provide excellence throughout the athletic programs, the department employs full-time coaches in all varsity sports. Intercollegiate competition begins with the first football and soccer games in early September and ends with the NCAA track and field, golf, tennis and softball championships in late May. Students with athletic skills in any of the above mentioned sports are welcome to become members of the team. Participation is open to all students.

Recreation

In addition to providing for its more formal programs and teams, Carnegie Mellon’s athletic facilities are available for use by individual students on an extensive seven-day per week schedule.

The Cohen University Center has facilities for swimming, basketball, volleyball, squash, and racquetball, as well as cardio and strength equipment. Gesling Stadium provides outdoor soccer, football and track facilities. Tennis courts, located between the University Center and Margaret Morrison, are lighted for night play. Outside basketball courts are located near Donner Hall. During the school year, they are open for use by students, faculty and staff.

These facilities are available to students, faculty and staff who have a valid Carnegie Mellon ID card. For hours, contact the Athletic Office at 412-268-5635, or visit our website (http://athletics.cmu.edu/landing/index/).

Physical Education

The Department of Physical Education provides an elective program with an emphasis on personal fitness and lifetime recreation, thus preparing students for physical activity after the college years. Most classes are offered on a mini-course system with each class running seven weeks in length.

This program of more than 60 courses is designed for all students, from the beginner to those students who have already developed some skill. Courses include weight training, personal fitness, racquetball, tennis, golf, weight training, swimming, badminton, indoor cycling and yoga. The department offers a wide variety of diversity in our course offerings. Instruction is also provided in several team sports. Carnegie
Mellon also provides courses for American Red Cross certification in the four levels of swimming and lifeguard training.

**Intramural Sports**

For those who seek another level of competition or just like to participate and have fun, the Intramural Program provides recreation and relaxation for all students, faculty and staff, regardless of the degree of their natural athletic skills. The university prides itself on an intramural program which annually has over 3,000 participants. Men and women, both graduate and undergraduate, compete in more than 20 different activities. Major sports include flag football, soccer, volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, and softball. A few of our popular tournaments are ultimate frisbee, dodgeball, tennis, and badminton.

Through participation in this program, students are able to keep physically fit, put to good use various learned skills, and develop leadership, team play and sportsmanship. Intramural activities, like all sports endeavors, contribute to physical development, good health; and a sound state of mind, while providing keen competition and team spirit. In addition, intramural sports possess an inherent flexibility that allows for a limited commitment of time in light of academic priorities. The intramural program permits students from all departments to meet and socialize on an informal basis.

**Fitness and Wellness**

The university is well aware that fitness is a vital contributor to an individual’s well-being and productivity. For this reason the department is committed to providing the entire campus community with the opportunity and resources to keep fit for the new century.

The Fitness and Wellness program provides educational services, programs, workshops and seminars. The Group X program provides over 70 exercise classes per week ranging from yoga and pilates to zumba and indoor cycling. These classes are free for all full time CMU students, faculty and staff. Personal training sessions are available for cost and provide an opportunity to work one on one with a certified strength coach in our athletic facilities.

**Faculty**

- GARY ALDRICH, Associate Head Track & Field Coach/Instructor – M.S., Slippery Rock University; Carnegie Mellon, 2006–
- MICHAEL BELMONTE, Assistant Men/Women Tennis – History, Duquesne; Carnegie Mellon, 2010–
- BRANDON BOWMAN, Head Men's Soccer Coach – B.S., Centre College; Carnegie Mellon, 2017–
- JOSH CENTOR, Assistant Director of Athletics – B.A., Brandeis University; Carnegie Mellon, 2008–
- ALAN DEGENNARO, Strength and Conditioning Coach; Carnegie Mellon, 2011–
- SARA GAUNTER, Assistant Director of Athletics for Instructional Programs & Recreation & Aquatics Director/Instructor – M.S., Duquesne University; Carnegie Mellon, 2005–
- ANDREW GIRARD, Head Men's and Women's Tennis Coach/Instructor – B.S., Michigan Tech University; Carnegie Mellon, 2003–
- ALICIA GORMAN, Diving Coach, Director of Aquatics – B.S., University of Tennessee; Carnegie Mellon, 2017–
- JACQUIE HULLAH, Head Women's Basketball Coach; Carnegie Mellon, 2011–
- KIM KELLY, Head Women's Volleyball Coach/Instructor – MBA, Mt. St. Mary's University; Carnegie Mellon, 2005–
- MATTHEW KINNEY, Head Swimming and Diving Coach/Instructor – M.S., Western Illinois; Carnegie Mellon, 2007–
- PATTYE STRAGAR, Operations Manager for Fitness and Aquatics/Instructor – B.S., Northwestern University; Carnegie Mellon, 2003–
- YON STRUBLE, Head Men's Soccer Coach/Instructor – M.S., Georgia State; Carnegie Mellon, 2010–
- TONY WINGEN, Head Men's Basketball Coach/Associate Athletic Director/Instructor – M.Ed., Springfield College; Carnegie Mellon, 1990–