

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



USA NAHILL/the Justice

Steve DeLuca '08

■ The men's basketball team's star forward closed his junior season with two strong performances in the NCAA tournament.

His scoring and rebounding statistics may have dropped off a bit after his breakout sophomore season, but forward Steve DeLuca '08 proved in the men's basketball team's two NCAA tournament games that he is still the team's leader, albeit for a significantly stronger team.

After coming out of nowhere to average 18.4 points and 7.6 rebounds per game as a sophomore in 2005-06, DeLuca ended this season with a 15.4 scoring average and a 6.1 rebounding average. But after struggling to find other offensive options last season, the Judges' supporting cast gave DeLuca more aid this year and propelled the team into the NCAA tournament for the first time in 29 years.

"We had more weapons on the team this year, so my stats weren't going to be anything outrageous," DeLuca said.

DeLuca saved two of his best games of the season for last, leading the Judges to a first-round victory in the NCAA tournament and nearly doing the same in the second round. In Friday's victory

over Trinity College, DeLuca scored 10 of his game-high 24 points in overtime, including two fadeaway three-pointers, a bank shot from deep in the right corner, and a layup off a backdoor cut.

And although DeLuca missed a buzzer-beating three-pointer against Rhode Island College Saturday, had it not been for his eight points in a row during the second half, Brandeis wouldn't have even been in position to tie the game.

"I love those moments at the end of the shock clock and at the end of the game," he said. "I just want the ball in my hands, and I really get zoned in."

Despite making the all-University Athletic Association first team for the second year in a row, DeLuca says his game still has room to grow, particularly in one area.

"I'm going to try to focus more on defense next year, and I want to make my game as complete as I can before next season."

—Mike Prada

just Briefs

VARSITY SPORTS

Men's tennis falls to MIT in first match of the spring season

The men's tennis team began its spring season on the wrong foot Saturday, as the Judges dropped their season opener 6-3 against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

The Judges, who are looking for consistency after a fall season that included both a six-match winning streak and a span of eight losses in their final 10 matches, lost in the three doubles matches and the first three singles contests against the Engineers.

"It's very disappointing, but at the same time it's very motivating because nobody wants to win more than us in the future," captain Sam Jonas '07 said.

The team struggled in the absence of Mike Vulfovich '07, the team's No. 2 singles player for most of last season. Teammate Cliff Silverman '07 said that Vulfovich sat out the match because he was feeling sick.

Jonas, the 2005 University Athletic Association Player of the Year who finished just 10-7 last fall coming off a shoulder injury, lost his singles match against Thomas Dohlman 6-2, 6-4.

"I played pretty badly," Jonas said.

Silverman turned in a solid performance at No. 4 singles against MIT's Peden Nichols, winning 6-1, 6-4. After winning the first set easily, Silverman had trouble finishing off Nichols, but still won comfortably.

"I played a pretty good match against a worthy opponent, but I struggled in closing him out in the second set," he said.

In the Judges' other singles contests, Adam Sher '07 fell to junior Eric Beren 6-4, 7-6 (5), Jordan Bieber '08 lost to senior Mark Egan 6-3, 7-5, Scott Schulman '09 beat senior Colin Klick 6-2, 2-6 (10-7) and Derek Tessler '09 overcame a loss in his first set to defeat freshman Manuel Rivera 4-6, 6-3 (10-6).

In doubles, Jonas and Bieber lost 8-4 to the Engineers' tandem of Dohlman and Beren. Sher and Schulman fell to sophomore David Iba and Egan 8-5, while Adam Ciminello '10 and Silverman dropped their set to senior Melvin Makhni and Klick 8-2.

Despite the team's loss, Jonas said he was encouraged by the play of Silverman, Schulman and Tessler.

"It takes a lot of pressure off the top of the lineup, and it's definitely going to help us out throughout the season," Jonas said.

The Judges play next at Middlebury, Vt. Saturday, facing Connecticut College at 1:30 p.m. and Middlebury College at 6:30 p.m.

—Mike Prada and Michael Grillo

AP BRIEFS

Dice-K tosses scoreless debut for Red Sox against Boston College

FORT MYERS, Fla.—Daisuke Matsuzaka fired his first pitch in a Red Sox uniform to a college kid who just wanted to make contact. That kid lined an opposite-field double that was seen on live television in Japan.

Matsuzaka had no trouble after that 92 mph fastball, striking out three of the remaining six batters to help the Boston Red Sox beat the Boston College Eagles 9-1 in seven innings Friday night.

Still, it was another milestone on his journey from the Seibu Lions to the major leagues. The Red Sox bid \$51.11 million for the right to negotiate with Matsuzaka, then signed him to a \$52 million, six-year contract.

So it wasn't surprising that 15 photographers stood behind home plate just to capture his warmup pitches and more than 100 media members attended his much-anticipated debut.

Matsuzaka threw 25 pitches, 19 for strikes, before being replaced by Kyle Jackson.

Matsuzaka pitched with a deliberate motion, pausing momentarily at the top of his stretch before throwing. Matsuzaka is scheduled to make his first appearance against a major league team Tuesday against the Florida Marlins in Jupiter. He hopes to learn more about the major league strike zone, since Friday's game was called by a college umpire.

