

# UNRIVALED VISIONARY

## GLADCHUK LEAVES ENDURING NAVY ATHLETICS LEGACY



PHOTO COURTESY OF USNA

Chet Gladchuk helped lead Navy's athletic department to record heights. One of his first actions as athletic director was hiring Paul Johnson in 2002. Johnson, and his successor Ken Niumatalolo, won the next 14 Army-Navy games. During his tenure as athletic director, Gladchuk saw the Midshipmen defeat the Black Knights 17 out of 23 games. The Mids also defeated Notre Dame four times after ending a 43-game losing streak in 2007.



The Prusmack Rugby Complex opened in 2016. It is home to men's and women's programs. The men's team won a national championship in 2023 while the women won the CRAA Fall D1 championship in 2022.

U.S. Naval Academy Director of Athletics Chet Gladchuk took Navy athletics to unprecedented heights during his 24-year tenure.

Gladchuk's vision and relentless pursuit of athletic success includes adding six varsity sports, Star Series domination over Army, 12 Commander-in-Chief trophies, updating and building athletic facilities that are among the nation's finest and helping raise more than \$1 billion to support the athletic department's annual operating budget. Although he announced his retirement in March 2025, his legacy will endure with the Academy for decades to come. For example, the new \$22 million Navy Lacrosse Center, which is planned to be built next to the Glenn Warner Soccer facility at the Naval Academy, will include coaches' offices, locker rooms, a strength and conditioning facility, a nutrition center and wardrooms for the men's and women's programs.

"Since the day the opportunity to represent the United States Naval Academy was extended to us over 24 years ago, Kathy and I have remained committed to its mission without reservation and with the greatest sense of responsibility and privilege," said Gladchuk, who also served as president of the Naval Academy Athletic Association. "In addition, the many men and women who are or will be alumni have motivated us every day to not fall short on the expectation of pursuing excellence in every dimension of our service.

"Our association has been our passion and to have made a dedicated personal and professional investment of our lives to what this Academy stands for has been a vocation we will always cherish. Our sincerest gratitude to so many coaches, staff, associates and friends who have made our journey at the Naval Academy the finest days of our 50-year career in athletics."

Since taking the reins of Navy athletics in December 2001, Gladchuk has overseen the most successful era in the history of Navy athletics. During his tenure, the Midshipmen won four national championships, 251 conference titles, produced 352 All-Americans, 139 Academic All-Americans and increased Navy varsity sports teams to 36, which is tied with Stanford and Ohio State for the most in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Over the past decade, Navy won 84 Patriot League conference championships. The Midshipmen won the Star Series 21 times over the past 24 years. Navy football beat Army 17 times in their past 23 meetings.

Gladchuk orchestrated a move to the American Athletic Conference after playing as an independent in football for 134 years. This move increased bowl game options and increased revenue for the athletic department.





Navy claimed the Commander-in-Chief's trophy 12 times during Chet Gladchuk's 24-year tenure as athletic director. This photo, from 2019, celebrates the return of the CIC trophy to Annapolis after a three-year absence.



In 2020, the \$6 million restoration of the Naval Academy Golf Club was completed. The course had gone more than 50 years without significant improvements. It is one example of the top-flight amenities developed during Gladchuk's time as Navy's athletic director.

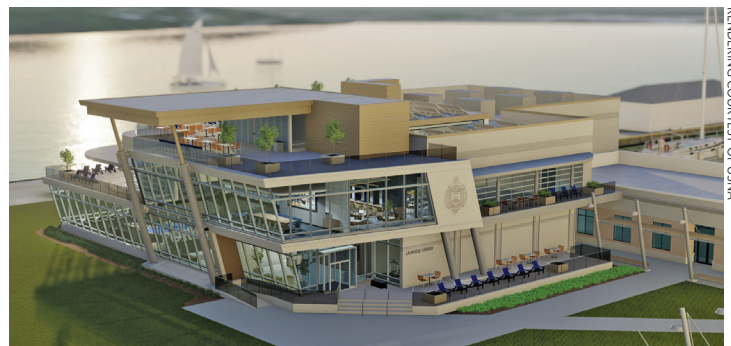
"Our deepest appreciation to Chet and Kathy for their many years of dedicated service to our mission and, most importantly, tens of thousands of Midshipmen," said Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Yvette Davids '89, USN. "We have enjoyed many wonderful accomplishments because of Chet's leadership—the NAAA and Academy are better for it. He has positioned us exceptionally well for the future as a result of his vision and efforts in developing our world-class program and facilities. We wish the Gladchuks fair winds and following seas, and will forever be grateful for their legacy of excellence and the untiring commitment they made to the Naval Academy and our nation through the advancement of our physical mission." 🚢



The Ron Terwilliger '63 Center for Student-Athletes was dedicated in September 2021. The \$28 million facility includes interactive displays featuring Navy athletics accomplishments and history. It is part of the more than \$268 million in private dollars raised during Gladchuk's tenure that support facility projects that uphold the physical mission and intercollegiate athletics.



In its first Division I season, the 2023 Navy rugby team captured the national championship with a 28-22 victory over California. Men's and women's rugby were two of the six varsity sports Navy added during Gladchuk's watch.



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