BLAIR ATHLETICS

November 2026 Newsletter

To the Blair Athletics community,

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures drop, Blair Athletics heads indoors for what promises to be a thrilling winter season. Boys' basketball, girls' basketball and wrestling all return as defending MAPL champions, and each team will once again test itself against some of the nation's toughest competition. Our squash program has raised the bar with a more demanding schedule while our ski, swim and track teams bring back strong, healthy cores ready to compete.

From the wrestling mat to the WNBA, Bucs past and present keep making us proud. We can't wait to watch this year's athletes carry that tradition forward as they push the limits of what's possible in high school athletics.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 5, when wrestling hosts Belmont Hill and Northfield Mount Hermon. We look forward to an outstanding winter. See you in the stands!

Go Bucs!

ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT

- Ella Gaitan '24 earned Big 10 Offensive Player of the Week for Penn State Field Hockey and was selected for the Indoor Field Hockey U.S. National Team.
- Wrestlers Marie Sharp '28 and Salah Tsarni '27 claimed the No. 1 ranking at FloWrestling's Who's Number One event.
- Minnesota Lynx guard Olivia Miles '21 won WNBA KIA Rookie of the Year.
- Marie Sharp '28 and Olivia Georges '27 both placed second at the 2026 Princeton Open wrestling tournament.
- Asser Eldemerdash '26 earned Liberty League Rookie of the Week for Hobart Squash.

WINTER VARSITY SPORT PREVIEWS

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Joe Mantegna, Jon DeJesus, Tom Parauda, Shawn Munford
Record last year: 30-2, MAPL Champions, NJ Prep Open Champions, National Prep Champion runner-ups
Coach Mantegna's thoughts for this season: "The Blair boys' basketball team is a nice mix of returning players who helped lead last year's team to a 30-2 season and talented newcomers. While some of the faces may be different, the talent and cohesiveness remain. Blair will be led by Florida commit Kamsi Awaka '27, Georgia Tech commit Kamari Whyte '27, Cornell commit Ray Fernandez '27 and UPenn commit Peti Rosta '27, along with a whole host of talented underclass athletes. Once again, Blair will play a national schedule all over the East Coast. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead of us this winter."

Girls' Varsity Basketball

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Greg Rosnick, Anna Raley, Becky Hader, Quint Clark '87
Record last year: 17-7, MAPL Champions
Coach Rosnick's thoughts for this season: "We're excited to welcome a lot of new faces to a group that graduated with a lot of experience and talent. We have another national schedule that will see us play teams from all over the country and world. All of our seniors are committed to play college basketball at fantastic universities and we're excited to help them and their teammates get ready for their basketball journey after Blair Academy."

Boys' Varsity Wrestling

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Ross Gitomer '05, Mike Carbonaro '00, Paul Clavel '88, Tyler Thurgood '05, Ed Russell, Willy Kaiser '18, Chase Palanca '15, Chris Thatcher
Record last year: MAPL Champions, placed third at National Prep Championships
Coach Gitomer's thoughts for this season: "We are proud and excited for this season, specifically the leadership we have by this senior group of young men and women."

Girls' Varsity Wrestling

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Mia Macaluso, Chase Palanca '15
Coach Macaluso's thoughts for this season: "The talent in our room is high, but more importantly, the girls are putting in the work. We're ready to set the tone early this season."

Indoor Track

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Eddy Thornton, Stirling Ince, Kailey Smith, Mark Williams
Coach Thornton's thoughts for this season: "We're excited to get back to work this winter and build on the momentum of our program. We have a great mix of returning athletes and new faces, and I'm looking forward to seeing how this group comes together. Track and field is all about growth, both individually and as a team, and our focus will be on competing hard, supporting one another and getting a little better each day. I'm excited to see what this group can accomplish!"



