

The Huntington News

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTHEASTERN COMMUNITY

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For the students, by the students since 1926

Roby wants NCAA titles

Eoghan Kelly

NEWS STAFF

The Northeastern University athletics programs have not yet reached their competitive potential, and until they do, the athletics department will not be satisfied, Athletics Director Peter Roby said in an interview with The News.

At least eight Northeastern teams have competed in post-season play and contended for Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) or Hockey East championships this year, but, Roby said, the department will continue to strive for improvement until teams are winning conference titles and competing for national championships in multiple sports "on a consistent basis."

"We've shown that we can compete in the leagues we're in – we just have to do it consistently now," said Roby, who is in his fifth year as athletics director. "We feel like we're knocking on the door. We've got teams that are finishing first, second and third in the conference [in the regular season]. Now it's just a matter of – 'Can they finish the deal?'"

So far this year, Northeastern has failed to win a conference championship in any sport, despite capturing regular season titles in women's hockey – the first in program history – and earning top-two regular season finishes in both field hockey and volleyball. The field hockey team did earn an at-large bid to the NCAA

tournament but lost in the first round to Pennsylvania State University, 1-0.

The lack of postseason success is what has left athletics disappointed. The goal every year, Roby said, is not to contend for conference championships, but to win national championships.

"We have not had as many teams get bids to the NCAA tournament as we would like to have gotten," Roby said. "Our goal is to win a national championship in hockey, both men's and women's. Our goal is to put our men's and women's basketball teams in the NCAA tournament. Our goal is for our crew teams to win the sprints and compete for a national championship in rowing."

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No progress on YMCA dorm

Nick Jacques

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Less than 18 months before its planned opening date, Northeastern officials said they have no news to report about a new dorm building announced in 2010. Under the proposal, construction was supposed to start in June 2011.

In October 2010 the university announced plans for Phoenix Property Company to purchase two wings of the YMCA on Huntington Avenue and develop a 17-story residence hall, which Northeastern would lease to house 720 students. The

project, however, has faced massive opposition from community members and construction has been stalled by legal challenges.

As part of Northeastern's Institutional Master Plan (IMP), the university promised the city it would add 1,800 on-campus beds for students. The construction of International Village, which opened in 2009, added 1,200, but the additional 600 are still to be accounted for.

Vice President for City and Community Affairs John Tobin is overseeing the project and did not respond to multiple requests for an interview this week.

In response to an interview re-

quest to Tobin, Associate Director of Communications Lucy Warsh McGowan wrote in an email to The News that "there's no real new news to report at this time."

YMCA Senior Vice President of Development of Communications Kelley Rice responded to an interview request with an email saying, "We do not have any new information to share at this time."

Rice said she believed the project would move ahead in the next 18 months, but would not elaborate or divulge any specific plans.

John Runnels, a spokesman for Phoenix Property Company, the private contractor

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NU chooses senior Emily Batt as student commencement speaker

Taylor Dobbs

NEWS STAFF

High school math left Emily Batt so frustrated she swore she'd never take another math class as long as she lived, but five years later, she is graduating from Northeastern with a degree in physics.

"Why not try to learn the thing that I found most difficult?" she said.

Batt will give the student address at Northeastern's commencement May 4 at TD Garden.

"[My speech is] about articulating some of the more subtle challenges I think our class and our generation will face and how Northeastern has prepared us," she said.

