

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SARA BRANDENBURG/the Justice

## Ana Katz '08

■ The women's tennis star has thrived for the Judges no matter where she has played in their lineup over her career.

Over the past year, Ana Katz '08 has played at each of the top three spots in the women's tennis team's singles lineup. But while the competition may be different at each spot, she says her key to success remains the same.

"Mental toughness [is important]," Katz said. "You can't be your own enemy; you have to play your heart out and not worry about who your opponent is."

Last spring, Katz played No. 3 singles and finished strong, winning all three of her matches in the University Athletic Association championships. This fall, with regular No. 1 singles player Colleen Donnelly '08 studying abroad, Katz stepped into her spot and won three of five matches. Now, with Donnelly back, Katz has dropped back down to No. 2 singles and is surging down the stretch once again.

Katz won both her matches this weekend, defeating Smith College freshman Miyu Kikuchi 6-2, 6-0 and Mount Holyoke

College sophomore Ashley Fallon 6-1, 6-3 as the Judges won both matches and have now won six of their last seven contests.

Katz has also been a major part of the team's success in doubles. She started the year playing alongside Donnelly at No. 1 doubles, but after a 9-0 loss to Middlebury College March 11, she moved down to No. 2 doubles to play with Jenicka Hornung '07. The pair has lost only one match since the switch.

"The reason [Hornung] and I play together is communication," Katz said. "She's one of my best friends, so I know what she's thinking."

Despite playing one spot higher in the lineup, Katz says she's poised to repeat her success at the UAA Championships, which begin this week.

"This year, I'm playing No. 2 [singles], which means I'll be facing tougher competition, but I also think I've improved a lot," she said. "I think I can really compete with the best at UAAs."

—Mike Prada

## just Briefs

## AP BRIEFS

## Duncan and referee Crawford feud in San Antonio loss to Dallas

DALLAS—Losing a tense, physical and emotional game to their top rival and being forced to settle for the third seed in the Western Conference was bad enough for Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs.

Even worse: Duncan is convinced official Joey Crawford is out to get him, with a brawl possibly needed to settle things.

Crawford hit Duncan with two technical fouls just 1:16 apart late in the third quarter of San Antonio's 91-86 loss to the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday. The second came while he was laughing on the bench and meant an automatic ejection, just the second of his nine-year career.

The Spurs sorely missed their top player down the stretch, failing to score a basket over the last 6:32 while allowing a 9-0 run to end the game. The loss ended their hopes of catching Phoenix for the No. 2 seed and home-court advantage if they meet in the second round.

While this was a thrilling game between Western Conference powers, the story of the day turned out to be Duncan vs. Crawford.

"He came into the game with a personal vendetta against me," said Duncan, who had 16 points, seven rebounds, six assists and two blocks in his limited action. "It had to be because I didn't do anything the entire game. I said three words to him and the three words were, 'I got fouled' on a shot. ... That's all I said to him the entire game."

Crawford spoke to a pool reporter before Duncan spoke to the media. Asked about Duncan not thinking he deserved to be tossed, Crawford said: "That's his opinion. He said nothing when he was walking off the court and he called me a piece of [expletive]. Is that nothing?"

San Antonio had won six straight and was on a 12-1 roll. The only loss came against Indiana, another game that Crawford worked and another game that he rang up a T on Duncan.

Teammate Bruce Bowen, who also got a technical from Crawford in the third quarter, couldn't believe his superstar teammate was tossed, especially an offense so mild.

"Do I think it was deserved? No," Bowen said. "For a former MVP of the league, a guy that doesn't curse out the officials like I hear some of the other guys cursing out the officials, I think it was unfortunate that he was dealt this blow."

Dallas won the season series 3-1, taking the last three. This was the first game won by the home team.

## Canucks outlast Stars to win quadruple-overtime playoff thriller

VANCOUVER—Roberto Luongo got more than two games worth of playing time in his first career postseason start.

Luongo made 72 saves before Henrik Sedin scored 18:06 into the fourth overtime to lift the Vancouver Canucks to a 5-4 win over the Dallas Stars in the opening game of their first-round playoff series Wednesday night.

Daniel Sedin came out from behind the net and spotted his identical twin brother cutting into the slot, where Henrik snapped a shot between the legs of Marty Turco, ending the sixth-longest playoff game in NHL history in the early hours of Thursday morning.

Luongo set the record for saves in a first career playoff start as the Canucks recovered after blowing a two-goal lead. When Antti Miettinen and Ladislav Nagy scored in the third period to rally the Stars from a 4-2 deficit and force overtime, no one could have predicted the game would last so long.

It took more than five hours for Vancouver to grab a lead in the best-of-seven series scheduled to continue in Vancouver Friday, less than 42 hours after the conclusion of Game One.

Both teams had earlier chances to win on the power play. The Stars couldn't convert a 39-second, five-on-three advantage early in the second overtime. Vancouver only managed one long shot, while goalie Marty Turco cleared the zone himself three times on a power play midway through the first overtime.

