

Varsity Wrestling

It is always difficult to reload a wrestling team after a top-heavy season that saw almost half of the starting line-up graduate last June; however, the opportunity for the development of so many new young wrestlers proved to help fill the void. With a decent record of 10-8 with some solid team wins along the way, this group pushed through the toils of hard training enveloped in the idea that our focus was to get better by the end of EACH practice. This simplified approach allowed us to begin the rebuilding process and put our entirety into owning the things we can control and learning to stay focused while enduring both a mentally and physically taxing endeavor. Our high point saw us attain a solid 4th place finish at the Class A Tournament behind two teams that were the top two at the New England Tournament as well. There is a great deal of which this year's group can be proud, and the final send-off of our four-year seniors proved to be an event that will help our newer wrestlers realize just how transformative wrestling can be. All in all, we are excited moving forward into the process that was started this year to put a championship caliber team on the mat.

I would like to thank the program's two managers Taylor Douglas and Emma Kane. These are the only two managers the program has known in 3 years and there is no way we have any success without their coordinating efforts to keep this program match-ready. They will be sorely missed next year. I would like to thank Sue Cabot for guidance and direction, Vicky Scanlon – the engine room of what puts this team on the map, Mark's undying support with daily laundry and uniform maintenance, coach Ben Haldeman, Nolan, and Coop. Don and Jean for cleaning up unimaginable gallons of blood from noses. The Admissions team and all of our faithful parents who traverse great distances to support our program. As always, my wife Lilian whose perennial support is unparalleled...I am fortunate, as they say that spouses of wrestling coaches are either widows or team moms over the season, I truly have the later as I am away from my family leaving her to pick up the pieces.

Charles Kim Award:

This year we are bringing back the Charles Kim Ironman Award to recognize a wrestler who embodies the qualities of the late Charles Kim '99 who brought diligence and positivity to each and every training where the "smile on his face" made each day a little easier for the team. This award embodies not the best wrestlers of the program, but rather, those who affect positivity and energy that keep the group together in the midst of our toil. This year's award honors a young man who is a first-year wrestler, a senior, and an absolutely awesome young athlete, Jack Kavanaugh. Jack was one of few wrestlers this year that did NOT miss a single event this year; from the moment he walked into the room, he was all-in. His training mentality was infectious, "What ELSE can I do to get better," he would often ask while staying after practice to work on technique while looking for his first win of the season in a weight class where he was giving up 10 pounds to his opponents. As a senior, Jack didn't have to do anything this past winter after his unfortunate exit from the hockey program, however, that is not Jack...he loves Loomis and looks to be involved and give, rather than take. Well, in our final match of the season against Choate, a battle tested warrior without a single win entered a match (like so many times before) with a belief in his mind, a fire in his belly, and a smile on his face as if to say, "I am going to get this one!" Jack went out and speared a wild boar that day and saw the exhaustive satisfaction of

having his hand raised high above his head at the end of 6 grueling minutes on the mat. Finally, a moment to remember (with a pretty awesome photograph to boot), amidst pain and soreness, Jack beat an opponent from Worcester at the Class A League Tournament to score vital points for his team helping Loomis to earn a respectable 4th place finish. Congratulations Jack, you will draw on this experience for the rest of your life and I will remember your sacrifices always.

Coach's Award:

Kaiser Garcia earned the trust of all of his teammates over the course of 3 previous years who almost unanimously voted to have him serve as a captain of the team. 4 years of dedication to the sport of wrestling is becoming less and less frequent, although it is a true testament to the character and resilience of an athlete to meet the challenges year after year with a high demand to better oneself. Kaiser is that athlete who deftly handled the leadership of the program, both varsity and JV, while committing himself to improvement in his own competition. I am extremely proud of the progress he has made throughout his time in a Loomis singlet and his compassionate leadership will be missed in the coming years. Congratulations Kaiser!

Coach's Award:

Maalik is one of the finest athletes I have ever coached...period. He is a rare combination of an athlete who exudes self-confidence through diligence while adhering to the understanding that as a leader he is to serve his team; which he did aptly as a Co-Captain. Maalik is a consummate role model who set the tone for the level of training every day in the practice room, readied the team for match day, and to whom I can turn for any reason and know that every detail will be handled without spelling out what those details even are...hell, most of this team would not even be here tonight had Maalik not sent out a reminder (I didn't tell him to do that!!!). All of this wrapped up in one of the nicest, most respectful, and mentally tough athletes at this school, who also happens to have one of the fiercest double-leg takedowns in all of New England. Congratulations Maalik on a fantastic 4-year career on the mat, I can still remember your first day at practice when you practiced shooting into the wall for 2 hours and envisioning this day and this award.

Team Service Award:

This award is to recognize one of the many people outside of the regular team that fully supports our efforts to keep the season rolling through the four-month span of the winter term. It is no secret that our facility, the wrestling room, has to be well cared for on a daily basis in order for us to even be able to practice, let alone hosting matches. Cleaning Shimkus is no small feat and that it has to happen every day to afford our athletes the ability to stay healthy and training should not go overlooked. This year we would like to recognize Craig Lamenza for his steadfast support of our program and for helping to do the "dirty work," that allows for all of our successes in Wrestling.

Up next is Coach DeConinck and the girls swim team.

Girls Varsity Swimming and Diving

After the record-breaking seasons of the past few years and the graduation of 15 girls over the past two years, I knew that this year and this year's team would be different. As all coaches know, part of the excitement of coaching is that every season is unique and this year's team certainly didn't disappoint, as it was a team filled with very different strengths, personalities, and a different kind of energy from the past couple of seasons. From the very beginning of the season this year's squad was consistently a group that worked hard, swam with energy and passion; they made each other laugh and enjoyed being around each other. Although our dual meet record and the finishes at our two championship meets were not as strong as in the past, from the very first day of practice this team set its sights on being the best they could be, challenging themselves in practice, competing and racing very well and improving significantly as individuals and as a team.

