

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Emily Vaillette '10

■ The pitcher threw a no-hitter while only allowing one base runner last Thursday.

It was the sixth inning of the Brandeis softball team's second game against Framingham State College last Thursday, and starting pitcher Emily Vaillette '10 had just aggravated her groin muscle after first injuring it earlier the game. But with just an inning left until she could clinch the team's first no-hitter since 2006, she knew there was no way she was leaving the game.

"I wanted to finish that game more than anything," Vaillette said. "I think I would have stayed in [despite the no-hitter], but just the fact that I had a no-hitter going for me really helped me finish the game."

Vaillette stayed in and got the final outs of the game to complete her first collegiate no-hitter and the Judges' first seven-inning no-hitter in school history. Previous no-hitters have come in shortened six- or five-inning games. Vaillette said she realized about halfway through the game that she might be on the verge of history, but she tried not to let it affect her.

"We want [Vaillette] in her zone, and she was there. [Catcher Erin Ross '10] called a good game for her, and I think [Vaillette] just executed on her pitches," coach Jessica Johnson said. "The defense came up big a couple of times, and they made all of the routine plays behind her."

Vaillette allowed just one walk and had six strikeouts in the game, three of which occurred in succession in the third inning. For the season she is 4-6 with a 2.70 ERA, allowing a team-low 1.10 walks per game.

"I really worked on that throughout



HSIAO CHI PANG/the Justice

the years—the control. That's probably my best aspect of pitching, is that I have really good control," Vaillette said.

Last Friday, she did not need anyone's help, and by the time the no-hitter was completed she was just glad it

was all over.

"[I felt] relief," Vaillette said. "I was getting kind of nervous towards the end, because I didn't want to blow it."

—Melissa Siegel

## AP BRIEFS

## Gary Sheffield to join the Mets

NEW YORK—Jimmy Rollins was recruiting Gary Sheffield. Dusty Baker, too. But when New York Mets star David Wright reached out to the nine-time All-Star, he apparently sealed the deal.

Sheffield was introduced at Citi Field on Saturday, one day after reaching a contract agreement with the Mets and four days after he was released by the Detroit Tigers.

"When you have the face of the franchise making a call to you, that means a lot," Sheffield said, who's one home run shy of 500. "You never want to tell other people you're going the other way, but when he made that call I made my decision."

Sheffield said he was considering the division rival Philadelphia Phillies, where his good friend Rollins plays shortstop, and Baker's up-and-coming Cincinnati Reds. The defending American League Champion Tampa Bay Rays were also among the teams in the mix.

"I had the opportunity to exchange some text messages with him yesterday and he's excited to be here, and I think these guys are very excited to have him," Wright said Saturday. "From everything I hear, from the few encounters that I've had with him over the last few years, he has a presence about him, a swagger about him, and I think that kind of confidence will rub off on the clubhouse."

Along with the recruiting pitch from Wright, Sheffield said the allure of returning to New York—where he played for the Yankees from 2004 to 2006—was a big drawing card.

His uncle, Dwight Gooden, was a star pitcher for the Mets in the 1980s and '90s and encouraged him several times over the years to sign with the Mets. Sheffield nearly did on multiple occasions, but it never quite worked out that he would call Shea Stadium home.

Now, with the old ballpark torn down, he'll get a chance to play in the spiffy new Citi Field.

"I never thought it would happen," Sheffield said, "but when the opportunity came to be here with the Mets, I decided to fulfill my dream."

Slowed by shoulder injuries and other problems last season, Sheffield hit just .225 with 19 homers and 57 RBIs. He hit .178 with five homers in 45 spring training at-bats this year, but the Mets are taking a relatively low-cost gamble that he'll revert to form.

The Tigers will pay \$13.6 million of his \$14 million contract while the Mets get him for the major league minimum of \$400,000.

"I know I have a chance to win a championship here," Sheffield said.

Mets manager Jerry Manuel said there is plenty of time for Sheffield to get into playing shape, and although it's possible he could pinch hit this week, he probably won't play in the field until after a six-game road trip that begins the season.

"It's basically going to be like spring training-outfield work," Manuel said. "Then we'll get into the extra hitting and those types of things, the running."

"It doesn't matter who you are and what you've done; you still have to do some things to show you're ready."

Sheffield has spent most of the past two seasons in Detroit as the designated hitter but often played right field with the Yankees and Braves.

## No more Wrigley? Cubs' top pitcher asks for a new ballpark

NEW YORK—Standing in the plush visitors' clubhouse of Yankee Stadium, Carlos Zambrano made a plea for Chicago to replace Wrigley Field.

"You come into a ballpark like this and you see great things," the Cubs ace told The Associated Press on Saturday before his team's 10-1 exhibition loss at the sparkling new ballpark in the Bronx.

"You wish that Chicago [would] build a new stadium for the Cubs," he said.

Built in 1914 and home to the Cubs since 1916, Wrigley Field is the second-oldest major league stadium, trailing only Boston's Fenway Park, built in 1912. Fans in Chicago still flock to see the ivy-covered walls and keep alive Harry Caray's tradition of singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during every seventh-inning stretch.