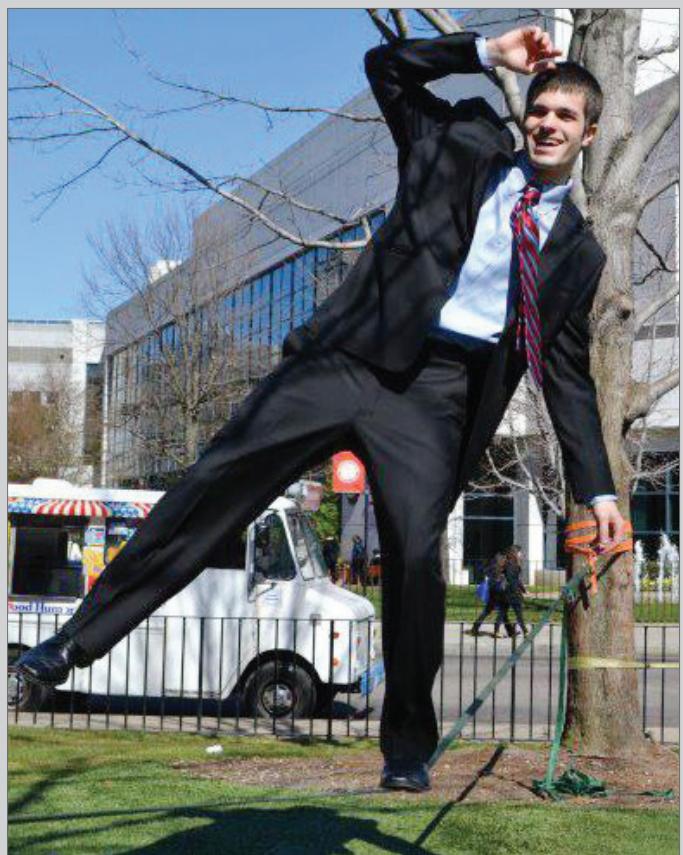
She was chosen by the Student Speaker Selection Committee for the Class of 2012 from a pool of 12 applicants who submitted their resumes, a written copy of their speeches and a video of themselves delivering the speech.

Batt, who grew up in Merrimack, N.H., said she was surprised when she found out she was selected, but excited to have the opportunity.

"I thought that maybe I could use this as an outlet to talk about what I think are the greatest parts about the student body here," she said.

One of the things she hopes to capture is the academic diversity

Springtime at Northeastern



Courtesy Photo/ Ann Sadowsky

Sophomore finance major David Sadowsky hopped on the slackline in Centennial Commons after his co-op interview with MFS Financial. He later found out he got the job, said his mother, who took the photo.



Courtesy Photo/ Emily Batt

Student commencement speaker Emily Batt on her first co-op at Oregon State University, where she conducted physical oceanography studies. Batt did her other co-ops closer to campus, one at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and at Fikst Product Development in Boston.

she has seen during her time at Northeastern.

This won't be Hardman's first time speaking in front of a large crowd. She was both class president and valedictorian at her high school in Merrimack, and gave a short speech at graduation there as well.

"I kind of always thought that would be the most people I would stand up in front of," she said, "but this trumps."

Emily Hardman, the director of student programming and communications in the university's student affairs office, was on the team reviewing the applications.

"They were all really good," Hardman said, "but Emily's speech and presentation was just excellent and really got the deciding group pretty excited."

Batt, who entered Northeastern undeclared said she decided to pursue a physics major as a sophomore despite promising herself she would never take another math class after high school. Being in an academic setting with many opportunities to learn and get help outside class inspired Batt to challenge herself, she said.

After choosing her major, Batt completed three co-ops, starting with physical oceanography research at Oregon State University. Batt also studied protein networks

at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute as part of the Steamboat Summer Scholar Program. In the fall, she completed her third co-op at Fikst Production Development, a Woburn firm that helps move product ideas from concept to production, where she and won one of Northeastern's Outstanding Co-op Awards.

As she did her various co-ops, Batt said, she discovered a passion for design engineering, which ties the aesthetic needs of design together with the practical needs of engineering. Batt said she plans to pursue a career in that field, but she was recently accepted into the engineering masters program at Cambridge University in England. She is deciding whether to continue her education in the U.K. or jump into the workforce here in the states.

Batt was also one of the university's selected 100 Most Influential Seniors who attended a reception at President Joseph Aoun's home on Beacon Hill Wednesday.

Despite her success, Batt said her time at Northeastern was not without its challenges. She said Electricity and Magnetism – a required class for all physics majors – was a rough one.

"I still have nightmares about that class," she said.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012

Huskies end eight-game skid, top Harvard

Elizabeth Thomas
News Correspondent

Home runs powered Northeastern (13-15 overall) over Harvard University (6-24 overall) 9-4, to snap its eight game losing yesterday afternoon at the Friedman Diamond.