From early winter workouts, through the gauntlet of our dual meet schedule, to the championship meets at the end of the season, the girls arrived at the pool daily giving their best efforts, knowing that each workout and competition was preparation for the end of the season. The team was composed of a returning group of 8 swimmers and 2 veteran divers, and with the addition of 10 new swimmers and divers, the squad began to develop its personality and get acclimated to the rigors of a long swim season. Ms. Bucceri and I can certainly attest that this group of young ladies certainly grew together as a team very quickly and accepted the challenges of workouts from the very first day. As a group, their youthful enthusiasm got us through the season with many laughs and experiences. Along with all the time spent in the water and with our vastly improved strength and conditioning program, the time spent gave the girls the confidence that all this hard work was necessary to improve and swim fast at the end of the year. During dual meets, the girls learned to race and to compete, learning to focus and pay attention to the details of their race strategies, starts, strokes and turns. The improvement and development that all the girls showed in the pool and on the boards throughout the year was awesome.

Highlights of the dual meet season included watching the seniors commit themselves to setting a great example for the team each day, the development and improvement of our younger swimmers, and dual meet victories over Kent and NMH. I enjoyed watching our three divers, Juniors Emma Keane and Sadie Gardner, and Freshman Cori Schmidt, work each day to become the best that they could be, consistently improving the quality and difficulty of their diving list throughout the season. I appreciated their support of the swimmers and vice versa.

At our two championship meets, the girls really shined, with the team swimming 95% lifetime best swims over both of those meets. That's what this crazy sport is about, swimming faster than you had before. At Founders, making the podium as Top 3 finishers were Sophie Rodner, 2nd in the 100 fly and Neala Sweeney, also 2nd in the 500 free. The 200 free relay team of Sophie, Kami Collins, Jeri Kim and Neala also finished as runner-up at the Founders League Championship. At New England's, leading the way for the Pelicans were Sophie, making finals in the 50 free and 100 fly, Neala who scored points in the 200 and 500 freestyles and Faith Donegan, who made finals in the 50 freestyle. Overall, the swims at Founders and New England's by the entire team showed the benefits of all the hard work that each of them put in throughout the season.

The team will miss the fine leadership of our seniors and captains. Elena Anderson was a new addition to our team. Elena suffered an arm injury in the fall and rather than just nurse that all winter, she decided that she would come out for swimming, something she hadn't done since middle school. Elena was awesome. She showed great improvement and her mature and calm demeanor certainly helped as a quiet leader. It should be noted that Elena swam the first month of the season with a cast on one of her arms and never complained about it. Jeri Kim and Faith Donegan were two of our captains and I can't thank them enough for their years of dedication to our program. Jeri was a great meet competitor and finished the year strong at our championships and her grit and determination at the end of the season was inspirational to all. Faith was an awesome captain and her progression as an athlete over the four years was phenomenal. As I mentioned before, she made finals at New England's in the 50 free and that was due to a lot of hard work and determination over the past few years. She was a key member of our relays and Faith developed into a consistent and dependable member of our sprint group. Our third captain was Virginia Joyce. Only a junior, Virginia has led by example all year and I'm sure will continue to do so next year. She is a very hard worker who sets a positive tone down the pool and in everything she does on campus. Her work ethic and determination are a great example for others. All three seniors ended their Loomis careers with strong Founders or New England showings. These three young ladies have led by example and put forth their best efforts each day, helping to set a positive and hard-working atmosphere in the pool. These seniors will be tough to replace. Their dedication to Loomis and their work ethic and competitiveness has been a great model for others to follow. They will certainly be missed. They have been great Pelicans. Thank you, seniors, and good luck!

Thank you to all the swimmers and divers for all your effort and hard work throughout the season! You were a great group to coach! You worked hard and made such great progress as athletes, yet along the way had fun, enjoyed each other's company and had great memories.

Coaches Awards: Sophie Rodner and Neala Sweeney

Sophie and Neala set the tone for the season from the very first practice. They are both focused and hard-working student-athletes, getting it done in the pool and in the classroom. This year, both girls raised the level of their training up a notch from last year and it showed in their performances throughout the season. They were reliable, consistent, and dependent. They paid attention to the details of their training and their races. Sophie and Neala were our two high scorers throughout the dual meet season and at New England's, both girls made finals in each of their events. The team looked for these two girls to get it done in competition and both girls rose to the challenge.

Sophie, a sophomore, came to Loomis primarily a butterflyer and has expanded her repertoire to include the sprint and middle-distance freestyle events. Through hard work and attention to detail, her freestyle has improved greatly from last year and I have no doubt that next year she will make an even greater splash on the New England scene in these events. Sophie ended the season as the 5th fastest swimmer in the 50 free of all time and the 6th fastest 100 flyer in program history.

Neala, a junior, has been on a mission from the very first day of practice. She has set the tone in the distance lane and she and Sophie have been a great training pair this season.

Neala finished the season as the 9th fastest 200 freestyler of all time and the 4th fastest 500 freestyle swimmer of all time. This improvement from last year is a testament to her work ethic and determination. She is an intense competitor and is extremely coachable, particularly in her race strategies. At New England's, she was our Iron Woman, racing the 200 free twice and the 500 free twice, along with swimming on 2 relays. That's a busy weekend of all-out swimming! Great job, Neala!

Up next is Coach Hendrickson and the varsity ski team.

Co-Ed Equestrian

With a nice mix of new and returning riders, the 2018-2019 equestrian team enjoyed another very successful season. Most of our returners were competing in the Open Division, and so our new riders in the other three divisions spent the early parts of the season adjusting to the quirky and different format of IEA shows. Whereas at most horse shows, riders are competing with familiar horses, at IEA shows they are given an unfamiliar horse at random and get two practice jumps before it's show times. Sometimes you get lucky and click right from the get-go with the horse you're riding. Sometimes you don't figure the horse out until the end of your course, at which point it's often too late. And other times the horse you're riding could not have a more different personality from yours and the round is... well... interesting. So, it takes a good deal of versatility as a rider to be successful in the IEA ring. And a good deal of luck!

