The Women’s Track and Field Team enjoyed a winning season with a number of awards and honors. The team thrived on companionship, and members made progress from last year building on their coach’s advice.

The team’s growing sense of camaraderie surfaced during the CAA finals and became a crucial element to the team’s success. “We could expect great performances while working together as a team to be the conference champions,” Nicole Kazuba said. Many team members noticed the increased closeness of the team. “I think we’ve gotten closer as a team this year,” Emily Jeremiah said. “We do a lot more together outside of track and I think that makes us closer as a team.” The sense of companionship was important for Jeremiah during the meets. “Just having the whole team there supporting one another makes it that much more fun and special.”

Most notably, the team won its ninth title in 11 years at the CAA Championships. The team returned champions in the shot put, heptathlon, pole vault, and steeplechase. Emily Anderson was named Track Athlete of the Meet after winning the 1,500 and 5,000 meter. The team was proud of their successes. “The whole team stepped up, from the distances to the sprints to the throws,” Anderson said. Nicole Kazuba enjoyed the increased competitiveness of the finals. “Since it’s a scored meet, every performance counts, and for many, it’s a crucial time to peak,” Kazuba said.

The team also enjoyed success at conferences like the Colonial Relays. The team won four gold medals. Nicole Kazuba also broke a Colonial Relays record in the pole vault, clearing at 12-7.5. At the relays, two Tribe freshmen qualified to the U.S. Junior National Championships as well.

The Penn Relays also offered excitement and a round of accomplishments for the Tribe. The 4x800m relay team qualified for the ECAC Championships. Kelly McElroy, Ashley Madonick, Emily Schroeder, and Ariel Burbey were part of the winning relay team. Even the atmosphere itself was exciting for team members. “Being a Philadelphian, my favorite meet is always the Penn Relays,” Lynn Morelli said. “It is pretty rare for a track meet to have such a crowd!”

Overall, the Tribe Women’s Track and Field celebrated both individual and team successes with a new sense of camaraderie. For some, the best thing about being a tribe athlete was simply the joy of being part of a team. “I am proud to be a Tribe athlete,” Kazuba said. “Every time I score in a meet or perform well, I am happy to bring prestige to the track program and to make the alumni proud to have me representing their alma mater.”