

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

CLUB BRIEF



DAVID SHEPPARD-BRICK/the Justice

Drake Livada '10

■ The utility infielder has become the Judges' best run producer, with 10 RBIs in just 19 plate appearances this year.

As a high school player, Drake Livada '10 was not sure he could play on the collegiate level until his sophomore year, when he hit fourth in the lineup, traditionally the spot reserved for the best power hitter, for a high school team that won the state championship in Maine.

Now, as a sophomore in college, Livada is once again asserting himself as a key member of his baseball team.

"Last year, I was kind of a role player coming off the bench late in the game and pinch hitting," Livada said. "This year, I got a chance to start, and I'm just trying to make the most of it."

In just 19 at-bats, Livada is hitting .474 with two home runs and a team-leading 10 RBIs, averaging one RBI for every 1.9 plate appearances. He hit his second home run of the season in last Thursday's 11-7 win over Salve Regina University, and added two RBIs in a 9-8 win over the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth last Saturday.

Livada began this season like he ended his rookie year: as a pinch-hitter and infield reserve. He entered just 11 games last season, starting one, and had only 18 at-bats on the season.

But Livada starred in the Judges' University Athletic Association games in Florida at the beginning of the season. He was given the chance to start against then-No. 5 Emory University in the final game of the trip March 15, and took advantage, belting a three-run home run in the first inning to spur the Judges to a 10-7 upset win and a share of the UAA title.

"That was the turning point for me," he said. "When that happened, I knew that I would be a key player for this team all season."

Livada's play has earned him the starting third baseman spot over James Likis '10 in the past two games, but he said coach Pete Varney has yet to decide on a permanent starter.

—Mike Prada

Rugby falls to Connecticut College 27-0 in first game of spring season

In the opening minutes of the men's rugby team's match against Connecticut College last Friday, left wing Sean Lasoff '10 broke his nose battling for possession in a pack of players. One minute after Lasoff's injury, Connecticut scored a try, equivalent to a touchdown in football, and kicked a goal, opening a 7-0 lead and never looking back.

Brandeis eventually lost the game 27-0 for its first defeat this season, but team members remained optimistic.

"The team's performance was a little inconsistent. I would have liked to see more field mentality, but it was a pretty good showing," forward and captain Ben Rotstein '09 said.

Brandeis gave up 22 points in the first half, but only allowed five points in the second half, substituting different defenders into the game regularly. The team did this despite playing the final five minutes with one fewer player than Connecticut after tighthead prop Nate Goldstein '09 got a yellow card for tackling a player above the shoulders.

Offensively, Brandeis struggled to advance the ball, as the team was consistently unable to transfer the ball up the field in good offensive positions. Even though the team did not score, coach Justin Hopson lauded blindside flanker Stanley Chen '10.

"[Chen] had a phenomenal game both offensively and defensively. He had several great runs and some phenomenal tackles," Hopson said.

As the game continued, Hopson expanded the typical player rotation to ensure that new members were able to compete in the game. Rotstein said the spring season is a chance to groom new players for the more competitive fall schedule.

"Spring season is all exhibition. [During the first half of the game], we play more legit, but [during] the second half we just make sure that everyone cycles in and that everyone understands the game mentality and strategy," Rotstein said.

As the team continues to develop its new players, Hopson emphasized the need to build chemistry.

"We need to play together and practice together. It comes down to an issue of people picking to play a team sport or an individual sport. You need to make that dedication to that team sport," Hopson said.

The team plays in a doubleheader against Curry College and Champlain College in Milton, Mass. next Sunday.

—Andrew Ng

Judging numbers

1.9 at bats, on average, between RBIs for baseball team infielder Drake Livada '10 this season. Livada has emerged, with nine hits, two home runs and a team-leading 10 RBI in his 19 at-bats this season.

4 runs scored by the softball team in the second inning of its 6-3 win over Simmons College during the first game of last Wednesday's doubleheader. The Judges failed to produce as big an inning in the second game, as they fell behind in the third inning and lost 9-3.

25 out of 36 matches won by the men's and women's tennis teams in a combined four Division III contests this week. The men's team took a 7-2 victory at Babson College last Wednesday before defeating Rochester University 6-3 last Sunday, while the women's team fell 5-4 to Babson and beat Rochester 8-1.

22 points surrendered by the men's rugby team in the first half of last Friday's match against Connecticut College. Brandeis relinquished just five points in the second half, but did not score and fell 27-0 in the first game of the spring season.

10 schools that attended Brandeis' "B-Fest" Ultimate Frisbee Tournament last Saturday. Tron, the Brandeis ultimate Frisbee club team, entered its B team and finished 2-2 at the all-day event, posting wins against Bentley College's B team and Northeastern University's B team while falling to Yale University's B team and Boston College's B team.

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

Men's Tennis vs. Trinity AT HOME

The undefeated and No. 23 Bantams come to Brandeis Saturday at 11 a.m.

After a loss against Division I Boston College snapped a two-game winning streak, the men's tennis team looks to rebound against Trinity College Saturday at 11 a.m.

The Bantams, ranked 23rd in the country, are 4-0 this season.

