



Symposium:
Athletics and Yale

May 30, 2013

Symposium: Athletics at Yale

Athletics at Yale are currently at a critical transition point

- ▶ Over a decade ago, Yale placed less emphasis on athletics, later reducing the number of recruited athletes
- ▶ Princeton seized the opportunity; set goal of having the best Ivy league athletic record
- ▶ Harvard, also elevated goal to have the top Ivy football program and more recently basketball, together with other strong sports

Working with members of my '63 and other classes, I have completed a comprehensive study of the academic and overall ratings of universities and the success of their athletic programs

- ▶ Study based on facts and statistics, not philosophy
- ▶ Results are compelling for top universities which manage athletics to enhance school rankings
- ▶ Have presented this study to senior officers at Yale; will show highlights to you

Some encouraging signs:

- ▶ Recent success in men's hockey and lacrosse and women's volleyball and crew add excitement and momentum
- ▶ In July '13, Tom Beckett will report directly to Salovey, rather than through intermediary to President
- ▶ President-elect Salovey indicates an openness to consider improvements in athletics which enhance campus life and standing of Yale

Discussion Panel: Athletic Dir, Tom Beckett and Three Coaches

Tom Beckett, Athletic Director; experienced, strong leader

- ▶ Previously, Assoc AD of Stanford which won 32 national championships during his 11-year term
- ▶ Has done remarkable job renovating / building most of Yale's athletic facilities to top class
- ▶ Understands how to manage a successful athletic program for a top ranked university

Coach Erin Appleman, Women's Volleyball, 10 years

- ▶ Best volleyball record in Ivies, perhaps best among all Ivy coaches
- ▶ Won Ivy title last three years; 4 NCAA appearances

Coach Andy Shay, Men's Lacrosse, 9 years

- ▶ 3 straight Ivy tournaments; 2 Ivy titles; 2013 NCAA quarter finals

Coach Tony Reno, Football, 1 year

- ▶ Formerly assistant at Yale; joins from Harvard with 2 other coaches
- ▶ Popular with players, strong fundamentals, knows how to win (2 Ivy titles)

Coach Keith Allain, Hockey

- ▶ Could not attend due to prior commitment
- ▶ Nationally ranked past 2 years, stirring NCAA title win in '13

Achieving Excellence in Both Academics and Athletics

Research shows: a strong reinforcing relationship between the stature of top tier academic universities and the excellence of their athletic programs

Rankings of top tier schools are enhanced by student acceptance rates / yields; applications, alumni giving / participation rates and endowments

Stanford and Williams are striking examples: both with #1 ranked athletic programs in their categories and also top rated academically

Harvard and Princeton have consistently had the best two records in Ivy athletics and rank as the top 2 universities in USN&WR

Northwestern: example of a university moving up the rankings by pursuing dual academic/athletic mission

Yale: Less relative emphasis on athletics, mixed results; but encouraging signs

Stanford:

Clear Example of Top Ranked University with #1 Rated Athletic Program

Overall University and Academic Rankings

- ▶ Global university ratings: frequently above Yale, Princeton; after Harvard
- ▶ US undergrad rating: consistently top tier behind Harvard, Princeton, Yale
- ▶ Peer assessment by other universities: tie for #1 with Harvard
- ▶ Undergrad acceptance rate #2, and yield #2, both only behind Harvard
- ▶ Challenging Harvard for #1 in Alum gifts, ~ \$600 mil/year; endowment passed Yale to be #2

Athletic Programs – Highest achieving in US

- ▶ #1 rated college athletic program (Directors Cup) for last 18 years
- ▶ Most National Championships and NCAA titles in past 20 years: 71
- ▶ Most varsity athletes receiving Rhodes Scholarships: 11
- ▶ Most Olympic medals from students / alums: 224 medals, 129 gold

Williams College:

Number 1 Ranked both as College and in Athletics

Overall College and Academics Rankings

- ▶ Ranked the Best National Liberal Arts College, #1 of 239 schools by USN&WR for the past 13 years
- ▶ Created a gap in rankings vs. all other schools ranked below it
- ▶ Ranked #1 for best undergraduate school reputation
- ▶ Ranked #1 for graduation and retention rate among National Colleges
- ▶ Highest alum giving rate, 58% among National Colleges, 2nd only to Princeton among all schools, USN&WR

