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## Mules on the Move

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## “Triply Sweet”

Matt Williams '99 helped men's lacrosse to a higher standard

By Stephen Collins '74

In May the men's lacrosse team came as close to an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship as a team can get—sudden death overtime in the final game of the New England tournament. “Sudden death is the best way to win,” said senior captain Matt Williams, “and it's the worst way to lose.”

After a sweet 7-4 victory over Bowdoin in the semifinal round, the Mules had to rally from a five goal deficit late in the final game to tie Williams College at 13-13 to force overtime. Jeff Boyer '00 put the tying goal in the Ephmen's net with just 16 seconds remaining in regulation time.

Lacrosse as it's now played at Colby, which is in the upper echelon of Division III teams, is a finesse game, and turnovers are relatively rare. So the opponents' ability to get possession at the beginning of overtime gave them a decided advantage. “If we had gotten the ball, we would have won,” Williams said. “Before that we had scored on five consecutive shots.” But 45 seconds into the overtime, Colby's season ended on a disappointing note when an opposing midfielder put one by standout rookie goalie John Shea '02. The team finished the season with an 11-4 record.

Still, Colby players and fans left the game proud of what this year's team accomplished, said coach David Zazzaro.

For Matt Williams it was the end of an incredible college lacrosse career. In four seasons he recorded 226 points (goals and assists), smashing the school's 18-year-old scoring record (Josh Burns '81 had 187 points). Williams did it with grace and humil-



JEFF EARICKSON

Matt Williams '99 became Colby's all-time leading scorer in men's lacrosse and played in four ECAC tournaments.

ity, Zazzaro said. “It's been a real treat having him for four years.”

Williams also was captain of the soccer team this year, but soccer coach Mark Serdjenian '73 only had him for three years. Serdjenian says it's “triply sweet” that Colby ended up with this particular scholar-athlete because in the 1995 Bowdoin-Colby soccer game, Williams wore black as a first-semester Bowdoin freshman. He transferred to Colby that January. He played various positions to help the soccer team make the ECAC tournament for the last two years, and this spring he won the College's Norman R. White Award for leadership, inspiration and sportsmanship.

Williams graduated with honors in American studies, having written an honors thesis on the

stories of Raymond Carver. Charles Bassett (American studies), who directed Williams's honors project, said it was a fine literary, historical and sociological analysis and earned an A, “which I don't always give.”

“Matt is a tremendous kid,” said Bassett.

A high school All-American in lacrosse at Cape Elizabeth (Maine) High School, Williams was an impact player right away in college, and he actually was more the focus of Colby's offense during his first two seasons than this year, Zazzaro says.

“A bunch of us got to start as freshmen,” said Williams. “We took our bumps and bruises but we made the playoffs all four years.”

That early success improved recruiting, and Williams unselfishly adjusted to a team offense

in his junior and senior seasons as more and better underclassmen joined the ranks. “He helped establish a higher standard, and he's delivered every year,” Zazzaro said.

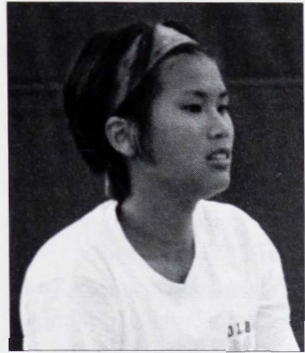
Ten members of this year's ECAC Division III New England Lacrosse Championship runner-up team graduated, including Williams and his fellow captains Mark Melander and Brad Selig. “You don't really replace a guy like Matt, or the other seniors either,” said Zazzaro. “Every year we've got holes to fill. I think the kids on next year's team will be ready to step up, and we've got some good freshmen coming in. Each year it keeps growing. We're the beneficiaries of teams who played in the past. This year is the product of a long tradition, but it isn't the end of it.” ♦



## Distinction On and Off the Court

This spring Colby women's tennis captain Kim Cheah '99 capped her career by winning her second Maine State Invitational singles title in straight sets. With teammate Kendra Shank '02 she also advanced to the finals of the doubles bracket.

Last November, when Cheah found herself pinned under a sport utility vehicle, the final chapter in her outstanding college tennis career was in doubt. The vehicle had rolled several times and Cheah went through the sunroof. She was unable to feel her legs and feared paralysis.



