

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Simon Miller '11

■ The tennis player won all three of his singles matches at the University Athletic Association Championships last weekend.

The men's tennis team only managed a last-place finish at the University Athletic Association Championships, even as Simon Miller '11 managed to win all three of his singles matches. For Miller, the three victories were the end of a true comeback, as he had taken a leave from the team in the fall semester.

"I guess I kind of lost sight of things in the fall," Miller said. "I maybe forgot why I love to play the game so much. ... I had to decide if tennis is what I really wanted."

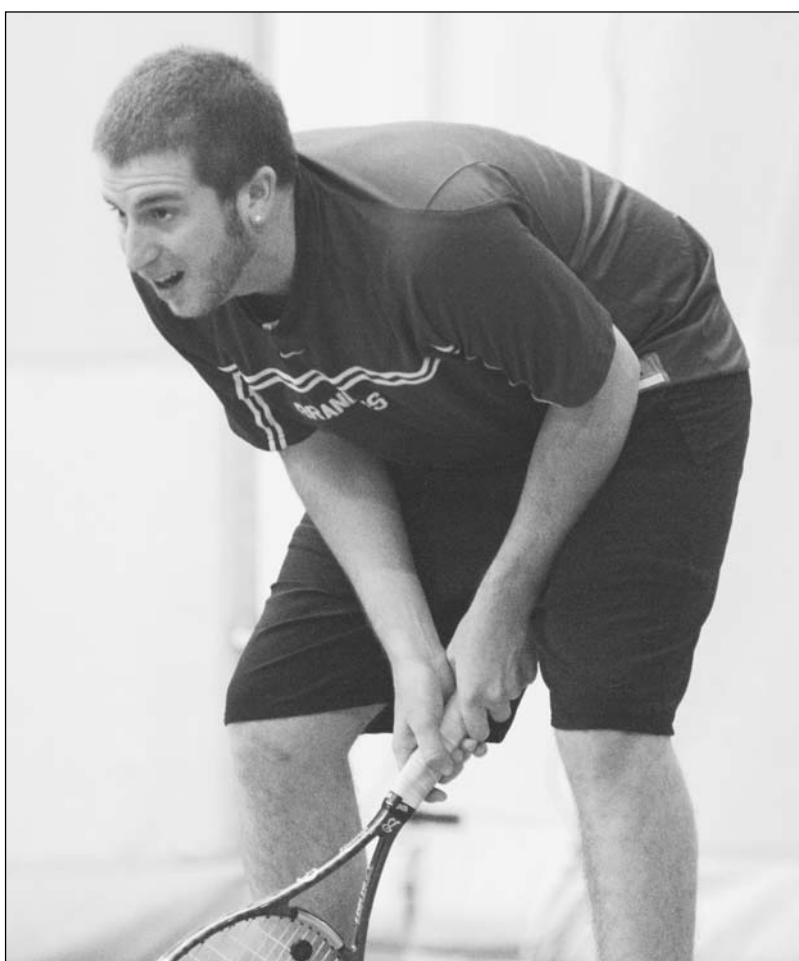
As a rookie last year, Miller quickly assumed the role as the team's top singles player and played in all but four matches at the No. 1 slot, missing three matches with an ankle injury and playing one match at No. 2 singles immediately after recovering from the injury. Miller was 6-8 at No. 1 singles and 1-0 in his only match at No. 2 singles.

After taking a leave from the team, Miller returned but struggled at the No. 1 slot, going 0-4 against top players from opposing schools. However, Miller thrived at the No. 2 and No. 3 singles slots, going 3-1 at No. 2 and 7-3 at No. 3.

Miller said the time he took off has helped him get back on the right track.

"Taking the break helped a lot," he said. "It helped me to realize how much I love the game and helped me realize how much I want to work at being the best player I can."

Last weekend, the Judges opened UAA play with an 8-1 loss to Washington University in St. Louis, with Miller's 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 victory at No. 3 singles earning the Judges' only point. Then, despite a 5-4 loss



DAVID SHEPPARD-BRICK/Justice File Photo

against New York University, Miller anchored the Judges' No. 1 doubles squad with captain Scott Schulman '09, winning 8-2, and again took his No. 3 singles match 6-2, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2. Finally, Miller again won both his singles and doubles matches against the University of Rochester to finish the weekend as the only Brandeis player to win all three of his singles matches. Because of the time off, Miller said he

felt he was finally coming into his own as the season ended.

"I wish we had a few more matches, maybe even another UAA tournament would be nice," he said. "But I definitely got some momentum coming in for next season."