Sophomore shortstop Oliver Hart hit a three-run homer and finished with four RBIs, and sophomore right fielder Aaron Barbosa had four hits, including his first home run of the season.

"We were down 1-0, we have been struggling to get runs on the board lately so it was great to get one run up there to tie the game," Hart said.

Freshman pitcher Nick Berger made his second start of the season (2-1) pitching seven innings, allowing four runs on nine hits while striking out seven, without walking any batters. Harvard sophomore pitcher Baron Davis mph miles an hour in his second game of the season, going five innings allowing only one run on four hits.

The Crimson scored the first run of the game with a solo home run from freshman center fielder Mike Martin.

"[Berger] surprised us right from the beginning," head coach Neil McPhee said. "Every time we use him he shows more confidence in himself. He seemed to get better and better as the game went on ... he's been this year over all very good."

The Huskies tied the game in

the bottom of the fourth thanks to freshman second baseman Jason Vosler's two-out double to left center. Hart then drove Vosler home with a single down the right field line.

Berger remained effective into the fifth, getting Crimson freshman designated hitter Tanner Anderson to ground out to junior third baseman Peter Castoldi who turned a 5-4-3 double play ending the inning.

Sophomore center fielder Connor Lyons kept the Huskies in the game in the top of the sixth by throwing out senior center fielder Jeff Reynolds out at the plate, keeping the score tied 1-1.

In the bottom of the sixth the Huskies broke open the game. Senior co-captain left fielder Matt Miller and junior designated Jon Leroux were walked back-to-back. Freshman second baseman Jason Vosler proceeded to hit an RBI single down the right field line. Hart then hit his three-run home run to far left field to give the Huskies a 5-1 lead.

In the bottom of the seventh, Barbosa's second career home run push the Husky lead to 6-1.

Entering in the eighth, Crimson junior pitcher Dylan Maki was able to retire the first two hitters and only allowed a single to sophomore shortstop Jake McGuigan, scoring sophomore left fielder Jack Colton to cut the lead 6-4.

"I came out today with the attitude I have to redeem myself and we have been losing eight games

in a row got to stop somewhere, I went out with my best stuff and went right out there with the hitters and it just worked out," Berger said.

Hart reached on an error in the bottom of the eighth, then a pinch-hit from Castoldi put runners on first and second. Senior co-captain and first baseman Tucker Roeder singled, bringing home Hart advancing Castoldi to third. Sophomore center fielder Connor Lyons singled to first scoring Castoldi, pushing the score to 9-4, where it stayed for the rest of game.

With a five-run lead, Hart moved from shortstop to relief pitcher for the final frame of the game. Hart didn't allow a single base runner, and ended the game with a pop up to center field with Lyons making a diving catch.

The night before was the first round of the Beanpot tournament, when the Huskies pushed the losing streak to eight games after falling 4-1 to University of Massachusetts-Amherst (10-10) at LeLachuer Park in Lowell.

Vosler held together the Husky offense, going 2-4 and driving in the only run of the game. Senior co-captain catcher Tucker Roeder made his first career start at first base tonight due to the absence of injured freshman Rob Fonesca, who is expected to be out four to six weeks.

Sophomore pitcher Matt Cook made his sixth start of the season, allowing four runs on three hits with four strikeouts.



News Photo/Chris Mullen

Senior first baseman Rucker Roeder tagged the base to get Harvard's junior second baseman Kyle Larrow out in the ninth inning.

home run of the season, bringing the score to 3-1.

Cook held off until the sixth, when the Minuteman redshirt freshman outfielder Adam Picard brought home another run to give UMass a 4-1 lead.

Castoldi led off the eighth inning with a single to left bringing up Lyons who grounded out into a 6-4-3 double play.

"We got a win final, we simple have to continue the good parts of this game," McPhee said after Wednesday's win.

Northeastern will welcome conference rivals George Mason University this weekend for a home series at Friedman Diamond Friday at 3 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Team tops podium with head coach suspended

Madeline Sattler
News Correspondent

The men's and women's track and field teams brought top finishes back to Huntington Avenue from meets in two different states last weekend, despite being down head coach Sherman Hart after his March 29 suspension.