Varsity Squash

Coaching Staff: Director of Squash Zafi Levy, Head Coach Doug Compton
Record last year: Boys 9-4, Girls 2-7-1
Coach Levy's thoughts for this season: "Blair squash enters the winter with a deeper roster, a wave of international newcomers and big goals on both sides of the program. I am incredibly excited about this season. Both teams worked extremely hard this fall, and I'm confident that dedication will translate into significant improvements and results. We believe the girls have a legitimate opportunity to compete for the MAPL championship. Both teams aim to qualify for the B Division in February's U.S. High School National Championships."

Varsity Skiing

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Rob Anthony, Courtnay Stanford '95, Caroline James, Tim Patzelt

Varsity Swimming

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Shannon Schrope, Megan Ehrenwerth, Lila Manstein
Record last year: 1-16
Coach Schrope's thoughts for this season: "This year, I look forward to how the team will continue to build their technical swimming skills, team culture and love for swimming. We will be competing in many dual meets and championship meets, during which we will showcase everything we learned and have fun supporting our teammates."



FALL VARSITY AWARD WINNERS

Blair Soccer Award–Noah Kwimi '27
Marcial Tennis Award–Amelia Wu '28
Blair Volleyball Award–Lea Myers '27
Blair Soccer Award–Grace Curran '27
Frere Football Award–Jack Seeger '27
Brooks Football Prize–Kellen Nelson '27
The Miller Trophy–Brayden Yau '27
Pierce Cross Country Trophy–Ella Willoughby '27
Sculling Trophy–Calista Chen '28
Blair Field Hockey Prize–Peyton Taylor '27

NLI SIGNINGS

Fifteen Blair seniors—13 percent of the class—celebrated their plans to continue their education and athletic careers at Division I institutions on Thursday, November 12. Families, friends, coaches and teammates gathered in Hardwick Hall for Blair's first signing celebration of the year. It is the first of several signing days this year, and the athletes represented five different programs. Representing sports including girls' and boys' wrestling, girls' and boys' basketball, and boys' lacrosse, the seniors marked the exciting milestone surrounded by the people who have supported them throughout their Blair careers.

"These students have put years of work into their sports, and it is exciting to see all their time and commitment come to fruition," noted Director of Athletics Paul Clavel '88. "Today is our chance to recognize these student-athletes and celebrate this wonderful achievement."

Boys' Wrestling
Joe Schinder - University of Pennsylvania
Vin Anello - Princeton University
Cael Mielnik - University of Pittsburgh
Mikey Batista - University of Maryland
Salah Tsarni - United States Air Force Academy

Girls' Wrestling
Victoria Carbonaro - Columbia University
Olivia Georges - Columbia University

Boys' Basketball
Kamsi Awaka - University of Florida
Ray Fernandez - Cornell University
Peti Rosta - University of Pennsylvania

Girls' Basketball
Natalie Goldstein - College of the Holy Cross
Lauryn Downing - Marist University
Athena Thompson - Princeton University

Boys' Lacrosse
Jacob Deutsch - Long Island University
Derek Constantino - Hofstra University



HAMMER AWARD

Recipients of the Blair Hammer Award will not necessarily be the most accomplished athletes on the team, or even varsity athletes, but rather those students who have demonstrated one, some or all of the following characteristics engraved on the hammer: GRIT, STRENGTH, TEAMWORK, CHARACTER and EFFORT.

This fall, we are proud to award the Blair Hammer Award to:
Holden Cooper '28
Tyler Parkins '28





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

12/5	WRESTLING VS. BELMONT HILL/ NORTHFIELD MT. HERMON, 1:30 P.M.
1/13	BOYS' AND GIRLS' BASKETBALL VS. THE HILL SCHOOL
1/14	WRESTLING VS. WYOMING SEMINARY, 6:30 P.M.
1/20	SWIMMING VS. POPE JOHN, 4:30 P.M. VARSITY SQUASH VS. LAWRENCEVILLE, 4:30 P.M.

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