In 2008, their 100th season without a World Series title, the Cubs drew a Wrigley record of 3,300,200 fans, and thousands more peered into the field from rooftops near the neighborhood park.

Zambrano wasn't just being his unpredictable self Saturday. As a player he wants a relaxing environment to work in, and he understands Wrigley's appeal for fans despite the lack of amenities. Who needs a martini bar, as there is in the new, \$1.5 billion Yankee Stadium, when you can go loopy just trying to figure out the wind direction for that day's game?

"People are used to Wrigley Field," he said. "As a fan it's hard to think of a new ballpark."

Cubs manager Lou Piniella couldn't agree less with his opening-day starter. The former Yankees outfielder and manager was enchanted by the new ballpark in the Bronx but can't wait to return to Chicago for the first home game on April 13.

"I don't see why," Piniella said when asked if the Cubs need a new stadium. "Wrigley's got its own uniqueness. There's no question the facilities need to be redone but that's going to happen."

"My favorite time of year is when the ivy turns green. It's really a great environment to play a ballgame," he said.

Planted in 1937, the ivy that clings to the outfield wall sometimes snares balls.

But his favorite part of managing a team at Wrigley is checking the flags to see how the wind is blowing and then devising a lineup based on the directions.

"It's like playing the British Open over there," he said. "You've got to adjust to the weather."

After two years as manager of the Cubs, Piniella has become well attuned to a ballpark's wind. After just one game at the new stadium in New York, he said, "It seems like there's a wind tunnel that shoots the ball to right-center."

Two of the Yankees' four homers Saturday went to right-center.

## Judging numbers

4 events at the Skyhill Invitational at Stonehill College in which Ali Sax '09 placed. Sax led the women's outdoor track team to an eighth place finish out of 15 teams last Saturday.

2 home runs last week for second baseman John O'Brion '10. O'Brion hit his first home run of the season last Thursday in a 9-7 loss to Fitchburg State College and his second home run in a 13-6 win over Clark University last Saturday.

1 base runner allowed by softball pitcher Emily Vaillette '10 in her no-hitter against Framingham State last Thursday. Vaillette walked one batter in the sixth inning and was otherwise perfect from the mound.

7 consecutive losses for the men's tennis team after being swept by No. 7 Amherst College 9-0 last Saturday. The team's last win came over Capital University Feb. 23 in Orlando, Fla.

11 RBIs for the first four batters in the softball team's lineup in a doubleheader sweep of Framingham State College last Thursday in the Judges' home openers.

20 combined runs by the baseball team in a doubleheader split with Clark University last Saturday. The team won the first game 13-6 but lost the second 10-7.

## UAA STANDINGS

## Baseball

Not including Monday's games

	UAA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Rochester	4	2	17	4
Emory	3	3	19	10
Washington Univ.	3	3	15	8
Case Western	3	3	8	19
JUDGES	2	4	11	15
Chicago	0	0	6	7

## Softball

Not including Monday's games

	UAA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Washington Univ.	7	1	15	8
Emory	5	3	25	8
Rochester	5	3	14	7
JUDGES	3	5	13	9
Chicago	0	0	10	4
Case Western	0	8	9	15

## TEAM LEADERS

## Baseball (on-base percentage)

Second baseman Jon Chu '12 leads Brandeis with a .500 on-base percentage.

Player	OBP
Jon Chu	.500
John O'Brion	.482
Nick Gallagher	.443
Mike Alfego	.400
Sean O'Hare	.362

## Baseball (runs batted in)

Shortstop Sean O'Hare '12 leads the Judges with 19 RBIs.

Player	RBI
Sean O'Hare	19
Drake Livada	17
Tony Deshler	14
Jon Chu	12
Pat Nicholson	10

## Softball (on-base percentage)

Utility player Marianne Specker '12 leads Brandeis with a .452 on-base percentage.

Player	OBP
Marianne Specker	.452
Melisa Cagar	.392
Lara Hirschler	.351
Danielle Lavellee	.345
Brittany Grimm	.339

## Softball (runs batted in)

Catcher Erin Ross '10 leads the Judges with 13 RBIs.

Player	RBI
Erin Ross	13
Chelsea Korp	12
Melisa Cagar	8
Brittany Grimm	8
Marianne Specker	7

## UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

## Baseball vs. Tufts University at HOME

The Judges will play local rival Tufts University this afternoon at 3 p.m.

The baseball team will host the Tufts University Jumbos today at 3 p.m. to try to build its record back toward .500.

Coming into last Tuesday's home game against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Judges had a 10-10 record. Brandeis lost to MIT 8-2, and continued to lose four of its next five games to fall to 11-14 on the year.

Brandeis is most recently coming off a 17-8 home loss to Keene State College last Sunday after splitting a doubleheader with Clark University last Saturday

and falling to Fitchburg State College last Thursday.

The Jumbos are third in the New England Small College Athletic Conference East Division with a 2-2 conference record and a 5-13 overall mark. Tufts is coming off three consecutive games at Trinity College, which sits atop the NESCAC East Division standings.

Last Saturday, Trinity beat Tufts 7-1, holding the Jumbos to just six hits on the day. Last Sunday, Trinity swept Tufts in a doubleheader.