—Ian Cutler and Jeffrey Pickette

AP BRIEFS

What's your 40? A look at what NFL teams want on draft day

SALT LAKE CITY—Just because the 40-yard dash has been around forever doesn't mean it's antiquated.

A great time in the 40 still matters, at least enough to get a prospect a look he may not have received if he was just a tenth of a second slower.

"You can always teach them to catch better, but it's hard to teach them to run faster," said Gil Brandt, the NFL draft consultant and longtime personnel director of the Dallas Cowboys.

As intricate as evaluating NFL potential has become, the 40 is one of the simplest tests in football: run 40 yards, we'll time you. Go!

For players who run it fast enough, it opens a door of opportunity. Former University of Utah defensive back Brice McCain was considered too small and an unlikely pick before scouts came to town last month to look at him and a few other former Utes.

McCain ran the 40 twice, and both times were among the fastest in the country. The scouts looked at their stop-watches and collectively timed him at 4.30 and 4.34 seconds. Suddenly, his size (5 feet 9 inches) was much less of a concern.

"A lot of teams are very interested now," McCain said.

Brandt said McCain could go maybe as high as the fifth round next weekend because he was able to back up his 40 speed with great marks in the shuttle run and other drills that assess quickness more than overall speed.

The 40 is only one part of the complicated formula teams use to evaluate talent. It is more relevant for receivers and defensive backs than linemen, who are evaluated more in drills that demonstrate quick feet and agility.

Paul Brown was credited with first timing the 40 when he coached at Ohio State University in the 1940s and tried to figure out who could get downfield the fastest to cover punts. It has grown into a football staple, recognized by every player who has had to run it and hold his breath while waiting to hear the time, and by fans in need of an offseason debate topic. Teams exhaustively break down every aspect of a player—physical and mental—before deciding who they want on future rosters.

The one test that seems to have caught on most in the public is the 40, a much more lively topic than anticipating who will move up in the draft by nailing the team interview.

As much as the times are talked about, they are tricky to gauge.

Each scout keeps his own times, and although the distance is the same, conditions vary from site to site. A player running on grass will not be as fast as someone on a harder, artificial surface. And nobody is clocked running in the cumbersome pads they wear when actually playing the game and not just trying out for it.

The importance of a distance few players ever have to run during a game is also debated. Prospects can survive a slow 40 time and still be drafted if that's their only apparent flaw.

Brandt said Jerry Rice ran around a 4.65, which was obviously not much of an indication of what kind of receiver he would become in the NFL.

Although scouts emphasize there is so much more to evaluations than just the 40, some players feel the 4-plus seconds can decide their future. Many at the annual scouting combine decline to work out there, preferring to run their own on-campus showcase. A bad showing on an unfamiliar surface can cost even the top prospects who were already considered good enough to make the combine.

McCain was among the other players whose future depended on "pro day," when scouts make a scheduled stop on campus during the never-ending search for potential draftees. McCain impressed, largely with his two times in the 40, and has been getting calls from teams who weren't so interested before.

"With my 40 time, I've just gotten more looks," McCain said.

"A guy runs a fast 40; that's going to open eyes," said Zach Miller, another player who may have run himself into the late rounds of the draft last month when scouts stopped by to see him at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

A lifelong quarterback who ran the option in college, Miller is trying extend his football career as a tight end and is about as raw as a prospect can be. His 40 time of 4.51 seconds was impressive enough that somebody may take a chance on him with a late pick.

"It doesn't gauge how good of a football player you are, but getting into that process, I think it plays a very important role," Miller said. "That's kind of the big thing—how fast did you run your 40? It shows your speed, your explosiveness."

Miller's fast 40 will be meaningless if he cannot catch or block, skills he's been trying to learn over the last few months.

He and McCain both enrolled at TEST Sports Football Academy in New Jersey, where they spent weeks trying to perfect their technique before the workouts that would decide their draft future.

It has become a popular business. Players who think they can cut their 40 time and prepare for the other pre-draft drills will hire a professional trainer. Hey, slight improvement could be the difference between getting drafted and an invitation to training camp as an undrafted free agent.

TEST founder Brian Martin said McCain was able to knock off almost one-tenth of a second from his 40 time with a few adjustments in his stride. Miller was already fast enough to run the option, but also found a few ways to get his time down to the 4.5 range.

"They're kind of under the radar," Martin said. "Hopefully with the great results they get on the radar."

