Regular Season Coming to Exciting Close

Flames to meet divisional rivals Elon University Phoenix – Friday, April 12 at 7:00 pm

April 12, 2013 is a date that has been circled on Coach Kyle McQuillan’s calendar since the Div II men’s lacrosse schedule was released in the preseason. On this date the Flames will be matched against divisional rivals and defending SELC Div II champions, Elon University Phoenix on home turf. With both teams coming to the game with just one 2013 regular season loss the Flame’s fan base is promised some thrilling collegiate lacrosse.

In the three years since the reinstatement of the Flames lacrosse program a healthy rivalry has formed between the two teams. In 2012 the Flames lost to Elon by just 1 goal (12-11) in their lone regular season game and then by the same margin in a SELC semi-final playoff game. In the playoff game, after falling behind 13-7 in the first three quarters, the Flames outscored Elon 5-0 in the final period, but the Phoenix held on to defeat Liberty 13-12. Elon went on to capture the SELC championship – a title that both teams have their eyes on again this year.

Friday night’s game will be Seniors Night – a celebration of our three players graduating in 2013. (See page 2.) It will also be Liberty’s final home game of the season.

Elon will be coming to Liberty ranked 8th in the MCLA Div II polls with a 9-1 record. They have five away games and five home games to their credit. Their only loss (14-12) was experienced on their March break road trip to 9th ranked Sam Houston State in early March. Elon will complete their 2013 regular season on Sunday evening with their final home game against NC State.

Liberty is currently sitting with a 5th place ranking and has a 12-1 record. The Flames have had only three home games and nine away games to date with Friday’s home game being the last of their regular season line up. Liberty’s lone 13-10 loss came at the hands of Richmond University in Richmond on April 4.

No matter how you stack the stats or review the numbers no one can debate that both teams have had tremendous success this season. Both teams have already earned a berth into the SELC championship round however the winner of Friday’s game will earn the coveted Northwest Division crown and #1 seed heading into the SELC playoffs.

Liberty Sitting Strong in National Poll at 5th Place

Liberty holds strong with a 5th place ranking in week 11 of the MCLA Div II poll following their 25-1 win over UNC Charlotte and their 13-10 loss at the hands of Div I program Richmond University.

Previously in week 10 Liberty rose from 6th to 5th place following their 16-3 win over Appalachian State.

LAST HOME GAME
OF THE SEASON

April 12 – 7 pm
SENIOR NIGHT

Game against Northwest Conference rivals
Elon University Phoenix
COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR FLAMES

Any Alumni who come out to the game will get a free Liberty Lacrosse shirt. Email menslacrosse@liberty.edu to let us know you’re coming!
# Profile on Liberty Flames Graduating Seniors

**#17 Michael Zumpano**

- **Years/Team:** 3
- **Position:** LSM
- **Height:** 6' 1"
- **Weight:** 180 lbs
- **Age:** 23
- **Hometown:** Clinton, CT
- **Degree:** Kinesiology: Exercise Science w/ minor in Coaching

**Plans after Graduation:**

M.S. Sports Administration at Liberty University

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**#22 Asa Keimig**

- **Years/Team:** 3
- **Position:** Midfield
- **Height:** 5' 11"
- **Weight:** 180 lbs
- **Age:** 22
- **Hometown:** Baltimore, MD
- **Degree:** Communications Degree with a specialization in Advertising and Public Relations

**Plans after Graduation:**

I will pursue a Masters in Sport Administration. I would like to keep lacrosse in my life and eventually I would like to coach.

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**#9 Michael Strappelli**

- **Years/Team:** 3
- **Position:** Midfield
- **Height:** 5’ 11”
- **Weight:** 185 lbs
- **Age:** 22
- **Hometown:** Baltimore, MD
- **Degree:** Major: Clinical Psychology; Minor: Psychopharmacology

**Plans after Graduation:**

I will be moving to the West Coast to join the Direct Care Staff at a residential Boarding School for troubled teens.

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## Spring Break Road Trip – It’s a SWEEP!

*Excerpts from March 16, 2013 article by Ted Allen, Liberty Staff Writer*

Following a successful spring break trip up through Michigan and Indiana that saw the Flames victorious in all four of their games Coach McQuillan commented that "overall, as a body of work, being 4-0 on this spring break road trip was huge for us. Our expectation at the beginning of the year was to get to be a top-10 team and we’ve done all that we can. We were able to play some teams out of our conference, all from the CCLA (Central Collegiate Lacrosse Association), and make a name for ourselves on a national level."

After a stop at Athletes in Action in Dayton Ohio the team travelled through some un-spring like weather to take on Aquinas College (W17-6), GVSU (W15-7), Indiana Tech (W15-11) and Taylor (W15-21).

Aside from the victories on the field and the opportunity to get playing time for 2nd and 3rd string players there were some other benefits that came out of the cold and fog in their last game against Taylor.

"[Taylor] is a smaller Christian university and it was good to see how they represented themselves and their faith," McQuillan said. "We were able to all get together and pray after the game, which was awesome. It was nice to come together and play another team with the same values as we have."

