

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

AP STORY

Jaime Capra '08

■ The women's basketball team's marquee player has led the Judges in scoring in each of their last four conference wins.



DAVID SHEPPARD-BRICK/the Justice

Coming off of an all-American 2006-2007 season, guard Jamie Capra '08 began this season with the worst shooting slump of her college career, hitting just 28 percent of her field goal attempts. But as the competition got tougher, Capra has picked up her game. "Obviously, the beginning of the season ... didn't go the way I had hoped," she said. "I'm very comfortable playing with my teammates now. I think it took a little while to adjust, and obviously my shot has been much better than in the beginning of the season."

Capra has been the leading scorer in five of the Judges' seven University Athletic Association contests, including all four of the Judges' wins in their latest winning streak. The stretch culminated with her 25-point performance at Emory University last Sunday.

"It's great to know that you've played a significant role in helping your team get a win," Capra said. "It's my senior year and the seniors, they always say, 'You only go as far as your seniors take

you.'" Even while she was struggling, Capra significantly improved her rebounding ability. Capra is currently averaging a team-high 6.7 rebounds per game, up from 5.0 per contest last year.

"I definitely knew that rebounding would be very important this year," Capra said. "Last year, we lost [forward Caitlin Malcolm '07], who was our team's leading rebounder, so I knew that between myself and the other [post players], we would need to pick up the slack for what we lost."

As the lone member remaining from the last Judges team that missed the NCAA Tournament three years ago, Capra is happy about the team's progress after the slow start.

"I just want to finish off my senior year looking back and having no regrets about how I played or how the team played," Capra said. "I think things are looking really good right now and we've put ourselves in a great position."

—Julie Ganz

Desert shocker: Giants win title, deny Patriots' drive for perfection

GLENDALE, Ariz.—The New York Giants had the perfect answer for the suddenly imperfect New England Patriots: a big, bad defense and an improbable comeback led by their own Mr. Cool quarterback, Eli Manning.

In one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl history, New York shattered New England's unbeaten season 17-14 last Sunday night as Manning hit Plaxico Burress on a 13-yard fade with 35 seconds left. It was the Giants' 11th straight victory on the road and the first time the Patriots tasted defeat in more than a year.

It was the most bitter of losses, too, because 12-point favorite New England (18-1) was one play from winning and getting the ultimate revenge for being penalized for illegally taping opponents' defensive signals in the season-opener against the New York Jets.

But its defense couldn't stop a final, frantic 12-play, 83-yard drive that featured a spectacular leaping catch by David Tyree, who had scored New York's first touchdown on the opening drive of the fourth quarter.

"It's the greatest feeling in professional sports," Burress said before bursting into tears.

"That's a position you want to be in," said Manning, who followed older brother Peyton's Most Valuable Player performance last year with one of his own. "You can't write a better script. There were so many big plays on that drive."

And now the 1972 Miami Dolphins can pop another bottle of champagne in celebration of a record still intact, the only perfect season in the Super Bowl era.

The Patriots were done in not so much by the pressure of the first unbeaten season in 35 years as by the pressure of a smothering Giants pass rush. Tom Brady, the league's Most Valuable Player and winner of his first three Super Bowls, was sacked five times, hurried a dozen more and at one point wound up on his knees, his hands on his hips following one of many poor throws in New England's lowest scoring game of the season.

"They played well," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "They made some plays. We made some plays. They just made a few more. We played as hard as we could. We just couldn't make enough plays."

Oddly, it was a loss to the Patriots that sparked New York's stunning run to its third Super Bowl and sixth NFL title. New England won 38-35 in Week 17 as the Patriots became the first team in 35 years to go spotless through the regular season. But by playing hard in a meaningless game for them, the Giants (14-6) gained something of a swagger and Manning cast found his footing.

Their growing confidence carried them through playoff victories at Tampa Bay, Dallas and Green Bay, and then past the mightiest opponent of all.

Not that the Patriots were very mighty this day. They even conceded with one second on the clock as coach Bill Belichick ran across the field to shake the hand of jubilant Giants coach Tom Coughlin, then headed to the locker room, ignoring the final kneeldown.

That it was Manning taking that knee was stunning. He not only matched his brother's achievement of last year with the Indianapolis Colts, but he showed the brilliant precision late in the game usually associated with, well, Brady.

Burress, who didn't practice all week because of injuries, still caught the winning score.

"We just hung in there on offense, kept executing," said Burress, who wasn't far off on the 23-17 prediction he made a few days ago. "It came down to one play and we made it."

The Giants became the first National Football Conference wild card team to win a Super Bowl; four American Football Conference teams have done it. They also are the second wild-card champions in three years, following the Pittsburgh Steelers after the 2005 season.

Until the frantic fourth quarter, the only scoring came on the game's first two drives.

The Giants did almost exactly what they sought with the opening kickoff, using up nearly 10 minutes to go 63 yards. Almost exactly, but not quite, because they settled for a 32-yard field goal after converting four third downs on the 16-play series. The 9:59 drive was the longest in Super Bowl history.

That 3-0 lead lasted for the rest of the quarter, but only because the Patriots were stopped at New York's one-yard line as the period expired. On the next play, running back Laurence Maroney scored.

New England's 12-play drive was aided by a 16-yard pass interference penalty on linebacker Antonio Pierce in the end zone. It began with Maroney's 43-yard kickoff runback.

It was the fewest possessions in the first quarter of a Super Bowl.

