



PHOTO: OSCAR MASCANDARO

HIGHLANDERS OPEN MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY

NJIT Highlander Athletics entered a new era this fall after the completion of its highly anticipated outdoor multipurpose facility, Lubetkin Field at Mal Simon Stadium. The state-of-the-art facility will be the home for NJIT men's and women's soccer and men's lacrosse programs. When paired with the Wellness and Events Center, it gives the Highlanders one of the elite athletic venues in the Northeast.

The women's soccer team was the first of the three teams to play on campus since November 7, 2015, when it hosted UMBC on August 22, 2019.

"It has been a long time coming, but we are very excited to have this field project come to fruition," Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics Lenny Kaplan commented. "As the recently opened WEC enhanced the campus and benefited the entire NJIT community, this

athletic field will do the same. Not only does it give our varsity lacrosse and soccer teams a proper on-campus home field, it will also serve as a new home for our intramural and recreation programs."

Lubetkin Field at Mal Simon Stadium features FieldTurf's CORE surface, the world's first multi-layer dual-polymer fiber for sports turf that is reinventing the playing field and redefining the player experience. CORE's proprietary design optimizes the system's performance, delivering a more realistic, textured, grass-like shape with optimal durability and resiliency.

Features of Lubetkin Field at Mal Simon Stadium include: a digital videoboard capable of displaying live video, animation, player headshots, graphics and statistics; a scoreboard; Musco LED field lighting; and field-level seating for spectators. The

facility also meets broadcast standards for potential NCAA Regional hosting opportunities.

An enclosed spacious press box with high-speed internet access and seating for media and radio broadcasters, as well as athletic training and locker rooms, are located next to the field inside NJIT's Wellness and Events Center, which opened in November 2017.

Both soccer teams began their fourth season of competition in the ASUN Conference, while the men's lacrosse team will begin its first season in the Northeast Conference after competing as a Division 1 Independent for the past four seasons. In addition to intercollegiate athletics, the multipurpose turf field will be used by intramural and club sports, as well as for student activities. ■



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL EARNS SIXTH STRAIGHT AVCA TEAM ACADEMIC AWARD

For the sixth consecutive season, the NJIT women's volleyball team was honored by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) with one of its annual AVCA Team Academic Awards for the 2018-19 academic year.

The Highlanders were one of 189 Division 1 women's volleyball programs to achieve the Team Academic distinction and joined six other ASUN programs on the list.

To be eligible for the AVCA Team Academic Award – which was created in 1992-93 – a program had to maintain a 3.30 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale. ■