Most recently, they defeated conference foes Colby College 6-0 with-

out dropping a set. In the fall, Bantams sophomore Spencer Feldman made it to the final round of the International Tennis Association New England Region singles Championship.

The Judges follow with a matchup at No. 14 Amherst College Sunday at 10 a.m.

TEAM LEADERS

Baseball (batting average, min. 20 AB)

Infielder Drake Livada '10 is hitting .474 but has just 19 official plate appearances this season.

Player	AVG
John O'Brion	.439
Nick Gallagher	.351
Tony Deshler	.340
Artie Posch	.317
David Almeida	.295

Baseball (strikeouts)

Tyler Robinson '08 has struck out a team-high 22 batters as both a starter and a reliever.

Player	SO
Tyler Robinson	22
Drew Brzozowski	12
Justin Duncombe	8
Rocco Toppi	8
Kyle Ritchie	6

Softball (batting average, min. 20 AB)

Pitcher and first baseman Kate Streilein '08 leads the Judges with a .415 batting average.

Player	AVG
Kate Streilein	.415
Melisa Cagar	.396
Erin Ross	.375
Danielle Lavalley	.306
Chelsea Korp	.273

Softball (strikeouts)

Kate Streilein '08 has tallied a team-best 51 strikeouts for the Judges as both a starter and a reliever.

Player	SO
Kate Streilein	51
Natalie Volpe	25
Emily Vaillette	3

UAA STANDINGS

Baseball

Not including Monday's games

	UAA Conference		Overall		Pct.
	W	L	W	L	
Emory	4	2	18	6	.740
JUDGES	4	2	7	4	.636
Rochester	3	3	7	3	.700
Washington	3	3	9	6	.600
Case	1	5	3	12	.200
Chicago	0	0	2	2	.500

Softball

Not including Monday's games

	UAA Conference		Overall		Pct.
	W	L	W	L	
Washington	7	1	18	5	.783
Rochester	6	2	9	5	.714
Emory	3	5	15	8	.652
JUDGES	3	5	6	7	.464
Case	1	7	8	12	.400
Chicago	0	0	4	6	.400

AP BRIEF

Kansas holds off Davidson to finalize all-No. 1 seed Final Four

DETROIT—And then there were ones. Four No. 1s, that is.

Kansas University wore down Stephen Curry and plucky upstart Davidson College with its size and strength, holding on for a 59-57 victory Sunday that put all four No. 1 seeds into the Final Four for the first time.

After Kansas' Sherron Collins missed with 19 seconds left, the 10th-seeded Wildcats got one last chance. Curry was double-teamed, could not get off a shot and was forced to pass to Jason Richards, whose 25-footer from the top of the key thudded off the backboard.

Richards dropped to his back at midcourt while the Jayhawks celebrated with a measure of relief.

Kansas moved on to play overall No. 1 seed North Carolina on Saturday, and UCLA and Memphis will round out the party at the Alamodome. Three No. 1s have advanced three times, most recently in 1999.

The win also rids Bill Self of that dreaded "best coach never to make a Final Four" label. Self had fallen short with three different schools, including last year's edition of the Jayhawks. But this year's bunch had too much talent, depth and experience to be denied.

Curry, who became only the fourth player to hit the 30-point mark in his first four NCAA tournament games, finished with 25 on 9-of-25 shooting and was picked Most Outstanding Player of the Midwest Regional. His roommate, Bryant Barr, was the only other Davidson player in double figures, scoring all 11 of his points in the second half.

The loss snapped Davidson's 25-game winning streak, the longest in the nation.

Brandon Rush scored eight of his 12 points in the second half, and Sasha Kaun came up with big baskets down the stretch whenever the Jayhawks needed them as Kansas ended the feel-good story of the tournament. Tiny Davidson, trying to become only the third double-digit to make the Final Four, ran out of gas in the stretch.

Not that the Wildcats didn't put up a valiant fight. Curry looked exhausted much of the second half—with good reason, after leading the Wildcats to upsets of Gonzaga, Georgetown and Wisconsin. But he showed the same moxie he's had all tournament, drilling an NBA-range three-pointer with 54 seconds left that cut Kansas' lead to 59-57.

Kaun and Mario Chalmers led the Jayhawks with 13 each. But these Wildcats have nothing to be ashamed of. They hung with the toughest teams in the nation—Georgetown and Wisconsin had two of the stingiest defenses in the country—and gave little Davidson something to be known for beside providing free laundry to its students. The Wildcats left the floor to applause from a fan club that's become a lot bigger over the last two weeks, and Max Paulhus Gosselin acknowledged them by holding up his index finger.

This is the Jayhawks' 13th trip to the Final Four, but the players celebrated as if it was their first. Which it was.

Kansas lost to UCLA in the regional finals last year, and Self had come up short with three different teams. No more. He smiled and gave a thumbs-up to the Kansas fans who shouted his name, and the players beamed as they lined up to cut down the nets at Ford Field.

Curry, the son of former NBA sharpshooter Dell Curry, had made the tournament his own little party, hanging 30 points on Georgetown and 33 against Wisconsin and delighting fans with his silky-smooth shot. The rest of the Wildcats weren't bad, either, and they had folks all over rooting for yet another underdog-made-good story.