

Big Red Highlights

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Theresa Grace Mbanefo '22 (right) was named Ivy League Rookie of the Week for December 31. The honor came after she helped lead the Big Red to a 79-53 win over Hampton, scoring 12 points and grabbing nine rebounds in 19 minutes. She's the first Cornell player to earn Rookie of the Week honors since **Samantha Widmann '20** in January 2017.

FENCING Gillian Harrill '22 earned silver in a junior women's saber competition in Kansas City, the best finish ever by an active Big Red fencer at a North American Cup event. She entered the competition seeded 18 out of 183 fencers and went 6-0 in opening round pool play. She reached the final by beating the sixth and third seeds before losing to the top seed in the title match.

MEN'S LACROSSE The Big Red is one of two teams featured in a five-part multi-platform video and digital content series, "The Season 2019," that debuted in February. (The other is University of Florida women's lacrosse.) Now in its second season, the program is a joint venture of *Inside Lacrosse* magazine and equipment manufacturer STX. Last year's edition drew 1.4 million views on YouTube and ESPNU.

MEN'S HOCKEY Austin McGrath '21 (below) made the most of an unexpected opportunity to start in the net, opening the 2019 portion of the season by stopping 65 shots and recording a win and a tie to earn ECAC Goaltender of the Week honors. McGrath made 30 saves in a 3-2 defeat of defending ECAC champion Princeton,



then followed that with 35 saves in a 2-2 finish with fourth-ranked Quinnipiac. McGrath assumed the starting job after **Matthew Galajda '21** was injured in a November loss to Harvard at Madison Square Garden.



ALUMNI NEWS

FOOTBALL Jim Hoffer '79 has moved into the pro ranks after 40 years of coaching college football. Hoffer is the quarterbacks and wide receivers coach for the Atlanta Legends in the Alliance of American Football, a spring league that debuted in February 2018 with eight teams. Hoffer had previously served as passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Iowa State. He spent eight seasons as head coach at Cornell, going 45-35 and leading the Big Red to a share of the Ivy title in 1990. Since leaving East Hill he has been head coach at the University at Buffalo and an assistant at several other schools.

WRESTLING David Hirsch '94 is one of six recipients of the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award, which recognizes athletic and professional achievements on the 25th anniversary of the end of an individual's college career. A three-time Eastern champion and two-time All-American, Hirsch won the 1994 NCAA Division I championship at 126 pounds, becoming the first Cornell wrestler to win a national title since 1960. He is now chief of oral and maxillofacial surgery at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital and is considered a pioneer in the field of jaw surgery.

POLO Former Big Red player **Branden Van Loon '13** has returned as the team's head coach. Most recently, he held the same position at Yale, and previously worked at polo clubs in four states. An Ithaca native, Van Loon played on the Hill for four years, twice serving as captain.

WOMEN'S ROWING Solveig Imsdahl '13 earned bronze in the women's pair at the 2018 Pan American Games Qualification Regatta in Rio de Janeiro. The finish qualified Imsdahl and her teammate for the 2019 Pan American Games, scheduled for this summer in Peru. During her time at Cornell, Imsdahl rowed in two NCAA Championships and in two Under-23 World Championships, winning gold in the women's double sculls in 2013.

SOCCER After serving as interim coach of the U.S. men's national team, **Dave Sarachan '76** has taken the reins of North Carolina FC in the United Soccer League. Sarachan has extensive professional coaching experience, having spent a combined 12 years as an assistant for D.C. United and the Los Angeles Galaxy and seven seasons as head coach of the Chicago Fire. He also served as Cornell's head coach for 10 years, leading the team to the 1995 Ivy title and a pair of NCAA tournament appearances.