

Athletic Program Evaluation

Women's Lacrosse

Head Coach- Angelica Gero

Criterion #1 Academic Excellence & Student Success—Rating of 7

My program's retention rate (84.2%) is significantly above the institution's retention rate (56%). Our graduation rate in my short time as the head coach of the women's lacrosse team is 100%. Our team GPA is currently 2.76 which is also above the institution's average GPA, which is 2.58. I have made it very clear to my athletes that our GPA, retention and graduation rates are our top priority, and I am confident that all of these numbers will continue to increase. Last spring 4 of our athletes received RMAC recognition as scholar athletes, all with GPAs above 3.5, and we expect to achieve these goals again this year.

Criterion #2 Access & Affordability--- Rating of #6

Although our roster size is smaller than the NCAA average I believe that is due to our lack of equivalencies and athletic aid. The world of collegiate women's lacrosse recruiting is probably the most competitive of any collegiate sport right now with 539 programs between DI, DII, DIII & NAIA and more institutions adding the sport every semester. As the head coach I am incredibly invested in growing this program but it is difficult to be a competitive recruiter with only 1 equivalency compared to the NCAA average of 4, and only 10 student-athletes receiving athletic aid.

Criterion #3 Institutional Affordability--- Rating of 9

Our athletic expenses are low in comparison to the other programs at Adams. On average we spend under \$40,000 per year for all athletic expenses. The women's lacrosse team's tuition & fees versus our expenses is significantly positive, bringing in over \$151,600. The program also has less than \$3,000 in athletic aid money, meaning that our percentage of tuition given in athletic aid is very low.

Criterion #4 Community Relations--- Rating of 5

Our regional and valley high schools do not offer lacrosse to their students, and our community interest is low in comparison to other sports on campus. However, my team has been working very hard to raise the levels of community interest. We do volunteer work with Valley Humane every single week of the school year, and we attend and help out at many local fundraisers throughout the year. My girls also help me with my campaigns for shark and marine conservation, which we have brought to our local community. With one of the smaller rosters on campus this year we put in more community service hours than any other program by volume. My girls also have great, big personalities and are becoming better known around campus and town. The women's lacrosse team also began hosting lacrosse clinics (free to the community) this past fall. Our next clinic will be Sunday, April 22nd and I have plans to go around to the local high schools beforehand to spread the word in hopes that we will get even more interest this spring.

Criterion #5 Program's Athletic Success--- Rating of 5

Our program is in its 8th year of existence, and this is my second year as the head coach. Overall our team has not been successful competing in conference or nationally. The RMAC is a competitive conference with 10 teams. I firmly believe that our lack of success as a program is due to the turnaround rate of the coaching staff. It is very rare for a team of young ladies to have the skills and also be invested enough to dedicate themselves to a program when there is no source of solid leadership. I am here to invest all of my energy and focus into turning this program around and my team feeds off of my energy. We are already making a ton of progress, and I don't see that slowing down anytime in the near future. Last year, in my first season as the head coach, we broke the program's record for in season conference win. I believe that our success could also be directly related to our lack of resources. This is the first time that the program has a coaching staff and a team that is truly invested in the improvement of the program, and I believe that with the additional of some resources we could be very competitive in the RMAC by no later than the 2019-'20 season.

Criterion #6 Impact--- Rating of 6

Women's lacrosse is not an RMAC required core sport. There would be significant Title IX impact if our program was eliminated. With additional resources we could be much more successful in the RMAC. We are already creating more community interest and program success and the addition of some resources (athletic aid) would make a massive difference as we would stop losing our recruits to our biggest conference rivals as often. As the head coach of the women's lacrosse team, and the person in charge of recruiting, I could definitely get our roster above 20 by the fall of 2019 with any additional resources.

Conclusion

I have been at Adams for a year and a half now and I fully understand what it could take to turn the women's lacrosse program around. I have a small, but phenomenal group of young ladies. They possess all of the qualities that I am looking for to be the core of this program. We are doing everything that we can to make progress with very little resources, attention or external support. We hosted the first ever alumni game this past fall. Although we have very few alumni I think this was a really great experience for the few that made it out, and I have plans to continue that new tradition. I will dedicate my efforts to filling out our roster and with any additional resources I am quite sure that I will be successful. We have been praised by people in the community throughout the year for our community service efforts and my team is well liked across campus. I am hopeful and confident that our community interest/ support and our ability to be competitive will continue to increase.

I've attached some photos of our 1st annual alumni game and some of our work in the community.







