MATTHEW R FRANCIS

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Professional Profile

I am a hardworking, passionate, relationship-driven coach with over 14 years of Division I men's lacrosse coaching experience at both public & private, premier academic institutions. I have a proven track record of coordinating tough defenses, in addition to coaching strong faceoff units and developing successful goalies. My efforts as an Assistant Coach have helped earn Coach/Coaching Staff of the Year awards in the Big East (2017), America East (2014) and MAAC (2011). Throughout my career, I have coordinated Defenses ranked in the Top 10 nationally in three separate seasons, coached the best Man Down unit in the country twice, developed goalies who have earned All-America honors 3 times, while coaching 2017's most improved faceoff unit in DI, & 2023's best faceoff unit in the nation.

Education

Marist College Master of Business Administration 2010 – 2012

• Advanced Certificate in Executive Leadership

Marist College Bachelor of Science 2006 – 2010

• Magna Cum Laude; Cumulative GPA: 3.778

• Biomedical Sciences Major; Minors in Psychology & Business Administration

Coaching Experience

Lehigh University Associate Head Coach 2022 - Present

- Recruiting Coordinator. Co-Defensive Coordinator. Ride/Clear Coordinator. Goalie & Faceoff Coach.
- 2024 Patriot League Tournament Champions & Regular Season Co-Champs (picked 5th in preseason).
- 2024 NCAA tournament birth ranked 18th in USILA Coaches' Poll & 17th by Inside Lacrosse.
- Back to Back 10-win seasons for first time in a decade for Lehigh Men's Lacrosse.
- Finished Patriot League play with Best Man Down Unit in the conference (71.7%), improved from 5th to 1st.
- In 2023, improved win/loss record by two games en route to 10-5 record & Patriot League Semifinals.
- Coached Top Ranked Faceoff Unit in Division I (63.4%). Mike Sisselberger led nation in faceoff percentage (65.2%), earning 2nd Team USILA All America honors and Patriot League Faceoff Specialist of the Year.
- Coached first year defenseman Richard Checo to nation leading marks in caused turnovers (54) and CT per game (3.60). Checo was named 1st Team All-Patriot League and USILA All America honorable mention.
- Recruited and signed the 19th ranked 2024 recruiting class in the country as ranked by Inside Lacrosse.

Providence College Associate Head Coach 2016 - 2022

- Defensive Coordinator. Recruiting Coordinator. Faceoff Coordinator. Substitution Coordinator. Goalie Coach. Admissions & Financial Aid Liaison. Social Media Manager.
- 2021 recruiting class ranked #23 in the nation by Inside Lacrosse, including four 4-star and three top 100 recruits
- Coordinated defenses ranked in the top 10 nationally in scoring and efficiency in three separate seasons:
 - o **2020:** 3rd ranked defense in DI in both efficiency (80% stop rate) and scoring (8 goals against per game); Top Ranked Man Down unit in the nation, 93.8% success rate, 1 GA in 16 Attempts.
 - o **2019:** Defense ranked 10th in nation with goals against average of 9.97; efficiency of 71% stop rate.
 - o 2017: 2nd ranked defense in DI in efficiency (75% stop rate), 9th ranked in goals against (8.26/game).
- 2x Ocean State Cup Champions (2020 & 2018), including first ever program wins over Brown.
- 2017 Big East Coaching Staff of the Year: 10 wins tied program record for wins in a season; achieved program's first ever Top 20 National Ranking; Two victories over nationally ranked opponents; Achieved Big East semifinal victory over #15 Villanova to advance to Big East Championship for first time in program history.
- Set & matched program record for Big East wins in 2017 & 2019, earning team's highest seed in Big East tournament for 2nd time in 3 seasons.
- Coached Faceoff Unit to 53.6% in 2017, ranked 21st in nation, 2nd in Big East; improved from 40.1% in 2016 MOST IMPROVED FACEOFF PERCENTAGE IN DIVISION I without relying on freshman or transfer faceoff specialist (5th most improved overall in country including programs with new freshmen/transfers).
- Through six seasons, coached 4 All-America selections, 8 USILA Scholar-All Americans, 12 All-Big East selections, 2017 Defensive Player of the Year Jarrod Neumann, 2x Goalkeeper of the Year Tate Boyce, 8 USILA