Luongo made three huge stops early in the second overtime. He turned aside Jere Lehtinen and Nagy in tight and robbed Mattias Norstrom with his glove. He got a break when Stu Barnes hit the crossbar in the final minute.

Dallas tied the series Friday night with a 1-0 victory, but the Canucks now hold a 2-1 lead in the series after a 2-1 overtime victory over the Stars Sunday.

## Will he stay or will he go? Oden's NBA draft status remains unclear

WASHINGTON—Is Greg Oden leaving Ohio State for the NBA?

Oden's father told a newspaper the seven-footer is turning pro, while the man who hopes to be Oden's agent, Mike Conley Sr., said Saturday night the decision hasn't been made.

Greg Oden Sr. told the Indianapolis Star in a story published Saturday that his son will enter the NBA draft after leading Ohio State to the NCAA title game as a freshman.

Conley spoke after a party celebrating Chicago's selection over Los Angeles as the U.S. candidate for the 2016 Summer Olympics. The 1992 Olympic gold medalist in the triple jump, he was part of Chicago's presentation to the U.S. Olympic Committee.

College underclassmen have until midnight on April 29 to declare whether they intend to make themselves available for the NBA draft.

Conley has been certified as an NBA agent. Oden Sr. told the Star that the former track star would represent his son, who played high-school basketball at Indianapolis Lawrence North.

As for his son, an Ohio State guard, Conley Sr. said he expects a decision by the end of next week about whether the younger Oden will head to the NBA.

## Judging numbers

6 wins, and no losses, for the women's tennis team this spring when its players have won at least two of three doubles matches. The Judges have lost only once since switching their three doubles pairings following a March 11 loss to Middlebury College.

1 game lost by Sam Jonas '07 in his doubles and singles matches Sunday against New York University. Jonas teamed with Mike Vulfovich '07 in an 8-0 victory at No. 1 doubles and then defeated junior Mikhail Gurevich 6-0, 6-1 at No. 1 singles.

5 errors for the baseball team in its 10-2 home loss to Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wednesday. The errors allowed the Engineers to score five unearned runs. With the loss, the Judges fell to 10-9 on the season.

34 total runs scored by the women's softball team in three victories over the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Tuesday and the University of Massachusetts-Boston in a doubleheader Wednesday. The Judges' bats could not maintain that pace Saturday when they scored only one run in two losses to Amherst College.

3 top-six finishes for Mark Bercy '07 at the George Davis Invitational Saturday. Bercy finished third in the 200-meter dash, sixth in the 100-meter hurdles and teamed with Pat Gregoire '09, Frank Longo '08 and Ralph Chery '07 to finish fourth in the 4 x 100 meter relay.

## UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

## WTennis at the UAA Championships

The Judges compete in the UAA championships from Friday to Sunday.

The women's tennis team will travel to Cleveland this weekend for the 2007 University Athletic Association Championships.

The Judges roll into this tournament playing their best tennis of the year, having won six of their last seven matches, including a sweep of Smith College and Mount Holyoke

College in a doubleheader Saturday.

Last year, Brandeis finished just seventh place out of eight teams at UAAs. The Judges came into that competition on a four-game losing streak, however, presenting a stark contrast to the forward momentum they will carry into Cleveland for this year's tournament.

## TEAM LEADERS

## Baseball (batting average, min. 20 AB)

Outfielder Chuck Sheehan '08 leads the Judges with a .340 batting average so far this season.

Player	AVG
Chuck Sheehan	.340
Ryan Healey	.328
Ben Dashefsky	.325
James Likis	.313
Zach Golden	.306

## Baseball (strikeouts)

Tyler Robinson '08 has struck out a team-high 42 batters so far this season.

Player	SO
Tyler Robinson	42
Drew Brzozowski	18
Craig Letendre	13
James Collins	11
Kyle Ritchie	10

## Softball (batting average, min. 20 AB)

First baseman Natalie Volpe '08 has batted a team best .412 so far this season.

Player	AVG
Natalie Volpe	.412
Danielle Mayer	.382
Kaitlin Streilein	.365
Chelsea Korp	.310
Marissa Rubin	.300

## Softball (strikeouts)

Rookie hurler Allie Mussen '10 has tallied a team-best 41 strikeouts for the Judges.

Player	SO
Allie Mussen	41
Natalie Volpe	35
Emily Vaillette	26
Kaitlin Streilein	19

## UAA STANDINGS

## Baseball

Not including Monday's games

UAA Conference Overall

	W	L	W	L	Pct.
Emory	4	2	29	5	.853
JUDGES	3	3	10	8	.556
Rochester	3	3	14	7	.667
Washington	3	3	23	8	.742
Case	2	4	8	10	.444
Chicago	0	0	8	9	.471

## Softball

Not including Monday's games

UAA Conference Overall

	W	L	W	L	Pct.
Rochester	6	2	12	5	.706
Washington	6	2	19	5	.792
Emory	4	4	26	6	.813
JUDGES	2	6	14	13	.519
Case	2	6	11	11	.500
Chicago	0	0	16	6	.727