The university suspended Hart indefinitely, to complete an "internal review of possible NCAA violations," according to an official statement emailed to The News by Sports Information Director Mark Majewski.

Most athletes stayed local, competing in the George Davis Invitational at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell while 11 runners and fielders headed to Gainesville, Fla., for the Florida Relays.

"The George Davis Invite was excellent," assistant coach Tremaine Shaw said. "We had a lot of really good marks, so that was really promising."

The women were strong in field events with three athletes winning gold in Lowell. Junior vaulter Lauren Bennett soared over 3.35 meters in the pole vault for her first win of the season.

Junior jumper Nia Howard took the long jump win with a 5.70 meter leap while junior thrower Julia Westover launched the hammer 53.08 meters to win the event.

"It wasn't as far as I wanted to throw," Westover said. "But considering the cold, I think I did pretty well."

Other top performances included a third place tie in the pole vault between junior Jillena Decarteret and freshman Dana Schweiger. Both athletes cleared 3.20 meters.

Junior thrower Rachel Taback placed second after Westover for

the hammer throw in a field of 34 athletes with a throw of 52.28 meters.

Sophomore Olivia Stevens jumped 11.21 meters to earn bronze in the triple jump.

"We pretty much dominated the field events," Westover said. "We're doing a lot better than we were doing last year, so I'm happy about it."

The women performed well on the track also, with Howard and freshman sprinter Victoria Alexander finished second and third respectively for the 100-meter dash. Howard crossed the line in 12.50 seconds while Alexander finished soon after in 12.56 seconds.

Senior middle distance runner Christina Gallagher captured bronze in the 800-meter run in a field of 56 athletes. The Massachusetts native finished in 2:17.47.

From the men's team in Lowell, freshman sprinter Toju Omentorwa and junior Stefano Combi medalled on the track for Northeastern. Omentorwa placed third in the 400-meter dash crossing the line in 51.11 seconds. Combi earned his bronze by completing the 110-meter hurdles in 15.14 seconds.

Senior thrower Patrick Jablonski continued what has been a dominating season, topping 36 other athletes in the discus throw to win gold with a 48.63 meter toss. Jablonski's 15.60 meter throw in the shot put placed him second.

"[My throw] was good enough to beat everyone who I was capable of beating," Jablonski said. "But personally, I don't think I performed on par with how I would like to be."

Sophomore throwers Max Milder and Christopher Reider also took gold in their respective events as well. Milder won the hammer throw clearing 55.17 meters while

TRACK & FIELD, page 14



Courtesy Photo/Nick Varamo
The Northeastern club cycling team travels every weekend to race against Eastern College Cycling Conference schools. On downhills, riders can reach speeds near 100 miles per hour.

Club cycling spends away weekends racing at high speeds

Christopher Judd
News Correspondent

The Northeastern University cycling club members spend their weekends racing at high speeds after putting in long hours to training.

The cycling club operates as two separate teams: mountain biking during the fall, and road biking in the spring.

With roughly 30 members, the team travels to races each weekend with 15 competitors.

"Both teams are built around people who have a passion for cycling," said president Alex Scott, junior entrepreneurship and new marketing venture major. "Everyone racing is focused on working hard, and our work is striving towards that."

Riders competing in mountain biking require sturdier bikes that can handle the rugged terrain of the off-road tracks. The sport is also more individualistic because there are usually less riders than in road cycling, and each event has smaller groups of people racing, Scott said.

Mountain biking also requires riders to be more familiar with the terrain and obstacles on the course so they can pace themselves to be in a good position to win.

Road biking features lighter, faster bikes, with a lot of teamwork to win as positioning within the pack can be the difference in a place on the podium, making it the ultimate team sport, road co-captain and senior industrial engineering major Mike Farrar said.

The team works together to draft - when riders form a line, so the

person in the lead moves all the air out of the way, letting people behind him use less energy. Riders are in a pace line, where they alternate the lead rider frequently so everyone stays fresh.

