

LC's Utility Player

Dan Hodgetts '18 puts his love of sports to work as athletic director at the Greenwood School.

By Mark DiPietro

Tennis. Basketball. Baseball. Boxing.
Dan Hodgetts '18 has done them all.

Sports have been an important part of life for the Massachusetts native, who can often be seen wearing a shirt or ball cap emblazoned with the logo of a favorite Boston sports team.

Since graduating from LC with his B.A. in Liberal Studies in spring 2018, Dan has been putting his passion to work as athletic director at the Greenwood School. Located just a few miles from LC's campus in Putney, Greenwood is a boarding school for boys in grades 6–12 who have learning and attention challenges.

"I understand the kids because of my own struggles," Dan says. "I don't work with them academically, but I see their behavior and the emotional things happening with them. When I see a student who has low self-esteem, I try to get him into the gym to start working out."

Dan transferred to LC in 2009, after attending Castleton State College (now Castleton University) for a year and a half. He played tennis there, and by sophomore year he was the top singles player on his team. But he was struggling to focus on his studies and decided to give LC a try. In 2011, he earned an associate degree from LC, then transferred to Lasell College. When LC introduced its first bachelor's degree program soon afterwards, though,

Dan knew he wanted to come back, earn a B.A., and start preparing for a career. Through LC's Office of Career Connections, Dan began researching opportunities for an internship that would put his love of sports to work for him.

"Daniel is an example of how well our model works," says Jan Coplan, director of Career Connections. "What impressed me was how he took ownership of the process. He was incredibly fastidious, and he was aware of how important it was to find a job. He wanted to be employed when he graduated."

Dan landed an internship at Greenwood and began working with students on strength conditioning and circuit training. "The kids really took to it. The workouts were tough but made them feel good about themselves." When he graduated from LC with his B.A. in May 2018, Dan had an offer in hand to become Greenwood's new athletic director. The self-described "city kid" jumped at the chance, despite his plan to return home to Boston. "It was a good fit for me, and I couldn't pass it up," he says.

Coplan says Dan exemplifies the idea of "success momentum" experienced by many LC students. "Neurodivergent students don't have paths that are linear," she says. "They take little steps toward success and, based on their momentum, they're able to build toward bigger goals. Daniel was well-prepared for success outside of LC's walls." 🐾

Photo by Todd Miller



Dan Hodgetts '18 coaches students at the Greenwood School in Putney, Vermont.