

Press Release YWCA Westmoreland County

For Immediate Release

May 20, 2019

YWCA Westmoreland County Field Hockey Summer Camp

Coached by Two-Time National Champion, Tara Zollinger

YWCA Westmoreland County's 2019 Field Hockey Summer Camp will be coached by two-time National Champion Tara Zollinger, Head Coach of Shippensburg University. The camp runs from Monday, June 17 through Wednesday, June 19, 2019, from 9:00am to noon at Hempfield Park, 220 Forbes Trail Road, Greensburg PA. For Players 14 Years & Younger (beginners welcome) there is a \$175 early bird registration fee, which increases to \$200 if registering on or after June 1. Register by calling 724-834-9390 and filling out the forms at: www.ywcawestmoreland.org/girls-field-hockey/.

In 2017, Zollinger and her assistants were named the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division II National Coaching Staff of the Year and Atlantic Region Coaching Staff of the Year after guiding the Raiders to victory in the 2017 NCAA Division II National Championship. The NCAA title was Shippensburg's (SU) second straight and third overall in school history. The achievement also gave Zollinger the distinction of being the first person to win an NCAA Division II National Championship in her first year as a collegiate head coach.

Zollinger directs all aspects of the SU program, but her primary instructional focus is on offense. In Zollinger's first season at Shippensburg, the Raiders led the nation in penalty corners per game (13.05) and ranked among the nation's Top 5 in scoring average (3.58) and assists per game (2.19). SU scored 76 goals, increasing its team total by 27 from the previous season.

A talented recruiter, Zollinger's first SU class reaped immediate dividends en route to the national championship. Highlighting the group is midfielder Jazmin Petrantonio, who was named the NFHCA Atlantic Region Player of the Year as a freshman after totaling 12 goals and 12 assists in her rookie season. In her first season as the Raider head coach, Zollinger instructed three NFHCA All-Americans and five All-PSAC performers.

On the national level, Zollinger is in her second year as the field hockey representative on the coaches' council for WeCOACH (formerly Alliance of Women Coaches). She is one of 15 coaches from across the country spanning all three NCAA divisions that serves on the council, serving as an ambassador in coaching communities and networks.

Zollinger, a 2013 University of Maryland graduate, arrived at Shippensburg having spent the 2013-16 seasons as an assistant coach at Syracuse University, working under two-time NFHCA Division I National Coach of the Year Ange Bradley. Among Zollinger's primary responsibilities included integral roles as both the team's recruiting coordinator and its lead instructor for offensive skill sets.

Success has followed Zollinger throughout her career. She is a three-time NCAA Division I Field Hockey national champion, having helped coach Syracuse to the 2015 national title after winning two championships as a player at Maryland. As a coach or player, Zollinger has won four Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Regular Season Championships and made six NCAA Division I Final Four appearances.

At Syracuse, Zollinger was a part of the school's most successful seasons in history. She helped instruct a 2015 team that posted a perfect 16-0 regular-season record – the first team in 25 seasons to achieve

the feat. The No. 1-ranked Orange also swept the 2015 ACC postseason awards, becoming the first team to do so since North Carolina in 1994.

Under Coach Bradley, Zollinger also assisted in practice planning, technical development, scouting and video preparation, travel coordination and scheduling. One of Zollinger's primary on-field responsibilities included scouting and leading the penalty corner unit.

At Maryland, Zollinger was an attacker who won two NCAA Championships (2010, 2011) and two ACC Championships (2009, 2010) – reaching the Final Four in all four of her collegiate seasons. She received Maryland's Kateri Simon Award in 2012, recognizing an athlete that persevered in times of adversity and displayed courage while bringing positive energy to all team sessions.

Zollinger earned her undergraduate degree in sociology and was an active member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and was a development assistant with the University of Maryland Terrapin Club, coordinating and organizing member and donor events.

In 2017 and 2018, Zollinger coached the Women's High Performance Mid-Atlantic Training Site and coached at the 2018 USA Field Hockey Young Women's National Championship.

For four years, Zollinger served as the head coach of the USA Field Hockey Futures program for Region 4, based in Syracuse. She has trained and developed elite high school athletes who were selected to represent the New York Region at USA Field Hockey competitions. As a club coach, Zollinger has worked with Freedom HKY in Maryland.

Zollinger also boasts extensive experience competing and coaching overseas. In 2012, Zollinger played with the Westside Wolves club team in Perth, Australia and also coached various ages while studying abroad. She previously coached summer camps in Barcelona, Spain from 2010-11. As a prep athlete, Zollinger played on tours to Germany and Barbados with her home club team, East Coast Field Hockey.

In high school, Zollinger was two-time All-WPIAL First Team performer at Hempfield Area High School, leading the Spartans in scoring her freshman through junior seasons. Midway through her senior season, she joined Club San Andres in Buenos Aires, Argentina to train and play.

A native of Jeannette, Pa., Zollinger is a USA Field Hockey Level 2 certified head coach and a graduate of the NCAA Alliance of Women's Coaches Academy. She is currently studying toward a master's degree in Sport and Exercise Psychology from Lock Haven University.

About the YWCA

YWCA Westmoreland County is a part of the national network of YWCAs. The YWCA is the voice for every woman. For over a century, the YWCA has spoken out and taken action on behalf of women and girls. The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Over 2 million people participate each year in YWCA programs at more than 1,300 locations across the U.S. Worldwide; the YWCA serves more than 25 million women and girls in 125 countries.

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