



# The Colonial Times

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The official newsletter of the NOABC 

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To support and aid the student-athletes, coaches, and parents of the Conewago Valley School District to enhance all athletic programs, activities, and experiences for the participants and the student body at large. Established as alliance of all the previously independent booster clubs of the individual sports, in an effort to improve efficiency in fundraising and to develop and implement standards for the equitable and appropriate support for all New Oxford student-athletes.

The NOABC shall cooperate and coordinate its activities within the guidelines of Conewago Valley School Board Policy 915 Parent Booster/Support Organizations.

At no time shall the NOABC attempt to interfere with the internal operations or decision making of the school's Athletic Department.

At all times, and in all of its endeavors, the Club shall strive to maintain its focus upon the best interest of the student-athletes.

Website <https://noabc-colonials.com/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NOABoosterClub>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/noathleticboosterclub/>

Email [noabc.colonials@gmail.com](mailto:noabc.colonials@gmail.com)

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## Spring is the air!

The birds are chirping and the sun is shining! While there are still days that old man winter just won't fully let go, spring is here and this means the final stretch for our teams, and especially our seniors. How time has flown! One final push. Whether you're competing for the last time, or you just wanted to try something new before graduation rolls around, there's no time like the present. What's left to say other than to give it everything, hold nothing back, and live like there's no tomorrow. The lyrics to Eminem's Lose Yourself should be going through your head right now (if it wasn't before, it is now, and you're welcome!).

State champions, school record holders, and more can be expected from the spring.

As always, best of luck to all the teams. Promote good sportsmanship and play hard, but most importantly, have fun and stay safe.

## WE ARE... THE OX!

### TEAM TIME

See what all the spring sports have to say.

The Colonial Baseball team is looking forward to another exciting season. We return 7 Seniors from a team coming back after 13 wins a year ago. Our players have worked hard in the off-season and we're excited to get back on the field this spring. We expect to compete for a Division 2 championship and a spot in the District 3 Tournament!

As a coaching staff, we not only expect excellence on the field, but also in the classroom and in our community. I'm certain that our players will do their very best to meet these standards. Our players are involved in other sports such as Football, Golf, Basketball, Wrestling and Bocce. We also have players that participate in Thon, our district-wide effort to raise funds to support children with pediatric cancer.

Coach Anderson begins his 35th season in the Colonial Baseball program. He began coaching in 1992 as an assistant and was named the Head Coach in 2001. Our assistant coaches are Matt Baker, Chet Haifley, Brandon Horick, Heath Linebaugh, Joel Brosius, Dave Noel, and Larry Baumgardner.

Our 20-game season begins as we host Bermudian Springs on March 13.

Scott Anderson, Head Coach



## Girls Lacrosse



Last year, the girl's lacrosse team had a historic year! The girls finished the league in the top 4. This advanced them to counties, where they finished 4th. It was their 6th year qualifying for Districts. However, it was their first time having a 1st Round Bye, in which they immediately advanced to the 2nd round. They won their first ever 2nd Round game versus Elizabethtown. This win also qualified them for their first ever trip to States! They ended up advancing to the semi-final round for Districts, finishing in 4th place. For their first round of States, they traveled to Mt. Lebanon, playing the District 7 champion. Even though they lost by 1 goal, it was definitely a season to remember!!

This year, the girls look forward to building on last year's momentum. They have a lot of goals they want to achieve and the team to do it! The team returns their starting midfielders including 2nd Team All-Star Bella Needle, along with Cam Cohee and Delanie Stonesifer, both of whom achieved 1st Team All-Stars respectively. Last year, these 3 players had a combined 177 goals out of the 298 team goals. They had 71 of the team's 146 assists. They also had 280 of the team's 318 draw controls.

The team also returns a veteran defense, including 1st Team All-Star Jordyn Clabaugh and 2nd Team All-Star Kierra Hughart. Taylor Groft and Kendall Bowman join to create a formidable defense. These 4 players had a combined 107 caused turnovers out of the team's 306 last year. Although the team looks to install a new group of attackers, it is with a talented group of girls who saw varsity play last year!

You would never know the team was composed of 3 different high schools. The team has a co-op with both Bermudian Springs and Delone Catholic. This unique group of girls connected and bonded very quickly. This season is no different! The team looks forward to a very exciting, successful season!

Jessica McIntyre, Head Coach

The New Oxford High School Boys Lacrosse program enters the 2026 season with momentum after a historic 2025 campaign. The Colonials finished 14–5, the most wins in school history, captured their first-ever YAIAA Boys Lacrosse Championship, and made their first appearance in the PIAA District III Class 3A Boys Lacrosse Tournament. The program now begins a new chapter under first-year head coach Tanner Gerace & Assistant Coach Jordan Billet, both former players at West York and longtime club coaches in the area.