Nevertheless, for the second year in a row, the team as a whole had a pretty dominant regular season. In the fall term, we won three out of our four horse shows and qualified for Regional Finals after just three competitions. We were also one of the top teams in the state of Connecticut despite having a much smaller team and attending fewer events than most. One stat that highlights the success of the team across all divisions is that we had five riders qualify for Regionals with one of them in every division; this is the first time we've been able to accomplish that during my time here.

At Regionals, we were right in the hunt for most of the day as a team. At the midway point, we were in a three-way tie for first place and qualifying for Zone Finals was certainly looking promising. Unfortunately, we had some tough breaks during the second half of the day and finished in third place – just one spot off of what's needed to make it to the next round. Third place ribbons seemed to be an unlucky theme for the day as that's where several of our riders finished in their individual rounds. Even so, there was plenty to be proud of as our season wrapped up at the end of the winter term! She's not here tonight, but I would like to say a huge thank you to my Assistant Coach, Marilyn Bennett. There's so much that Marilyn does behind the scenes to make sure that the horses are ready to rock when we get to the farm; I wouldn't be able to do this without her! And a big thank you to Coach Henderson for his help throughout the winter, as well!

I would now like to call Liam Scott to the podium:

Coaches Award: Liam Scott

Liam's freshman year at Loomis was the program's second year as an interscholastic, varsity-level sport. It goes without saying that he has seen the team and program change pretty drastically since joining. Since the get-go, Liam has always modeled how Marilyn and I want our students to ride during each and every practice. Liam has a real competitive streak to him, and so he has always done an excellent job of viewing every practice as an opportunity to improve and be that much more prepared for whatever the next show is. Moreover, Liam could figure out ride just about any horse we'd throw him on and his previous life as a professional bull rider definitely helped him stay in the saddle on numerous occasions this winter when most would be rolling in the dirt. This season, it was fantastic to see Liam's hard work over the course of his

Pelican career come together in the show ring. Liam was much more consistent this year and led the team as the designated point rider over fences in the Open division throughout the season. Despite the pressure at Regional Finals, Liam put in a fantastic round to get the team off to a hot start at the beginning of the day. Liam, thank you for all your contributions to our program – you have certainly left your mark and are leaving it in a better place than when you came. We will miss you in the years to come but wish you all the best with your future riding endeavors.

Up next is Coach Beck and the boys squash team.

Boys Varsity Squash

Good evening. This year was an interesting one for LC Boys Squash. Our team lost its 2, 4, 5 and 6 players, meaning that the team was very young, with three seniors, three juniors, three sophomores and a freshman. As a result, the team struggled early on to find its rhythm, losing matches that they could have one due largely to inexperience at the Varsity level. This led to a record of 0-10 to start the season, not necessarily something to excitedly write home about. That being said, with some impressive wins at a national tournament over heads holiday and improvement across the board amongst the players we ended the season going 8-2, ending at 8-12. Definitely not bad for the rough start we had.

The team played two tournaments this year, one where we played against other teams from across the country and another, New England's, where each player played in an individual draw, scoring points that add up and count towards the winning team at the end. In Division 4 of the National tournament the team came through with impressive wins, ending up second overall, only one spot back from our winning run back in 2017. In class B New England's, we ended up 4th, a spot higher than last year, with great performances throughout the team. That being said the highlight for me was the fact that we won the sportsmanship trophy, something I am incredibly proud of and only for the second time in my 9 years of coaching.

Before the awards are handed out, a quick word of thanks to the seniors on the team. Between Co-Captains Reid and Tarquin along with Chris Lucero we had an incredibly level of leadership on the team. All three have dedicated themselves to squash for years, and their competitiveness was never in doubt throughout the season. They kept the team together through a tough run of losses and I don't know what I would have done without them on the team!

Now for the awards. If I could ask Reid McCandless, Tarquin Hanson and Marco Wang to join me at the podium:

Most Improved Player

The award for Most Improved Player goes to Captain Reid McCandless. Reid's award this year is rare, in that Reid ended the year as the #1 player on the team and was never lower than number two, since he and Tarquin battled for the one spot all season. Reid was always good, but he kept having trouble (and remember that term is relative given how good he is) putting everything together in a way that allowed him to compete with the top players in the league. By New England's it was truly apparent that Reid had managed to overcome this difficulty. He may not have won all his matches, but the way he played was incredibly exciting and makes me convinced that he has what it takes to be a lifetime competitor in the sport. Congratulations Reid!

Most Valuable Player

The Most Valuable Player award this year goes to Marco Wang. The MVP has traditionally gone to the player with the most wins on the team, but for the first time in a long

time we had a tie, with freshman Nicholas Sticka also coming in with 10 wins. However, Marco broke the tie with his incredible play at high school team nationals and at Williston North Hampton's. Marco was the last player on the court in each match, and he could always be counted on to listen to advice and fight through adversity. Marco was a consistent powerful player on the team and thoroughly deserves this award. Congratulations!

Sportsmanship Award

The sportsmanship award this year goes to Captain Tarquin Hanson. Tarquin is likely deserving of many other accolades, as he has spent his four years on the team fighting for LC at every turn and doing so with a smile on his face and a unique way of inspiring his teammates to greatness. This year the team won the sportsmanship award at New England's, and although it was a team effort, I certainly give credit to Tarquin's tendency to embrace the fact that squash is a gentleman's (and gentle-ladies'?) sport. I can't thank Tarquin enough for all his hard work. Congratulations!

Up next is Coach Battistoni and the boys basketball team.

Boys Varsity Basketball

Thank you:

I would like to thank Sue, Donnie, Vicky, John, Craig, Mark, Don and Jean for all of their hard work, support and guidance.

To my assistant Coach Elliott Dial, all your hard work, dedication and passion was greatly appreciated.

Our awesome managers; Kaitlin Donovan and Navreet Kaur. You did an unbelievable job all season long. Thank you so much.

Recap:

The 2018-19 season was filled with many highs and lows. It felt like we experienced everything that basketball has to offer. This season we saw two buzzer beater games, played in 12 games that were decided by 10 points or less, played in six games that were decided in the last 25 seconds and two games that ended in Overtime. Our schedule was the most challenging in Founders and within our class. This group faced every challenge head on and never backed down. We had a well-balanced attack with, Nate Santos leading us in scoring with 14ppg, Qwanzi Samuels in rebounding with 9 per game, Josh Menard in assists with 5 per game and Eric Moenkhaus in Steals with just under two per game. We had Qwanzi Samuels Recognized as All-NEPSAC and honorable mention recognition to Nate Santos, Josh Menard, Reece Brown, Eric Moenkhaus and Jake Glezen.