"It was a foggy, murky afternoon, the field was wet, and it was a cold, wet day," McQuillan said. "Most teams travel south and get to enjoy the weather. This week, the weather wasn't on our side, but we were able to persevere.

Editor’s Note: Week 8 closed out with 4 wins on the road and a rise from 14th to 6th place ranking in the MCLA Div II polling."
All Good Things Must Come to an End
by Asa Keimig, Senior

As my senior year comes to a close I find myself looking back on my time with the Flames – on where this program came from, where it is now, and where it will go in the future.

During my freshmen year (2011), back before Club Sports officially reinstated Men’s Lacrosse, I organized Sunday afternoon lacrosse practices with a group of about ten guys, three of whom are still with the team today.

During that year we were approached by the Women’s NCAA lacrosse team. They were looking for several players with lacrosse experience who would be interested in being part of a “practice” team for her D1 team to play against. It was a great opportunity but it was even better when later that spring Club Sports officially reinstated the Men’s Lacrosse program to Club Sports.

During our first year resources and field space was limited. We were constantly bounced back and forth to different practice and game locations. In our 2011 regular season we split our games (4W-4L).

In our second year we improved our regular season record to 8-4 and lost out to Elon in the 2nd round of SELC playoffs. This year we are chasing the SELC title. We have made great strides. All of us that are on the 2013 team are spoiled compared to the team 3 years ago.

It feels like a dream every morning when I drive up to the new lacrosse facility; walk through the halls, into the locker room, and onto the field. When I see all that this program has been blessed with in such a short time it absolutely amazes me.

This program feels like my baby. I was there at its inception, played a role in its birth and with the support of the University, the coaching staff and the players I have watched it grow. Reality is slowly sinking in that my time with the program is coming to an end. I’m often overcome with the same feelings that a father must experience when he’s teaching his child how to ride a bike. You want to hold on as long as possible, but in the end you know that letting go is your only option. The Flames’ future is a bright one.

INSIDE LACROSSE
MCLA Notebook & Podcast
by David Franklin March 22, 2013

During a March 22 interview INSIDE Lacrosse reporter David Franklin asked Head Coach Kyle McQuillan about the 2005 spring road trip accident that led to Liberty having to make the unfortunate decision to pull the men’s lacrosse team out of the MCLA in 2006. At that time the McQuillan was the captain and president of a team and a program that was solely student run.

During the interview Coach McQuillan discussed the road back for Men’s Lacrosse at Liberty and gave the University full credit for their support.

“The real story here is Liberty University and what they have been able to do. They took a really bad situation in 2005 and turned it into an awesome Club Sport Department that we are now a part of. All of our student athletes are well taken care of; transportation, athletic training, academic advising … athletics within Club Sports is phenomenal. I think [our Club Sport] program could go toe-to-toe with any program in the country. The University has taken a situation, learned from it, made the corrections and all the credit needs to go to the University for their support.”

To hear the entire podcast interview on INSIDE Lacrosse go to:
Midnight Madness
\textit{by Kyle McQuillan, Head Coach}

On March 28, 2013 at exactly 12:00 AM Liberty Men’s Lacrosse hosted their first ever “Blackout Game”. Their opponent was Tennessee Wesleyan and the outcome was a 16-8 victory for the Flames. What was even better than the 10th win of the year was the student body’s support shown by the Liberty student body. The intent of a game at midnight was to draw students who have nothing better to do on a Wednesday night, other than sleep and prepare for the next day of classes. The game was an approved late night activity which allowed residential students to get an extension on their 12:00 AM curfew.

Despite temperatures that dipped into the low 30’s there were close to 1,000 student fans in attendance to cheer on the Flames. A strong fan presence provided the game with a great atmosphere and a very unique experience for players on both sides of the ball.

Liberty is planning on making this an annual tradition based on the success of this first game and interest shown from around the league. We are excited to bring in another team next season and make it an even better experience for both the players and the fans. Liberty’s media team was in attendance and will release a video documenting the entire experience. Make sure to check out our website in the near future.

\textbf{SELC CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT – APRIL 26-28}

The SouthEastern Lacrosse Conference (SELC) championship tournament will be held at Alpharetta High School, 3595 Webb Bridge Rod, Alpharetta, GA from April 26-28, 2013. Exact location and times all games will be determined at the end of the regular season.

This is the 26th year of the SELC as a collegiate club league based in the Southeastern United States promoting non-NCAA lacrosse. Sixteen teams will be invited to the SELC Championships with eight coming from Div I and eight from Div II. Liberty Flames will be attending the tournament and representing Div II.

The league will crown two champions on April 28, 2013 who will automatically qualify for the MCLA National Championships. Tournament tickets are $20 and will be on sale at the gate April 26, 2013 at AHS Stadium. This ticket is a weekend pass good for all three days of the Tournament. For all the tournament details including games, times and teams, visit: www.selctournament.com.

Please note that the SELC semifinals and championship game will be streamed live from Atlanta on LAXTV.com http://lax.tv/

\textbf{NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS}: If you have an article, suggestion, or notice to post in the next or future editions please send them to: liberty.flames.lacrosse.newsltr@aol.com. Deadline for May edition is Monday, May 6, 2013.