## Boys Lacrosse



New Oxford returns an experienced senior class led by attackman Nick Petrie, who recorded 70 goals and 33 assists last season and is closing in on multiple school scoring records. Faceoff specialist Will Schuck returns after winning 69 percent of his draws and collecting 159 ground balls, while First Team All-League defenseman Braeden Bowman anchors the defense alongside Garrett Leatherman. With senior goalie Andrew Helt standing in goal.

The Colonials also return several key contributors across the field, including midfielders Owen Dubs and Ethan Wildasin, defensive midfielder Cole Brakefield, and sophomore attack LJ Smith, who scored 34 goals as a freshman.

Several newcomers are also expected to make an immediate impact. Sophomore attackman Luke Smith joins the varsity offense alongside his twin brother LJ, giving the Colonials another dynamic scoring threat. On the defensive end, sophomores Jackson Bair and Trey Rex add athleticism and versatility, while junior

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Dylan Zeyn is expected to contribute at long-stick midfield. Midfield depth will also be strengthened by senior Mason Lilley and junior Owen Dehoff as they step into larger roles this season.

Off the field, several players bring unique stories and accomplishments that reflect the program's culture. Senior Cole Brakefield is a member of the school's Special Olympics bocce team while also operating his own lawn care business. Senior Will Schuck runs a lacrosse head stringing business, serving players throughout the area. The roster also features two sets of brothers: twins Luke & LJ Smith will start together on attack, while senior Ethan Wildasin will share the field with his younger brother, freshman Drew Wildasin, during Ethan's final high school season. Ethan also operates his own lawn care business, highlighting the leadership and work ethic that define the Colonials program.

The team's commitment has been evident throughout the offseason, with players regularly waking up at 5 a.m. for voluntary workouts and stickwork sessions. That dedication, combined with a veteran core and emerging young talent, has positioned New Oxford to remain competitive in the YAIAA this spring.

Tanner Gerace, Head Coach

## WELCOME TO UNIFIED SPORTS

From the stadium to the gym to the different sports venues our student-athletes participate in, our sports teams have competed fiercely against some of our neighboring rivals throughout the ages, but recently, we've come together for a bigger cause than our own bragging rights or egos over one another. This year, the NOHS welcomed its first officially recognized Unified Sports team, which debuted this winter with our Bocce Ball team. One may ask, "What is this Unified Sports program?" The simplest answer one can give is already in the title itself – Unified. Through the Special Olympics, the Unified Sports program pairs a student with an intellectual disability (known as an athlete in the Unified Sports world) with other students without these disabilities (who are referred to as a partner in this setting). While the partners can be athletes who compete in any of the 27 sports programs offered throughout the district, they cannot participate simultaneously in Unified Sports and another district-sponsored sport of the same season. The team breakdown can be a 50/50 ratio or a 60/40 in favor of partners to athletes, but the partners aren't solely dedicated to any unique athlete; rather, they operate as traditional sports do and are a team as a whole.

When the Unified Bocce team first met in the auxiliary gym last November, it felt a little awkward as relationships had yet to be formed and the game of Bocce Ball had yet to be learned. Speaking to the team three months later, laughing and smiling together and with a 3-1 regular season record, an undefeated York/Adams County Championship, and a 2-1 record in the Greater Philadelphia Region Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce Championship season under their belt, you would never know it.

With the support of administration and student volunteers, Unified Bocce was established and led by Coach Meghan Latshaw, a Learning Support and Transition Coordinator for 9-12 graders at the Conewago Valley School District. A flagship program of the Special Olympics, Unified Sports centers on inclusion for all by allowing them to train and compete on the same team.

After seeing firsthand the impact Unified Sports can have on athletes and the community, Latshaw wanted the district to create the same sense of belonging. "I watched friendships form, confidence grow, and barriers disappear simply because people were given the chance to compete together. It made me realize that our school could and should be creating that same sense of belonging every day. Our students already had the heart, the ability, and the desire to be involved. Unified Sports felt like the natural next step to bring that connection and inclusion into our school community."

Team Manager Emma Campbell, a junior at New Oxford High School, and senior Luke Frey (football, basketball, baseball) volunteered to help get the team up and running after being approached by administration. Their involvement with “Grow”, a former club dedicated to building bonds with the High School’s life skills students, made Emma a natural fit for the team. Luke’s contributions shouldn’t go unnoticed as well as he finished out his senior year in basketball. When asked what it feels like to see this idea become a reality, Campbell said. “It is such a heartwarming thing”, especially after two years of progress, set-backs, and hard work to get things started.

