

# Facilities

## Indoor

In Smith's four-building sports complex, you'll find an indoor track and tennis facility, two gymnasiums, locker facilities, ergometer room, rock climbing wall, fitness studio with spring wood floor and fencing lines, an athletic training room, five ASB glass-backed international squash courts and a human performance laboratory as well as coaches' and administrative offices. Surrounding the four indoor tennis courts is a 200-meter, six-lane Tartan track; adjacent to the oval are two eight-lane straightaways, 55m sprint-and-hurdle segments as well as all field-event stations. The track, one of the fastest on the East Coast, has been the setting for New England, ECAC regionals and three NCAA Division III championships. The aquatic facilities include a six-lane, 25-yard pool, one- and three-meter diving boards, an underwater observation window and a Colorado timing and diving judging system and scoreboard. The new \$4 million Olin Fitness Center that opened in January 2004 will accommodate all your fitness needs. The 4,816-square-foot space has glass walls facing the north and south, which form a 1,600-square-foot skylight, and houses 35 aerobic machines with individual television monitors, 40 selectorized weight machines and multiple free-weight stations.

## Outdoor

Our equestrian center consists of a 100'x250' indoor arena with a large, heated observation area; two outdoor rings; turnout paddocks; a five-acre field and miles of wooded trails. The barn has 40 stalls, two tack rooms, a laundry, a wash stall and offices. Smith's 400-meter Eurotan S track includes two long- and triple-jump pits with dual runways; two pole-vault pits with adjacent runways; two shot circles; a dual-purpose hammer and discus cage; and a javelin area just inside the oval. Smith's athletic grass fields, with two field hockey fields (one with lights for night play) and a soccer/lacrosse field, are adjacent to the 12 lighted tennis courts. The 6,000-meter championship cross-country course, which is considered to be one of the top five in New England, is adjacent to the athletic fields and winds through scenic New England countryside. Softball practice and games take place in our fully enclosed softball diamond with skinned infield, dugouts and batting cage. The Pioneers row on the nearby Connecticut River. The Smith boathouse houses shells (eights and fours) for use in training and competition. The ski team does most of its dryland training on campus. The team's on-hill training is at Berkshire East Ski Area in Charlemont, Massachusetts, a 45-minute drive from campus. Berkshire East has excellent training facilities and hosts several races each year, including the high school state championships and all levels of USSA and FIS races.



Laurel Belton '11, government major, San Bernadino, CA (in white);  
Brianne Connizzo '10, engineering major, Demarest, NJ

## Coach Angela Mills

- ▶ Fourth year at Smith
- ▶ Eleven years' collegiate coaching experience
- ▶ Four years' prep school coaching experience
- ▶ Member of AVCA, NEWVA
- ▶ Volleyball clinician
- ▶ Four-year player at Amherst College, captain, senior year
- ▶ 1995 graduate of Amherst College



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2009-10



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**Cover:** Lauren Martinez '11, economics major, Phoenix, AZ

### Notice of Nondiscrimination

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# Volleyball



# Volleyball at Smith

Over the past 29 years, Smith's volleyball program has earned a reputation as one of the top programs in New England. The Pioneers have made three appearances in the NCAA Division III National Championship and have gone to post season competition 18 out of 29 years. In the past 10 years, Smith has ranked consistently in the top 12 teams in the NCAA New England region. In 1997 the Pioneers won the ECAC post-season championship and in 2005 were the NEWMAC champions.

The 2008 season marked a turnaround in the growth of the Smith volleyball program. Younger players were given ample opportunities to compete and the 6–2 offensive structure allowed for multiple substitutions from the bench. Seniors and all-tournament team honorees Bethany Weiss (Hall of Fame All-Tournament), Mikal Minarich (Johnson & Wales All-Tournament and NEWMAC second team All-Conference), and Brianne Connizzo (Brandeis All-Tournament team) return to lead the squad to a season filled with strong performances and competitive good will. The Pioneers continue to play one of the toughest schedules in New England, facing regionally ranked opponents in more than half their matches.

The 2009 campaign opens with a tri-match against Western

Massachusetts teams from Elms College and Westfield State. The team will compete in the MIT Invitational, Little East/NEWMAC crossover tri-match weekend, and the sixteen-team Hall of Fame Invitational in October. The NEWMAC Championship concludes the season with the winner receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Championship.

## The Team

Led by a large and superiorly talented senior class, the 2009 season promises to be a display of athletic artistry. Senior and second team All NEWMAC outside hitter Mikal Minarich will return from a spring studying in Ireland to lead the Pioneers in a strong bid for the conference title. Fellow senior Bethany Weiss will continue to lead by example with stellar front-row blocking and devastating attacks from the middle. Senior defensive specialists Brianne Connizzo and Rachel Lackert will again frustrate the competition by denying an end to the longest of rallies. Firepower from juniors Stephanie Bleyendaal, Laurel Belton, Shakwana Etienne and sophomore outside hitter Alexandra Frizzell will complement the fast-paced offense coordinated by Smith setters junior Lauren Michelle Martinez and sophomore Courtney Faria. The incoming class touts a bevy of East Coast talent including middle hitter Rebecca Gordon (Hall High School, CT) and outside hitter Blair Bell (Montclair Kimberly Academy, NJ).

