



Amherst Holds #1 Ranking into January

When pre-season rankings came out in November, Amherst sat atop polls published by D3Hoops.com, DIII News, and ESPN/USA Today/ WBCA. A 13-0 record through early January kept the Jeffs in possession of the number 1 spot. The winning streak was capped with a 85-63 victory over previously unbeaten 4th ranked Williams on January 8th. Jaci Daigneault '11 led Amherst with 20 points, 9 rebounds, 3 steals and 2 blocks. The Jeffs suffered their first loss of the season three days later against #6 Kean University in Union, NJ. The game was a last-minute addition to Amherst's slate after a late-December storm prevented the team from traveling to Las Vegas, NV to play in the D3hoops.com Classic. The Lord Jeffs fell in overtime, 85-82 despite another stellar effort from Daigneault (22 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 blocks, 2 steals).

Amherst bounced back from the loss and opened NESCAC play with road victories over Connecticut College (61-42) and Wesleyan University (80-30). With 8 regular season games remaining, the Jeffs have their sights set on a 2nd consecutive NESCAC Championship and a 3rd straight NCAA Final Four appearance.



Daigneault and Leyman Reach 1,000

Senior forwards Jaci Daigneault (Guilford, CT) and Sarah Leyman (Cincinnati, OH) each surpassed the 1,000-point mark for their careers in Amherst's 85-82 overtime loss at Kean University on January 11, becoming the 9th and 10th players in program history to reach the mark.

Daigneault, a 2009 All-American selection, leads the team in scoring (13.9 ppg) and steals (37). Leyman, a two-time Second Team All-NESCAC player, adds 6.9 points and a team-leading 6.9 rebounds per game.



Giving to Amherst Athletics

Alumni donations are a crucial part of funding athletics at Amherst. This season, the men's and women's basketball programs have purchased a new scoreboard that hangs over the basket at the south end of the court so we don't have to look to the other end of the gym to see the time and score when we have the ball in the second half. Each year we look to travel and compete outside the region, your generosity helps make these trips possible.

To make your gift online, please visit www.amherst.edu/give/athletics

2010-2011 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 20	RPI#	W 80-40
Nov. 21	New Paltz#	W 64-39
Nov. 23	Mount Holyoke	W 73-23
Nov. 27	Clark	W 88-49
Nov. 30	@ Keene State	W 85-44
Dec. 4	Emerson^	W 93-29
Dec. 5	Richard Stockton^	W 95-64
Dec. 7	@ Emmanuel	W 75-62
Dec. 9	Eastern Conn.	W 79-55
Dec. 11	@ Lehman	W 101-60
Dec. 28	Kenyon S	Canceled
Dec. 29	Saint Norbert S	Canceled
Jan. 5	Wesleyan	W 84-47
Jan. 8	Williams	W 85-63
Jan. 11	@ Kean	L 85-82OT
Jan. 14	@ Conn. College *	W 61-42
Jan. 15	@ Wesleyan *	W 80-30
Jan. 20	@ Farmingdale State	W 84-51
Jan. 22	Trinity *	W 81-45
Jan. 28	Colby *	8:00p.m.
Jan. 29	Bowdoin *	4:00p.m.
Feb. 4	Tufts *	8:00p.m.
Feb. 5	Bates *	4:00p.m.
Feb. 11	@Middlebury*	8:00p.m.
Feb. 12	@Williams*	4:00p.m.

* NESCAC Game
 # Amherst Tip-Off
 ^ Amherst Invitational
 \$ D3hoops.com Classic (Las Vegas, NV)



Unique Summers Lead to New Perspectives for Two Student-Athletes

Justin Long, Director of Sports Information

Two Amherst student-athletes stepped away from the basketball court—and outside of the United States—for some eye-opening experiences this summer.

Three months removed from helping the Amherst women's basketball team post the best season in program history, Caroline Stedman '12 and Awah-Lem Atanga McCormick '12—known as “Lem”—each embarked on a six-week journey. Stedman's passion for community service led her to Costa Rica, while Lem complemented her preparation for medical school by studying in Madagascar.

Knowing that worrying about medical school would likely consume the majority of her junior and senior years, Lem wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad before it was too late. From June 1 to July 15 she woke at 6 a.m. to the deafening sound of roosters and the sun rising over a small lake in the city of Ivandry. She spent most days at the University of Antananarivo, where she took a series of two-hour science and public health classes that focused on traditional medicine and healthcare systems of Madagascar.



Lem (left) stands with a classmate in Madagascar.

Several times each week Lem and her fellow students would tour hospitals, pharmaceutical institutes and laboratories to get a sense of Madagascar's healthcare. “It's almost impossible to treat patients with little to none of the

appropriate resources,” Lem says, “yet they do what they can.”

Lem has extensively studied biology and chemistry at Amherst, but this summer she added a unique dimension to her education. “When I apply to and attend medical school, I know that this experience will have provided me with a better rounded view of medicine as a whole. There truly are many layers to a substantial, all-inclusive education, and it always extends beyond the classroom.”

When Stedman learned of the possibility to donate her time in Costa Rica, she knew she had found her perfect summer gig. Despite making her first international trip, she felt comfortable as soon as she arrived. For the first 10 days she worked as an English teacher for the organization Abriendo Mentos (Opening Minds) in the small town of Playa Potrero. With the town's students receiving minimal education, many cannot pass the exit exams that are required to graduate from high school. Abriendo Mentos established after-school English classes to supplement the usual schooling.

Stedman taught one-hour classes to kids and adults every day from 1-6 p.m. She helped with subjects ranging from numbers, colors and emotions (for the younger groups) to household chores and responsibilities (for the middle school children). The young students were very receptive. “The enthusiasm that beamed from their faces every day was so strong that I never felt drained from teaching. To see the joy just from reciting numbers or reading a sentence in English was one of the most amazing experiences of my life.”

For the final five weeks Stedman worked with Beyond el Campo in the town of Santa Cruz de León Cortés, a rural farming community located in the mountains of Costa Rica. She helped run a literacy camp that aims to help severely under-resourced high school students. “In many rural Costa Rican communities, having a book is a luxury,” Stedman says. “While these kids are 10-15 years old, for many of them it was the first book they had ever read.”



Stedman with two students at Abriendo Mentos.

Lem and Stedman recall moments that shifted their perspectives. For Stedman, one came when she and her host father were delivering food and clothing to families in need. Arriving at one run-down home, they were greeted by a mother who was battling cancer, a grandmother who was extremely ill and four young children. The women could not work because of their illness, but they could not afford to pay for treatments because they did not have jobs. When Stedman and her host father arrived at the house with two big bags of food, one of the little boys said, in Spanish, “How delicious. We are going to eat today.” “Those words and that one day, I will surely never forget,” Stedman says.

Lem recalls the few days spent in the rural town of Andasibe with lower-income families. Water for showers was heated in buckets over a coal stove. The outdoor showers had no protection from the constant rain. Holes in the ground behind houses served as bathrooms. “The families did what they could to make us feel at home,” she says. “Despite their meager living conditions, they did not complain or long for a better situation. They made the best of what they had.”

This winter, fans will recognize Stedman as the reigning NESCAC Player of the Year, and Lem as a recurring headache for opposing teams (not many six-footers can knock down three-pointers the way she can). Unfortunately for their competition, they might be even more dominant this year. “I am determined to take what I have learned to achieve even greater results in my academic and athletic endeavors,” Stedman says. “I will take nothing for granted based on my experience in Costa Rica.”