New York's first series of the second quarter looked dangerous after Amani Toomer's lunging sideline catch for 38 yards. But rookie Steve Smith mishandled Manning's throw at the New England 10-yard line, and Ellis Hobbs intercepted and returned it 23 yards.

Those are opportunities teams can't waste against a strong opponent, let alone the Patriots. It was Manning's first interception of the postseason, albeit entirely not his fault; the last was by Hobbs in the season finale.

The Giants survived rookie running back Ahmad Bradshaw's fumble, which he recovered, on their next series, because their league-leading pass rush came alive when the Patriots got the ball back. New York sacked Brady on successive plays, forcing a punt, but the Giants' were hurt by an illegal batting of the ball penalty on Bradshaw after reaching the New England 25-yard line.

Defensive tackle Justin Tuck's second sack, in the final seconds of the half, forced a fumble recovered by New York teammate Osi Umenyiora. The Giants' celebrated defensive line controlled much of the half, holding the most prolific offense in NFL history to a measly 81 yards and seven points. New England had the ball for only 10 minutes, 33 seconds.

But New York's mistakes left it with just three points—and there are no moral victories in Super Bowls. So the Giants got a real one as the maturing Manning hung in to find Tyree for a five-yard touchdown to cap an 80-yard drive for a 10-7 lead.

Pressed unlike they are accustomed to, the Patriots responded with their own 80-yard march as Brady finally got some time. Randy Moss, who caught a record 23 of Brady's record 50 TD throws this year, took a six-yard pass when cornerback Corey Webster fell, and with a mere 2:42 remaining, the first 19-0 season was right there.

But in the end, Eli and the Giants snatched it away.

Judging numbers

46 bench points for the men's basketball team in its 89-81 victory over Emory University last Sunday. Guard Andre Roberson '10 scored 29 of those points, and rookie forward Christian Yemga '11 had 15.

22-point average for guard Jaime Capra '08 in the women's basketball team's two wins last weekend. She had 19 points in last Friday's win over Case Western Reserve University and 25 in last Sunday's win over Emory University.

3 straight years in which the women's fencing team has defeated University Athletic Association rival New York University. The Judges took the match 14-13 this year, led by rookie épée Emma Larkin '11, who battled a stomach flu to win all three of her bouts, including the clincher.

5 event victories for the seniors on the men's and women's swimming and diving teams in last Saturday's match against Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Playing in the final home match of their careers, the seniors spurred both teams to victory.

4 distance runners on the men's indoor track team with season-highs at last Saturday's Tufts Invitational, compared to 13 at the Terrier Classic Jan. 26. The Judges' struggle relegated them to a last-place finish out of 11 teams, their worst finish at the event in over five years.

5 seconds remaining in overtime when forward Amanda Wells '09 hit the game-winning shot to give the women's basketball team a 67-65 victory over Case Western Reserve University last Friday.

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

WBBALL v. Emory University at HOME

The Judges continue their push back into contention Friday at 8 p.m.

Three years ago, the women's basketball program was taking Division III by storm. Amassing an 18-0 record and a No. 3 ranking, the Judges strolled into Atlanta to take on the 3-10 Emory University Eagles.

But what was supposed to be a speed bump on their way to the top of Division III proved to be a detour, as

the Eagles defeated the Judges 61-59. Brandeis lost three more games thereafter and ended up missing the NCAA Tournament.

Captain and guard Jaime Capra '08 is the only remaining player on the team from that squad three years ago, but with a hot stretch occurring, the Judges hope to avoid 2005's fate.

TEAM LEADERS

MBball (points per game)

With a strong start to conference play, guard Joe Coppens '08 has become the team's leading scorer.

Player	PPG
Joe Coppens	15.1
Terrell Hollins	14.2
Kevin Olson	10.7
Andre Roberson	9.8
Kwame Graves-Fulgham	7.8

WBBall (points per game)

After a slow start, Jaime Capra '08 leads the team in scoring with an average of 14.3 points per game.

Player	PPG
Jaime Capra	14.3
Lauren Orlando	11.8
Jessica Chapin	10.2
Cassidy Dadaos	6.1
Carmela Breslin	4.3

MBball (rebounds per game)

Forward Terrell Hollins '10 leads the Judges in rebounding in just 25.7 minutes per game

Player	RPG
Terrell Hollins	6.3
Joe Coppens	5.4
Stephen Hill	4.9
Kwame Graves-Fulgham	3.3
Kevin Olson	2.3

WBBall (rebounds per game)

Guard Jaime Capra '08 has increased her rebounding average from last season.

Player	RPG
Jaime Capra	6.7
Jessica Chapin	4.7
Cassidy Dadaos	4.6
Amber Strodthoff	4.4
Lauren Orlando	4.3

UAA STANDINGS

Men's Basketball

	UAA Conference		Overall		
	W	L	W	L	Pct.
Rochester	5	2	16	2	.889
Washington	5	2	14	4	.778
Chicago	5	2	12	6	.667
JUDGES	4	3	14	4	.778
Carnegie Mellon	3	4	13	5	.722
New York	3	4	12	6	.667
Emory	3	4	10	8	.556
Case	0	7	7	11	.389

Women's Basketball

	UAA Conference		Overall		
	W	L	W	L	Pct.
Rochester	7	0	17	1	.944
JUDGES	5	2	14	4	.778
Washington	5	2	13	5	.722
Chicago	4	3	13	5	.722
Case	3	4	10	8	.556
New York	2	5	13	5	.722
Emory	2	5	9	9	.500
Carnegie Mellon	0	7	7	11	.389