## Individual Honors

**COSIDA Academic All-American**  
Kelly Bates, 1988

**COSIDA Academic All-American Regional Team**  
Rachel Beck, 1993

**All-American**  
Kate Sorensen, 2004 honorable mention, 2005 3rd team  
Kelly Bates, 1989

**AVCA All New England Region**  
Kate Sorensen, 2002–05  
Lauren Perry, 2005  
Amy Kowalski, 2000  
Elizabeth Titus, 1997  
Carolyn Holt, 1995  
Laura Quintana, 1994

**NEWVA Player of the Year**  
Kate Sorensen, 2005

**NEWVA III All–New England**  
Kate Sorensen, 2002, 2003, 2004  
2nd team, 2005 1st team  
Lauren Perry, 2005 honorable mention  
Elizabeth Titus, 1997  
Carolyn Holt, 1997  
Allison Mathias, 1995  
Laura Quintana, 1994, 1996

**NEWVA Senior Classic Team\***  
Catherine Shafer, 2007  
Erin Schaefer, 2006  
Kate Sorensen, 2005  
Lauren Perry, 2005  
Megumi Sasaki, 2005  
Mimi Zhang, 2004  
Ilana Torchinova, 2003  
Lisa Lindberg, 2002  
Erin Carter, 2002  
Amy Kowalski, 2001

Katie Malloy, 2001  
Tanna Engebretsen, 1999  
Nancy Vander Veer, 1999

**NEWMAC Rookie of the Year**  
Carolyn Holt, 1994  
Laura Quintana, 1993

**NEWMAC Player of the Year**  
Kate Sorensen, 2005  
Nancy Satchwill, 1988

**NEWMAC All-Conference Team\***  
Mikal Minarich, 2008, 2nd team  
Catherine Shafer, 2007, 1st team; 2006 2nd team  
Sara Hoffman, 2006 2nd team  
Kate Sorensen, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005  
Lauren Perry, 2005 2nd team  
Amy Kowalski, 2000, 2001

**NEWMAC Academic All-Conference Team\***  
Brianne Connizzo, 2007–08  
Allison Jones, 2006–07  
Alexandra Dale, 2006  
Debbie Sasges, 2004–06  
Katie Thiel, 2005–06  
Sammy Lyon, 2005  
Jesse Martin, 2005  
Mimi Zhang, 2002–04  
Katie Malloy, 2001  
Erin Habecker, 2000, 2001  
Lindsay Terry, 1999, 2001  
Amy Kowalski, 1999, 2001  
Lauren Curtis, 2000  
Marjorie Knepp, 2000

**Seven Sisters All-Tournament Team\***  
Catherine Shafer, 2006–07  
Mikal Minarich, 2006–07  
Kate Sorensen, 2002–05, 2005 MVP  
Lauren Perry, 2005  
Amy Kowalski, 2001  
Lindsay Terry, 1999

**ECAC Most Valuable Player**  
Jillian Downey, 1997

## Team Honors

**NCAA National Championship**  
2005, ranked 4th in region  
1988, ranked in the top 20 nationally  
1981, ranked 6th nationally

**ECAC Championship**  
2004, semifinalist  
2002, quarterfinalist  
1998, quarterfinalist  
1997, champion  
1996, semifinalist  
1995, semifinalist  
1994, quarterfinalist  
1993, semifinalist  
1987, 2nd place

**Seven Sisters Championship\***  
2007, third place  
2006, 2nd place  
2005, champion  
2004, 3rd place  
2003, 2nd place  
2002, 4th place  
2001, 5th place  
2000, 6th place  
1999, 2nd place  
1998, 3rd place

**NEWMAC Championship\***  
2008, quarterfinalist  
2007, quarterfinalist  
2006, quarterfinalist  
2005, champion

\* Covers the past 10 years only

2004, quarterfinalist  
2003, quarterfinalist  
2002, quarterfinalist  
2001, 5th place  
2000, 6th place  
1999, semifinalist

## Returning Players

Laurel Belton '11, outside hitter, government major, San Bernardino, CA  
Stephanie Bleyendaal '11, middle blocker/hitter, mathematics major, Wellesley, MA  
Brianne Connizzo '10, defensive specialist, engineering major, Demarest, NJ  
Shakwana Etienne '11, middle blocker/hitter, French studies & education and child study major, West Orange, NJ  
Courtney Faria '12, setter, Bourne, MA  
Alexandra Frizzell '12, outside hitter, Austin, TX  
Rachel Lackert '10, defensive specialist, neuroscience major, Cold Spring Harbor, NY  
Lauren Martinez '11, setter, economics major, Phoenix, AZ  
Mikal Minarich '10, outside hitter, English language & literature major, Hobart, IN  
Jacqueline Sparagna '12, outside hitter, Los Angeles, CA  
Bethany Weiss '10, middle blocker/blocker, biological sciences major, Windham, NH



Smith volleyball 2008

## 2009–10 Schedule

Sept. 9	Western New England	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	Elms with Colby Sawyer	noon
Sept. 15	Babson*	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	MIT*	1 p.m.
Sept. 22	Clark*	7 p.m.
Sept. 25–26	MIT Invitational	TBA
Sept. 29	Wheaton*	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	WPI*	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	Amherst	7 p.m.
Oct. 10–11	Seven Sisters Championship	TBA
Oct. 13	U.S. Coast Guard*	7 p.m.
Oct. 17	Plymouth State and Keene State at Mount Holyoke	noon, 3 p.m.
Oct. 20	Springfield*	7 p.m.
Oct. 23–24	Hall of Fame Invitational	5 p.m.
Oct. 27	Mount Holyoke*	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	Wellesley*	1 p.m.
Nov. 3	NEWMAC Quarterfinals	7 p.m.
Nov. 6–7	NEWMAC Semifinals and Championship	TBA

\*NEWMAC Conference games. Home events in brown type.

If you want to combine academic challenge with athletic competition, consider Smith. Come see our facilities. Talk to our coaches and current volleyball team members. We think you'll find ours to be one of the nation's outstanding athletic programs!