

RED STORM

1996 NCAA CHAMPIONS

**First Round - at Adelphi
St. John's 5, Fordham 1**

**Second Round - at Adelphi
St. John's 2, George Mason 1**

**Third Round - at Adelphi
St. John's 2, William & Mary 1 (OT)**

**Semifinals - Richmond, Va.
St. John's 2, Creighton 1**

**Finals - Richmond, Va.
St. John's 4, Florida International 1**

Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It.

That was the slogan St. John's men's soccer coach Dave Masur and his players came up with prior to the 1996 season.

It started five years earlier for some of the players, and for others, as soon as they arrived on campus.

No St. John's team had ever advanced past the first round of the NCAA Tournament prior to 1996. The team came up with a list of mottos for that season, and the list contained statements like unity, mental toughness, focus, respect, commitment and discipline. Then they said they wanted to win the BIG EAST regular season title, reach the Final Four and then win it all.

With the support of St. John's alumnus like Chris Mullin, Jayson Williams, Lou Carnesecca and Mario Cuomo, the Storm charged to a 22-2-2 record en route to the 1996 national title.

The commitment of the 1996 team was evident from the opening kick-off of the season and was highlighted by moments like Jesse Van Saun's game-tying goal with 10 seconds left in overtime, saving the Red Storm from defeat at Notre Dame.

Another exciting moment was provided by two-time All-American Ben Hickey in the semifinals of the BIG EAST Tournament. With the Red Storm trailing 3-2 with 27 seconds left in regulation, Hickey nailed the tying goal, keeping the team alive.

They would eventually lose the championship game to Rutgers, but the big goal - the NCAA Championship - was still alive.

The Red Storm beat Fordham, 5-1 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, winning their first-ever tournament game and taking the monkey off their backs.

In the second round game, Wojtek Krakowiak scored his second goal of the game with 12 seconds left in regulation, giving St. John's a 2- win over George Mason.

The quarterfinal game saw St. John's travel to Norfolk, Virginia for a match with William & Mary. Anchored by the defense, the Red Storm limited William & Mary to just six shots in a 2-1 win. Defenders Kevin Daly and Pavel Krakowiak each scored a goal, with Krakowiak's overtime shot providing the win. That win moved St. John's into its first-ever Final Four in soccer, and the University's first since the men's basketball team advanced during the 1984-85 school year.

In the semifinal game against Creighton, a gray, rainy, ominous day at Richmond Stadium in Virginia made an otherwise dreary day one of the most cherished in school history. Jesse Van Saun scored the game-winner midway through the second half as St. John's posted a 2-1 win.

The next step was Florida International, in St. John's first NCAA title game of any kind since 1952. The Golden Panthers, however, had handed the Red Storm one of their two losses during the season.

Before a crowd of 20,874, the second-largest in NCAA history, the Red Storm rode a sea of red and white and scored early, and often. Van Saun scored 27 minutes into the game and Wojtek Krakowiak added another goal one minute later as St. John's took a 2-0 lead. FIU scored midway through the second half, but Ben Hickey's goal put the game out of reach. The Red Storm added an insurance goal by Medufia Kulego, who had missed most of the season with an ankle injury. Kulego corralled three of his own shots and put away the fourth, giving St. John's a 4-1 win and their first-ever national championship in any sport at the University.

Kulego was named the BIG EAST's Offensive Player of the Year, while Wojtek Krakowiak earned Rookie of the Year honors. Daly, Hickey, Kulego and Van Saun all earned first-team All-BIG EAST honors, while Stefani Miglioranza and Ricardo Joseph earned second-team honors.

Masur was named National Coach of the Year, Van Saun was named the Final Four MVP, six players were named Regional All-Americans (Kulego, Van Saun, Ricardo Joseph, Daly, Miglioranza and Hickey) and Ben Hickey was named second-team All-America.



2001 BIG EAST CHAMPIONS

Quarterfinals

St. John's 1, Boston College 0

Semifinals

St. John's 1, Notre Dame 0

Finals

St. John's 1, Connecticut 0

Dave Masur always has words for his players to hang on to entering a season. The 2001 season was no different. This year, the team's motto was "Team First, Team Last."

Some people looked at it quizzically, but the way Masur saw it, his players should be thinking of the team first, and the team last. The only thing that mattered was the team.

That was evident on the 2001 edition, which steamrolled through the season and finished the regular season with an 11-2-3 record, including a 6-1-3 mark that earned the team a home match during the quarterfinal round of the BIG EAST Tournament.

Seeded third, the Red Storm hosted Boston College in a quarterfinal matchup, with the winner advancing to the Tournament Semifinals.

