

## ATHLETICS

Montclair State University participates in 24 varsity sports that compete on the intercollegiate level. The Red Hawks compete on the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III level, and are also members of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) and the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC).

The defending NCAA champion MSU baseball team closed out its 2001 season with a third-place finish at the NCAA Division III Baseball Championship in Grand Chute, WI. The Red Hawks (38-11) reached the national semifinals for the third time in four years after finishing first in the New Jersey Athletic Conference, posting a 17-1 record before winning the NJAC Championships for the 16th time. Craig Conway, Ryan Costello, Dave Wurst, and Scott Allan earned All-America status, while Conway was also the NJAC Male Athlete of the Year. Junior pitcher Ryan Costello was selected in the 10th round of the 2001 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft by the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Red Hawk softball team won its second straight ECAC Division III South Softball Championship, winning two games (7-4, 8-2) in one day against Albright College at MSU's Quarry Field. Senior infielder Kim Caruso was MSU's Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year, while Tonya Galiszewski was named an All-American.

The Montclair State women's lacrosse team finished its 2001 season with a 9-6 record, eclipsing the previous school record for wins in a season (eight in 2000). Jodi Gangemi set a new MSU single-season mark by scoring 55 goals, while Cathy Homiek established a new school standard with a 72-point campaign.

The MSU wrestling team ended its 2000-01 season with a seventh-place finish at the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships in Waterloo, IA. Florian Ghinea completed his impressive MSU career with a third-place finish at 141 pounds, while Eduard Aliakseyenka placed fifth nationally at 184 pounds. It was Ghinea's third All-American finish, while Aliakseyenka garnered his first. Brad Christie earned his second consecutive All-America award by finishing in seventh place at 174 pounds. MSU head wrestling coach Steve Strellner was inducted into the National Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and also led MSU to its third straight Metropolitan Conference crown.

The Montclair State women's basketball team finished 15-11 overall under interim coach Dr. Lisa Pleban and advanced to the 2001 ECAC Metro semifinals. The Red Hawks rebounded from a 4-6 start to return to postseason play for the second time in three seasons, as senior Marlena Lawrence closed out her career as MSU's sixth all-time leading scorer with 1,280 points.

The MSU football team won its second straight NJAC title and its 16th overall conference crown in 2000, finishing 7-3 overall and advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive campaign and the sixth time overall. MSU landed 16 players on the All-NJAC Team, including eight first-teamers, while quarterback Ed Collins was named NJAC Offensive Player of the Year and lineman Kevin Kelly was the NJAC Defensive Player of the Year.

The MSU field hockey team advanced to the ECAC Division III Mid-Atlantic Championship game for the first time since 1990. The Red Hawks began the season with four consecutive wins for the first time in more than 15 years en route to finishing with a 13-6 overall record. Lea Smith and Janel Bertini were named All-NJAC.

The MSU volleyball team went 18-10 in advancing to the NJAC semifinals, the Red Hawks' seventh straight winning season under head coach Sandy Sanchez-Lombeyda. Senior hitter Neely Hufnagel was named First Team All-NJAC while setting a new MSU mark with 340 career games played.

The MSU men's soccer team finished 12-8-3 and advanced to the ECAC Championship game as goalkeeper Alex Luna set a new school standard with 20 career shutouts. Head Coach Rob Chesney was also inducted into the MSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

The MSU women's soccer team finished a best-ever 17-4-2 and won the 2000 ECAC Metro championship with a 1-0 victory over NYU, as goalkeeper Stephanie Romanko recorded her 14th shutout of the season and the 21st of her career. Senior forward Maggie Findlay finished her Red Hawk career with a school-record 57 career goals and was named MSU's Senior Female Athlete of the Year.

The MSU women's tennis team finished 7-2 overall, including a 3-1 mark in NJAC play. Claudia Lopez led the Red Hawks with a 10-4 singles mark.

Darryl Louis, Nick Gregorio and Tom Baldwin all earned NJAC Athlete of the Year honors for Track and Field, while Gregorio and Tierra Hicks also earned All-America status. Baldwin also finished first in the 1500 meters at the NJACs (Outdoors).

Five MSU coaches were named Coach of the Year: Rick Giancola (Football), Eileen Blair (Women's Soccer), Norm Schoenig (Baseball), Bennie Benson (Indoor Track and Field) and Steve Strellner (Wrestling - Metropolitan Conference). No less than 68 Red Hawk varsity athletes were named All-NJAC in 2000-01, while seven Red Hawks were named NJAC Player of the Year and two others--George Decker in Baseball and Tierra Hicks in Track and Field - were named to the NJAC All-Academic Team. Ten MSU athletes in all earned All-America accolades.

The University sponsors the following sports:

Sport	Men	Women	Conference
Baseball	X		New Jersey Athletic Conference
Basketball	X	X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Cross Country	X	X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Field Hockey		X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Football	X		New Jersey Athletic Conference
Golf	X	X	Metropolitan Conference
Indoor Track & Field	X	X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Lacrosse	X	X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Soccer	X	X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Softball		X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Swimming/Diving	X	X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Track and Field	X	X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Tennis	X	X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Volleyball		X	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Wrestling	X		Metropolitan Conference