

Island Sports

NK coaches ready for spring season

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

The North Kingstown spring sports season is underway. Included in last week's Press, were introductions to the head coaches of baseball, golf, boys' track, and boys' and girls' lacrosse. The remaining coaches are profiled here.

Howie Hague is the co-head sailing coach. Hague is originally from Coventry but he now makes his home in North Kingstown with his wife, 3-year old daughter and newborn twin girls. He graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and received his M.B.A. from the University of Rhode Island. By day, Hague is a math teacher at NK. This is his first season as the sailing coach, although he has been coaching the wrestling team for six years. He is looking forward to his first season on the water and said "sailing is a different coaching experience for me because it is not the same dynamic as coaching wrestling. In wrestling, I tend to be very vocal and intense, but I believe sailing, while the sport is very intense, will not require the same kind of coaching." Most of Hague's free time these days is spent taking care of his children but he does enjoy fishing and spending time on the water with his family.

Kyle Wilson is also in his first year as the co-head coach of the sailing team. He grew up in Wickford and now lives in Newport

with his fiancé. Wilson received his degree from URI, where he was on the sailing team for four years. He is currently finishing his masters in education at Roger Williams University. Wilson has coached sailing teams in both Rhode Island and Fisher's Island and is currently student teaching at Wakefield Elementary in South Kingstown.

Joanne Fitts began coaching in 1979 with the North Kingstown High School girls' volleyball team, where she is now the assistant coach. She has coached the boys' team since its inception 20 years ago. Fitts speaks highly of her assistant coaches Brian Hesford and Peter Tausek, who both played for Fitts in previous years and also became educators. Hesford is now teaching at Wickford Middle School and Tausek is at the middle school in East Greenwich. Fitts received her degree from Northeastern University and is currently teaching physical education at Hamilton Elementary in North Kingstown. She believes she is known by her athletes for being "intense and competitive." Fitts was recently inducted into the R.I. Interscholastic League's Hall of Fame for coaching boys' and girls' volleyball.

Jen Chabot is in her thirteenth-season coaching the girls' outdoor track team. She just wrapped up her fifth season as head coach of the girls' indoor track team with

a seventh place finish at the state meet. Chabot is a North Kingstown graduate herself, where she was an outstanding runner on the cross country and outdoor track teams. She graduated from Rhode Island College and Salve Regina University and now lives in North Kingstown with her husband and three children. Chabot is known for maintaining a large roster and does not believe in cutting any athlete from her team if they put in the required practice. "As long as they do the work, they are on the team," she said.

Jacques Faulise is returning to North Kingstown as the boy's tennis coach after living in St. Louis for the past three years. Prior to his move, Faulise coached the boys' and girls' tennis teams for two years. Now that he is back in Rhode Island, Faulise is looking forward to picking up where he left off after taking the boys' team to the playoffs the last season he coached them. Faulise loves the North facilities, which include six "beautifully lighted" courts. He speaks highly of his athletes and the athletic director, Keith Kenyon. Faulise attended Providence College. He was later the tennis coach there and he racked up 160 Division I wins. He spent 18 winters working at the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport and was an instructor at the Point Judith Country Club for 24 summers.

Rick Powell is entering his second season as the head coach of the girls' varsity softball team after serving as assistant for one year in 2006. He was the JV coach for three years prior to that. Powell just completed his fourth season as the assistant wrestling coach and is a science teacher at the high school. He attended West Warwick High School and then received his degree in physics and pre-med from Holy Cross. Powell resides in Warwick with his wife, Heather, and 4-year-old son. Powell says he is known for always being precise when explaining things to his athletes as he is always using numbers and physics.



Fourth grade play

Shane Foley, right, played a stork that was trying not to follow the crowd. The crow, Anthony Antonucci, was doing his best to get the stork in trouble.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

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