

# Sports

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## Henwood fan of '93 team

Rye coach follows Bracken, Hannigan, Scott in college

**By Leslie Feffer**  
Sports Correspondent

Rye High School girls lacrosse coach Mary Henwood fondly remembers her 1993 team.

"It was the dream team," she said, "in more ways than one."

Besides winning the Division II state championship that year, she recalls how harmonious the team was.

"They were very special and there were no internal problems," Henwood said.

Three members of that remarkable team — Emily Bracken, Kelly Hannigan and Laura Scott — have been recognized as elite players on the college level. This past season, all three were named all-American players. Bracken was named to the first team, Scott to the second team and Hannigan to the third team.

Henwood has avidly followed the college careers of all three players, attending games and cheering for them from the bleachers instead of the sidelines, and reading about them on the internet.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of them," their former coach said.

Bracken, who will be in her senior year at Middlebury College this fall, was a key part of her team's NCAA Division III national championship team.

Even more impressive than the three Middlebury records she holds — most saves in a season (234), highest save percentage in a season (.673) and highest save percentage in a career (.639) — is that the goalie didn't even pick up her stick until her junior year of high school — the championship year. Bracken had played for Henwood's basketball team at Rye when the coach and teammate Hannigan asked her to give lacrosse a try. They took her into the locker room, gave her some goalie pads and tossed some balls

### GIRLS LACROSSE

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**— Mary Henwood,  
Rye coach,  
on members of '93 champs**

at her.

"She was awesome. Kelly and I looked at her and told her that she should be playing lacrosse," Henwood said.

They quickly discovered that Bracken was a natural for the sport and that her speed was a significant asset to the team.

"She had an excellent first season. You never would have known that she was a first-year goalie and she really came through for us that season," Hannigan said.

Bracken, however, remembers it a little differently.

"In my first game, we played against Scarsdale and I pretty much lost it for us. After that, I kind of picked it up from there and got used to it," she said. "During that first year, Kelly and Laura were the most supportive people, even after that horrible game I had."

Scott, a 1997 graduate of Yale, earned a spot on the 1996-97 U.S. Women's Lacrosse developmental team. That's a long way from her eighth-grade physical education class, in which Henwood got her and a few other girls interested in lacrosse.

She played on the freshman team that year and junior varsity the next. She then spent the last three years of high school on Henwood's

varsity team, on which she earned all-league, all-Section 1 and all-county honors.

"Laura was just a very smart, tenacious defensive player who would do anything to stop you from scoring," Henwood said, also praising Scott's speed and drive to succeed.

During her college years, an occasional opponent was Hannigan's Dartmouth squad.

"At first, her being on the opposing team was weird," Scott said. "I know Kelly's tempo, her style of playing, as she does mine. It was funny, I just started laughing at one point freshman year when she was playing defense on me."

Hannigan, just graduated from Dartmouth, also has fond memories of playing against Scott on the collegiate level, as well as of their team at Rye. The three young women have kept in touch since their high school days, and they have enjoyed watching each other's college teams.

As one of the people responsible for bringing Bracken into the sport, Hannigan is proud of her protege.

"I'm really excited when I see how far she's gone with it," Hannigan said.

Bracken, an art history and English major, will enter her senior year at Middlebury this fall. Although her family moved to Manhattan, she still visits Rye frequently.

Scott's family is now in Westport, Conn. She will soon be moving to New York City with a job as an analyst in the banking division of Paine Webber.

Hannigan currently teaches chemistry and math and coaches lacrosse and basketball at the Hun School in Princeton, N.J.



**Mary Henwood**