Kean University Profile

Founded in 1855, Kean University has grown to become one of the largest metropolitan institutions of higher education in the region, boasting a richly diverse student, faculty and staff population. Although Kean continues to play a key role in the training of teachers, it has also become a hub of educational, technological and cultural enrichment, offering 50 undergraduate degrees and more than 45 options leading to a master's degree, professional diploma and/or state certifications in an assortment of concentrations. In September 2008, Kean University began its first doctoral program offerings: the Ph.D. in school psychology, and the Ed.D. in urban educational leadership. Five undergraduate colleges and the Nathan Weiss Graduate College now serve more than 14,000 students.

The University dedicates itself to the intellectual, cultural and personal growth of all its members. In particular, the University prepares students to think critically and creatively; to adapt to changing social, economic and technological environments; and to serve as active and contributing members of their communities.

Head Coach Neil Ioviero, Kean University

Neil Ioviero is in his twelfth season at the helm of the Kean University baseball program. Under his guidance, the team has grown into not only one of the top teams in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC), but one of the premiere programs in the nation culminating with the program's first national championship in 2007.

Ioviero, who collected his 350th career win during the course of the 2009 season, currently boasts a 358-145-2 record, the third highest win total of any coach in athletic department history. Ioviero has been garnered with several honors over the past couple of years. In 2007 he was honored with the biggest award, the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings Division III National Coach of the Year. In addition, he has been tabbed the NCAA Division III Regional Coach of the Year (2007 & 2008) and has been named the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Coach of the Year four times (2005, 2007, 2008 & 2009).

In 2008, the Cougars proved to do what few others could, defend their title. KU battled through the always competitive NJAC, and captured their second conference tournament championship. With a 14-4 NJAC record, the Cougars also claimed the regular season title for the second straight season. Kean didn't have to travel far, and stayed close to home, hosting the Mid-Atlantic Regional for the first time in school history. With a perfect 4-0 record, including wins against two NJAC foes, Kean advanced to the NCAA Division III World Series for the second straight season with their second straight NCAA Regional Championship.

During the 2007 campaign, the Cougars set many milestones including then, their first ever trip to the World Series, a regional championship and a new standard for wins in a season with 43. After receiving one of 14 national "wild-card" bids, the Cougars would go on to win eight straight post-season games, including four in regional play.

In 2002, Kean University captured the school's first ever NJAC Championship and with a 33-12 record advanced to the NCAA Tournament. That year the Cougars then set school records for most wins and best winning percentage.

In his first season, 1998, Ioviero led the Cougars to a 25-9 mark and earned an invitation to the Division III Regional Tournament, only the second time in school history then that the Cougars had made the national tournament.

In his first 11 years in the dugout, Ioviero has developed two first-team All-Americans, 13 first-team regional All-Americans, 17 first-team All-State and 16 first-team All-NJAC players. Moreover, 12 of those players have gone on to play professionally following the end of their Cougar careers.

A standout pitcher in college, Ioviero played for legendary coach Fred Hill at Rutgers University. As a Scarlet Knight, Ioviero pitched on two NCAA Division I tournament teams, in 1990 and 1992. As a sophomore in 1991, he posted a 7-1 mark and was named to the New Jersey Baseball all-state squad.

Ioviero earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Rutgers in 1994, adding a postgraduate degree in physical education and health from Kean University in 1996. He received his master's degree in supervision and administration from Kean in 2002. He currently resides in Woodbridge with his wife Letizia.

Kean University Baseball Notes

Cougars Reload – The Cougars return just 14 active players and one starting positional player from last year's World Series roster. In addition, just six players remain from the 2007 Championship squad.

Record-Setter – Junior Mike Moceri broke two single-season Kean records this spring. He broke the previous hit record of 72, now with 82 as well as the doubles record of 21, now 22. Moceri has also tied the single-season RBI mark of 57. Moceri has been tabbed with several honors including New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Player of the Year, first-team All-State, first-team All Mid-Atlantic Region and first-team Mid-Atlantic Region Gold Glove. Moceri had the third longest hitting streak in school history with 21
dating from March 27th – April 28th.

Senior Saver – Senior Brandon Aich is now the all-time single season and career leader in saves with 10 and 18 respectively.

Winning Against The Best – Kean is 3-1 this season against World Series participants (1-1 Chapman and 2-0 Farmingdale State).

Driving Them Home – Kean is hitting .697 as a team with runners on third and less than two outs. All nine starters are hitting over .600 when this situation applies.

Sweep – The Cougars swept all major conference awards this season as Moceri was selected as Player of the Year, junior Joe Bartlinski as Pitcher of the Year, freshman Dylan Laguna as Rookie of the Year, freshman Ryan Zamorsky as Rookie Pitcher of the Year, senior Brandon Aich as Fireman of the Year as well as head coach Neil Ioviero as Coach of the Year.

All-Tourney Honors – KU had four players named to the Mid-Atlantic All-Tournament team as Zamorsky, freshman Lee Cavico, senior Colin Feneis, and senior Mike Manganiello all earned honors, with Manganiello named as the Most Outstanding Player.
Winning Ways – Kean has recorded 30-plus wins for five consecutive seasons.

Jersey Boys – Kean University is the sixth New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) team to make it to the World Series (Rowan, Montclair State, William Paterson, Ramapo and The College of New Jersey).