

BASKETBALL

Best in Class

Two Yellowjackets named finalists for one of the top awards in college basketball.

Women's basketball forward Al Leslie '18 and men's guard Sam Borst-Smith '17 have helped lead the Yellowjackets since they first stepped onto the floor at the Palestra. Off the court, though, each of them has demonstrated a level of achievement and service that has impressed not only their teammates, but also those across the country who pay close attention to college basketball.


Leslie, a business major from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Borst-Smith, an English major from San Pedro, California, were each named this spring as finalists for the Jostens Trophy, considered one of college basketball's top individual awards, recognizing athletic skill, academic achievement, and community service.

Leslie is the first Rochester women's basketball player selected as one of 10 finalists. Borst-Smith is the third Rochester men's finalist.

One of the leading scorers in Rochester women's basketball history (with her senior season remaining), Leslie has earned league and district academic honors. She volunteers with the Lancaster County (Pennsylvania) Project for the Needy, delivering more than 1,500 Christmas dinners to low-income families. A member of the University's St. Sebastian Society, a service organization, she also tutors elementary students at Rochester city schools.

As the Yellowjackets advanced to postseason play, Borst-Smith was leading the Yellowjackets in several categories for 2016-17, including points per game (16.1) and rebounding per game (5.6), and he set a single-season record for steals, with 74. As of early March, he ranked seventh all time in scoring, with 1,460 points.

He's an athletics volunteer for the Go4theGoal Foundation, a group that raises awareness and funds for children with pediatric cancer. He's also a member of the campus chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has been active in promoting a campuswide project to raise awareness about racial and gender diversity.

The winners of the trophy will be named March 16 and 17, during the Division III Final Four in Salem, Virginia. 

Postseason Play

Rochester's men advanced to the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Division III tournament in March, winning their regional match-ups at the Palestra on March 3 and 4. The Yellowjackets, ranked No. 13 in the country, were set to play their sectional matches at Marietta College in Ohio, beginning March 10.

The women's team also earned an NCAA berth. After winning their first round game, the Yellowjackets fell to SUNY-Geneseo to end their season.

Stay up-to-date with Yellowjackets scores and highlights at the website of the Department of Athletics and Recreation: UofRathletics.com.



Alexandra Leslie '18

Forward
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Business major

Career points:
1,421 (third all-time)

Season leader:
scoring (21.9 points per game); rebounding (9.7 per game); blocked shots (44)

First Team All-UAA
(three consecutive seasons)

Two-time All-America
Preseason All-America
for 2016-17

First Team Academic
All-District III

Two-time UAA
All-Academic Team

Sam Borst-Smith '17

Guard
San Pedro, California
English major

Career points: 1,460
(seventh all time, as of March 6)

Career leader: steals
(210) (first all-time)

Season leader: scoring
(16.1 points per game); rebounding (5.6 per game); steals (74)

First Team All-UAA

UAA Player of the Year

Player to watch: one of six from Division III listed for the Clarence (Bevo) Francis Award for the top Small College Player of the Year



SQUASH SKILLS: Winner of the Skillman Award, Ryosei Kobayashi '17 finishes his squash career as one of Rochester's most decorated players.

HIGHLIGHTS

Tops in Squash

A senior earns collegiate squash's top honor as the team hits the No. 1 spot during the season.

Ryosei Kobayashi '17 was already one of the best to ever play squash at Rochester.

This winter, he took his place among the most decorated in Yellowjackets history after capturing the 2017 College Squash Association Skillman Award.

Intercollegiate squash's highest honor, the award is given annually to a senior men's squash player who has demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship during his entire college career. The award is named for former Yale coach John Skillman, who led the Bulldogs to multiple national titles in more than 40 years of leading the team.

Kobayashi, a business major from Yokohama, Japan, is the second Yellowjacket to win the honor. Benjamin Fischer '12 was named the Skillman winner after the 2012 season.

The award was a capstone to a season in which the Yellowjackets were ranked No. 1 in the country for the first time in the program's history.

Rochester was named to the top spot in late January, after defeating then top-ranked Trinity College.

The Yellowjackets' previous best ranking was second in the country, which came after a loss to Yale in the 2015–16 national championship. That game marked the first appearance by Rochester in the title match in school history.

After a loss to Harvard that knocked the team out of the top spot, Rochester ended the 2016–17 season at No. 5 in the nation, recording 13 wins for the season—the second most wins in a single season in team history. 