

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Paige Blasco '11

■ The outside hitter leads the volleyball team with an average of 4.03 points per set in just her first season since coming off an injury.

It's hard not to commiserate with the volleyball team's outside hitter Paige Blasco '11, who spent her rookie season recovering from a torn ACL and MCL in her knee, a torn meniscus and a torn labrum in her shoulder.

While the injuries forced her to the sidelines, she took on the role of manager for the Judges last season, which allowed her to travel and be on the roster, but it was still merely a consolation prize.

"Sitting on the side sucks, but I think I was able to see what needs to be changed and what kind of leader our team needs, which was kind of motivating, and [I] still got to be a part of the team," she said.

Inserted into the starting lineup immediately this season, Blasco, who leads the team with an average of 4.03 points per set, started contributing from the season's opening match. Despite admitting to being nervous in her first match, Blasco led the Judges with nine digs in her collegiate debut Aug. 30.

Blasco carried her success through last weekend's Brandeis Invitational, where she made the all-tournament team. She established a new career high with 19 kills in the match against Williams College and had a team-high .485 hitting percentage with 18 kills and two errors in the Judges' victory against Trinity College. Blasco also tallied two double-digit dig games during the tournament.

Opponents had to deal with her strong hitting from the back row, aided by her twin sister Abby Blasco's '11 sets.

"[Abby and I] definitely have a weird kind of connection that comes from playing together for so long," Paige Blasco



JULIAN AGIN-LIEBES/the Justice

said. Now that she's back on the court, Blasco is determined to lead by example. "I want to be a strong go-to player for the team and a good leader that doesn't necessarily have to be talkative but can lead through making good plays," she said.

—Sean Petterson

VARSITY BRIEF

Sailing team debuts rookies in season-opening regatta

The sailing team, which featured four first-time collegiate sailors among its seven participants, finished in 18th place out of 19 teams at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Invitational last Sunday.

"Considering that this was our first event with a lot of freshmen, I thought we did quite well," coach Tom Robinson said. "We got better as the day went on, and everybody kept improving and learning new things."

The objective of competitive sailing is to gain the lowest score. A team earns points corresponding to its place in each race. There were 22 boats out on the water in Sunday's races. Harvard University placed first with 28 points, followed by the University of Rhode Island and MIT. Brandeis finished with 273 points.

Captain Lauren Wild '09, skippering for the first time, praised the efforts of rookies Raechel Banks '12, Josh Basseches '12, Jake Laband '12 and John Fonte '12.

"All the freshmen did well ... just because they just started," Wild said.

In particular, Wild and Robinson praised Basseches' efforts, especially considering he sailed the entire day as the B-Division skipper.

"This was [Basseches'] first time racing in college ... and he ... skippered the whole day and did really well," Wild said.

In addition to Wild, Meghan Breslin-Jewer '11, who served as the B-Division crew member, and Lara Billet '09, one of three members of the team to serve as Wild's crew member in the A-Division, rounded out the veterans competing in Sunday's race. Each division sailed seven races for a total of 14 at Sunday's regatta.

Despite her veteran status, Wild said she's still adjusting to her own new role as a skipper, who is generally in charge of the tiller and the main sail.

"It was difficult for me. ... I'm kind of learning how to play the role as a skipper rather than a crew member," she said.

Robinson said that because it was the first event, and different people were sailing together, it made for a more difficult adjustment, but as the season progresses, the sailors should develop a more stable partnership.

"We switched [positions] a lot, because it was the first event, just to see how different people would do and different combinations of people, so it was a lot of changing around," he said. "So it was confusing. Once everybody gets comfortable, you end up sailing with the same person most of the time and not a lot of changing."

—Julie Ganz

Judging numbers

0 golfers finished ahead of Lee Bloom '10 at last weekend's two-day Bowdoin Invitational. Bloom became the first Brandeis golfer ever to capture the Bowdoin Invitational. Brandeis finished in third place at the tournament with a score of 634 strokes.

4 matches won by the volleyball team at last weekend's Brandeis Invitational. The Judges beat Smith College and Williams College last Friday before defeating Trinity College and Rhode Island College last Saturday.

273 points tallied by the sailing team in its first regatta of the season last Sunday at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Invitational. The team, which debuted four rookies, finished in 18th place out of 19 teams.

3 points collected by men's soccer forward Ben Premo '09 in just three minutes of last Wednesday's game against Babson College. The Judges were tied with Babson in the 87th minute before Premo scored the game-winning goal, only to assist an insurance goal just over two minutes later.

1 place earned by women's tennis player Rachel Rosman '11 in the A singles flight of last weekend's Eastern College Athletic Conference Open Tennis Championships. Brandeis finished in second place out of seven teams.

9 consecutive games won by the women's soccer team, dating back to last season, before suffering a 2-1 loss to No. 25 Springfield College last Saturday in double overtime.