For sophomore Sophie Boyer, joining the team was a deeply personal decision rooted in her bond with her older brother, Noah, a former student in the Life Skills program. Through her experience with the Grow Club and a little convincing from Campbell, she eventually joined the team, which offered her something she didn’t expect. While growing up with Noah has been a lifelong learning experience, stepping into the Unified Sports environment provided a unique sense of belonging. “Stepping into this world where everyone had a similar experience was inspirational,” Boyer shared. She found a community where everyone was inherently understanding; even if experiences were different, there was a shared degree of empathy.

Seniors Cole Brakefield, Gavin Haifley, Nolan O’Brien, and Ayden Tracey, were simply looking for one final sport or activity to do together before graduation this spring. When presented with the opportunity to be part of the team, the close group of friends signed up with a casual “Why Not?”, not knowing the deep impact the team would have on them.

The other half of the team (athletes) came from different circumstances, but their experiences were different from their team partners and similar at the same time. The typical class structure for these students can’t simply be classified as under or upperclassmen, as they are legally allowed to continue attending public high school until their 22nd birthday. Because of this and based on their challenges, their high school career can look completely different from those of their counterparts. However, their competitive spirit and their desire to be accepted for who they are allow them to be equals in the sports world.

The four trailblazing NOHS athletes include Aubrey Pace (a 12+ [senior plus] NOHS student in the special needs program) and Lillyan Shifflett (an NOHS 12th grader in the special needs program), both of whom are enrolled in the same classroom setting with six other special needs students. Rounding out the group were a pair of siblings, twins Isabella and Makenzie Wrights (first-year NOHS special needs students who are included in a separate classroom setting). While Lilly may have been the only athlete with some knowledge about Bocce prior to the start of the season, they all expressed how they were nervous and excited to be a part of this, and how their favorite memory from the season was making new friends while being included as teammates.



1st row: Emma Campbell, Aubrey Pace, Makenzie Wrights, Isabella Wrights, Sophie Boyer, Lillyan Shifflett  
2nd row: Ayden Tracey, Nolan O’Brien, Gavin Haifley, Cole Brakefield

A typical practice finds these students working side-by-side: Haifley explains that they spend the beginning of practice setting up the gym, socializing, and talking strategy. Because the atmosphere is more relaxed than a match, it is during these hours that the teammates truly get to be themselves. The Partners note that this is when theirs, and the Athletes', real personalities shine through, whether someone is coming in a little tired from the school day or everyone is being a bit "sassy" with one another. This time allows them to see a side of their teammates that others might miss thanks to the genuine bonds being formed. Campbell shares that her favorite part of practice is the smiles and laughter while Tracey notes how included everyone feels while there.

Once an official match begins, however, the tone shifts completely. "We're really competitive," O'Brien says. "Especially Mrs. Latshaw," Brakefield adds. "You can feel the energy; it's like any other sport." Even though the first-ever Bocce match didn't end in favor of the Colonials, this small setback didn't define this team or the community behind them. The following week, the Colonials opened their home Bocce Ball play to a well-attended Colonials' gym with members of the swimming, basketball, and wrestling teams, as well as school faculty, staff, and administrators (and others) in attendance, cheering on them to victory over the Dover Eagles.

While Dover and NO have had some notable rivalries, especially in the late '90s and even in recent years, the camaraderie between the Eagles and Colonials was on full display, as no matter what school colors were worn that day, those in attendance cheered just the same after each attempt.



Dover Eagles and NO Colonials Unified Sports Bocce Ball teams pose together as equals following the first ever home opener for the Colonials on Dec 16, 2025.



NO Colonials Unified Sports Bocce Ball team compete during the first ever home opener for the Colonials on Dec 16, 2025. The Colonials would go on to win the match.

Recalling a recent match, O'Brien shared a moment when he and his partner really clicked. "Aubrey was telling us to be quiet and 'lock in.' I told her it was okay because we were about to win, and she just started clapping," he said with a smile. Boyer adds of her partner, "Lilly is really, really funny and sarcastic. She likes to say she doesn't like [bocce] but then nails it every time." Another favorite memory of Lilly was the success the team was able to experience in their first year of competition.

This success was unheard of for an inaugural season, as they came within one match of the Greater Philadelphia Region Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce Championship, where they would have attended a VIP event in Hershey for the state title. This accomplishment had never been realized previously within the state of PA! Even though this incredible dream of winning it all in the first year wasn't to be for the Colonials, the smiles on faces of the teammates was worth every inch of this unbelievable journey and whether they realize what a truly special impact they had on the community itself, everyone directly, and indirectly, involved could not be more proud of these amazing young adults who were able to show how inclusion can be as simple as saying hi.

The bonds formed between the athletes and partners don't end once they leave the gym. When asked in what ways she has seen the "walls" between the Life Skills classroom and the rest of the student body begin to come down, Latshaw says "We're already seeing it in the hallways with more smiles, more hellos, more name recognition. Students who may not have interacted before are now stopping to talk, cheering each other on, and forming real friendships. Unified Sports has given students a shared experience, and that has made our school feel more connected and more compassionate."