- North South Game selections, and Big East All-Tournament Team selections at every position I coach (Defense, Faceoff, Goalie).
- Coached 3 Premier Lacrosse League athletes, 4 Major League Lacrosse Draft Picks, 3 National Lacrosse League draft picks, including 1st Round, 9th overall selection James Barclay.
- Named Assistant Coach for Division I USILA North South All Star Game in 2017.

IMLCA

Division I Assistant Coaches' Rep

2020 - Present

- Coordinate with Assistant Coaches Committee in effort to lead assistant coaches' group toward improved participation in IMLCA, more thorough & transparent communication among the assistant coaches to promote inclusion, and provide unique professional development opportunities
- 3x Speaker/Presenter at annual IMLCA Coaches Convention ('21: Fundamentals & Execution of the Faceoff Position, '20: Financial Literacy for Coaches, '18: Developing the Complete Faceoff Unit)

Binghamton University

Assistant Coach

2012 - 2016

- Defensive Coordinator. Faceoff Coordinator. Recruiting Coordinator. Video Coordinator. Social Media Manager.
- In 4 seasons, coached 12 America East All-Conference selections, 6 America East All-Academic honorees, & 2 USILA North-South Game participants
- Earned 2014 America East tournament bid for first time since 2011, securing the 2nd seed with 4-1 conference record, program's highest seed since 2004; Coached under 2014 America East Co-Coach of the Year.
- Recruited & coached 6 America East All-Rookie Team selections in addition to recruiting 2 players ranked in top 40 at their positions by Inside Lacrosse.
- Led Defensive unit to top 3 finish in GAA in America East in each of first 3 seasons in Binghamton (2013: 1st; 2014: 2nd)
- Man Down Defense ranked 1st in the country in 2013 with killing percentage of 86.2%.
- Finished top 10 in Division I for team clearing percentage for three consecutive seasons.

Marist College

Assistant Coach

2010 - 2012

- Faceoff Coordinator. Assistant Defensive Coordinator. Substitution Coordinator. Social Media Manager.
- Led squad to back-to-back MAAC semi-finals appearances.
- Guided 14 MAAC All-Academic Team honorees in two seasons, including 1 USILA Scholar All-American.
- Coached under 2011 MAAC Coach of the Year.
- Led Defense to conference-best goals against average of 8.99 per game in 2011.
- Coached Faceoff specialist Matt Dugan to 2011 FO percentage of 51.2%, improved from 45.2% the season prior.

Collegiate Playing Career

Marist College

Captain/Midfield/Faceoff

2006 - 2010

- Ranked 7th in Division I faceoff percentage, winning draws at a rate of 57.6% in 2009 (won 136 out of 236).
- Ranked 5th in the country for ground balls per game, averaging 6.46 per contest, amassing 84 ground balls in 2009.
- Athletic Honors: 2010 Marist Lacrosse Team MVP, 2010 Strength & Conditioning Athlete of the Year, Paul Cleary Award (heart, desire, sportsmanship), Coaches' Award (leadership, dedication, perseverance)
- Academic Honors: President's Academic Achievement Award for highest cumulative GPA among all male senior student-athletes; 3x MAAC All-Academic Team

Related Experience

Marist College

Academic Advisement Fellow

2010 - 2012

- Academic Advisor for student-athletes in Marist College's Center for Student-Athlete Enhancement. Direct academic contact for 10 of 23 Division I varsity programs at Marist.
- Oversaw student-athlete tutoring program and managed all student tutors for student-athletes.
- Initiated partnership with Career Athletes to provide student-athletes with invaluable career networking tools.
- Acted as community service liaison for student-athlete service.
- Analyzed student-athletes' academic transcripts for annual NCAA academic eligibility certification process.