



US VIRGIN ISLANDS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

National Teams Program

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USVILA Names Jon Heisman Head Coach of Boys' U17 National Team

Pennsylvania's all-time winningest boys' coach and NILC Hall of Famer brings 533 career victories and four decades of championship experience to the USVI program

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — The U.S. Virgin Islands Lacrosse Association (USVILA) today announced the appointment of Jon Heisman as Head Coach of its Boys' U17 National Team. The winningest boys' lacrosse coach in Pennsylvania history and a 2024 inductee into the National Interscholastic Lacrosse Coaches Association (NILC) Hall of Fame, Heisman brings 533 career victories and more than 37 years of championship-level program leadership to the USVI.

Currently the Head Boys' Lacrosse Coach at Bishop Shanahan High School in Exton, Pennsylvania — a position he has held since 2010 — Heisman guided the Eagles to back-to-back PIAA Class 2A state championships in 2018 and 2019, three consecutive Ches-Mont League titles (2013–2015), and a state Final Four appearance in 2021. Before arriving at Shanahan, he captured a state title at Springfield-Delco in 1992 — the first of a career that has produced more victories than any boys' coach in Pennsylvania history. A four-year starting defenseman at Ithaca College, Heisman has coached continuously since the year he graduated.

A member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the USA Lacrosse Hall of Fame and the NILC Hall of Fame (inducted October 2024), Heisman was also named to the Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2025 — the program where he started four years at defenseman and where his identity as a coach first took shape. The three-hall recognition places him among the most decorated active coaches in American high school lacrosse. Among the most distinctive markers of his career: former players who have returned to coach alongside him — across programs, across decades — including sons of the athletes he first coached years ago.

"The U17 years are when a player's foundation either sets or cracks," said Heisman. "I've spent my career at exactly this age group, and I know what it means to compete for something bigger than yourself. Representing the U.S. Virgin Islands on an international stage is a privilege these young men will carry for the rest of their lives. I intend to make sure they earn it and are ready for it."

This appointment reflects how seriously USVILA takes the U17 pipeline. The athletes competing at this level today are the ones carrying the program forward — and the standard set in their development years determines what USVI lacrosse becomes.

"Jon Heisman has 533 wins, three Hall of Fame memberships, and a career defined by one fact that no record can capture: his players come back," said Bill Shatz, Director of the USVILA National Teams Program. "They return to coach with him, and they bring their sons to play for him, and they do it because what he built in them went beyond lacrosse. That is exactly the standard we want set at the U17 level — not just what these athletes can do on the field in the next cycle, but who they become because they were part of this program. Jon is the right person to build that."



Heisman assumes his duties with the Boys' U17 National Team effective immediately and will work alongside the USVILA National Teams staff in preparation for the program's upcoming competitive cycle.

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About USVILA

The U.S. Virgin Islands Lacrosse Association governs and develops the sport of lacrosse across the U.S. Virgin Islands, overseeing the men's and women's field, box, and Sixes national teams. Through its National Teams Program, USVILA is committed to building a sustainable, high-performance pathway for athletes to represent the Virgin Islands on the international stage.