Athletic Program

- ▶ #1 (Director's Cup winner) among National Colleges in 15 of past 17 years
- ▶ Eight consecutive years as #1 with Morton Schapiro as President
- ▶ High pct of recruited athletes meet regular academic standards
- ▶ President Schapiro philosophy: *"in competitive world, one doesn't achieve what one doesn't strive for"*

Princeton:

Rose to fill Gap Left by Yale

Overall University and Academic Ratings

- ▶ Over past 15 years, consistently ranked in top 2 among Nat'l Universities
- ▶ Princeton tied for #1 with Harvard in '05, '06, '10 and '12; ranked #1 in '08
- ▶ Ranked highest in Quality of Academic Instruction
- ▶ Consistently #1 ranked for highest pct of alumni giving, 63%, among all schools
- ▶ 4th highest endowment, after Harvard, Stanford and Yale, but #1 per student

Athletic Program

- ▶ Princeton has the #1 athletic team performance record in Ivies for each of the past 15 years
- ▶ In last 4 years, Princeton won an average of 12 Ivy championships, Harvard 2nd with average of 8, Yale with average of 4
- ▶ Consistently high ranking sports; Basketball (m&w), Lacrosse (m), Field Hockey (w), Crew (m&w), Track and Cross Country (m&w), Swimming (m&w), Squash (m)

Harvard:

Consistently Top Ranked University, Strengthening Athletics

Overall University and Academic Ratings

- ▶ Most consistently rated #1 National University; frequently #1 worldwide
- ▶ Consistently #1 in lowest acceptance rate (6%), highest yield (81.5%)
- ▶ Largest endowment for longer than our lifetime
- ▶ #1 in Annual Giving, occasionally topped by Stanford
- ▶ Tops in Graduation and Retention rank and Faculty Resources

Athletic Program

- ▶ Ranked #2 in Ivies after Princeton in 9 of past 10 years
- ▶ Top ranked in Ivy football for past 15 years:
 - Every senior has won an Ivy Championship
 - 26 players received pro football draft/tryouts
- ▶ Offers 41 varsity sports, more than any other college or university
- ▶ Other strong sports: Basketball (w&m with 2 recent NCAA appearances), Crew (m), Fencing (m), Squash (m&w), Swimming (m&w) and Tennis (m&w)

Northwestern:

Goal for Higher Dual Rankings as University and in Athletics

President Schapiro, former Williams' President has ambition to be the First Big Ten and Midwest School with Athletics to be ranked in top 10 Best National Universities

Overall University and Academic Ratings

- ▶ Moved up National University ranking to #12, ahead of Brown and Cornell, one point behind Dartmouth and CalTech, tied for 10th
- ▶ Highest pct and point improvement in median SAT's to 1451 among COFHE Universities
- ▶ NU SAT median now above 5 Ivies and Stanford
- ▶ Student acceptance rate dropped to the 7th lowest at 10%
- ▶ NU endowment now ranked 8th, above U Penn, Brown, Cornell, Duke and Univ of Chicago

Athletics Programs

- ▶ Football team invited to Bowl Games, last 4 years, won Gator Bowl in 1/'13
- ▶ Basketball in NIT in 3 of past 4 years
- ▶ Women's lacrosse won NCAA title in 6 of past 8 years
- ▶ Other NCAA tournament teams in volleyball (w), golf, soccer (m) and track

Summary:

Successful Athletic Programs Can Enhance Stature of Top Ranked Universities/Colleges

Clear correlation between the strength of top ranked schools' athletic programs and their overall standing and reputation as a university / college

Schools should aim for excellence in athletics, to be the best that they can be, consistent with academic standards

- ▶ **The best and brightest athletes want to hear this statement**

Yale has the key elements to strengthen athletics to enhance the University

- ▶ **Distinctive athletic heritage and alumni network**
- ▶ **Superb facilities in most sports**
- ▶ **Funding potential to provide supplemental resources to elevate athletics**

Believe a re-commitment by Yale to be more competitive in key sports in conjunction with expanded residential colleges can

- ▶ **Be done without reducing Yale's top academic ratings**
- ▶ **Re-establish Yale's momentum in become one of the best two universities in the country**

We are seeing encouraging signs!