

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



DAVID SHEPPARD-BRICK/the Justice

Lee Bloom '10

■ The golfer closed the season with the best round in school history, even if his teammates didn't initially believe him.

As Lee Bloom '10 walked off the course at last Saturday's Jack Berry Massachusetts Institute of Technology Invitational, teammate Jeff Stein '08 was the first to greet him.

"What'd you shoot?" Stein said. "Seventy," Bloom replied. "Really, what'd you shoot?" Stein said, not believing Bloom's response.

Bloom wasn't kidding. He did, in fact, shoot a two-under-par 70 at the tournament, and though he didn't win, falling on the first play-off hole, he still managed to shoot the best single round in the program's history. It was also the first time that he had ever shot under par in a competitive golf tournament at any level.

"I've never seen [coach Bill Shipman's] smile so wide," Bloom said.

Bloom made par on 14 of his 18 holes and hit a staggering 16 greens in regulation, allowing him to avoid having to attempt difficult chip shots.

He was at even par through nine holes. He birdied the par-five fifth

hole, but got his only bogey on the sixth hole when his second shot landed in a wedge on the lip of a green-side bunker.

Bloom parred the 10th and 11th holes before hitting a birdie on the par-five 12th to go to 1-under-par. After pars on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th holes, Bloom hit his second birdie on the par-four 17th when he stuck his second shot to within five feet of the hole.

"I didn't want to get ahead of myself—I didn't want to think about it too much out there—but I'd say that when I hit that green, I knew that I was going to come in somewhere around par," Bloom said.

Bloom credited his mental approach to his record-breaking round, saying he was "under-achieving" earlier in the year until he learned to keep his head in the moment.

"Normally, I'm very ADD out there, but this time, I was approaching it one shot at a time. I wasn't thinking about five holes away," he said.

—Mike Prada

AP BRIEFS

West's three-pointer allows Cavaliers to go up 3-1 on Wizards

WASHINGTON—King James got his crown knocked off, was booed every time he touched the ball, went 0-for-3 in the fourth quarter and passed up a chance to take the winning shot.

And his Cleveland Cavaliers still beat the Washington Wizards.

LeBron James had 34 points and 12 rebounds and dished the ball to Delonte West for a tiebreaking three-pointer with 5.4 seconds left Sunday, helping the Cavaliers get past the Wizards 100-97 to take a 3-1 lead in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference playoff series.

After Cleveland's 30-point victory in Game 2 and Washington's 36-point margin in Game 3, these teams that know each other so well finally produced a gem of a game. Cleveland led by 15 in the third quarter, but Washington came back, with Gilbert Arenas capping the rally.

He made two free throws with 57 seconds left to get Washington within two points, and after James missed a jumper, Arenas' eight-foot fadeaway with 28 seconds remaining made it 97-all. James dribbled out the clock before finding West, whose career playoff-high 21 points included five of Cleveland's 13 three-pointers.

Arenas, who built a reputation for clutch late-game performances before having two operations on his left knee, then tried to pull Washington even at the buzzer but badly missed a three-point try over West.

Now James' Cavaliers, who eliminated the Wizards in each of the previous two postseasons, have control, with Game 5 on Wednesday at Cleveland.

Saddled by foul trouble, James was hardly as aggressive late as he was early. When he dunked following a Wizards turnover to make it 51-41 late in the first half, James already was up to 22 points—his total for Game 3.

Still, little came easily, and his simmering feud with Washington guard DeShawn Stevenson nearly bubbled over late in the second quarter.

James drove to the basket, and Stevenson came from behind and swiped a hand out, missing the ball but clipping the Cavs' star in the head.

James' burgundy headband came off and went flying, while Stevenson fell to the court. James kept his balance and stepped toward Stevenson, who got up and stepped toward James.

They exchanged words, but that was it, before teammates stepped in to separate the pair. Stevenson was called for a flagrant foul, and after James went 1-for-2 at the line, he made a three-pointer.

That was part of a 13-0 Cavaliers run during which James scored nine points, putting the visitors ahead 44-39 en route to a 54-44 halftime lead—a margin helped by Washington's 4-for-21 shooting in the second quarter.

James heard jeers even when standing on the sideline for an inbounds play. He heard about it, loudly, on a couple of occasions when he tossed up airballs.

Offensive lineman Long goes first to Dolphins in the 2008 NFL Draft

DAVIE, Fla.—Jake Long visited New York City for the first time this week and landed a nifty souvenir—a Miami Dolphins jersey bearing uniform number one.

The former Michigan tackle held the jersey on the stage at Radio City Music Hall after officially becoming the first player taken in the NFL draft Saturday.

The Dolphins had committed to choosing Long when they signed him to a five-year contract Tuesday for \$57.75 million, including \$30 million guaranteed.

"I was a little more relaxed just knowing where I was going and just being here to make it official," Long said in a conference call. "That solidified it all. It was just breath-taking to walk out there and shake the commissioner's hand and hold up that jersey. It was a dream come true."

In the second round the Dolphins selected Clemson defensive end Phillip Merling and Long's college teammate, Michigan quarterback Chad Henne.

Merling was selected with the first pick of the second round, No. 32 overall.

The choice could signal the departure of six-time Pro Bowl defensive end Jason Taylor, who has been the subject of trade speculation.

The 6-foot-4-inch, 276-pound Merling had seven sacks as a junior last season despite nursing a sports hernia. Merling underwent surgery, resumed full workouts only in the past week and tried out for two dozen NFL observers Thursday at Clemson.

