

BLAIR ATHLETICS

September 2026 Newsletter

To the Blair Athletics community,

Welcome to another year of Blair Athletics! It is a transformative time for our program, highlighted by the installation of our new turf field in the Bowl. We are eager to see our field hockey and girls' lacrosse teams take this new surface, starting with varsity field hockey hosting Warren Hills on Saturday, September 12.

The momentum continues across our entire department with a talented new cohort of varsity head coaches and impressive accolades earned by Buccaneers past and present.

As always, athletic growth stems from Blair's core mission—knowing our students and challenging them to become global citizens who contribute to the greater good.

We look forward to an outstanding season serving the Blair community. See you in the stands!

Go Bucs!

SUMMER ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT

- Salah Tsarni '27 won the U17 World Silver Medal at the 2026 UWW Cadet World Championships at 92 kg.
- The Oklahoma City Thunder selected Blair and University of Kentucky alum Otega Oweh '22 in the second round of the 2026 NBA Draft.
- Stanford rower Emily Tierney '25 was recently named to the 2026 U23 National Team by USRowing and competed in the 2026 World Rowing U23 Championships in Duisburg, Germany.
- Bella Simovski '29 was selected to represent Serbia at the 2026 FIBA U16 Women's EuroBasket.
- Olivia Miles '21 became the fastest player in WNBA history to record 650 points and 200 assists.

FALL VARSITY SPORT PREVIEWS

Boys' Varsity Soccer

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Eamon Gara Grady, Tom Parauda
Record last year: 5-11

Coach Grady's thoughts for this season: "Last year, we began to develop our style of play and saw many signs of success, especially in attack. This year, as we return most of our core group, I look forward to building upon that foundation by adding more complexity and detail and shoring up our defense. We have the awesome opportunity to play against one of the toughest schedules in the state and I look forward to seeing how we compete in each match."

Girls' Varsity Soccer

Coaching Staff: Head Coach James Smith, Anna Raley, Caroline Chamberlain

Record last year: 10-5

Coach Smith's thoughts for this season: "We are extremely excited for the group to come back to school and begin practicing for the upcoming season. I am looking forward to some competitive games with this group and am eager to see how they compete."

Varsity Football

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Greg Bowman, Willy Kaiser '18, Isaiah Chery, Gary Haase, Mike Coyle, Marc Hodakowski, Dave Prezioso, Ryan Pasquali '19

Record last year: 4-5

Coach Bowman's thoughts for this season: "I am energized to see our returning players back on campus and to welcome new Bucs as we prepare to kick off another football season! We have a challenging schedule ahead of us that will push us to grow, compete and work together as a team. I am looking forward to an action-packed season filled with hard work, strong memories and plenty of opportunities to make this a great year!"

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Varsity Field Hockey

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Valerie Lohr, Courtney Stanford '95, Danyelle Doldorian

Record last year: 7-7

Coach Lohr's thoughts for this season: "I'm eager to see what this group can build together. The team chose Unity as their word for the season, and I think that says a lot about who they want to be. Of course we want to compete, improve and win games, but I also want these players to learn to trust one another, have the courage to do hard things and know that every person has a role in making the team better. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but that's part of what makes a new season so exhilarating. I can't wait to see who we become together."

Girls' Cross Country

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Quint Clarke '87, Kate Swann
Key Notables: 3rd at 2025 Newark Invitational

Coach Clarke's thoughts for this season: "Blair girls cross country looks to build on the momentum from last season to continue to improve both as individuals and as a team. We will support one another in trying to reach our full potential as runners and teammates and hope to have a lot of fun as we work toward our goals."

Boys' Cross Country

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Chris Thatcher, Mateo Coronado
Key Notables: 3rd at 2025 Newark Invitational, 5th at MAPLs
Coach Thatcher's thoughts for this season: "With the program returning 12 runners for this season, we will look to continue our winning dual-meet record of almost 40 years."

Girls' Varsity Tennis

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Kendall Rice, Bridget Hodakowski '99

Record last year: 8-6

Coach Rice's thoughts for this season: "I am super excited for the 2026 varsity girls' tennis season! We have an excellent mix of strong returning players, led by our wonderful senior captains Evie Holleman '27 and Millie Coppeans '27, and new players, many of whom have already demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm. As usual, it is going to be a long and competitive season, but I am more than confident that we are up to the task."

Girls' Varsity Volleyball

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Kailey Smith, Rhett Moroses '13

Record last year: 1-16

Coach Smith's thoughts for this season: "With 12 returning players and some talented new additions to the program, I'm hopeful that we'll be able to continue building on the late season

success we saw last year with wins on the court and the continued growth of team culture and camaraderie off the court."

Varsity Sculling

Coaching Staff: Head Coach John Redos '09, Istvan Csanyi, Annie Gardner, Cam Bentley '20

Coach Redos' thoughts for this season: "We're delighted to welcome our biggest sculling group ever. Additionally, this fall also marks the first time in program history that we have a qualified entry for the Head of the Charles. The fall season continues to be an amazing opportunity for rowers to experience a different side of the sport."

Congratulations to our new varsity head coaches this school year!

Mia Macaluso - Head Coach, girls' wrestling

Ryan Pagotto '97 - Head Coach, boys' tennis

Zafi Levy - Director of Squash

Chris Thatcher - Head Coach, boys' cross country

Annie Gardner - Head Coach, boys' crew

NOMINATE A BUC!

To recognize and celebrate the outstanding athletic achievements of its alumni and coaches, Blair established an Athletic Hall of Fame and honored its first five inductees in 2016. Members of the School community are invited to suggest nominees for the Hall's Class of 2027 by December 31, 2026. Nominate a Buc today!

CHECK US OUT

[Blair Athletics Instagram](#)

[Blair Athletics Livestream](#)

[Blair Athletics Sports Photos](#)

[Blair Athletics Website](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/12	SOCCERFEST
10/10	BLAIR VS. THE HUN SCHOOL
10/31	BLAIR VS. THE HILL SCHOOL
11/7	PEDDIE DAY @ THE PEDDIE SCHOOL