Kim Cheah '99

Cheah, who graduated with distinction in international studies, has played tennis since she was nine years old and competed in international tournaments while she was growing up in Malaysia. While in college she was ranked 12th in the nation in Division III singles and 10th in the nation in Division III

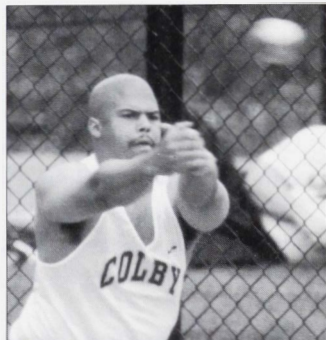
doubles. She amassed a record 90 wins in four years as Colby's top singles player. She won the Maine State Invitational twice in singles and once in doubles. "I love competing, but not for the glory of winning," Cheah said. She's not happy winning unless she has given her best.

Cheah escaped from the car accident with only bruises. "She was very lucky," said her mother, who came from Malaysia to attend graduation. Cheah arrived at Colby with athletic aptitude and combined maturity and insight to put together a distinguished career on and off the courts. She is Colby's nominee for NCAA Woman of the Year. ♦

## Third in the Nation

Reigning NCAA Division III hammer throw champion Jamie Brewster '00 made his best throw of the season at the 1999 NCAA Track and Field National Championships in May. Brewster's throw, his second best ever, earned him third place in the meet.

Brewster was seeded fourth going into the national finals, after WPI's Mike Pockoski had out-thrown him by four to six feet in two previous meets. "I expected him to take it. I just wanted to get out there," said Brewster. For the third year in a row at the nationals, Pockoski finished second.



Jamie Brewster '00

Brewster hurled the 16-pound steel ball 194 feet one inch. That was seven inches short of the winner, Aaron Smith of Gustavus Adolphus—"very close," said Colby head coach Jim Wescott, "only the width of the ball."

A sociology major from Providence, R.I., Brewster worked this season with assistant coach Dan Camann on slowing his spin and accelerating at the moment of release for maximum thrust. At the national meet, on his best throw he executed exactly what he'd been working on.

"That really came together for me," he said. "I just concentrated. ♦

## sports shorts

**Softball** recorded its first 20-win season this spring as sophomore Brooke Fitzsimmons went 13-5 and claimed NESCAC Pitcher of the Year honors. The White Mules went 20-12 but failed to get an invitation for post-season play. . . . The **men's rugby** team earned a trip to the national championships in Cincinnati in April and beat the University of Dayton in the opening round when captain David Normoyle '00 scored



Brooke Fitzsimmons '01

twice in the closing minutes to pull off a 25-24 come-from-behind victory. Colby lost to the eventual champs, the University of California at San Diego, and ended up fourth in the nation.

. . . Following its finest season ever, the **crew team** sent its top men's open four to the national championships, the 1999 Intercollegiate Rowing Association Regatta in Camden, N.J. The

boat placed second in the grand final, two seconds behind Wisconsin and ahead of Brown, Cornell, Navy and Princeton. At the Champion International Collegiate Regatta in Worcester, Mass., the men's second varsity eight claimed the silver medal, and the women's novice eight won the petite final. . . . **Women's lacrosse** recovered from a slow start to finish 9-6 and earn a trip to the ECAC Tournament, where in the quarterfinals they fell to Tufts University 14-8. Colby was led by seniors Caroline Kasparian and Kristina Stahl. Angela Pappas '01 led the team in scoring. . . . **Men's track and field** had a strong season, culminating with a third-place finish at the NCAA New England Division III Championships held at Colby in May. Three athletes went to the national NCAA Championships in Ohio—Jamie Brewster '00, Jon Zarecki '99 and Nate Laing '00, all in the hammer throw. . . . **Women's track and field** had a solid outdoor season, including a first-place finish at the eight-team Aloha Relays at Bowdoin. Colby sent two athletes to the NCAA Championships in Ohio: Karen Hoch '00 in the hammer throw and Maria Mensching '02 in both the 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs. . . . **Baseball** began its season strong, going 11-4 in its first 15 games, but the White Mules stumbled down the stretch to end up 18-15. The team had strong showings against post-season-bound teams, including Brandeis, Middlebury and the University of Southern Maine. Marty Whitmore '99 had a breakout year on the mound, leading the Mules with a 4-2 record. Jon Lord '02 was NESCAC Rookie of the Year. . . . After going 5-1 on its spring break trip to South Carolina, **men's tennis** finished with an 8-7 record. Owen Patrick '01 led the way for the Mules, going 9-4 between the number one and two positions, while he and Martin Schnermann '02 combined for a 5-3 record in the number-two doubles slot. . . . Rob Koh '99, Colby's first three-time All-American **men's ice hockey** player, was named to the American Hockey Coaches Association first team. He was one of two Division III players on Team USA for the North American College Hockey Championships—a two-game series against Canada.