

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Pat Nicholson '11

■ The second-year baseball player has succeeded at three different positions this season.

In theory, the presence of the designated hitter position in baseball enables players to specialize in either hitting or pitching. However, one hybrid player still exists on the Brandeis baseball team: Pat Nicholson '11.

The part-time pitcher, first baseman and designated hitter from Walpole, Mass. has picked up where he ended his successful rookie season and led the Judges to a 3-2 record last week.

"He's our best pitcher, and everybody knows it. As a batter, he doesn't get cheated up there at the plate and gets his swings in," assistant coach Brian Lambert '97 said.

Last week, Nicholson appeared on the mound in three of five games, playing a key role in the outcome of two of those wins.

Last Thursday, he switched from first base to pitcher to record the final out in the top of the ninth inning after Salve Regina University went ahead 6-5 on an error. After the Judges tied the game in the bottom half of the frame, Nicholson stepped to the plate with runners on first and second base and delivered an RBI single to earn himself and the Judges a 7-6 victory.

"The [opposing] pitcher wasn't really throwing a lot of strikes in warm-ups, so I was just looking for a strike to hit," Nicholson said.

Two days later, in the first game of a doubleheader against Springfield College, Nicholson delivered a complete game pitching performance and earned another win for the Judges.



JULIAN AGIN-LIEBES/the Justice

As a rookie last year, Nicholson led a veteran pitching staff in ERA and saves, appearing in 19 games as a pitcher while also appearing in 33 total games as a hitter. He had an ERA of 3.23 over 30.1 innings to go along with three saves and notched a .330 batting average with 18

RBI in over 100 at-bats.

Through 19 games this season, Nicholson has shown improvement on his rookie campaign. After last week, he is 4-1 and leads the staff in innings pitched.

—Eli Harrington

AP BRIEFS

Billy Gillispie out as Kentucky opts for coaching change

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Kentucky kept waiting for Billy Gillispie to get it, to openly embrace everything that comes with coaching college basketball's winningest program.

The Wildcats kept waiting for the winning too, the kind that's expected at a place where seven national championship banners loom over the floor at Rupp Arena.

Gillispie didn't give them either.

The University of Kentucky fired Gillispie last Friday following two rocky seasons in which the coach struggled to connect with his players, his bosses and one of the nation's most passionate fan bases.

"There is a clear gap in how the rules and responsibilities overseeing the program are viewed," athletic director Mitch Barnhart said. "It is a gap I do not believe can be solved by just winning games."

Still, winning always helps, and Gillispie didn't do enough of that.

He finished 40-27 with the Wildcats, including a 22-14 record this season that saw Kentucky miss the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991.

The Wildcats were eliminated in the quarterfinals of the National Invitational Tournament by the University of Notre Dame last Wednesday.

Gillispie declined to speak to reporters last Friday afternoon but addressed the media last Saturday at a Lexington hotel.

He seemed resigned to his fate last Thursday night during his radio show.

"A lot of teams would be happy with 22 [wins] but not always around here when it's not the right 22," Gillispie said.

Saying the program "deserves a coach that understands this is not just another coaching job," Barnhart pledged to find a replacement who appreciates the unique role.

Candidates could include University of Memphis coach John Calipari, Oklahoma State University coach and former Kentucky star Travis Ford, Michigan State University coach Tom Izzo and former Kentucky coach and current University of Louisville coach Rick Pitino.

Calipari met with Memphis officials yesterday to discuss a potential offer from Kentucky that has only been rumored to be on the table.

Pitino remains beloved across much of the state more than a decade after leaving the Wildcats for the NBA. He angered some when he decided to coach the hated Cardinals, though his eight years in Lexington are still considered among the best in the program's long history.

Gillispie likely will be remembered as a two-year mistake.

"The chemistry just wasn't right," Barnhart said.

And this divorce could end up costing Gillispie millions.

He signed a memorandum of understanding in Barnhart's house following a whirlwind courtship that lasted less than a day. Yet he never signed a formal contract as his lawyer and the university fought over the wording.

Barnhart said the university did not plan to pay Gillispie a \$6 million buyout that was to be part of his unsigned seven-year deal.

Barnhart said the school would abide by the memorandum of understanding, but he considers it to be a year-to-year contract. Gillispie made \$2.3 million annually.

"We're willing to put together a fair settlement, a fair separation," Barnhart said.

For Kentucky is ready to move on.

UConn women's basketball extends perfect season to Elite 8

TRENTON, N.J.—It took almost a half for the University of Connecticut express to get rolling. Once it did, the University of California could not stop it.

UConn freshman Tiffany Hayes scored a career-high 28 points as the undefeated Huskies beat fourth-seeded Cal 77-53 last Sunday to advance to their 14th regional final in the last 16 seasons.

The Huskies will face Arizona State University tonight with a trip to the Final Four at stake.

UConn (36-0) continued its march toward the school's third perfect season. The Huskies have entered the NAAs unbeaten three other times. Connecticut went on to win the national championship in 1995 and 2002. In the 1996 to 1997 season, the Huskies lost to the University of Tennessee in the regional final.