Awards:

Most Improved Player: This young man has shown tremendous growth in his game. Last year as a sophomore, his season was delayed with a leg injury and in the second-half of the season, was able to be a valuable asset coming off the bench. As a sophomore, he averaged two points and two rebounds per game. In addition, Coach Dial questioned if he could dunk. This year he accepted his new role and did not disappoint. His production increased to 10ppg and 5rpg and was named All-NEPSAC honorable mention. The Most improved player award goes to Reece Brown.

Coaches Award: Coming in last year, the transition as a junior is never easy, but this young man never skipped a beat. From day one he has been a highly valuable member of the Loomis basketball program. Always willing to work, every day he approached practice with the mindset of competing and pushing his teammates. Whether he was cheering his teammates from the bench, entering the game for one possession to get a defensive stop, or adding valuable minutes, he was always, "whatever you need me to do coach". He will be missed by his coaches and teammates, this year's Coaches award goes to Jalen Desravine

MVP: This young man was never our most recognizable player, but down the stretch became our most valuable. That said it is difficult to put into words the impact that he has had on the Loomis basketball program. When he first arrived as a freshman, there were seven players on the team. The years to follow would be much brighter. His game developed from a player who was one-dimensional, into an offensive threat that needed to touch the ball every possession. What was never in question was the effort and passion that he would give every day. I lost count of the chipped or lost teeth. We saw him play through multiple injuries, the flu twice and he always came back. We often joked with Don that we should just wrap him in bubble wrap. This might be a record; he played in 118 varsity boys basketball games. As a senior, he was recognized as All-NEPSAC honorable mention, this year's MVP goes to Jake Glezen.

I now turn things over to our captains; Jake Glezen and Josh Menard to present the Captains Award.

Up next is Coach Leyden and the girls Ice Hockey Team.

Girls Varsity Ice Hockey

Given that we only graduated three players a year ago I think it's fair to say our team had substantial external and internal expectations this winter. Expectations can be a funny thing – they felt like a weight on this group often this winter. And only when we played together, loose, and with genuine enthusiasm did we really succeed - - - when this happened it was incredible.

But I get ahead of myself – I believe it is important to say thank you. Our school's commitment to athletics remains significant. To have consistent and continual support makes a great deal of difference in the student-athlete experience. And our team's support staff increased this year – Julia Allain working with mental skills, Coach Mai handling strength and conditioning and Coach Monti offering on-ice skill sessions were new additions this winter. Given the myriad of injuries the team had this winter Mr. MacG and Ms. Sapula also tremendously helped our team. Plus, the support given to us by our managers – Grace and Alex, not to mention the continual support from parents and families. Thank you all – we are fortunate to have so many people committed to our team's health and success; I am grateful. Thank you!

We are one of only two programs in New England who have made the final four each of the past four seasons. Our league is extremely deep, and this level of consistency can only be achieved through strong individual players and an excellent team culture. To a player, the girls on this team cared about the success of the group. They were willing to sacrifice for the team and authentically supported each other, even – especially – during the challenging times. They looked inward when things on our team weren't going as desired rather than blaming others; and at all times the girls celebrated each other's successes.

This team has much to be proud of, and not just because we won Founder's League outright. They should be proud of their resilience, of their optimism, of their growth, of their commitment to play the game the right way, and of the group's demonstrated ability to succeed when we collectively worked together. We scored 93 goals this winter in 25 games (10 more than last winter), averaged a measly 2.1 penalties per game, and in one game made over 100 passes in a period. And the team should be especially proud that after losing back to back overtime games to end the regular season we came into the playoffs and played possibly our most complete game of the year to beat Williston in the quarterfinals.

The culture of the Loomis girls hockey program is strong – the class of 2019 has cemented their place in our program. Of the five seniors on the team four of them – Avery Flynn, Georgia Kraus, Jess Schryver, and Maddie Hong are four-year seniors. This class has a four-year win percentage of 78%. Abby Kuhns joined this class last year and the five have grown into one of the strongest classes in prep school hockey this winter. Avery was the lone D of the group and her presence on the back end made our team so much stronger. Further Avery and Maddie's roles on the team have drastically transformed over their time here – they are excellent examples of what happens when you focus on development, put in consistent effort

and maintain a growth mindset. Georgia and Jess played in every single game over the past four winters – 103 of them in all. And Abby's ability to complement and better these four helped make it all work. Thank you, seniors.

We also had several players recognized this winter for their strong play. Jess earned All-NEPSAC First Team honors, junior defense Bree Bergeron earned a spot on the All-NEPSAC honorable mention team, and juniors Jenna Donohue and Anna Hurd earn All-Founders League honors. Congratulations girls.

Now for our award winners. I would like to call four players forward: Abby Kuhns, Jess Schryver, Georgia Kraus and Maddie Hong.

The Coaches Award goes to Abby Kuhns. Abby just gets it done. She is the type of person who looks around, sees what is needed, and does it. Not because anyone has asked, or because someone is watching, but because it is the right thing to do. Abby worked through an injury the entire season. I am sure there were many times where she was both hurting and personally frustrated. But she never let this show to the group. It was always about the team. On the ice and off it, Abby leads by example in all that she does; our group is incredibly fortunate she chose to come to Loomis – she completed this senior class. I am better coach having had the opportunity to work with Abby, and I am hopeful some of the returning players learned from Abby's example these past two years. Congratulations Abby.

