

Dear Coaches, Athletes and families,

I hope you and your families are all safe, healthy and are settling in and finding joy in our Loomis Chaffee virtual community. It is hard to believe that it has been 6 weeks since we were competing, sharing the love of competition with teammates while representing Loomis Athletics. I have to say this has been odd trying to write what is usually a speech and introduction to our celebration of the winter season anticipating your energy and presence in Hubbard. I have always enjoyed the awards desserts as they represent a time to look back and celebrate a season that has come and gone and to look toward a new. Tonight, will be a different experience, it is nonetheless celebratory and a time to reflect on the shared values and experiences this past winter with your coaches, teammates and families. A time right now, that is so dear to our hearts.

I wanted to start by thanking a few key people who played a role in helping support Loomis athletics this winter. The operations are key to helping you do what you do so well as coaches and athletes. From Clock operations - Eli Cohen, Nate Marty, Craig, Murph and Ms Rochette to the Athletic Department Mrs. Scanlon, Coaches McKillop, Bissett, Balabuch and Mai, Dan, Craig, Mark and Flik. Thank you to our Athletic Training Staff , Mr McG, Ms. Sapula and Coach Stew for your compassion caring for our athletes injuries; Coach Cunningham we are grateful for the slide show that your coaches will share with you tonight but more importantly for celebrating our teams and athletes throughout the season. I would also to thank our parents for sharing your children with us and for your support of the coaches and athletes with your pride in Loomis athletics. To our coaches, I am grateful and blessed to work with such a passionate, caring, and dedicated group of talented teacher coaches. In their own way, they have all demonstrated the importance of good sportsmanship, building character and relationships, humility and fun through sport as they share their love of the game, commitment and dedication to making our teams better and making sure that Loomis athletics is an important part of our students educational experience. Lastly, thank you to the athletes for their commitment to one another, pride in wearing a Loomis jersey and for the dedication that it takes to be a varsity athlete at Loomis.

This season will carry with it many fond memories and experiences and one we can all say has been a successful winter season for many reasons. It was one that was rich with participation, victories, championships, postseason play and individual recognition, personal growth and one that demonstrated the character of Loomis Chaffee's student-athletes and coaches. When we began the season in November the focus was on building relationships, practice, skill work, team culture and working together toward common goals and giving your best self for the good of your team. With that work, you accomplished big things! Seven Varsity teams finished in the top 5 of their divisions in NEPSAC post season play. Boys Ice Hockey won the Earl/Martin Large school tournament defeating the number one seed Cushing Academy and our Boys Varsity basketball team defeated Hotchkiss twice down the final stretch, capturing the Founders League and NEPSAC Championships. Boys swimming earned their 4th consecutive Founders League Championship while finishing 3rd in NE's and Girls Finished an impressive 5th in NE's swim and dive. Our Girls Ice Hockey team had moments of brilliance throughout the season and was on fire at the end and in the quarterfinals of the NE Elite 8 Chuck Vernon tournament, they upended second seeded Tabor Academy's hope of a NE championship with a come from behind win to move on to the semifinals vs Andover.

Our Girls Basketball team traveled to NH in their quest to make it back to Super Sunday, but fell short to the eventual NEPSAC Class A champions, Tilton. Girls Squash finished with silver in both the US Nationals and NE tournaments and our Equestrian team championed the Folly Farms IEA show. Individually, the successes were equally impressive with 24 student athletes earning NEPSAC honors, highlighted by RJ

Blakney earning NEPSAC Class A Boys Basketball Co- Player of the Year accolades. In Founders League, 10 different athletes earned All league honors in different events on the boys Swimming and Dive team, and while 4 girls were awarded All league honors in a number of events. Dom Rossetti finishing 3rd at Prep Nationals in Wrestling with All American honors and Kennedy Anderson and Faye El-Jean in the inaugural Female NEISEA Wrestling tournament finishing 1st and 4th respectively. Three of our Equestrian riders qualified for regionals and freshman Drew Biller qualified for zones. I would also like to congratulate Coach Battistoni, named All NEPSAC Boys Basketball Coach of the year for his role in bringing this team together for an amazing season.

In addition to the accomplishments of our teams and individuals, Loomis athletes and coaches distinguished themselves with their commitment to their team, their teammates, a passion for their sport, their unflagging spirit, character and good sportsmanship. Student-athletes were competing, playing hard, having fun, and making progress, while forging lasting friendships and indelible memories. You were selfless, you shared your pride for Loomis athletics each game, our students, student athletes, faculty, parents and alum were there to support and cheer on our teams throughout the season. What a great testament to our coaches and seniors this year! You led by example and I am so excited to see our underclassmen leading the way next year. This winter was full of great experiences and success that represents some of the very best of Loomis Athletics. Congratulations!

Before I close, I would like to take a moment to recognize someone who has been special to Loomis Chaffee Boys Swimming and Water Polo programs for the past 37 years. Seeb's as he is affectionately referred to, has been a consummate team player, a passionate coach of student athletes and have taught many of us important values about life, and have inspired us to work hard, to compete and to have fun doing it. He has been a tremendous leader and successful coach teaching his athletes the value of being on a team, cultivating work ethic; the importance of respect and how we treat one another while always representing Loomis Chaffee with the highest ideals of good sportsmanship. Through the years, Fred Seebeck has earned the respect as one of the most revered coaches in the Founders League and NEPSAC Division I ranks. It is hard to imagine Hedges Pool without his presence next year. We thank him for his service and look forward to celebrating him further in the near future.

In light of the current situation, I would be remiss if I did not mention my sadness, and I can attest is shared by all of us here on the island, for our spring athletes, coaches and especially our seniors with the abrupt end of their season. Sports has the ability to bring people together in so many meaningful ways; we look forward to having the campus a buzz, noises of practices and games and the ability to coach our athletes once again. We miss you. Pelican Pride! Pelicans Forever! Soar Pelicans.

Enjoy tonight with your teams and family. Stay safe, be kind, be brave and be well.
Ms Cabot