Ashley Walker scored 21 to lead Cal (27-7), which was making its first trip to the regionals after blowing out Fresno State University and the University of Virginia in the first two rounds.

Hayes finished 9-for-10 from the field and also had seven assists and five rebounds.

Maya Moore added 22 points, and Renee Montgomery had 13 for the Huskies. Moore is now seven points short of breaking the UConn single-season record of 694 set by Kara Wolters in the 1995 to 1996 season.

UConn has dismantled opponents this season, including beating seven ranked teams by an average of 31 points.

Cal didn't seem bothered by the noon tip and jumped out to a 7-2 lead in the first few minutes. It marked the first time UConn had trailed in a game since an early deficit against Seton Hall Feb. 28.

It didn't get much better for the Huskies, who fell behind 31-23 on Walker's three-pointer with 6 minutes, 38 seconds remaining before the break, forcing UConn coach Geno Auriemma to call timeout. Amazingly, that was the largest deficit UConn had faced all season.

That's when UConn turned up its defense and started looking like the best team in the country. Over the next 20 minutes, UConn outscored Cal 41-12, holding the Bears to 4-for-27 shooting and 10 turnovers.

Cal would get no closer than 16 the rest of the way.

Arizona State is a sixth seed and upset No. 2 Texas A&M University to reach the regional finals.

Judging numbers

8 combined RBIs for the baseball team's rookie infielders—Sean O'Hare, Julian Cavin and Jon Chu—in the Judges' three wins last week. The team went 3-2 last week.

0 matches won by the men's tennis team at Trinity College last Saturday, as the Judges were swept 9-0. The women's team also fell to Trinity but kept it close, dropping the match 5-4 after leading 2-1 in doubles matches before singles play began.

9 strikeouts in six innings for softball pitcher Caroline Miller '12 in the Judges' 8-3 win in the second game of a doubleheader at Lasell College last Tuesday.

2 wins this week for pitcher Pat Nicholson '11. Nicholson pitched a complete game for a win last Saturday against Springfield College and got another win in relief last Thursday against Salve Regina University, a game in which he also got the game-winning hit.

3 RBIs for softball second baseman/outfielder Lara Hirschler '12 in the Judges' 3-2 win in the first game of a doubleheader at Lasell College last Tuesday. Hirschler hit a three-run pinch-hit double in her only at-bat in the top of the fourth to give Brandeis the permanent lead.

17 more runs scored by No. 6 Wheaton College in its win over the Brandeis baseball team last Sunday. Wheaton took the game 19-2 and put Brandeis at 10-10 on the season.

UAA STANDINGS

Baseball

Not including Monday's games

	UAA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Rochester	4	2	15	3
Emory	3	3	17	8
Washington Univ.	3	3	12	7
Case Western	3	3	6	17
JUDGES	2	4	10	10
Chicago	0	0	5	5

Softball

Not including Monday's games

	UAA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Washington Univ.	7	1	13	4
Emory	5	3	23	5
Rochester	5	3	11	6
JUDGES	3	5	8	8
Chicago	0	0	7	3
Case Western	0	8	8	12

TEAM LEADERS

Baseball (on-base percentage)

Second baseman John O'Brion '10 leads Brandeis with a .514 on-base percentage.

Player	OBP
John O'Brion	.514
Nick Gallagher	.500
Jon Chu	.462
Drake Livada	.395
Mike Alfego	.392

Baseball (runs batted in)

Shortstop Sean O'Hare '12 leads the Judges with 16 RBIs.

Player	RBI
Sean O'Hare	16
Jon Chu	12
Drake Livada	11
Tony Deshler	11
Three tied with	6

Softball (on-base percentage)

Utility player Marianne Specker '12 leads Brandeis with a .488 on-base percentage.

Player	OBP
Marianne Specker	.488
Danielle Lavellee	.391
Brittany Grimm	.364
Chelsea Korp	.351
Melissa Cagar	.339

Softball (runs batted in)

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

Player	RBI
Erin Ross	9
Brittany Grimm	7
Marianne Specker	5
Four tied with	4
Danielle Lavellee	3

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

Softball vs. Framingham State College

The Judges will play in their home opener in a doubleheader Friday at 3 p.m.

The softball team will play its first game at home this Friday when it hosts the Framingham State College Rams in a doubleheader starting at 3 p.m.

The Judges are coming off a week in which they won three out of four games in two doubleheaders at Lasell College last Tuesday and at Clark University last Wednesday to put the team's record at an even 8-8 overall this season.

Framingham State is off to a rough start: The Rams lost their first 14 games before finally beating fellow

Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference opponent the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts 3-0 in the first game of its home-opening doubleheader last Saturday. The Rams are 1-15 overall.

Last season, Brandeis and Framingham State split a doubleheader at Framingham State April 24. The Rams took game one 5-2 while the Judges won game two 14-6.

The win was the first of 23 consecutive victories for the Judges, the longest winning streak in school history.