Senior forward Shalrie Joseph scored midway through the second half and sixth-ranked St. John's men's soccer team beat Boston College, 1-0, in front of 550 fans at Stiles Field on the campus of Adelphi University.

The Red Storm, who had dictated play throughout the game, broke through in the 71st minute of the game when junior Alberto Duenas sent a ball from the far side of the field to Joseph, who was flanked by two Boston College defenders in the middle of the field. Duenas' cross was placed perfectly and Joseph picked it up, dribbled and blasted a shot from about 28 yards out that beat BC goalkeeper Danny Caruso to the upper near post, giving SJU a 1-0 lead it would not relinquish at the 70:32 mark.

St. John's outshot BC, 11-7, took six corner kicks to the Eagles' four, while Hertz had three saves in goal and Caruso had one.

It was another hard-fought match in the semifinals, but the Red Storm again came away victors, this time beating Notre Dame, 1-0, on a goal from sophomore forward Angel Rodriguez.

Rodriguez scored off of a direct kick early in the second half and St. John's held on for a 1-0 win over Notre Dame.

The win puts St. John's in the conference championship game for the eighth time since 1991.

St. John's took the lead 2:43 into the second half when senior forward Jeff Matteo took a direct from about five yards to the left side of the box. His low liner fought through traffic to Rodriguez. The speedy sophomore had followed senior forward Shalrie Joseph (Brooklyn, N.Y.) on a near-post run and tapped it past Notre Dame goalkeeper Chris Sawyer, beating him to the lower left post.

Late in the second half, Notre Dame had chances, but a shot by Justin Detter was deflected high by St. John's goalkeeper Guy Hertz (Ramat-Hasharon, Israel), and minutes later punched out a shot that was crossed in by Jack Stewart.

The opponent in the championship game was no stranger, as the Red Storm would face long-time foe Connecticut on their home field. It was another grueling battle, but St. John's got a timely goal from



senior Shalrie Joseph and held on for the win, capturing its league-record sixth BIG EAST Tournament Championship title.

Joseph, a first-team All-BIG EAST, was named the Most Outstanding Performer of the Tournament as St. John's improved to 14-2-3 this season.

**First Round - at Adelphi
St. John's 1, UMass 0**

**Second Round - at Adelphi
St. John's 3, Penn State 2**

**Quarterfinals - at SMU
St. John's 1, SMU 0**

**Semifinals - Columbus, Ohio
Indiana 2, St. John's 1**

The dream of a national title was in their eyes from the beginning of the season. When they rolled through their regular season, the members of the St. John's men's soccer team grew to believe that goal was in their grasp. When they won the 2001 BIG EAST Tournament Championship and were awarded a home field for the first two rounds, it grew even greater.

The first step came against Atlantic 10 Conference Champion Massachusetts. Like the BIG EAST Tournament, the Red Storm got a timely goal and made it stand.

Senior forward Shalrie Joseph scored in the 79th minute, and St. John's held on to beat the Minutemen. The win advanced the Red Storm to their sixth consecutive Sweet Sixteen appearance in the NCAAAs.

The Red Storm dominated play for much of the game and finally took the lead in the 79th minute when sophomore Matia Damiani headed a ball to Joseph, who found himself one-on-one covered by UMass defenders John Lytton and J.R. Pouncey outside the box. Joseph beat Lytton, then faked taking a shot at the bouncing ball and moved past Pouncey. His shot from about eight yards out beat Minutemen goalkeeper Bryan O'Quinn to the lower far post.

St. John's outshot Massachusetts, 18-4, and had nine corner kicks, while the Minutemen had none. O'Quinn had nine saves in

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2001 FINAL FOUR

goal, while St. John's junior goalkeeper Guy Hertz, who recorded his 11th shutout this season, had one save.

The second round matchup brought long-time rival Penn State to St. John's home-away-from-home at Adelphi. And, like the previous four postseason matches, it was just as thrilling.

St. John's senior forward Jeff Matteo said that he always looked for his classmate, and best friend, Joseph when it came to a set-piece. Matteo found his classmate at just the right time, sending a free kick into the box to Joseph, who put his shot from six yards out past Penn State goalkeeper Ryan Sickman at the 128:36 mark, lifting eighth-ranked St. John's to a 2-1 NCAA Tournament Third Round win over the Nittany Lions in front of 1,522 fans at Stiles Field. The win moved St. John's into the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1998.

After a pair of scoreless overtime periods, Matteo took the free kick from the far side of the field, about four yards above the box, looking for Joseph.