The Most Valuable Player Award goes to Jess Schryver. With Jess' 45 points this winter she concludes her Loomis career with 159 points. To frame this: in my 10 years here, she is the first player I have coached to reach this 100-point plateau. Jess averaged approximately 2 points per game this winter and 1.5 points per game over her career. She has had her hand in 50% of the scoring over the past two winters and this winter she performed through illness and injury. But Jess cannot be reduced to impressive numbers. Her vision on the ice is remarkable, she's the best passer and one of the most selfless players I have coached and has no ego. As we were preparing for the semifinals after Jess got hurt in our quarterfinal game and I said that I was looking for everyone to play their own roles and not try to be or step into Jess's shoes one player responded "good, because none of us can do what Jess does". This got a good laugh, but it also speaks volumes that her teammates offhandedly and freely sing this kind of praise. I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to coach Jess these past four years and will miss working with her. Congratulations Jess.

The final award is the Chuck Vernon Award. New in 2016, this award is the highest award given out by our program at the Awards Banquet and is in honor of Bruno. Chuck's contributions to the girls hockey program go back to the program's inception. He helped move girls hockey along in its infancy, and this was the first winter I haven't had the privilege of coaching with him. The winner of this in addition to receiving an award tonight also has her name engraved on a plaque that hangs in our locker room. The inscription reads: The Chuck Vernon Award - Presented annually to a member of the girls varsity hockey team who best demonstrates high character, commitment to team values, and leadership. She, much like

Chuck Vernon, has undoubtedly created a positive mark and lasting legacy on the Loomis Chaffee girls hockey team.

This year the award goes to both Georgia Kraus and Maddie Hong. In their four years as Pelicans both Georgia and Maddie consistently and fully bought into our program. They both played integral roles (albeit different ones) as they helped maintain the elite status of the program. Georgia stepped in and was lightning fast in the league even as a 9th grader. But she wasn't satisfied and knew she needed to get physically stronger. Her commitment to enhancing her strength helped create a greater team commitment to off-ice training. Maddie Hong is an example of what happens when you trust the process. Her commitment to the fundamentals of hockey meant that she played every skater position in her career here and did so not only without complaint but with a positive attitude. Georgia and Maddie's belief in Loomis hockey is a large reason why our culture is so strong. I have tremendous respect for both Georgia and Maddie. Both girls were unwavering in their support for this team and their teammates for four years and are incredibly deserving. Congratulations Maddie and G.

Up next is Coach Zavisza and the boys ice hockey team.

Boys Varsity Ice Hockey

Some highlights from the season include some great home moments like the win versus Hotchkiss, where bleacher creatures were in abundance, raised over \$1000 for the Fishing Partnership of New England, and Kohl Reddy became an overnight sensation. Our final game against Avon was another memorable night as both teams battled hard and the community support on both sides brought amazing energy to the Savage. This was an important year for Loomis hockey as we clearly defined our culture, upped our developmental model, and built-up an extremely young group for future success.

I'd like to take a moment to thank this group of twenty-three for all their efforts this year and offer a special thank you to our six seniors. I'd also like to thank my coaching staff Mike Monti and Steve Novodor for their dedication as well as coaches John Cunningham and Andrew Bartlett for all their efforts with the JV program. Our managers, Senior Maddie Hoffman, Zach Henderson, and Lucas Hall are also deserving of huge thanks. Thanks to all of our parents who much to the overall experience as well. Finally, thanks to everyone in Athletics for all of their support this season and beyond as well.

All Founders Team:
Kennedy O'Connor
Cody Hoban

I'd like to call award winners Thomas Martin, Reilly Connors, and Kennedy O'Connor to the podium.

Most Valuable Teammate—Thomas Martin: I've had the privilege of working with Marty for three seasons. For the duration of his time at Loomis, Marty has been known for his work-ethic, his humor, and his optimism. Those qualities alone make dealing with the grind of the winter season possible for him and his teammates. Whether a captain, as he was this season, or a rank and file player, in each year that Marty was with us he represented a guy that everyone could depend on to brighten their day. His teammates acknowledge him as the most positive, energetic, forward-looking, and inspiring player on the team. As one teammate noted, Marty is "the kind of guy that looks out for others over himself and who wants the best for the team." Altogether, his presence on this team and in the greater Loomis Community make him someone that many players look up to and someone who has done his part to fulfill our team mantra of "Leaving the jersey in a better place."

To present this year's award, I'd like to call to the podium Ali Murphy, whose son, T.K., won the award in 2016, and who remains a close friend of the Birarelli family.

Joe Birarelli "Living the Dream" Scholarship Award—Reilly Connors: The Joe Birarelli "Living the Dream" Scholarship Fund was started in 2014 in honor of Joe and his love of watching his son Tim, Loomis class of 2016, play hockey and becoming a huge part of the Beverly, MA hockey family & community. Joe's motto was "Living the Dream". He felt everyday was a gift and lived

and raised his family to live with no regrets. His passion for life, work & family was undeniable. The ability to be a commercial fisherman and to be out on the ocean and do what he loved was his way of "Living his Dream".

This year's winner is Reilly Connors. Reilly is a go getter; has great optimism; works his butt off; is a competitor; gets things done. On top of all this he is incredibly personable and humble. Perhaps his best quality though, is consistency—he is/does these things all of the time. Over the course of his three years at Loomis he has achieved a great deal and has left a positive mark on the hockey program and the school. In short, Reilly has been an ambassador to the school through his work in Admissions, a community leader as an RA and Prefect, and served as one of our team captains this year as well. Reilly has much to offer and we look forward to seeing him "Live his dream."

I'd like to pass the mic to Thomas Martin to introduce the Golden Buoy Award.

Golden Buoy Award—Kennedy O'Connor:

The lobster buoy in its intended use offers a sense of place and a sense of direction. While doing such it takes a beating from the ebbs and flows of the tide and the crashing of waves. Lobstering in and of itself is hard work as lobstermen brave cold weather, fog, and haul heavy traps hopefully filled with strong pinching crustaceans. With that in mind, after every win, we have a tradition of handing out a buoy to the game's hardest worker or biggest difference maker. The player who won it previously hands it out after a victory. The *Golden Buoy* is an award voted on by the team and acknowledges the hardest working and most spirited player who best represents the ideals of Loomis Hockey.

Here is Reilly Connors to present the award.

