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How first Masters Academy girls lacrosse roster is taking shape

By [Mike Zhe \(https://www.laxjournal.com/author/mikezhe/\)](https://www.laxjournal.com/author/mikezhe/)

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Girls lacrosse director Abbey Capobianco has added 17 players to the first Masters Academy International lacrosse roster. (MAI photo)

The first lacrosse team at Masters Academy International is coming into focus.

When the new multi-sport academy, located on 82 acres in Stow, Mass., opens its doors to its first class of athletes on Sept. 15, there will be 17 girls – and counting – with an eye on the lacrosse field.

Director of girls lacrosse and upper school head coach **Abbey Capobianco** said this week she could see the roster growing to as many as 22 players by the time the inaugural season begins next March.

Editor's note: A full Q&A with Capobianco will appear at [laxjournal.com](https://www.laxjournal.com) next week.

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Masters Academy International, founded by brothers and youth hockey developers **Chris** and **Peter Masters**, touts itself as New England's first academy "to unite pro-level athletic training with top-tier, future-focused academics."

Girls lacrosse is one of nine sports offered at MAI, but all the programs are still developing. The lacrosse webpage lists three different teams – Middle School (grades 6-8), Upper School (grades 9-12) and College Prep/Elite – but only the Upper School team is currently rostering players.

The team will play a largely prep schedule in its first season, including trips outside the region. That schedule is still being developed.

Capobianco, who coaches club lacrosse with Laxachusetts, starred at Framingham (Mass.) High School, where she is a member of that school's Hall of Fame. She went on to play collegiately at Central Connecticut State and UMass, and spent a decade as the head coach at Division 2 Assumption, where she is still the program's all-time winningest coach.

She said she has leaned on her club contacts while trying to build her academy's inaugural roster.

"Just getting out there as much as I can and using my relationships, from **Meredith (McGinnis)** at Mass Elite to **McKinley (Curro Sbordone)** at Granite State Elite, and having conversations to find the right players for Masters Academy," she said.

Class-wise, the current roster breaks down like this: one postgraduate, three seniors, four juniors, six sophomores and three freshmen.

The two highest-profile recruits are twin sisters **Emery** and **Raegan Lawton**, key reasons why Portsmouth (N.H.) High School has won the last three NHIAA Division 1 championships. Both players committed to Penn last September.

The team's lone current PG, midfielder **Caroline Cavanaugh**, is coming off an All-State season at East Catholic (Conn.) High School.

High school teammates and rising juniors **Jane Whitesides** and **Jesse Cargiuolo**, who helped Bedford (Mass.) reach the quarterfinals of a loaded MIAA Division 2 tournament, are also on board.

Freshman midfielder **Cora Bruns** from Scottsdale, Ariz., is one of just two players from outside New England, but highly-regarded as a club player with Alliance National.

Here is a look at the team's current roster. Players are listed by class, with position and previous school.

POSTGRADUATES

Caroline Cavanaugh, M, East Catholic (Conn.)

SENIORS

Emery Lawton, M, Portsmouth (N.H.)

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Jane Whitesides, M, Bedford (Mass.)

Jesse Cargiuolo, D, Bedford (Mass.)

Riley LeBlanc, D, Tahanto Regional (Mass.)

Lucille Ward, M, Camden Hills (Maine)

SOPHOMORES

Addie Citro, D/M, St. Mark's

Addison Vadala, D/M, Austin Prep

Brigid Staunton, M, Algonquin Regional (Mass.)

Mallory Riordan, G, Plymouth North (Mass.)

Stella McLaughlin, M/A, Worcester Academy

Janessa Griffiths, A/M, Brooklin (Ont.)

FRESHMEN

Sydney Moniz, M, Marblehead (Mass.)

Addison Beauregard, M, Gilford (N.H.)

Cora Bruns, M, Pinnacle (Ariz.)

@MikeZhe603

mzhe@laxjournal.com (mailto:mzhe@laxjournal.com)

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