The Red Sox took a 2-0 lead in the second on Jeff Bailey's homer and Jacoby Ellsbury's RBI triple. They added a run in the fourth on a throwing error and made it 8-0 with five runs in the fifth.

49ers sign Clements to richest contract ever for a defender

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco 49ers signed cornerback Nate Clements and safety Michael Lewis on Friday, making two bold moves at the start of free agency.

Clements, the star cornerback from the Buffalo Bills, agreed to an eight-year, \$80 million contract. The six-year veteran was considered one of the top prizes in free agency, and the up-and-coming 49ers rewarded him accordingly with what's believed to be the richest contract for a defensive back in NFL history.

After four straight losing seasons, the 49ers had more than \$30 million in cap room to spend on free agents, and a good chunk of it immediately went to Clements, a two-time Pro Bowl selection who spent his first six NFL seasons with Buffalo.

Lewis, a safety from Philadelphia, got a six-year contract and a fresh start after a rough finish to his career with the Eagles. He will become an immediate starter in the 49ers' inconsistent defensive secondary alongside Clements, coach Mike Nolan said. He excels as a run-stopper and started in the Pro Bowl following the Eagles' trip to the Super Bowl in the 2004 season, but was expected to leave town after losing his starting job in Philadelphia last season.

The 49ers' secondary struggled with injuries and mistakes last season. Both of the 49ers' opening-day safeties lost their jobs during the year, and cornerback Shawntae Spencer struggled at times. San Francisco's defense yielded a league-worst 412 points and lost games by 41, 31 and 29 points during a midseason collapse.

Judging numbers

11.27 meters jumped by Anat Benun '09 in the triple-jump competition at the UAA indoor track and field championships Saturday. Benun finished in first place and successfully defended her title from last season.

36.5 points scored by the men's indoor track and field team at the UAA championships Friday and Saturday. Despite playing at home, the Judges finished in last place.

10 wins against no losses for épée Drew Sofer '07 at the IFA championships Saturday. Sofer's performance propelled the men's épée team to an unexpected first-place finish.

6 consecutive match losses for the men's tennis team in its 6-3 loss to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Saturday. The Judges lost all three doubles matches and the first three singles matches before posting victories at No. 4, No. 5, and No. 6 singles.

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

Indoor Track at NCAA Championships

The Judges will compete in the NCAAs Friday and Saturday at 10 A.M.

The indoor track teams will compete in two events at this year's NCAA Division III indoor track and field championships at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind.

On the women's side, Anat Benun '09 will complete in the triple jump for the second straight season.

The men's team will send its distance medley relay team of Matt Jennings '09, Ralph Chery '07, Keith Thibault '10 and John Gullinger '08.

The women's and men's teams finished in fourth and seventh place, respectively, at the University Athletic Association championships last weekend at home.

FINAL TEAM LEADERS

MBball (points per game)

Forward Steve DeLuca '08 finished the season averaging a team-high 15.4 points per game.

Player	PPG
Steve DeLuca	15.4
Joe Coppens	10.4
Florian Rexhepi	9.0
Terrell Hollins	8.6
Kwame Graves-Fulgham	7.9

MBball (rebounds per game)

Forward Steve DeLuca '08 pulled down a team-high 6.1 rebounds per game this season.

Player	RPG
Steve DeLuca	6.1
Terrell Hollins	4.3
Stephen Hill	4.2
Kwame Graves-Fulgham	3.6
Joe Coppens	3.3

Wbball (points per game)

Guard Jamie Capra '08 paced the Judges with an average of 15.6 points per game this season.

Player	PPG
Jamie Capra	15.6
Caitlin Malcolm	11.6
Jessica Chapin	7.9
Lauren Orlando	7.5
Alison Chase	5.4

Wbball (rebounds per game)

Center Caitlin Malcolm '07 hauled in a team-high 6.0 rebounds per game this season.

Player	RPG
Caitlin Malcolm	6.5
Jamie Capra	5.0
Cassidy Dadaos	4.2
Lauren Orlando	4.0
Jessica Chapin	3.4

FINAL UAA STANDINGS

Women's Basketball

Not including Monday's games

	UAA Conference		Overall		Pct.
	W	L	W	L	
Washington	12	2	22	5	.815
NYU	12	2	25	2	.926
JUDGES	9	5	20	6	.769
Rochester	9	5	22	5	.815
Chicago	7	7	18	7	.720
Emory	4	10	10	15	.400
Carnegie Mellon	2	12	8	17	.320
Case	1	13	9	16	.360

Men's Basketball

Not including Monday's games

	UAA Conference		Overall		Pct.
	W	L	W	L	
Washington	11	3	22	4	.786
Chicago	11	3	20	6	.769
JUDGES	9	5	20	7	.741
Rochester	9	5	18	8	.692
NYU	8	6	22	6	.786
Carnegie Mellon	5	9	12	13	.480
Emory	2	12	8	17	.320
Case	1	13	5	20	.200