

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Anna Hanley '11

■ The transfer student won the Northeast Conference Women's Fencer of the Year award last week for the second straight season.

For the second consecutive season, saber Anna Hanley '11 was named the Northeast Conference Women's Fencer of the Year. The only difference from last year is that she earned the honor for a different team.

After transferring to Brandeis from Sacred Heart University last summer, Hanley went 49-0 against Northeast Conference fencers and took her second straight Fencer of the Year honors prior to last Saturday's Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships, held in the Gosman Sports and Convocation Center.

"[Hanley] was consistent throughout the year. She is one of the best fencers in New England and has only been fencing the best fencers from other teams in the Northeast Conference. When she is fencing at her best, she can compete against any of the top fencers in the country," coach Bill Shipman said.

Hanley has lost only eight bouts all season, but despite her continued success on the strip, she said her initial transition from Sacred Heart to Brandeis was not as easy.

"We didn't have a fencing room at Sacred Heart, so every time we held practice, we would have to arrive 45 minutes earlier to set up the strips and machines. Practices were very unorganized, and many of my teammates were out of shape. ... Here, everyone is well-conditioned and focused," Hanley said. "I have a strong individual record, but I had difficulty adjusting to the more academically competitive environment [at Brandeis]."



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVAN WHITNEY

At the IFA Championships, Hanley finished sixth, winning her opening-round match 15-10 against Harvard University rookie Hayley Levitt before falling to the runner-up, rookie Robin Shin of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology 15-9 in the quarterfinals.

Hanley will compete with the rest of the team at the NCAA Regional Championships this Sunday. Last year, Hanley did not compete at the event, missing the cutoff by one bout.

—Andrew Ng

AP BRIEFS

New England trades Matt Cassel and Mike Vrabel to Kansas City

Matt Cassel won't have to worry about being the NFL's most expensive backup next season.

A little more than three weeks after New England put the franchise tag on Cassel as insurance for two-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady, the Patriots traded him and veteran linebacker Mike Vrabel to Kansas City last Saturday.

The Chiefs, who earned the third overall selection following a franchise-worst 2-14 season, gave up just their second-round pick—No. 34 overall—for the two players in a deal that highlighted a busy second day of NFL free agency.

Cassel hadn't started a game since high school but stepped in when Brady suffered a season-ending knee injury less than eight minutes into the season opener against Kansas City. He went on to throw for 3,693 yards and 21 touchdowns in 15 starts.

Brady's rehab was set back when an infection forced a second operation. By putting the franchise tag on Cassel, New England would have had to pay him \$14.5 million to keep him as a backup.

"It is very easy to root for guys like Matt Cassel, who do everything the right way and flourish as a result," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said in a statement. "As much as we would have loved to continue working with Matt, we wish him nothing but the best as he takes this next step forward in his career."

In other major moves, Denver signed seven-time Pro Bowl safety Brian Dawkins, who spent 13 seasons with Philadelphia; the Eagles traded Lito Sheppard to the New York Jets; Dallas acquired Jon Kitna from Detroit to back up Tony Romo and signed linebacker Keith Brooking; linebacker Michael Boley signed a five-year deal with the New York Giants; and Houston signed defensive end Antonio Smith.

Getting Cassel and Vrabel is the latest move for Chiefs general manager Scott Pioli, the Patriots' former personnel director who joined Kansas City in January.

"I have a long history with both players," Pioli said. "[Vrabel] and [Cassel] are men that I respect both personally and professionally. I look forward to having them as new members of the Chiefs family."

Vrabel was part of three Super Bowl-winning teams in his eight years with New England, primarily as an outside linebacker. He joins a team whose linebackers were devastated by injury and played poorly.

Although Dawkins turns 36 next season and is clearly on the downside of his career, he brings a hard-hitting style and leadership qualities coveted by new Broncos coach Josh McDaniels.

McDaniels, the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator before he was hired to replace Mike Shanahan in Denver, envisions his new veteran safety playing a role similar to what Rodney Harrison had in New England in recent seasons.

The Broncos also signed free agent safety Renaldo Hill, who helped lead the Miami Dolphins' turnaround last season. McDaniels is tapping the New England pipeline as he tries to resurrect the Broncos, luring two free agents from the Patriots in wide receiver Jabar Gaffney and long-snapper Lonnie Paxton.

Sheppard, who spent his first seven NFL seasons with the Eagles, could immediately start in a Jets secondary that ranked 29th against the pass last year despite having Pro Bowl cornerback Darrelle Revis and playmaking safety Kerry Rhodes.

"We acquired a veteran corner with Pro Bowl ability," Jets coach Rex Ryan said. "This young man has already gone to two Pro Bowls. He is a great athlete with the top-end speed that we look for to play that position. We think he can match up with some of the best receivers in the game."

Neither the Jets nor the Eagles announced terms of the deal, but Philadelphia will reportedly receive a fifth-round pick in April and a conditional pick in next year's draft.

Dallas traded starting right cornerback Anthony Henry to Detroit, where Kitna appeared in only four games last season before going on injured reserve with a back injury.