UAA STANDINGS

Men's Soccer

Not including Monday's games

UAA Conference	W L T			Overall Pct.	
	W	L	T		
Emory	0	0	5	0	1.000
Carnegie	0	0	4	0	1.000
Rochester	0	0	3	0	1.000
JUDGES	0	0	3	1	.750
Washington	0	0	4	2	.667
Chicago	0	0	2	1	.667
Case	0	0	3	2	.600
New York	0	0	1	2	.333

Women's Soccer

Not including Monday's games

UAA Conference	W L T			Overall Pct.	
	W	L	T		
Chicago	0	0	3	0	1.000
Emory	0	0	6	1	.857
JUDGES	0	0	4	1	.800
Case	0	0	4	1	.800
Washington	0	0	4	1	.800
Carnegie	0	0	3	1	.750
Rochester	0	0	3	1	.750
New York	0	0	4	2	.667

TEAM LEADERS

MSoccer (points)

Forward Ben Premo '09 leads the Judges with 10 points after earning three in last Wednesday's game.

Player	Points
Ben Premo	10
Patrick Metelus	8
Alexander Farr	4
Kyle Gross	2
Luke Teece	2

WSoccer (points)

Forward Tiffany Pacheco '11 leads the squad with 11 points in five games this season.

Player	Points
Tiffany Pacheco	11
Izabella Miranda	7
Sofia Vallone	4
Three tied with...	2

Volleyball (kills)

Outside hitter Paige Blasco '11 leads the team with 104 kills.

Player	Kills
Paige Blasco	104
Lorraine Wingenbach	70
Piera Carfagno	59
Nicole Smith	52
Bridget McAllister	41

Volleyball (digs)

Outside hitter Lorraine Wingenbach '09 has 96 digs in the first eight games of the season.

Player	Digs
Lorraine Wingenbach	96
Abby Blasco	84
Paige Blasco	74
Bridget McAllister	61
Violette Ruggiero	50

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

Women's Soccer vs. Clark University

The team will travel to Clark Saturday at noon during its five-game road trip.

The women's team will travel to Clark University, which currently holds a 2-2 record, Saturday at noon.

Last year, Brandeis picked up its first tie of the season in a double overtime matchup against Clark, which has won the only two contests it has hosted thus far this season. Midfielder Sofia Vallone '11 scored the only goal for the Judges,

who surrendered the game-tying goal in the 82nd minute.

The team will also play Bridgewater State College tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. Brandeis shut out Bridgewater State 2-0 last year in a game in which goalkeeper Hillary Ronsenzweig '10 collected six saves for her first shutout of the 2007 season.

AP BRIEF

Even without Brady, New England Patriots beat New York Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Life without quarterback Tom Brady might not be so bad for New England after all.

Matt Cassel was efficient running the offense in his first NFL start, taking over for the injured quarterback and leading the Patriots over Brett Favre and the New York Jets 19-10 on Sunday.

Cassel, who hasn't started at any level since his senior year of high school, was 16-of-23 for 165 yards. Sammy Morris ran for a touchdown, and Stephen Gostkowski kicked four field goals.

The Jets, as well as Patriots receiver Randy Moss, said New England was still the team to beat even without Brady, who was lost for the season last Sunday when he injured his left knee against Kansas City.

The Patriots (2-0) then showed why, ruining the Jets' home opener and Favre's first regular-season home start for New York. New England won its 21st straight regular-season game and beat the Jets for the eighth straight time at the Meadowlands.

Favre went 18-of-26 for 181 yards and a touchdown for the Jets (1-1), but the Patriots took advantage of a big mistake by the veteran.

With the Jets facing a third-and-22 from their 11, Favre ran out of the pocket to his left and flung a pass to Chansi Stuckey for 28 yards. Three plays later, though, Favre made a poor decision, hanging a pass intended for Chris Baker that was easily picked off by Brandon Meriweather for Favre's first interception with the Jets.

On third-and-9 from the 30, Cassel threw a screen to Kevin Faulk, who got a few blocks and ran down the right sideline to the eight-yard line. Two plays later, Cassel hit Wes Welker for seven yards to get the ball to the one-yard line. Morris then leaped over the pile for a touchdown to make it 13-3.

Stephen Gostkowski added a 28-yard field goal with 17 seconds left in the third quarter.

Favre led the Jets back into it, connecting with Stuckey for a two-yard touchdown with 10 minutes, 18 seconds left. Favre was 6-of-6 for 51 yards on the 10-play drive that started on the Jets 20, including a 19-yard pass to rookie Dustin Keller on third-and-6 from the Patriots 39. After a 10-yard reception by Laveranues Coles and an eight-yard run by Thomas Jones, Favre found Stuckey alone in the back-right corner of the end zone after Rodney Harrison got tripped up in coverage.

Gostkowski kicked a 27-yard field goal to make it 19-10.

The Jets had their opening 11-play drive end with Jay Feely, filling in for the injured Mike Nugent, missing a 31-yard attempt. Cassel then led the Patriots on a 12-play drive, capped by Gostkowski's 21-yard field goal.

Gostkowski's 37-yarder gave the Patriots a 6-0 lead. The Jets wasted an impressive drive that featured a vintage play by Favre. The veteran quarterback scrambled on third-and-9 from their 21, stepped up and threw across his body, finding Coles down the right sideline for 54 yards. A zigzagging 11-yard run by Leon Washington got the ball to the three-yard line, but the Jets gave the ball to Jones three times for one, one and minus-two yards, respectively. They had to settle for a 21-yard field goal by Feely.