The NFL Draft will begin Saturday and last through Sunday and take place in New York.

NBA Playoffs Tonight

The NBA will continue its playoff season with three Game 2s tonight. In the Eastern Conference, Detroit will play at Cleveland trailing 1-0 in the series. In the West, Houston will be at Portland leading the series 1-0 while Utah will be at Los Angeles trailing 1-0 in the series.

Judging numbers

4 shutouts for softball pitcher Emily Vaillette '10 this season after the Judges beat Wesleyan University 1-0 last Saturday at home. One of her shutouts was a no-hitter April 2 against Framingham State College.

8 strikeouts for baseball starting pitcher Drew Brzozowski '10 in 7 2/3 inning of work last Friday in the Judges' 9-2 win over Salem State College. The eight strikeouts match a team high for this season, which Brzozowski also set March 28 against Springfield College.

5 unearned runs scored by the softball team in its 9-0 win at Salve Regina University last Thursday. Salve Regina made three errors in the fifth inning that led to six Brandeis runs in the frame.

0 wins for the men's tennis team at the University Athletic Association Championships last weekend. The Judges went 0-3 and finished last.

3 home runs for designated hitter Drake Livada '10 to lead Brandeis. Livada hit his third home run of the season in the Judges' 5-4 win at Babson College last Saturday.

16 multi-hit games for softball second baseman Melisa Cagar '11 this season. In the Judges' eight games last week, Cagar had at least two hits in five of them.

UAA STANDINGS

Baseball

Not including Monday's games

| | UAA | | Overall | |
|------------------|-----|---|---------|----|
| | W | L | W | L |
| Rochester | 4 | 2 | 24 | 10 |
| Washington Univ. | 3 | 3 | 17 | 9 |
| Emory | 3 | 3 | 22 | 15 |
| Case Western | 3 | 3 | 12 | 28 |
| JUDGES | 2 | 4 | 13 | 19 |
| Chicago | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 |

Softball

Not including Monday's games

| | UAA | | Overall | |
|------------------|-----|---|---------|----|
| | W | L | W | L |
| Washington Univ. | 7 | 1 | 23 | 8 |
| Emory | 5 | 3 | 28 | 10 |
| Rochester | 5 | 3 | 23 | 10 |
| JUDGES | 3 | 5 | 20 | 12 |
| Chicago | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Case Western | 0 | 8 | 14 | 21 |

TEAM LEADERS

Baseball (on-base percentage)

Third baseman Jon Chu '12 leads Brandeis with a .470 on-base percentage.

| Player | OBP |
|----------------|------|
| Jon Chu | .470 |
| John O'Brion | .467 |
| Nick Gallagher | .429 |
| Julian Cavin | .400 |
| Mike Alfego | .394 |

Baseball (runs batted in)

Designated hitter Drake Livada '10 leads the Judges with 22 RBIs.

| Player | RBI |
|---------------|-----|
| Drake Livada | 22 |
| Sean O'Hare | 20 |
| Tony Deshler | 17 |
| Jon Chu | 14 |
| two tied with | 12 |

Softball (on-base percentage)

Pitcher Caroline Miller '12 leads Brandeis with a .500 on-base percentage.

| Player | OBP |
|------------------|------|
| Caroline Miller | .500 |
| Melisa Cagar | .441 |
| Marianne Specker | .436 |
| Samantha Worth | .395 |
| Lara Hirschler | .377 |

Softball (runs batted in)

Catcher Erin Ross '10 leads the Judges with 18 RBIs.

| Player | RBI |
|------------------|-----|
| Erin Ross | 18 |
| Melisa Cagar | 15 |
| Chelsea Korp | 14 |
| Marianne Specker | 12 |
| Courtney Kelley | 11 |

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

Women's Tennis at UAA Championships at HOME

Brandeis will host the University Athletic Association Championships starting Friday.

The women's tennis team will host the University Athletic Association Championships this season, starting Friday and lasting through Sunday.

The Judges are 10-6 overall this season and will play in one final home match against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology today at 3 p.m. before the UAA Championships begin.

Brandeis has faced one UAA team this season in a March 14 match on a neutral court against New York University. The Judges won the match 7-

2, taking two of three doubles matches and five of six singles matches.

Four UAA teams are ranked in the top 15 according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association official rankings as of April 14. Carnegie Mellon University, Emory University and the University of Chicago own the third through fifth spots, respectively, while Washington University in St. Louis is ranked 14th in the nation.

No. 3 Carnegie Mellon has the best overall record among UAA teams at 17-1.