The Golden buoy this year goes to Kennedy O'Connor. OC has been an outstanding individual from the time he has stepped on campus as a freshman. This year, his hard work in the weight room transferred onto the ice and is evident through his style of game. His hard hits, thirty-six blocked shots, and outgoing personality in the locker room gave the team momentum in times of need. OC definitely took the constant hits of the waves, playing through multiple injuries, such as a torn tendon in his hand, a lower back injury, a bummed hip, and a contusion in his left wrist. OC embodied every aspect of the Golden Buoy, and as a result is a tremendous difference maker not only in play but in character. I will miss OC having my back, and don't even want to think about competing against him in the future. You have been the epitome of what every player wants in a teammate, and nevertheless an even better friend on and off the ice. Congratulations, OC.

Claw Dedication—Gary Lenard: Larry showed himself at the Savage in our last game of the season on February 23rd. As usual, he sparked a great energy that helped to carry our team in the third period. Though he's taken a two-year hiatus from this role, historically, the man responsible for retrieving Larry from the ice surface has been Zamboni driver Gary Lenard. As

many of you may be aware, Gary was at the center of the “Crustacean Controversy” three seasons ago. What most don’t know is that Gary has been an institution at the rink for several years. He is a tremendous supporter of our hockey programs at Loomis and is a pleasure to have around the rink on a daily basis. Thank you, Gary. This claw is for you!

Up next is Coach Seebeck and the boys swimming and diving team.

Boys' Varsity Swimming and Diving

Greetings!

Let me begin with thanks to a number of folks, including Mark in the cage for providing us with bottomless piles of clean towels, Coach McKillop for streamlining our meet schedule, Coaches Nhat and Kyle for their inspiring lifts and stretching sessions, and Coaches Bucceri and DeConinck, who have given as much attention and care to our boys as I have, helping us to attain the goals we achieved this winter. Special thanks to our diving coach, Coach Memo, for challenging the divers to expand their repertoires this season. And extra special thanks to our new assistant coach, Coach Blickman, for investing his energy, passion, and expertise into every training session, every meet, and every race throughout the winter. His enormous impact for the positive helped to make the 2019 season an unforgettable one. Thanks as well for the faithful support of our parents, and, finally, to all you guys, a fantastic, devoted, fun group whom Coach Blickman and I will never forget.

Over the course of a typical winter season, a swimmer grinds out approximately 110 hours of training in the pool, four-fifths of which he spends with his goggles on and head underwater. The training is relentless, often quite lonely, for when his head breaks the surface, all he has time for is a blast of air, a gulp of water, and a reminder or two from his coaches. Then it's back to the grind, wall-to-wall-to-wall-to-wall, trying to forget the song that's playing on an endless cycle in the back of his mind, trying to ignore the hairballs on the bottom, and trying to survive one physical challenge only to be saddled with another, equally daunting, afterwards. The swimmer's visits to the weight room offer him some solace, for at least he can socialize with his mates a bit down there in the weight room. And for the divers, though the regime isn't as physically debilitating, the constant threat of a back smack or a belly flop – in essence, as painful as hitting the pavement – looms throughout practice every evening. Year-in and year-out, the swimmer and diver devotes all of this repetitive, trying work to improving his racing times by anywhere from half a second to 10 seconds (depending upon his event) or improving his diving score by 10 or more points. But those improvements, like the song of the sirens, keep beckoning, seducing us to climb back into the pool or onto the board every season in the hope of steady progress.

This year, that progress, for most of our athletes, was significant. Following a strong dual meet season of six victories and four losses, our boys came together at Hotchkiss in late February for the Founders Championships, where those incremental individual improvements – some quite dramatic – led us to repeat as league champions by 174 points over Choate, an unexpectedly huge margin, with 86% best times on the day. Knowing we would face stiffer competition at New England's, including Andover, Exeter, and Brunswick, we aimed for a fifth-place finish and ended up a mere 5.5 points behind Suffield in sixth. At that meet, another 77% best times proved that all those laps, all those dives, all those lifts - indeed, all that punishing work - had been well worth the effort!

Before we salute our award winners this evening, Coach Blickman and I thank our outstanding group of seniors, who led this young team to a surprisingly successful season: Matt Remigino, our PG stealth weapon, whose prowess in both distance and sprint freestyle events helped to solidify our line-up and whose steady intensity and focus served to inspire those of us paying close attention. Three-year veteran Kai Junn Tham, fellow distance freestyler, channeled his quietly-intense personality into very disciplined training this year, resulting in lifetime bests at his final New England Championships. And Laith Hijazi, for now still the fastest Jordanian swimmer in New England, continued to keep the atmosphere light-hearted with his quips while progressing in his favorite events, the breaststroke and sprint freestyles. Thanks, and the very best wishes to you all.

Coaches' Awards:

Tonight, we honor two seniors with coaches' awards.

Benedict Laidlaw, a two-year veteran of the team, has been a devoted, dependable contributor to the program since he joined the polo team in September of 2017. Although he enjoyed a successful swim season last winter, this winter his successes, particularly at our championship meets, took all of us – perhaps even Ben – by surprise. After posting several personal best times and earning first, second, and third-place honors for the team at the Founders meet, Ben improved his times further and scored for the Pelicans in two events at the New England championships. Playful, invested, respectful, and attentive to the important details, Ben served as a terrific role model for his younger teammates, energizing us all with his spirit and good humor. In deep appreciation of his contributions to Loomis swimming and polo, we happily present Ben with this Coaches' Award for 2019.

Jaden Rismay, one of our captains this year, has been a crucial member of this program for three seasons. His cardiovascular fitness, bolstered by his commitment to our cross-country program, has provided Jaden with a firm foundation for his swimming success. Jaden's versatility has enabled him to serve us in events as disparate as the 50-yard Freestyle and the 500-yard Freestyle, not to mention his beloved breaststroke. This winter, Jaden played a crucial role in our medley relays, in the sprint freestyle events, in the individual medley, and, of course, the breaststroke, in which he, too, scored some points at the New England's. As captain, Jaden's self-effacing, respectful attitude toward teammates and opponents alike has earned him universal respect, and his sportsmanship and devotion to our program are unmatched. For his generous commitment to his teammates and coaches over these several years, we are proud to present Jaden this Coaches' Award!

