



PROFILE

- ▶ **Position:**
Head Coach
- ▶ **Experience:**
8th Year at Fordham
- ▶ **Alma Mater:**
Fairfield '93

In 2003, Jim McElderry was hired as only the fourth head coach of the Fordham men's soccer program. Since being appointed head coach in 2003, McElderry continues to put a team on the field that ranks among the top teams in the Atlantic 10. McElderry's squads have produced winning records in four of the last five seasons, including their first ever national ranking and three-straight Atlantic 10 Championship berths for the Rams, also a program first.

"We are excited to be able to find a coach of Jim McElderry's caliber for our team," said Executive Director of Athletics Frank McLaughlin.

During his tenure at Fordham, McElderry has shown a knack for bringing in strong recruiting classes. Thus far, five players have garnered preseason Atlantic 10 All-Rookie team honors, seven postseason Atlantic 10 All-Rookie team honors and eight All-Atlantic 10 accolades, with a program-best of three last fall (1 - 2004, 1 - 2006, 2 - 2007, 1 - 2008, 3 - 2009). The level of competition McElderry puts on the field each year is also recognized on the national level as his players have received eight NSCAA awards in the last four seasons.

In 2005, the Rams posted an 8-5-5 record, the team's first winning season since 1998. The Rams ended the year ranked in the New York Region also for the first time since 1998, while finishing as one of the most improved teams in the NCAA, tying for sixth in the country with a six-game improvement. Individually, the Rams had two players named to the Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team, one player as All-Atlantic 10 Honorable Mention, and one as Second Team All-New York Region.

The Rams then took another step forward under McElderry in 2006, going 9-3-5 overall. The squad was nationally ranked as high as 12th in the country for half the season. Fordham was once again regionally ranked by year's end, having three players earn All-Atlantic 10 honors and two garner All-Mid-Atlantic Region accolades.

In 2007, the Rams compiled a 5-4-0 conference record, making their first appearance in the Atlantic 10 Tournament since 1998. The 2008 squad also went to the A-10 postseason tournament boasting a 5-3-1 league mark. Fordham finished fifth in the Atlantic 10 in both seasons.

In McElderry's seventh season, Fordham finished third in the Atlantic 10 and made their third-consecutive appearances at the conference tournament. Three Rams were named to the All-Atlantic 10 lists and three earned All-Region accolades, the most regional awards a Fordham men's soccer team has ever received. The 2009 squad was also recognized by the NCAA for their Academic Progress Rate.

Prior to Fordham, McElderry served as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Fairfield from 1993-2002. At Fairfield, he was responsible for all facets of the program, including recruiting, training session organization, budget preparation, travel and scouting.

The Stags soccer program enjoyed unparalleled success in McElderry's last four years, advancing to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) championship game in each of those years. In 1998, the team broke into the top 25 for the first time in school history, finishing with a school-record 15 wins, highlighted by an 11-game unbeaten streak. In 1999, the Stags won their first ever MAAC championship and advanced to an NCAA Tournament play-in game, finishing with a 12-8-1 record.

The 2000 Fairfield squad was again ranked in the top 25, placing as high as 15th, finishing with a 13-2-2 record, while the 2001 team was ranked as high as 12th, first in the New England region, compiling an 11-5-4 record and falling to Loyola in double overtime in the MAAC title game.

McElderry has also been associated with the Region I Olympic Development Program and was on the Storm Academy Soccer Club staff for its multiple regional championships. Currently, McElderry is a scout for United States Soccer Federation Development Academy.

A 1993 graduate of Fairfield with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and a minor in Economics, McElderry was a four-year letterman at Fairfield. He earned several post-season honors as a player, highlighted with the 1992 MAAC Player of the Year award. He also received All-MAAC honors as a back in 1992 after receiving All-MAAC honors in 1991. McElderry was inducted into the Fairfield Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.

Following graduation, McElderry played professionally for the New York Fever of the A-League from 1994-97 and then for the Long Island Rough Riders (A-League) from 1997-98. He also played for the New York Freedoms, a Division 3 team, for four seasons.

McElderry earned a Master of Arts degree in Teaching and Foundation from Fairfield in 1999. He currently resides in Stamford, Conn., with his wife, Kim (Connecticut College Hall of Fame member for field hockey), and their daughter, Grace (7), and son, Liam (4).