

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



JACOB KAMARAS/The Justice

Mekonen Gendebo '11

■ The rookie runner has been the top finisher for the men's cross country team in each of the squad's last three races.

From the moment he set foot on American soil three years ago, Mekonen Gendebo '11 has been a cross country star—regardless of his team. Thus far in his college career, that has yet to change.

Gendebo has immediately emerged as the men's cross country team's top runner, having finished with the fastest time on the team in each of the last three meets. This week, he had a personal best time at the Albany Invitational, finishing in 26 minutes, one second.

"I was really sick in my first [college] practice, but everyone thought I was just out of shape," he said. "I had to convince them I actually ran over the summer, and I think I have."

When Gendebo immigrated to the United States from Ethiopia before his sophomore year of high school, he was a competitive soccer player and had never ran cross country in his life. He picked up the sport easily, immediately becoming one of the top runners on his high school team in Cambridge, Mass.

"It was very interesting for me because soccer was a team game," he said. "Cross country is sort of a team, but you have to race against so many people. I really thought it was a lot of fun."

When it came time to choose a university, Gendebo faced a difficult decision. His high school coach was a college roommate of Brandeis coach John Evans, and Gendebo loved Brandeis when he visited.

But Gendebo's high school coach was later hired to be the head coach at Northeastern University and tried to persuade Gendebo to join him. Eventually, Gendebo decided to stick to his decision to attend Brandeis and said his high school coach was surprised by his decision.

"[My high school coach] thought it was a financial thing, and he wondered why I didn't go [to Northeastern]," Gendebo said. "I just told him that Brandeis was the better school for me."

—Mike Prada

AP BRIEFS

Patriots defeat Cowboys 48-27 Sunday in battle of two undefeated squads

IRVING, TX.—All week, the New England Patriots insisted this was just another game. Well, it wasn't.

It was better. In a battle of 5-0 teams, the New England Patriots stomped the Dallas Cowboys as badly as everyone else they've faced this season, winning 48-27 Sunday behind a career-best five touchdown passes from Tom Brady.

Although the Patriots put up their most points in 23 years, the game wasn't as lopsided as the score indicates—which is what makes this victory so impressive. They won by three touchdowns despite giving up their most points of the season and trailing in the second half for the first time all year.

"The reality is we got a win on the road and we're 6-0. That's what is important," Brady said. "Any time you win you're doing just fine. It's another step in the process. We have to continue to make improvements."

Brady was 31-of-46 for 388 yards. His five TDs tied a franchise record and gave him an NFL record with at least three in each of the first six games of the season. However, he was sacked as many times (three) as he'd been all season; on one, he lost a fumble that Dallas returned for a touchdown.

What made his performance special was the way he responded to that third-quarter deficit: touchdown, field goal, touchdown, field goal, touchdown. The last score came with 19 seconds left, a one-yard run by rookie running back Kyle Eckel that Brady celebrated with two huge fist pumps.

That's about all the celebrating this team is willing to do, especially when coach Bill Belichick comes away saying the Patriots "were lucky to hang in there."

"There will probably be a couple of lashes waiting for us," Randy Moss said. "I'm not saying we're unstoppable, we just work hard at what we do."

The Cowboys (5-1) were off to their best start since 1983 and were eager to see how they stacked up against the league's elite. Now they know they can compete, but still have a ways to go. The next 10 games will show whether that is good enough in the NFC.

Boston College thinking ACC title after moving to third in first BCS standings

SOUTH BEND, Ind.—Boston College has had enough of the Meineke Car Care Bowl, the MPC Computers Bowl, the Continental Tire Bowl and Diamond Walnut San Francisco Bowl.

After eight straight years of going to second-rate bowl games, the Eagles are focused on winning their first Atlantic Coast Conference title. That would ensure the Eagles (7-0) at worst would be going to the Orange Bowl in Miami and at best playing in the national championship game in New Orleans Jan. 7.

So after four weeks of nonconference games, the Eagles are ready to take a couple of days off before getting back to the task of winning the league title. They say they are not worried about the rankings.

"We can be ranked 25th or we can be ranked first," linebacker Mark Herzlich said. "As long as we get that ACC championship, that's all we care about."

The Eagles, who started the season unranked, moved up to No. 3 Sunday—the second highest ranking in school history and their highest ranking in 65 years. The Eagles, who were No. 1 for one week in 1942, were one of six teams to receive at least one vote for No. 1.

The Eagles also are No. 3 in the Bowl Championship Series standings behind Ohio State and South Florida.

BC coach Jeff Jagodzinski acknowledges the Eagles have benefited from all the upsets this season.