When Romo missed three games last season because of a broken pinkie finger, the Cowboys went 1-2 and leaned heavily on their defense to beat Tampa Bay 13-9 for the lone victory in that stretch. The Cowboys, who began the season as a Super Bowl favorite, instead finished 9-7 and missed the playoffs.

The 36-year-old Kitna, who was due a \$1 million roster bonus next week, was not expected to return to the Lions. He's scheduled to make \$1.95 million this season.

The 26-year-old Boley, who signed a five-year, \$25 million contract with the Giants, is excellent in pass coverage and is expected to be given a shot at winning the weakside linebacker job after playing the strongside for Atlanta.

New York Giants sign Bernard and Boley to strengthen defense

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.—The New York Giants gave new defensive coordinator Bill Sheridan a little more depth, signing former Seattle Seahawks defensive tackle Rocky Bernard as a free agent.

Bernard signed what is believed to be a four-year \$16 million contract Saturday night, hours after the Giants signed former Atlanta Falcons linebacker Michael Boley.

"He's a veteran defensive tackle with skins on the wall," Giants general manager Jerry Reese said. "He plays hard, he's stout against the run, and he has to be accounted for as a pass rusher."

Fred Robbins and Barry Cofield, the starting tackles last season, both have had arthroscopic surgery in the offseason.

"I'm really, really excited to be coming to the Giants," Bernard said. "I wanted to go to a team that has had a lot of success and has a really good defense. That's what the Giants have. It feels good to be part of a great organization. They're a good football team."

The Giants finished last season at 12-4 and won the NFC East division title.

Judging numbers

6th place finish for the Brandeis Fencing teams in the six-weapon overall standings at the 112th Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships held at Brandeis University last Saturday. The Judges had the best finish among Division III schools.

59.7 three-point field goal percentage for men's basketball guard Kevin Olson '09 on the season. Olson's mark is the best in the country among Division I, II and III.

46 combined points and 29 combined rebounds for New York University women's basketball senior forward Jessica McEntee in two wins against Brandeis this season. She had 27 points and 17 rebounds in the Violet's 62-49 home victory over the Judges last Saturday.

17 rebounds for women's basketball guard Jessica Chapin '10, a career-high, in the Judges' 12-point loss at NYU last Saturday.

5th place finish for runner Paul Norton '11 in the 5,000 meter-run at the New England Championships last Saturday. Norton's race gave the men's indoor track team its only four points at the meet and was the best finish on the team.

13 school records broken by the men's and women's swimming and diving teams at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships last weekend at Harvard University. The women's team set seven new school marks while the men's team set six.

UAA STANDINGS

Men's Basketball

Not including Monday's games

UAA Conference	W L		Overall Pct.
	W	L	
Washington	13	23	.230
JUDGES	10	17	.680
Carnegie	9	19	.760
Rochester	7	16	.640
Chicago	6	6	.240
Case	5	8	.320
New York	4	10	.600
Emory	2	12	.280

Women's Basketball

Not including Monday's games

UAA Conference	W L		Overall Pct.
	W	L	
Washington	13	21	.840
Rochester	11	3	.880
New York	10	4	.840
Chicago	8	6	.680
JUDGES	7	7	.708
Emory	4	10	.520
Case	3	11	.400
Carnegie	0	14	.200

TEAM LEADERS

MBball (points per game)

Forward Steve DeLuca (GRAD) leads the Judges with an average of 15.2 points per game.

Player	PPG
Steve DeLuca	15.2
Kevin Olson	12.7
Kenny Small	11.3
Andre Roberson	10.4
Terrell Hollins	9.1

MBball (rebounds per game)

Forward Steve DeLuca (GRAD) leads the Judges with an average of 6.8 rebounds per game.

Player	RPG
Steve DeLuca	6.8
Terrell Hollins	6.0
Christian Yemga	3.1
Kevin Olson	3.0
Rich Magee	3.0

WBball (points per game)

Guard Jessica Chapin '10 leads the team with an average of 14.1 points per game.

Player	PPG
Jessica Chapin	14.1
Lauren Orlando	9.5
Lauren Rashford	8.1
Cassidy Dadaos	6.5
Dianna Cincotta	6.4

WBball (rebounds per game)

Guard Jessica Chapin '10 leads the Judges with an average of 6.7 rebounds per game.

Player	RPG
Jessica Chapin	6.7
Cassidy Dadaos	5.2
Lauren Orlando	4.5
Lauren Rashford	4.2
Amanda Wells	3.9

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

WBBALL vs. Western Connecticut State Univ.

The Judges will host the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament this weekend.

The women's basketball team reached the NCAA Tournament yesterday for the fourth consecutive year, and will host the first two rounds of the tournament for the first time in the school's history.

The Judges will take on the Colonials of Western Connecticut State University in the first round this Friday night.

Brandeis was 17-7 this season and 7-7 in the University Athletic Association and has won four of its last five games.

Western Connecticut ended the regular season 21-5 and 12-2 in Little East Conference, and is coming off a loss in the LEC Semifinals last Friday to the University of Southern Maine, the eventual conference champion.