



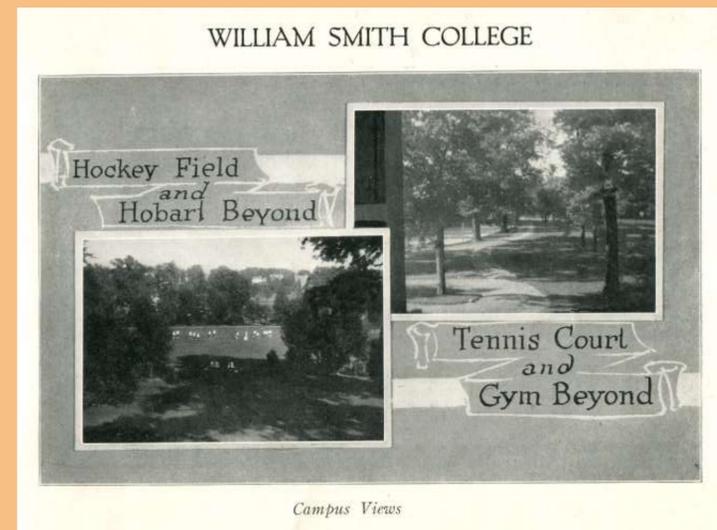
Statesmen, Herons, and Lakers: College Sports in Geneva

Geneva has three colleges with successful sports programs. Hobart College (1822) and William Smith College (1908) are four-year schools for men and women, respectively. Finger Lakes Community College (1968) is a two-year community, or junior, college in Canandaigua with a Geneva campus.

These colleges represent the arc of sports in America, from calisthenics to intercollegiate teams. Hobart has dominated in lacrosse. William Smith sports have gone from social play to winning national championships. Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) is the only two-year college with a logging sports team. Together, they form a rich sports history in Geneva.



Hobart's earliest athletic field was a baseball diamond behind the college chapel.



In 1920 the first page of William Smith College's promotional booklet showed sports fields, not classrooms.



Lacrosse is a signature sport for all three colleges. Undated photo of William Smith team. (Photo courtesy of Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Archives and Special Collections, Geneva, NY.)



Ali Marpet, Hobart '15, was drafted by the NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers and is a starting offensive lineman. Pierre McGuire, Hobart '83, played professional hockey in Europe, coached in the NHL, and is a TV analyst.



An outgrowth of FLCC's conservation program, logging sports began as a club and is now part of the athletic department.

Finger Lakes Community College Lakers



While FLCC teams were always called Lakers, there was no team mascot. A 2015 student survey decided "Flick the Laker" was a water monster.

Since the founding of the men's basketball team in 1968, FLCC's athletic program has grown to around 220 players on 14 teams. The athletics and physical education programs were originally held in the local YMCA or other schools' gyms in the Canandaigua area.

The FLCC Lakers maintain a well-known presence in the region while focusing on character development. The college currently has plans for a new multipurpose turf field, softball turf field, field house, and wellness center.



Tanner Cooper, a Canandaigua native and former FLCC baseball player, was the 1044th overall pick in the 2019 Major League Baseball Draft for the Cincinnati Reds.

"We thought we were in heaven. We actually had a facility that we could show somebody and say, 'Look, this is where you're going to play.' We started to get students from outside of the area, which was a big turning point for us."

— Coach Dennis "Putt" Moore, on the 1976 gym



In the program's early days, FLCC aimed to create more opportunities for female students, beyond just the cheer squad. Basketball, soccer, and softball were added. The college had the first women's lacrosse team in the state at a two-year school.

The construction of a new gym at the Lincoln Hill campus in 1976 made FLCC attractive to recruits, which increased the number of athletes interested in playing for the Lakers.

Hobart Statesmen

With few rival colleges in the mid- to late-1800s, Hobart College played against secondary schools and area village teams. In 1860, baseball became Hobart College's first organized sport. The football team, formed in 1891, played their first game against Canandaigua Academy.

Hobart is best known for lacrosse, winning 16 national championships. Rowing and sailing has attracted athletes from around the country. In the last several decades, football and hockey have had strong seasons and advanced to post-season championships.



Hobart teams did not have a nickname until September 1936. Reporting on the football game against Amherst College, the *New York Times* referred to Hobart twice as the "statesmen," and the name stuck.



Before helmets were standard equipment, some players used nose guards that covered the nose and teeth. This 1890s photo shows several players with the guards hanging around their necks.



In 1898 the lacrosse team won their first game, beating Cornell University 2-1. Photo taken in 1908.



Initially a club sport, hockey became intercollegiate in 1978 when the city of Geneva built a permanent rink. In 2006 and 2009, the team reached the national championship "Frozen Four" round.



In 1997, sailing became a varsity sport and the team finished the fall and spring seasons ranked number one in the nation.