The first half was very evenly played, with each team taking three shots. The Nittany Lions took the 1-0 lead, however, when Derek Potteiger sent an end-line cross toward the box to senior Ricardo Villar, whose header from six yards about beat St. John's goalkeeper Guy Hertz.

Trailing 1-0 at the break, Masur, as he did several times late this season, moved Joseph to his natural forward position. The move paid off just under two minutes into the second half.

Freshman forward Andre Schmid, who was active all day and created many opportunities for the Red Storm, sent a ball toward the box to Joseph. Joseph did not see an opening and sent a touch pass back to sophomore forward Angel Rodriguez, who blasted a shot from 14 yards out, beating Sickman to the upper right, tying the game at 1-apiece at 46:33.

In the quarterfinal round, the Red Storm faced a Herculean task, traveling to Dallas to meet No. 1 ranked and previously unbeaten Southern Methodist on its own field. Like Masur-coached teams of past, St. John's relished a challenge, and this was one the team was up for.

After several scoring chances through the first and second half,

the Red Storm finally capitalized in the 83rd minute. Freshman forward Peter Philipakos took a feed from senior forward Jeff Matteo near the box and took a shot that hit the post and bounced back to him. Philipakos followed his shot with another one, this time hitting the far post.

The rebound, however, came to freshman midfielder Chris Corcoran, who beat a defender and blasted a shot from 15

yards out on the side of the box, beating SMU keeper Byron Foss to the lower near post at 82:21.

SMU pressed, but could not find any openings in the Red Storm defense. Finally, in the last minute of play



and with Foss playing up to give the Mustangs an extra offensive player, SMU took a free kick that was knocked out of the box by SJU sophomore center-back Chris Wingert. Philipakos picked up the ball, dribbled once and sent a shot from 68 yards out that bounced five or six times into the empty net, giving St. John's a 2-0 lead at 89:10.

The game took a dramatic turn in the 56th minute when freshman forward Andre Schmid picked up a loose ball and came in on Foss for a one-on-one chance. An SMU defender broke the play up in the box and Schmid's momentum carried him into Foss, causing him to fall. The referee called a red card on Schmid and the Red Storm were forced to play a man down.

Ten minutes later, however, Matteo was bringing the ball up on the side of the field when SMU defender Ross Spencer took him down. As Matteo grimaced in pain on the ground, the referee pulled a red card on Spencer and the team's were back to even strength.

That win sent the Red Storm to their first Final Four since 1996, when the program won the University's first-ever national title. The opponent was familiar – Indiana – but the rewards were higher. Early in the season, St. John's had beaten the Hoosiers on their own field. This time, the winner would advance to the national championship.

The dreams of a second national championship for the team came to a halt on as Indiana's Vijay Dias scored in the second overtime period, lifting the fourth-seeded Hoosiers to a 2-1 win over the Red Storm at Columbus Crew Stadium.

The loss ended St. John's spectacular season at 17-3-3 overall. The Red Storm won their league record sixth BIG EAST Conference Tournament Championship en route to 17 wins, which ranks tied for fourth in a single-season at St. John's. The three losses are tied for the second-fewest in school history.

Indiana scored the decisive goal in the second overtime when Hoosiers junior first-team All-American Pat Noonan beat a St. John's defender on the near side of the field and fed freshman Mike Ambersley. Ambersley quickly dished to Dias, who was streaking down the field and blasted a shot from about 15 yards out that beat Red Storm junior goalkeeper Guy Hertz to the upper left post.

After a scoreless first half, the Red Storm came out strong in the second frame and quickly jumped out to a 1-0 lead. Senior midfielder Jeff Matteo controlled the ball in the middle of the field and drew defenders to him as he approached the box, where he was pulled down near the box by IU defender Danny O'Rourke. The referee called for a free kick and Matteo worked his around the six-man Hoosier wall, giving the Red Storm a 1-0 lead at the 49:03 mark. His ninth goal of the season – a career high – was the first scored on Indiana goalkeeper Colin Rogers in nearly 700 minutes.

Indiana was able to tie the game at 69:53 remaining when Phil Presser played a ball into Ambersley, whose shot from 22 yards out beat Hertz to the upper left corner.



ALL-AMERICANS/NATIONAL HONORS

St. John's has had eight players earn All-American honors 11 times since the 1992 season, all under head coach Dave Masur. Huey Ferguson, a 1995 graduate of St. John's, was the first men's soccer player in the program's history to earn All-American honors. He was named third-team in 1992 and followed that up by being placed on the same team as a senior.



