

MEN'S SOCCER IN THE ATHLETICS ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Carl Babb '98

On the pitch, the forward finished his UNH career with 24 points in 29 games, almost a point per game ratio. His best year came in 1975 when he tied for the team lead in scoring with 16 points, netting five goals and collecting six assists. In his senior season at the University of New Haven, the men's soccer team posted a 10-4-2 record and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for only the second time in school history. Babb also was a member of the first track team at New Haven, competing in the 100- and 200-meter events and 4x100 meter relay.

Bruce Bednarski '14

A three-year captain for New Haven men's soccer, Bruce Bednarski earned All-America honors for the Chargers and was an integral piece of two teams that advanced to the NCAA postseason. Bednarski was selected to participate in the 1978 National Sports Festival, where the country's top 60 players prepared for the 1980 Olympics, a 1981 draft pick of the Hartford Hellions of the Major Indoor Soccer League and was named a Bartels Fellow in the spring of 2011. In 1980, Bednarski earned All-America honors, registering six goals and seven assists in 17 matches. New Haven ended that fall with a record of 11-2-4 fueled by a nine-match unbeaten streak.

Neville Brown '96

One of the all-time leaders for New Haven men's soccer with 45 goals and 31 assists, Neville Brown was a perennial all-star for the Chargers. As of January 2016, Brown's 121 points ranks him third all-time at UNH, while his 31 assists remain the most ever for the Blue and Gold. A three-time All-New England Intercollegiate Soccer League and National Soccer Coaches Association All-Region honoree, he guided UNH to its first-ever postseason appearance with a trip to the NAIA playoffs in 1970. Brown ranked among the nation's best with 14 goals and nine assists as a freshman and was selected as team captain for his senior campaign. He graduated cum laude from the University in 1974 and received the Silversmith Award for outstanding contribution to UNH.

Dimas Couto '16

A four year member of the Chargers back line, Dimas Couto helped lead the New Haven men's soccer team to a 49-16-11 overall record and three appearances in the NCAA Tournament. Despite being a defender, Couto found the back of the net in his next two seasons with two goals and an assist. In his junior season, the Chargers made their third-straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament, advancing to the Regional Championship. As a senior, Couto helped the New Haven defense shut out six opponents. In total over his four seasons on the pitch, the Chargers defense helped shutout 30 opponents. Couto's loyalty and dedication to the program was further exemplified when he returned to his alma mater as an assistant coach under Joe Maher from 1982-87 and would again help lead the Chargers to the final four.

Rick Kessel '92

Rick Kessel was the starting goalkeeper for two New Haven men's soccer teams that reached the NCAA Final Four. He posted two postseason shutouts – and nine overall – as the Chargers advanced to the 1976 NCAA National Championship Game and recorded three more clean sheets to help New Haven return to the NCAA National Semifinals in 1977. Overall, the Chargers earned four NCAA postseason trips with Kessel between the pipes and owned a 48-13-10 record in his four-year career. Over that span, he registered 297 saves which included a career-high 116 stops in 1976. He also finished three of his four campaigns with a goals-against average under 1.00.

John Kowalski '88

John Kowalski was a key element of the back row that posted 19 shutouts in four seasons for Joe Machnik and the New Haven men's soccer team. Also the program's backup goalkeeper, he was a three-time All-New England selection on the teams that participated in the Chargers' first-ever ECAC and NCAA Championships. Kowalski returned as an assistant coach on the pitch, helping guide New Haven to five NCAA postseason appearances, including the 1976 National Championship Game and the 1977 Final Four.

Joe Machnik '87

As an administrator, Machnik was the Director of Athletics during the introduction of women's athletics to UNH and was instrumental in elevating New Haven athletics from NAIA to NCAA status. It was also during his tenure that football was upgraded to the varsity level. As head coach of the New Haven men's soccer program, Joe Machnik guided the Chargers to the NCAA National Championship Game in 1976 – the first of back-to-back Final Four appearances and one of four NCAA Regional trips during his tenure. Machnik remains the all-time wins leader in men's soccer with 110 career victories, while he is second all-time in total games coached at 186.