"Although it doesn't seem as team oriented as basketball or baseball, in cycling, team members will completely sacrifice their race all to help their team leader try to ride to victory," Farrar said. "In no other sport have I seen team members completely forgo their chances of victory to aid other teammates."

Both environments, however, share the same intensity and sense of community that is prevalent among cycling teams across in the Eastern College Cycling Conference.

"People don't [generally] transfer - when riders form a line, so the

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Reallocated scholarships boost programs

Roby: Student support and winning teams go hand-in-hand

ROBY, from page 1

Despite their disappointing performances, Roby acknowledged that some Northeastern sports have collectively displayed its potential, which he attributed to the re-investment in a number of programs and athletic department resources.

After cutting the football program at the conclusion of the 2009 season, a majority of the 65 scholarships that were originally allocated to football players were distributed to various teams. While many teams, including both men's and women's hockey, men's and women's basketball and field hockey, had already reached the NCAA scholarship limit, teams like baseball and men's rowing have benefitted from the increase in funding for student athletes.

In Roby's first year (2007) as athletics director, the baseball program was only allocated five and a half full scholarships per season. Since football was eliminated, baseball has added enough scholarship money to reach the NCAA limit.

"It simply means that we have the resources to bring in the most talented of players that can commit to our program, and that's what this freshman class is looking like," baseball head coach Neil McPhee said. "And it's not just our freshman class this year. It's looking like a losing streak right now, but the future is going to be the freshman, sophomore and junior class."

Men's rowing coach John Pojednic said the benefits of scholarship reallocation for his team are two-fold. They have allowed the rowing program to compete with the top 20 rowing programs in the country and reduces the financial burden that attending Northeastern places on non-funded student athletes.

"The university has made great strides recently to increase the amount of financial aid we offer to the student body in an effort to level the playing field when it comes to our university's ability to compete for the best student [athletes] from the US and abroad," Pojednic said. "Without question, this will enable us to reach and sustain a very high level of competitive excellence."

The Athletics Department also made a commitment to improve facilities, making major renovations to Matthews Arena, Parsons Field, Solomon Court and the Cabot

Gymnasium in Roby's tenure. He said more funding was allocated for coaches' salaries and the department hired a number of additional sports medicine, game operations, equipment, athletic development and strength and conditioning staff.

By making these investments and setting lofty expectations – such as committing to send a men's rowing boat to the 2013 Henley Royal Regatta in the U.K., one of the largest regattas in the world – Northeastern teams have been able to attract a significantly wider array of top-end talent, Roby said. Recent recruits included players that were recognized across conferences like freshman women's hockey forward Kendall Coyne, freshman men's hockey forward Ludwig Karlsson and freshman men's basketball forward/guard Quincy Ford.