Huey Ferguson
1991-94
Third-Team All-American, 1992
Third-Team All-American, 1993

From 1991-94, Ferguson was one of the top offensive players for St. John's and among the best in the country. He first earned All-American honors in 1992 when he started 21 of 22 matches at forward, scored 17 goals and added 13 assists for 47 points, ranking among the top 10 in the nation. He led St. John's to its

first BIG EAST title that season. As a junior in 1993, he scored 16 goals and added six assists for 38 points, becoming the first player in conference history to earn back-to-back BIG EAST Offensive Player of the Year honors.



Kevin Daly
1994-97
First-Team All-American, 1997

Daly was one of the stalwarts to the St. John's defense from 1994-97. In 1997, he guided a unit that allowed only 13 goals in 24 games and posted 15 shutouts, a school record. That season, the Red Storm went 18-4-2 and reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament, and Daly was named first-team all conference, the BIG EAST's Defensive Player of the Year and first-team All-American.



Ben Hickey
1993-96
First-Team All-American, 1995
Second-Team All-American, 1996

Hickey was the first St. John's men's soccer player to earn first-team All-American honors. In 1995, he led the Red Storm to the BIG EAST Tournament Championship, their fourth in a row, and the NCAA Tournament. A midfielder, Hickey finished second on the team in scoring with 12 goals and 10 assists for 34 points. As a senior, he was fifth on the team in scoring, with seven goals and nine assists for 23 points, as he helped the Red Storm to their first NCAA title. He was named second-

team All-American and earned first-team Regional All-America honors.



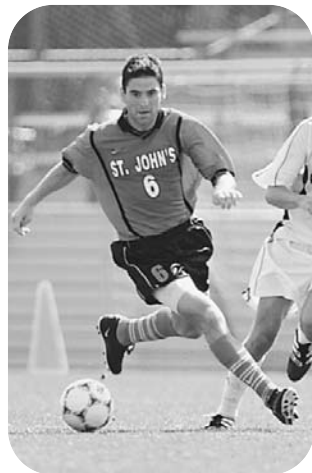
Stefani Miglioranzi
1995-98
Second-Team All-American, 1997
Second-Team All-American, 1998

Miglioranzi, the second St. John's player ever selected in the Major League Soccer Draft, earned All-American honors as a junior and a senior. In 1997, he led the Red Storm in scoring with six goals and 12 assists, the fourth-best in school history, to earn second-

team honors at midfield. As a senior in 1998, he tallied two goals and three assists for seven points and was named first-team All-BIG EAST, as well as second-team All-American.

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ALL-AMERICANS/NATIONAL HONORS



Danny Parkin
1995-99
Third-Team
All-American, 1999

Parkin played in and started 20 games in 1999, leading a St. John's defensive unit that allowed only 16 goals in 21 games. He was named the BIG EAST's Defensive Player of the Year and first-team all-conference.



the Year in 2001.
Dave Masur
National Coach
of the Year, 1996
Soccer America
Coach of the
Year, 2001

Dave Masur has helped the St. John's men's soccer program become one of the best in the country since his arrival in 1991. In 1996, he guided the Red Storm to a 22-2-2 record and the school's first-ever national championship. He was honored

as the National Soccer Coaches Association of America-Umbro National Coach of the Year, as well as being named Northeast Regional Coach of the Year. In 2001, after guiding the Red Storm to a 17-3-3 overall record, the BIG EAST Tournament Championship and the NCAA Final Four, he was named National Coach of the Year by Soccer America.



Shalrie Joseph
2000-01
Third-Team
All-American, 2001

Joseph was a two-time first-team All-BIG EAST selection after transferring to St. John's and was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2001 conference tournament. After leading the team in scoring as a junior with 14 goals, he played mainly on defense as a senior, helping to a guide to a unit that recorded a school record 12 shutouts. To help on offense, Joseph moved

back to his natural forward spot late in the season and still scored seven goals with four assists for 18 points.



Chris Wingert
2000 - present
First-Team
All-American,
2002

A starter since his freshman year, Wingert was named the BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year in 2002, leading the Red Storm to a 13-3-5 overall record and a second place finish in the BIG EAST with a 7-2-2 mark. A defender, he anchored a unit that led the nation with a 0.45 goals against average, while registering a school record 13 shutouts. Wingert, one of 15 finalists for the Hermann Trophy, presented annually to the nation's top

Division I player, was also named a first-team Academic All-American.



Jeff Matteo
1998-2001
Second-Team
All-American, 2001

Matteo earned BIG EAST Conference honors in each of his four years at St. John's. He led the team in scoring as a senior, tallying a career-high nine goals and five assists for 23 points. A first-team All-BIG EAST selection as a junior and a senior, he was named the conference's Midfielder of