Bob Hartman, long-time science teacher here at Loomis and founder of our swimming and water polo programs, passed away last November. Several years ago, in Bob's honor, we established our MVP plaque, which reads, "Awarded to that upperclassman who best demonstrates leadership by example, consistent effort, steady improvement, positive spirit, and devotion to his teammates and the sport of swimming." I am excited to present this year's Hartman trophy to our most tireless worker, a fierce competitor, a versatile talent, and amazingly-respectful sportsman and teammate, Min Jun Jung. No doubt his fellow swimmers

will agree that, day-in and day-out, Min holds the bar in place for intensity of training, focus on detail, and overall commitment. He concluded the winter with lifetime best times and scored innumerable points for us in both our dual meets and, more important, during the championships. Congratulations, and thanks for your devotion to our program and to your teammates, Min!

In 1994, Tony Riccio, class of '92, died in a tragic accident in Moscow while spending his junior year of college abroad there. Tony's beloved teammates subsequently created an award in his memory, whose inscription reads like this: "In memory of Anthony B. Riccio, who brought to LC swimming and water polo his friendship, his good humor, his contagious sense of fun, and his desire and commitment to be the best that he could." This honor is awarded annually to the member of our teams who personifies the spirit of Tony through his dedication to his teammates, enthusiasm for the sports of swimming and water polo, and joy in living. With deepest thanks for his four-year commitment to our swimming program and for three terrific years on the polo team, we present the Riccio award to a captain of both of those teams this year, CJ Owen.

Up next is Coach Stewart and the Girls Basketball team.

Girls Varsity Basketball

I'd like to begin tonight by thanking those that made the accomplishments of this team possible. Parents, thank you for sharing your children with us, trusting that what we do every day is in the best interests of your child's development as athletes and people. Athletic department: Sue, Vicky, Donnie, Bradi, John, Craig, Mark, Don, and Jean. The "behind the scenes" work that you do to keep our strong athletic program running smoothly on a daily basis cannot be appreciated enough. Huge thank you to Coaches Cantrell, Foxx and the JV boys basketball team: essentially our practice squad. Without you guys we would not have been able to prepare for much of the season when we were only able to dress 7 or sometimes 6 athletes due to sickness and injury. Thank you to our 3 managers: Azoya Clarke, Maya Guyton, Ink Thananjaro. Your commitment and organization helped the coaches focus on coaching and the players focus on playing. To coaches Alexander and Jackson, I cannot thank you enough for the support you gave me and this team all season. Your insight, and care for the kids on this team directly impacted our success this season. Without all of you this team would not have been able to accomplish all they did this season.

What did this group accomplish? An 18-8 record. They went undefeated in the Founders League keeping our Founders League win streak alive at 49-0 since February 2013 and securing a 7th consecutive league title. (Had to beat Choate in double OT to do it) And lastly, this team earned a first in school history, trip to the Class A New England Finals. Although we lost in the NE championship game, this team should be proud of the toughness and determination they demonstrated all season. They overcame obstacles that would have crippled many teams and worked hard to improve week after week.

That's what they did. So how did they do it? Offensively we desired to create easy scoring opportunities with great spacing ball, ball movement and player movement. We also believed we had the depth to be a full-time full court defensive pressure team. And early on that approach was good to us. We pressured opponents into mistakes and capitalized regularly. That strategy had to change as by mid-January we were down to anywhere from 6-8 kids due to injury and/or sickness. Kat-Boachie Yiadom, a senior starter who we lost to injury just after the winter break and would eventually be out for the remainder of the season, led from the sidelines each practice, keeping track of the crazy scoring games the coaches came up with, and making sure we stayed on task. We paid particular attention to playing with better effort and intensity without the ball on both ends of the floor and the boys JV team pitched in regularly to give us the opportunity to prepare 5 on 5.

So, who are the kids who did this?

Freshman: Carys Baker, Sophomore: Anahi Cauley, Juniors: Abby Cannon, Sky Hanley, Cassie Hawthorne, Bry Johnson, Seniors: Kat Boachie-Yiadom, Reilly Campbell, Grace Lawrence, Maddy Stevens.

And now the accolades and awards:

We have 3 NEPSAC All Stars and ALL-NEPSAC Honorable Mention athletes: Carys Baker, Anahi Cauley and Reilly Campbell. Carys' ability to effortlessly score, Anahi's lock down defense combined with her overall floor game and Reilly's domination in the paint earned these 3 the respect of the NEPSAC girls basketball coaches association this season. Congratulations.

We have 3 team awards:

Coaches Award: Grace Lawrence

JV basketball as a freshman, sophomore year made the varsity team understanding that there was a lot of talent in front of her and embraced the opportunity to learn as much as she could and fulfil whatever role the team needed her to. As a junior, hungry to play, accepted coaching (even tried a new sport!), paid attention to detail, worked consistently, steadily improved and earned more minutes on the floor. As a senior was ready to lead from wherever the team needed you to. Moved into a starting role for about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the season and played a key role in a historical season for the program. I and those who were present will never forget the step back 3 pointer you knocked down that put us up 4 in double overtime versus Choate. What I loved most about that 3 pointer is that nobody on our team even flinched or questioned whether that shot would go down. Your high school basketball story is one every young athlete should hear and take note. You trusted the process and did your job the way you were coached to do it. Congratulations on this well-deserved coaches award.

Co-MVPs: Maddy Stevens and Reilly Campbell. These 2 have been instrumental to the program's success throughout their time at Loomis. Their collective leadership and toughness helped maintain a high level of play and pave a path to the NE finals this season.

Reilly's team leading 13.1 points and 7.2 rebounds per game set the stage for our team's success this season. She shot 61% from the floor dominating the paint all season. A Class A All Star for the 3rd consecutive year, Reilly drew the attention of many opponents as the key to stopping the Pelicans. When she drew double and triple teams Reilly was great at finding open teammates (mostly Carys cutting to the basket) as her assist numbers place her 3rd on the team. Of the many key performances this season some that stand out are: 26 points on 77% shooting vs Andover, 19 points 12 rebounds vs Nobles, 14 points 10 rebounds vs Choate in double OT, a career high 32 points on 83% shooting and 9 rebounds vs Tilton (avenging our quarterfinal loss last year), 22 points and 16 rebounds in the NE semifinal win vs Deerfield. Reilly finishes her career with 1179 points, 866 rebounds and 200 assists. Your toughness sense of humor and leadership will be missed. Congratulations.

