Prep & High Schools

Even for power Moses Brown (R.I.), this season could be extra special



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Izzy Cummings and Moses Brown (R.I.) enter the new season as the team to beat in Rhode Island -- and maybe beyond. (Courtesy)

The aura around Moses Brown (R.I.) lacrosse did not sneak up on **Elise Kurtis**.

She'd attended camps there since she was in early grade school. She knew all about the winning, the championships and the standards.

Izzy Cummings had three older brothers — **Jake, Owen** and **Luke** — who played sports at Moses Brown. She wasn't going to be blindsided either.

"We understood from a young age how special it was," said Kurtis.

But some mentoring helped ease what could have been a difficult transition. And that extends to this day.

Moses Brown has won eight of the last nine Division 1 championships in Rhode Island – including the last two – but it could be taking the field with its best team ever this spring. Eight players, including Kurtis (Wesleyan) and Cummings (Trinity), who are now seniors, have made college commitments.

Senior attacks and captains **Grace MacLean** (Hamilton) and **Vivian Stone** (Arizona State), senior defensive whiz **Charley Lagor** (Quinnipiac), and juniors **Sophia Mocco** (Brown), **Jane Belsito** (Cincinnati) and **Ashley Brousseau** (Rhode Island) are the others.

"We've had some great teams with players going to various (colleges)," said 11th-year head coach **Brian Williams**, "but not in a batch like this."

If this season marks an apex of talent, the culture at the private school in Providence has been in place for years.

Williams calls it a "sisterhood," with players appreciating the history and tradition, and understanding that for it to advance, they need to support one another the best they can.



Senior defender Elise Kurtis and Moses Brown (R.I.) are seeking their third straight state title. (Courtesy)

"You don't get to choose your family, right?" said Williams. "It's about playing for each other. What it really boils down to is knowing that every other person on the field is prioritizing your success."

Kurtis, who plays defense and also serves as a captain, and Cummings, who plays attack, share similar memories of entering the program as freshmen.

“Everyone was extremely welcoming,” said Cummings. “As a ninth-grader coming in it can be a little intimidating and a little scary based on how successful the team has been.”

Kurtis and Cummings fell under the wing of older players **Hannah Prescott** and **Ava Gershon**, respectively. Both those players are now sophomores playing at Conn. College.

“Both of them were very good mentors, showing us how to be good student-athletes and handling the academics,” said Cummings.

The difference between the junior and senior standouts at Moses Brown – besides the year of age – is how the recruiting process played out for them.

Mocco, Belsito and Brousseau all received — and accepted — Division 1 offers pretty early in the process. That wasn’t the case for the seniors.

Williams describes MacLean, who led Moses Brown in every scoring category and caused turnovers last season, as a “late bloomer” who missed some recruiting windows. Lagor had a bunch of doors closed on her before one opened at Quinnipiac.

“Not everyone gets picked up on Sept. 1 (of their junior year),” said Williams. “Very few do. The journey to landing somewhere is unique to each player.”

Kurtis spent her junior year looking primarily at Division 1 options, missing offers from those she liked and not feeling great about her options.

“Then I looked at the NESCAC, which I should have done from the start,” she said.

Similarly, Cummings’ junior year included recruiting stops and starts, until she, too, opted for a NESCAC program in Trinity.

“It was a very long and tough process,” she said. “I was never, honestly, completely sure of what I wanted until the very end. But I don’t think it could have ended up more perfect.”

After years of battling against each other in practice – and building a two-way appreciation – Kurtis and Cummings can look forward to facing off in games that count – for four years.

“Elise and the defense are so determined,” said Cummings. “They’re so cohesive and so determined to keep pushing.”

“With Izzy (and the offense), the first word that comes to mind is magic,” said Kurtis. “They play with such fluidity and confidence and composure. It’s like they all share one brain.”

The Quakers graduated just two players off last season’s title team, albeit two very good ones. **Hannah West** is playing at St. Bonaventure and **Maddie Chase** is playing at Division 3 Denison.

In addition to league games, Moses Brown has added out-of-state tilts with MIAA powers Wellesley, Lincoln-Sudbury, Westwood, Longmeadow and Cohasset, and NHIAA power Bishop Guertin. That’s how the team will be viewed through a longer lens.

“Without doubt, 2025 represents the best and most recruited roster playing the most challenging schedule in my 11 seasons at Moses Brown,” said Williams.

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