

LAMORINDA SPORTS

St. Mary's Aidan Mahaney heads to the University of Connecticut to finish his college career

By Jon Kingdon



Aidan Mahaney

Photo UConn Athletics

After playing two seasons at St. Mary's, a team that was a fifth seed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament, Aidan Mahaney decided to enter the NCAA portal. Having visited, Creighton, Kentucky, Virginia, and Connecti-

cut, Mahaney made the decision to transfer to the University of Connecticut.

Despite the team's and his personal success at St. Mary's, Mahaney is excited about the opportunity to play for Uconn, which has won the last two national champi-

onships. "It's an unbelievable opportunity that I have to be able to play for a back-to-back national championship team, going for a third one, and my family is really excited and happy for me," Mahaney said.

Having grown up with St. Mary's Coach

Randy Bennett and his two sons, it was not an easy decision for Mahaney. "Since I was a baby with his kids growing up together, I want to emphasize that I love Coach Bennett to death," Mahaney said. "I'm so grateful for him to be a part of my journey and although it's sad that I'm parting ways, right now in my heart I'm forever a Gael and will forever be in debt to the program and Coach Bennett."

Mahaney hopes to ultimately play professionally, and he sees this move as a way to facilitate that goal, particularly with Connecticut having lost both of their starting guards from last season. "After my freshman year at St. Mary's, I was on some draft boards and after my sophomore year, I still got some good buzz," Mahaney said. "I think that in going to Connecticut, I will be getting tougher. I am working on my defense and their offense is so efficient, I think my shooting numbers will go up a lot because of that. Their style of play will be an adjust-

ment for me but I'm coachable, I work hard and am accountable, so I think it'll be a quick adjustment and I'll be hitting the ground running when I get there."

Mahaney's family made it to all of his home games: something he will miss after transferring to Connecticut. "I think the toughest adjustment will be that my older brother Noah will not being able to come to my games, but I'm going to get him some UConn gear and he'll be a Husky fan in no time."

Mahaney also consulted with his Campolindo coach Steven Dyer. "I talked with Coach Dyer prior to entering the portal and we texted afterwards," Mahaney said. "He's really excited for me, and I will try to keep in touch with him. He's a really knowledgeable guy and he looks at everything through a different lens, so I like to get his opinion on things."

Mahaney said he tried to keep his teammates informed about what was transpiring: "It was really tough because

everything happened so fast, so I tried to let everyone know before I entered the portal and before I committed to UConn. I love all my teammates and I feel it's such a brotherhood at St. Mary's and I'm so grateful for all of them. I hope that we can continue to be lifelong friends, which I think we will be."

Mahaney kept in contact with Bennett throughout the process. "Coach Bennett and I have had about four conversations," Mahaney said. "A couple of them were leading up to my announcing that I was entering the portal, and one was the night before I committed to UConn. I have nothing but great things to say and a lot of love for Coach Bennett, the entire staff, and St. Mary's because I wouldn't be in this position without him, the school, and the program. I really tried to thank him for everything that he's done for me. Coach Bennett has been a staple in my basketball career."



Lamorinda volleyball and lacrosse teams competing in NCS playoffs

By Jon Kingdon

This past week, seven of the nine Lamorinda volleyball and lacrosse teams qualified for the North Coast Sectional playoffs. The teams' combined record in the first two rounds was 13-1: the only loss being the Miramonte boys lacrosse team to Campolindo. The third rounds will be played on May 7 and the championship games on May 9.

Volleyball

Campolindo (30-9) with the second seed in

Division 2 defeated Hayward and Las Lomas by 3-0 scores. Acalanes (11-12) with the fourth seed in Division 3 defeated Terre Linda 3-2 and Hercules 3-1. Campolindo will now play at home against De La Salle, while Acalanes will be playing at Bishop O'Dowd.

Girls Lacrosse

Campolindo (12-5) with the second seed in Division 2 defeated Casa Grande 16-6 and Branson 8-6. Miramonte (10-

8) with the third seed in Division 2 defeated Bishop O'Dowd 21-9 and Justin Siena 21-10. Acalanes (13-7) with the fourth seed in Division 2 defeated Petaluma 20-5 and Piedmont 9-7. Campolindo will play at home against Miramonte, and Acalanes will be playing at the first seeded San Marin.

Boys Lacrosse

Campolindo (11-5) with the fifth seed in Division 2 defeated Las Lomas 10-6 and Miramonte 11-6. Miramonte (12-6) with the fourth seed in Division 2 defeated Rancho Cotate 9-5 and lost to Campolindo 6-11. Campolindo will play next at the first seeded Justin Sienna.

Photo Mark Bell

Miramonte sophomore Sawyer Bohlig

Gaels Rugby victorious over Navy in National Championship

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"This team and this program are really, really special and it starts with our leadership with Tim O'Brien and (assistant coaches) Andrew Cook and Mark Bass and all the coaches and then it gets passed down team by team," Storti said. "We're just a bunch of misfits, guys

from all over, and it's a testament to our leadership to be able to get sixty guys going in one direction, pursuing our one goal, which was to win the national championship."

Kayoshi shared that same sentiment. "It's sad to say this is my last year but it's really a paradise from the coaching staff and the trainers to the

bottom guy on a team," Kayoshi said "Coach O'Brien gives us the recipe and then we tweak it to the players and it's heaven on earth. The two consistent things with all of my teams has been the will to play for others. We really trust our guys on our left and right and we all have fun here."

O'Brien's formula

for success over the years has been simple: "We take anybody that comes out as long as they can put up with my idiocy. I just think the team's leadership has been good and the way that the kids on the top have embraced the guys on the bottom has been awesome."

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