"As far as the polls, we've probably got help. But no one has helped us on the field but BC," he said.

Jagodzinski has been playing down the importance of polls all season and said he doesn't care that South Florida leapt past the Eagles in the latest poll.

The Eagles, though, showed they do care when they cheered in the locker room after the game Saturday as they watched Kentucky beat then top-ranked LSU.

The Eagles get back into the ACC on Oct. 25 at No. 11 Virginia Tech (6-1)—a Thursday night game against the highest-ranked team the Eagles have faced this season.

"The extra week is huge," Jagodzinski said. "You're midway through the season, and you have some guys that are dinged up, and we're able to get healthy these next 10 days or so."

Judging numbers

326 minutes since the men's soccer team's last goal in University

Athletic Association play after two losses this weekend. The Judges have only one goal in four conference games and haven't scored since a 2-1 loss to the University of Rochester Sept. 29.

17 fewer shots for the women's soccer team than its opponent, Washington University in St. Louis, Sunday. The Judges withstood the offensive barrage until the 58th minute, when WashU scored, to take a 1-0 lead they would never surrender.

3 match points overcome by the volleyball team in its 3-2 win over Carnegie Mellon University Saturday. The victory, coupled by Case Western University's upset of New York University Sunday, gave the Judges the third seed at the post-season conference tournament.

45 -second difference between Mekonen Gendebo's '11 times in his last two cross country meets. Gendebo finished in 26 minutes, one second at this weekend's Albany Invitational after running a 26:46 at the Open New England Championships Oct. 6.

16 strokes separating the golf team's aggregate score this week from its score in the first round of the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference New England tournament Oct. 5. The Judges finished with 324 strokes at the Nichols College Bison Invitational Wednesday, compared to 308 strokes in the first round of the ECAC New England tournament.

UPCOMING GAME OF THE WEEK

Swimming and Diving at Boston College

The Judges begin their seasons against the Eagles Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams begin their seasons Wednesday when they take on Boston College.

Although both teams finished last in the University Athletic Association, rookies such as James Liu '10, Justin Wellins '10 and Rachel Sawicki '10 provided hope for the

future.

The women's team also returns diver Charlotte Rea '08, who qualified for the NCAA championships but didn't compete due to a stomach virus.

The men's team will have to replace departed seniors Hal Grossman '07, Todd Berman '07 and Matt Lerman '07 this season.

TEAM LEADERS

MSoccer (points)

Midfielder Corey Bradley '10, with nine points this season, has emerged as the Judges' top offensive threat.

Player	Pts.
Corey Bradley	9
Evan Duval	8
Ben Premo	8
Alex Mithoefer	7
Mike Silberstein	6

WSoccer (points)

Melissa Gorenkoff '10 and Sarah Jasak '08 each have 15 points to pace the Judges' scoring attack.

Player	Pts.
Melissa Gorenkoff	15
Sarah Jasak	15
Tiffany Pacheco	11
Tzili Castel	11
Two tied with	4

Volleyball (kills)

Outside hitter Lorraine Wingenbach '09 continues to lead the Judges' offensive attack.

Player	Kills
Lorraine Wingenbach	328
Piera Carfagno	174
Bridget McAllister	164
Elizabeth Villalino	162
Abby Blasco	87

Volleyball (digs)

Libero Violette Ruggiero '09, with 274 digs, is one of five Judges with 150 or more digs this season.

Player	Digs
Violette Ruggiero	274
Abby Blasco	264
Lorraine Wingenbach	195
Shannon Trees	150
Ashley Powers	130

UAA STANDINGS

Women's Soccer

	UAA Conference			Overall			Pct.
	W	L	T	W	L	T	
Rochester	3	0	1	8	3	1	.708
Washington	3	1	0	12	1	0	.923
Emory	2	1	1	11	1	1	.885
Carnegie Mellon	2	1	1	7	4	2	.615
Chicago	1	1	2	7	3	3	.654
JUDGES	1	2	1	7	4	2	.615
New York	1	3	0	10	3	1	.750
Case	0	4	0	6	7	0	.462

Men's Soccer

	UAA Conference			Overall			Pct.
	W	L	T	W	L	T	
Rochester	4	0	0	10	2	1	.808
Emory	3	1	0	12	2	0	.857
Washington	3	1	0	10	3	0	.769
Case	2	2	0	10	3	0	.769
New York	2	2	0	9	3	1	.731
Chicago	1	2	1	6	6	1	.500
Carnegie Mellon	0	3	1	7	3	1	.682
JUDGES	0	4	0	6	6	2	.500

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