This is evident when talking to the team as well. "Last Friday, I went in and helped with class," Brakefield shares. "We made and delivered a project together, and I grabbed Gavin to help, too." That bond is now a daily fixture; every morning, the boys pass Aubrey and her classmates in the halls, exchanging high-fives and "good mornings" on their way to class. The athletes share similar excitement when finding their "new" friends in the halls. Previously, they may have recognized faces when walking to class, but now they call each by name, and the athletes, being typical teenagers, each have their "favorite" team partner; their smiles increasing when their name was mentioned.

As we transition from bocce to track, Latshaw hopes that “Unified Sports becomes a permanent, celebrated part of our school culture.” “I’d love to see more sports added, more students involved each season, and Unified athletes recognized and supported just like any other team. Ultimately, I want this program to grow into something students actively look forward to being part of whether as athletes, partners, or fans.” For O’Brien, the program is a reminder to step outside of your usual social circles and actively seek connections with different people. Boyer also shared that “The game is more than just a sport. It’s about showing kindness to each other. Other sports can get competitive and people can say things they don’t mean. The girls are always happy and positive.”

When asked what they would say to a student who is nervous or on the fence about signing up, the group didn’t hesitate. The answers came quickly and on top of each other: “Join!” and “Definitely join!” they chimed in. “You’ll regret it when you hear about what you missed out on.” Makenzie Wrights summarized it perfectly when she said “Don’t give up and don’t let your dreams go to waste.”

The success of Unified Sports at New Oxford High School doesn’t rest solely on the shoulders of the athletes, partners and coaches, it also relies on the support of the community. “Support can come in many forms such as attending events, cheering at meets, volunteering, donating, or simply spreading the word. Most importantly, the community can support this team by embracing its message of inclusion and recognizing that every student deserves a chance to belong, compete, and be celebrated,” says Latshaw. This message wasn’t lost on those making the 2-hour trip, combined with having to take personal time from their employment, to show the support and respect this team has earned!



Colonial families and supporters watch at the Greater Philadelphia Region Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce Championship on Mar 5, 2026.



The NOHS Unified Sports Bocce Ball team with their 3rd place medals at the Greater Philadelphia Region Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce Championship on Mar 5, 2026.

Although the publicity of the success of this team may not have reached the same level as some of NOHS's more popular sports, the community support was still there nonetheless. Different faculty and staff conversations often revolved around this team and what they were doing, community members would often offer support through their social media posts, and even school board discussions would provide updates on a regular basis. After the team was awarded their medals, supporters expressed this support by one of our best traditions. WE ARE...THE OX. WE ARE...THE OX. WE ARE...THE OX. THANK YOU! YOU'RE WELCOME! The WE ARE consists of all Colonials, and that's what makes us One Team, One Community, One OX!

Coauthored by Elizabeth Bergen and Michael Campbell

## Ongoing and Upcoming Projects

### Portable Press Box

With the scoreboards now installed and the teams enjoying them, the NOABC wasn't wasting any time! Because of the success of our concessions, we were able to purchase and donate a portable press box to the school for the stadium sports. It's a big upgrade and hard to miss! This is directly due to the continued community support we receive. Thank you!



### Cushioned Athlete Seats

The sponsorship of the cushioned athlete seats is still active. Want to honor the memory of a loved one or pay homage to a family member or a significant member of Colonials history, sponsor your own with a plaque on the back by completing the following sponsor application (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScr3hhbca9y0ePymKz5RsCfjMfdcuGMePiEXFFwM6MQJbqJrA/viewform?usp=sharing>)



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## Stay Connected with the NOABC!

The NOABC is proud to support our Colonial athletes, teams, and community—and we want *you* to stay connected with all the latest news and updates!

Be sure to follow us on our official platforms to keep up with game highlights, team accomplishments, community events, fundraisers, and more:

**Website:** [www.noabc-colonials.com](http://www.noabc-colonials.com)

**Facebook:** [NOABoosterClub](#)

**Instagram:** [@noathleticboosterclub](#)

We love celebrating all the great things happening across our Colonial programs—whether it's a big win, a player milestone, or an exciting event involving our student-athletes and community.

If you'd like us to highlight something special about your team, share information about a youth or community sports program, or post other relevant updates, please reach out to us at [noabc.colonials@gmail.com](mailto:noabc.colonials@gmail.com) or **send us a message via Facebook**.

Together, let's keep the Colonials spirit strong—on the field, in the stands, and throughout our community!

Check out the NOABC concession stand for merch and your favorite items including team specific magnets (including Athletic Trainers), Colonial and OX theme water bottles, tumblers, and Koozies!

COLONIAL NATION, ALUMNI, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS – LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Looking forward to much success this spring season. Good luck to all our student athletes!