"I'm a dominant defensive end," Merling said. "I can play the run extremely well and get to the quarterback. I think I do a lot of things. I play natural. I just do it."

Henne, taken with the 57th overall choice, was a four-year starter at Michigan.

The Dolphins' other quarterbacks include John Beck, a second-round pick last year and recently acquired Josh McCown.

"I don't know if I'll have the opportunity to step in right now," Henne said. "But I'll prepare like I'm going to compete for the starting job."

The Dolphins had six remaining picks. They traded third-string running back Lorenzo Booker to the Philadelphia Eagles for a fourth-round choice, No. 115 overall.

On Friday the Dolphins traded their fourth-round pick to acquire linebacker Akin Ayodele and tight end Anthony Fasano from the Dallas Cowboys.

Joining Long in New York were his parents, two brothers and girlfriend. They cheered when NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced Long's name, but there were boos from fans of the New York Jets, the Dolphins' division rivals.

"I got booed pretty bad," Long said with a chuckle.

He's only the third offensive lineman in the past 40 years to be taken with the first pick, and he'll be the best-paid offensive lineman in the NFL.

"It's crazy to think that," Long said. "But having that over my head makes me go out there and work hard to show people that I've earned it."

Long and Merling will both take part in the Dolphins' three-day rookie minicamp beginning Friday.

Judging numbers

27 Division III baseball managers to reach the 600 win plateau before Brandeis manager Pete Varney became the 28th with the Judges 6-0 victory over University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth April 21.

23 straight wins for the softball team before losing 5-2 to Framingham State College April 23. The streak, which started April 2 against Worcester Polytechnic Institute included eight shutouts and six one-run decisions.

6 base runners in 44 combined at bats for both Brandeis and Trinity College last Sunday in the first game of a doubleheader. Pat Nicholson '10 was the only base runner of the game for the Judges, as Trinity won 1-0 to maintain its quest to become the first undefeated Division III baseball team ever.

1.67 seconds under the 800-meter Division III New England Championships qualifying time for Emily Owen '11 at last Sunday's Brown Spring Invitational. Owen finished in 2 minutes, 21.83 seconds after ranking last in her heat.

307 strokes for the Brandeis golf team at the Jack Berry Massachusetts Institute of Technology Invitational last Saturday, the lowest total in the program's history. The Judges came in third place out of eight teams, just six strokes behind first-place Johnson and Wales University in Florida.

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

Softball vs. Emerson College at HOME

The Judges close their historic season against Emerson Wednesday at 3 p.m.

The softball team will close out its winningest season in school history with a doubleheader Wednesday against Emerson College at 3 p.m.

The Judges hope to improve their NCAA Tournament chances with wins Wednesday and today, when they host Babson College in a dou-

bleheader at 3 p.m.

Emerson, which made its first trip to the NCAA Tournament last season, is 23-17 on the season and is currently on a two-game losing streak.

Rookie pitchers Lynn Herman and Annie Denenberg have each thrown a no-hitter this month.

TEAM LEADERS

Baseball (batting average, min. 20 AB)

Tony Deshler '11 leads the Judges with 47 hits, 31 RBIs and 14 stolen bases this season.

| Player | AVG |
|----------------------|------|
| Drake Livada | .411 |
| John O'Brion | .358 |
| Tony Deshler | .331 |
| Malcolm Cone-Coleman | .327 |
| Pat Nicholson | .307 |

Baseball (strikeouts)

Pat Nicholson '11 hasn't surrendered a single run in his last 12 1/3 innings pitched.

| Player | SO |
|-----------------|----|
| Tyler Robinson | 58 |
| Drew Brzozowski | 34 |
| Rocco Toppi | 26 |
| Kyle Ritchie | 21 |
| Justin Duncombe | 18 |

Softball (batting average, min. 20 AB)

Pitcher and first baseman Kate Streilein '08 leads the Judges with a .496 batting average.

| Player | AVG |
|-------------------|------|
| Kate Streilein | .496 |
| Erin Ross | .455 |
| Melisa Cagar | .372 |
| Danielle Lavallee | .360 |
| Samantha Worth | .344 |

Softball (strikeouts)

Kate Streilein '08 has tallied a team-best 138 strikeouts for the Judges as both a starter and a reliever.

| Player | SO |
|-----------------|-----|
| Kate Streilein | 138 |
| Natalie Volpe | 82 |
| Allie Mussen | 23 |
| Emily Vaillette | 21 |

UAA STANDINGS

Baseball

Not including Monday's games

| | UAA Conference | | Overall | | Pct. |
|---------------|----------------|---|---------|----|------|
| | W | L | W | L | |
| Emory | 4 | 2 | 25 | 11 | .689 |
| JUDGES | 4 | 2 | 17 | 16 | .515 |
| Rochester | 3 | 3 | 27 | 9 | .750 |
| Washington | 3 | 3 | 14 | 11 | .560 |
| Case | 1 | 5 | 12 | 28 | .305 |
| Chicago | 0 | 0 | 7 | 12 | .368 |

Softball

Not including Monday's games

| | UAA Conference | | Overall | | Pct. |
|---------------|----------------|---|---------|----|------|
| | W | L | W | L | |
| Washington | 7 | 1 | 23 | 10 | .697 |
| Rochester | 6 | 2 | 25 | 10 | .714 |
| JUDGES | 3 | 5 | 33 | 8 | .798 |
| Emory | 3 | 5 | 28 | 10 | .737 |
| Case | 1 | 7 | 14 | 30 | .318 |
| Chicago | 0 | 0 | 11 | 19 | .367 |