

Athletics at the College

High achievement and scholarship in the classroom have been mirrored by the success of The College of New Jersey student-athletes. Since the 1978–79 Lion wrestling team captured the College's first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) team championship, TCNJ has established itself as one of the nation's most successful Division III (non-athletic scholarship) programs.

Since 1979, The College of New Jersey has amassed a total of 38 Division III crowns in six different sports. In addition, TCNJ has posted 32 runner-up awards, giving the College an aggregate of 70 first- and second-place finishes. That figure is top among the nation's 424 Division III colleges and universities during the past 28 years (see chart).

Division III, which comprises more institutions of higher learning than either of the other NCAA membership divisions (I and II), represents student-athletes in, perhaps, their truest form. TCNJ student-athletes meet the same admission and academic standards as other students, and equally important, contribute to the diversity and well-roundedness of the college community.

TCNJ offers 20 sports—10 for men and 10 for women. Lion teams have earned NCAA Division III team championships in wrestling (five), field hockey (nine), women's lacrosse (13), softball (six), women's tennis (one), women's soccer (three), and men's soccer (one). Other sports include football, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming, baseball, men's tennis, men's and women's track and field, and men's and women's indoor track.

A highly qualified and successful coaching staff committed to the development of TCNJ student-athletes has produced an extensive list of high-achievers who have won All-American and all-conference honors.

To date, TCNJ has produced 48 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, while two-time honoree, Tracy Warren was inducted into CoSIDA's Academic All-America Hall of Fame, joining an elite group that includes other honorees such as Bill Bradley, Tom McMillen, Joe Theisman, Anne Donovan and Steve Young.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, the Lions competed in 15 different NCAA Division III championships and captured one NCAA Division III team runner-up finish, while three individuals earned NCAA runner-up titles as well. TCNJ amassed 158 All-NJAC honors, while collecting 11 NJAC championship team titles and two Metropolitan Conference Championships.

Over the past 12 years, TCNJ has finished in top ten in each of the USSA Directors' Cup races. In 1995–96, TCNJ took fourth place and finished in second place in 1996–97. The Lions finished in second place again in 1997–98. TCNJ finished in third five different times spanning from 1999 to 2003, while earning a fourth place finish in 2004 and a tenth place showing in 2005. On the 2006 year, TCNJ finished in second place, while the Lions are coming off a sixth place finish in 2007, which extends the College's Top Ten finish to 12 consecutive years.

As impressive as the overall record is, the College's accomplishments as a leader in women's sports is even greater. Since NCAA championships were initiated for women in 1981, only TCNJ has won as many as 31 Division III team championships. The total does not include the Lion's lacrosse championship in 1981 or the softball championships in 1980 and 1981, which were sponsored by the AIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) prior to women's sports inclusion in the NCAA. In the fall of 1999, TCNJ's women's athletic program was voted as the Top Division III institution for female student-athletes by *Sports Illustrated for Women* and was chosen second best in the fall of 2000.

TCNJ's athletic and recreational facilities support a highly successful intramural program and are among the finest found at Division III colleges and universities in the Northeast. In the past decade, additions have included a 25-meter swimming and diving facility, a lighted AstroTurf playing field, an NCAA-approved track, and eight lighted outdoor tennis courts. The spring of 1998 also saw the addition of the physical enhancement center and renovations to Packer Hall that includes a new athletic training facility, new locker room facilities as well a weight training facility for varsity student-athletes. Additional on campus facilities recently completed include a state of the art softball facility

with stadium seating, dugouts, and a press box, as well as a multi-purpose complex which is the home for TCNJ's soccer teams that boasts a sportex surface as well as a press box, stadium seating and has seating capacity for 1,100.

In addition to regular season competition, TCNJ has been the site of NCAA championships in wrestling, softball, men's soccer, field hockey, women's tennis, and women's lacrosse, as well as a number of regional championship contests. In the past seven years, TCNJ has hosted the 1999 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships, the 1999 NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Championships as well as the 1999 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship. In May 2000, TCNJ once again served as the host site for the National Collegiate and NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Championships. TCNJ hosted the 2002 NCAA Division III Atlantic Regional Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships as well as the 2005 NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Championships. Most recently, the 2006 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships returned to TCNJ for the fourth time in the tournament history.

NCAA Division III Team Championship and Runner-Up Finishes*

College or University	Titles	Runner-Up Honors	Totals
1. The College of New Jersey	38 (6)	32	70
2. Kenyon College (OH)	52 (3)	10	62
3. U. of Calif.-San Diego#	20 (5)	33	53
4. U. of Wisconsin-LaCrosse	32 (6)	19	51
5. U. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh	25 (6)	20	45

#Joined NCAA Division II in 2000–01.

*Figures in parenthesis represent the total number of sports that won NCAA Championships since the 1978–79 academic year. (SOURCE: 2006–07 National Collegiate Championship Handbook and the NCAA News.)

TCNJ's Place Finishes in the Annual USSA Directors' Cup Race

Year	Finish	Points
1995–96	Fourth	438.0
1996–97	Second	589.0
1997–98	Tied for Second	460.0
1998–99	Third	470.0
1999–2000	Third	702.5
2000–01	Third	713.5
2001–02	Third	751.0
2002–03	Third	695.75
2003–04	Fourth	751.0
2004–05	Tenth	584.0
2005–2006	Second	790.25
2006–2007	Sixth	793.0