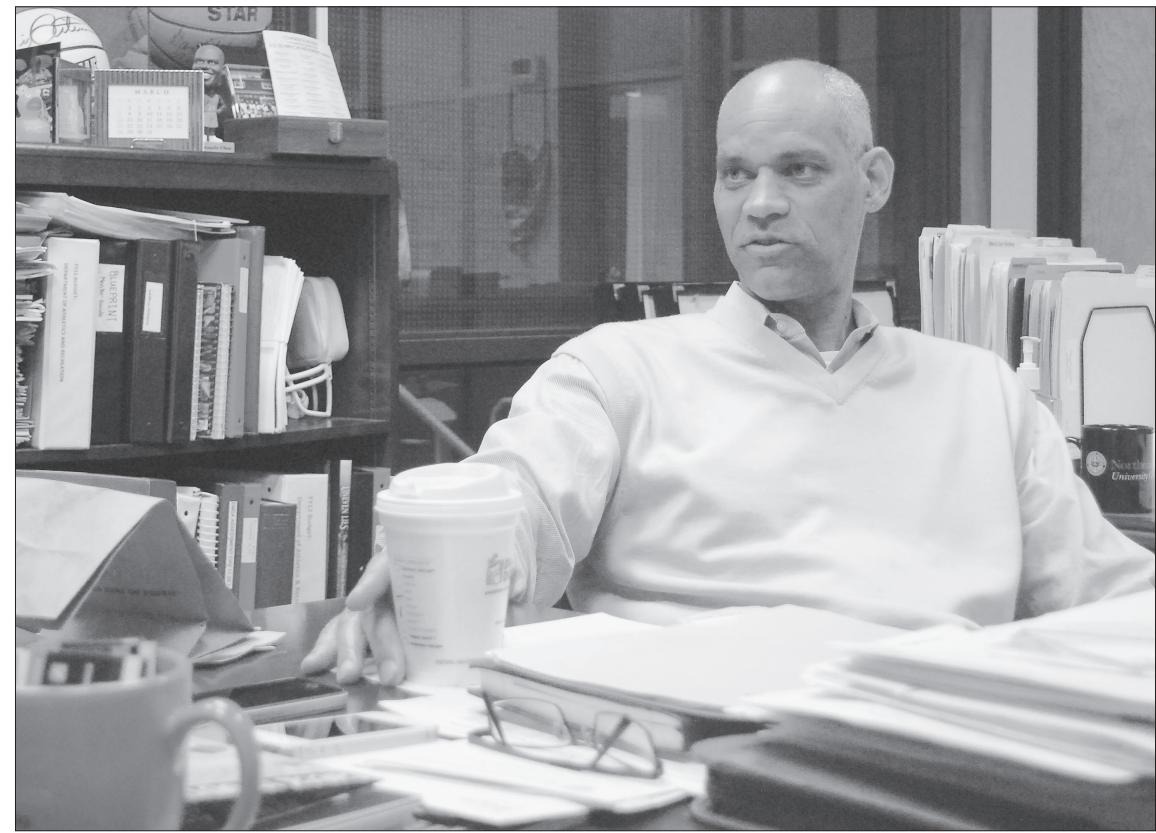
"We've had the conference player of the year in several sports. We've had the rookie of the year in several sports," Roby said. "We've got quality athletes here and our facilities have really improved."

The players, staff and resources are all in place. What's missing now, Roby said, is support.

That support manifests itself in two forms. Primarily, Roby said Northeastern needs to increase fan support and create a more intimidating home-court advantage to compete with the likes of Virginia Commonwealth University, Drexel University and George Mason University in the CAA and other teams across Hockey East.

Recent efforts to do such, included providing shuttle buses to all games at Parsons Field and increasing game marketing to the Northeastern student body, have laid a foundation to increase fan attendance, but Roby said a "chicken and the egg" scenario has developed: Teams need loyal fans to win and be successful, but fans won't provide a presence until the teams prove they can win.

"We need to create an environment where [opposing] teams have a tough time playing here, and over the last couple years, it hasn't been that tough to play here," Roby said. "That's the priority for us in this off-season, and we've already been spending a lot of time talking about what are we going to do to put people in the stands. We've got to get students to come out to support our



News Staff Photo/Sarah Moomaw

Athletic Director Peter Roby is in his fifth year with Northeastern. He has yet to see a national championship but said he believes NU have the talent to see one soon.

teams."

The other form of support, Roby said, comes from alumni. Northeastern set a record for alumni donations in 2011-12 and Roby hopes to surpass that mark with each coming season, but added that he would also like to see increased alumni attendance at games.

Once all pieces are in place – players, staff, resources, fans and alumni support – Roby said that it will only be a matter of time until Northeastern is consistently competing for conference and national championships.

But Husky fans won't need to wait long. With some luck, Roby thinks that time could come as early as the next season.

"Sometimes you need a little bit of luck," Roby said, but added that Northeastern "also need[s] the time to allow these investments to take hold and ferment and pay dividends. I understand that people are frustrated and want to see us win and see all these things come

to fruition, but I don't think we're that far away. I expect us to make hay next year."

Roby said Northeastern teams would have benefitted from a bit more luck and time this year as well.

After earning 21 wins, the most since joining the CAA in 2005, the women's volleyball team lost a five-set thriller to No. 6 VCU in the CAA semifinals in November. Just two weeks earlier, the VCU Rams ended another Northeastern season when they also knocked the women's soccer team out of the CAA semifinals with a 1-0 victory.

Meanwhile, the men's soccer team lost a penalty shootout to the University of Delaware in the CAA quarterfinals in Harrisonburg, Va., after going undefeated at home in 2011.