There is plenty I can say to describe Maddy as a basketball player: 4-year senior, 3-year starter, 2-time NEPSAC All Star, leader, lethal scorer, playmaker. But when looking at the numbers from this season 2 things stand out: assists and personal fouls drawn. Maddy led us in both, including number of charges taken this season. We don't track this, but I'm pretty sure our team would agree that also she led us in number of contacts with the floor whether it was diving loose balls or sacrificing her body on one of her acrobatic finishes at the basket. So instead of all the things I could say about Maddy, the word I'll choose to best describe her is teammate. There's a reason why Reilly's numbers are so good and why we have a freshman and sophomore as All Stars. Yes, those kids are really good basketball players, but Maddy makes others better. She

makes the game easier for them. She is a great teammate. She's the kind of player that ballers love to play with but hate to play against. When Maddy steps onto the floor, her primary focus is the success of the team. All season Maddy fulfilled whatever role the team needed. If we needed her to score, facilitate, defend, or coach from the sideline, she embraced the job and did it to the best of her ability. Playing for much of the season either sick, injured or both, when Maddy wasn't in the lineup we just didn't have the same efficiency as a team. Her 20 points on 8 out of 10 shooting versus Taft in the quarterfinals ensured our team a trip to the semifinals; something she was determined to do. Maddy, your toughness and your team-first habits will be missed. Congratulations.

Up next is Coach Williams and the New England Class B Girls squash champions.

Girls Varsity Squash

Good evening. First off, congratulations to all the teams and coaches on their excellent seasons. Secondly, on behalf of this team, I wanted to thank the Athletics Department for all they do for us. I want to give a huge thank you to our awesome parents- they're the best in the game and we can't thank you enough for all you did this past season. To our fantastic team manager, Kenedi, thanks for joining in on the fun and for all you did- it is much appreciated. I also want to give a big shoutout and thank you to my excellent assistant coach, Coach DeNunzio - this was his first season with the program, and we did pretty good! It was so fun working with you, so thank you for all your hard work and I can't wait for next year!

At the beginning of this season, all the way back in November, Coach DeNunzio and I talked at length, about the uniqueness of this team. We knew that our wealth of experience in our five seniors (Amara, Ashley, Fiza, Lily, Megan) would be an unstoppable force as well as a strong source of leadership. We also knew our talented junior class (Sadie, Emily and Portia) would bring boundless energy and spontaneity to the team culture, and we also knew our underclassman gem/secret weapon (Maren) would challenge the pre-existing ladder- shaking things up- as well as inspiring growth and development across the board. We knew they were an exceptionally talented group and, so, we set extremely high goals for them. The only unknown was how far this group could take it- how much of their potential could they reach? Safe to say, they did pretty good!

Over the course of the season this group worked really hard, day in and day out. Whether it be the beloved tennis ball game, the puzzle challenges, or even the not-so-fun resistance band sprints on the ramp, they all competed in every single activity or drill we threw at them (literally). Similarly, they worked hard in the gym with Coach Mai and Coach Kyle, and really put the time and effort in to better every single aspect of their game. We're both really proud of the way in which they all committed themselves to being disciplined and driven to improving with every practice, and with every match. Saying that, this team had a great edge too, and no matter who the opponent was we knew that if we were playing at our best and if we competed harder than our opponents, the game was ours to win. I'd say that this mentality and belief made this season what it was. And, what a season we had. We had some great team wins and played our best squash at various points of the season, which all built up to the ultimate highlight of it all which was the culminating competition that led us to being crowned the New England Division Champions. The Championship title is really a reflection of the superb effort and season as a whole. An absolutely incredible feat that this team earned and deserves. Our five seniors, Amara, Ashley, Fiza, Lily, and Megan, were integral in this victory. They were wonderful leaders throughout and each of them can be exceptionally proud of their contributions over the course of their careers here. They are champions in their own right, and now they have a trophy to show for it.

We have two awards tonight. The first is the Coaches' Award to senior Ashley Edwards. Ashley earns this award due to her commitment to improving her game, her fighting spirit, and

her impeccable sportsmanship. In the three years that I have had the pleasure of coaching Ashley, she has improved exponentially, moving steadily up the ladder, ultimately playing #4 this season. Outside of her unwavering commitment, Ashley is someone who demonstrated match after match, point after point, that she never gave up. No matter who the opponent was, she would always give her best. This led to a lot of really close games and hard-fought victories. Similarly, no matter the score, Ashley was the epitome of sportsmanship and grace. Ashley, thank you for being an exceptional example and role model for every member of our program, and we can't wait to see you shine next year.

Our final award is for the Most Valuable Player, which is Lily Taylor.

Lily had an outstanding season. She won 17 matches, and only lost four. Of these, she won nine in a row. She finished second at the New England Championships, and this finish was the tiebreaker that actually won us the new England title. Her prowess and dominance on the court brought an excitement and confidence that we hadn't quite seen before in the program. Lily earns this award because she is truly a student of the game, and that was demonstrated by the constant conversations about preparation, approach, strategy; as well as breaking down game film, and staying late after practice to get more time on court with coaches or on her own. The ownership and maturity Lily demonstrated of her game was a great example for all. Lily's dedication was immaculate, but as with everything she did, she was humble and graceful in her conduct. Lastly, Lily is the epitome of the word 'competitor'. If any of you came to watch our games, you will remember the dramatic points that often times saw her jumping and running all around the court at full stretch, just to keep fighting on until she finally won the point. She never stopped giving her all. Lily, you have raised the bar and set an extremely high standard of excellence for our program. It was a privilege coach you and we are so proud and grateful for what you have done here. We wish you all the best with the Bantams next year. Thank you!