Joseph Maher '08

Joseph Maher was the Chargers' head men's soccer coach from 1981-90 and led some of the most successful teams in UNH history. He still ranks second all-time in program history with 108 victories in ten seasons Maher led the team to a school-record six consecutive seasons with ten or more wins from 1981-86, including a school-record 17 victories in 1983. Coach Maher guided UNH to an NCAA Final Four berth in 1984, the third and most recent Final Four appearance in school history, and also led UNH to a pair of trips to the NCAA Elite Eight (1981, 1983).

Delfim Pereira '95

A two-year captain for New Haven men's soccer, Delfim Pereira played every position on the field, including goalkeeper, for the Chargers. Pereira was the leader both on the pitch and in the locker room for the first team to reach the NAIA National Tournament in 1970, also earning All-New England and NEWISA All-Star recognition in that season. Despite spending time in goal and in the Chargers' back row, he still accumulated 18 goals and 13 assists in his career – both of which ranked him in the program's all-time top-10 at the time of his graduation.

MEN'S SOCCER IN THE ATHLETICS ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Keith Russo '90

One of the defensive stalwarts of some of the most successful teams in New Haven men's soccer history, the Chargers went 56-15-7 during the four-year career of Keith Russo. A two-time All-America and three-time All-New England honoree, Russo started in a back row that allowed a program-record 10 goals in 20 games in 1981 and posted a UNH-high 17 wins during the 1983 campaign. New Haven twice qualified for the NCAA postseason with Russo in the lineup, advancing to the Regional Finals in both 1981 and 1983.

Nick Sakiewicz '99

He still holds several school records including most shutouts in a season with 11, while his 25 career shutouts remained the most in school history until 1999. An All-New England Collegiate Conference and All-New England selection, his best season came during his junior year in which he allowed only 10 goals in 20 games, and stopped 121 of 131 shots. That same season, he set the school record with his 11 shutouts. As a senior when he allowed only 17 goals in 19 games as a starter. That season he stopped 123 of 140 shots on goal.

Roberto Taylor '84

A two-year member of the New Haven men's soccer team, Roberto Taylor collected 26 goals in 25 career matches played for the Chargers despite spending some of his time on the defensive end as a back for Head Coach Joe Machnik. He led New Haven to an ECAC regional tournament win over Kean College in 1973 and was selected as team captain en route to Most Valuable Player honors in 1974. Taylor was later named the University's Athlete of the Year for the 1974-75 academic year. In 1976, he went on to play professionally in the American Soccer League for the Connecticut Yankees, where he was chosen as the organization's Rookie of the Year.

Don Wyszchenk '93

Don Wyszchenk played an important role during his association with the University of New Haven. He contributed to the education process as a teacher, a tennis coach and as a Director of Physical Education and Intramural Sports at New Haven. Wyszchenk acted as a consultant for the design of the North Campus Athletic Complex. He stressed the totality of being a student-athlete, emphasizing the importance of academic success as well as athletic achievement. Wyszchenk received the respect and admiration of faculty, staff and students throughout his career which has earned him a special place in New Haven's athletic history.

Peter Zimmerman '05

A leader on four NCAA postseason teams, Peter Zimmerman scored 24 goals and added 18 assists, totaling 66 career points for New Haven men's soccer from 1975-78. Zimmerman played in a program-record 11 NCAA postseason contests, leading the Chargers to a 7-4 record in those matches and a 53-17-10 mark (.725) overall in his career. A three-year team captain on the pitch, Zimmerman was recognized for his efforts in athletics and academics in 1979 as the University's Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Edward Zimmitti '13

A scoring sensation for the Chargers from 1965-66, Edward Zimmitti helped lead the only undefeated men's soccer team in program history. In two short years as a player, he re-wrote the New Haven record books and was twice named the team's Most Valuable Player. Before taking a spot on the coaching staff, he finished his collegiate playing career with 105 points, using modern scoring rules (47g, 11a), ranking him fourth in program history. He also ranks third all-time with 47 goals. Zimmitti's talents didn't end on the soccer field. He was also a standout kicker for New Haven's club football team and a member of the men's tennis team.