Though he said he was disappointed with overall postseason play, Roby said he was pleased with the fact that Northeastern sent four fall teams to CAA tournaments, a feat matched only by the College of William & Mary.

games ... and with a new coaching staff and players learning to play together, it was a tough thing for us to overcome. [But] we proved that that team can play with any team in the country."

The men's hockey team reached one of its lowest points of the season when it was blown out in the Beanpot semifinals, 7-1, just 24 hours before the women's team won its first Beanpot title in 14 years in a 4-3 overtime triumph over Boston University.

While the men's team missed out on the post-season by way of a tiebreaker to the University of Massachusetts-Amherst – with which Northeastern finished the regular season tied for eighth place with 22 points – the women's team continued to excel after its Beanpot performance. The Huskies rode the play of United State College Hockey Online Rookie of the Year Coyne and senior goaltender and Patty Kazmaier Award finalist Florence Schelling to the top of the Hockey East standings by the end of the regular season.

But after a 2-0 loss to Providence College in the Hockey East Tournament semifinals, the women's season was over. The Huskies failed to earn an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

Roby said the end of the women's season was premature and they deserved a better finish given how they played all year.

"We felt like they had a real disappointing end to their season and we just got caught in a numbers game with postseason play," Roby said. "I don't think there's too many people in the country that don't think that we're one of the best teams in the country, and I think we played like it."

The number of disappointing results across all sports yearly leaves Roby excited for 2012-13, he said, as he pointed to a number of returning starters on multiple teams, strong recruiting classes and more experienced teams and coaching staffs as a reason to look forward to next year.

As he put it, Northeastern is a "sleeping giant," and 2012-13 could be the year that it erupts onto the national athletics scene.

"We've, I think, raised the level of competition across the board in our sports, but we still think we're just scratching the surface," Roby said. "We have very talented athletes, we have a group of coaches that are very good at what they do, and we have a school that's easy to recruit to ... still there's more to do, but we like where we're headed."

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Huskies on the skid... Again

Stop me if you've heard this before:
The boys of summer are on a slide.

The Northeastern Huskies baseball team has hit a bit of a rough patch just over 27 games into their season. Heading into the Beanpot opener against UMass Amherst Tuesday evening, the Huskies had lost seven straight by a combined score of 64-23, and have been held to three runs or less in five of those contests. Losing Tuesday nights Beanpot pushed the streak to eight games, which was halted by 9-4 win at Friedman Diamond last night.

Part of this comes from the simple fact that the opposition they've faced over the past few weeks has been the best they've faced all season.

The first three games in the losing streak were to a Virginia Commonwealth team that was in desperation mode itself. The Rams entered the three-game series against Northeastern having lost six of their last seven as the season began to unravel around them. They came out swinging and took all three from the Huskies by an average of nearly six runs.

After a loss to Rhode Island on the road, Northeastern faced James Madison, the NCAA baseball expert-favorite to repeat as Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) champs a season after registering a 21-9 league record and a 42-19 record overall.

I still stand by my belief that "experts" are more often wrong than they are right, but one has to believe something on paper – whether it was their pitching, hitting or fielding – caught the voters' eyes. Fan favorites are not fan favorites just because their uniforms are the most aesthetically pleasing.

To be fair, the Huskies started the season in a gear you couldn't expect them to hold up all season. Following an 18-33 season, Northeastern was on pace for right around a 33-17 mark opening the season at 12-7. It takes different factors for such a sharp turnaround to take place.

Northeastern fans can certainly draw parallels to this slide and the slide experienced by the men's hockey team earlier this season. After coming out of nowhere – a 1-7-2 start to be exact – to put together an eight-game unbeaten streak (7-0-1), the team won only six of their final 18 games to close out the season at 13-16-5. (But they beat BU to finish the season, and that counts for something, right?)

And then, of course, if you're talking about "baseball" and "losing" in the same sentence, people in this town immediately draw connections to one team: the Boston Red Sox.

Unlike their fried chicken-eating, beer-guzzling baseball brethren down on Yawkey Way (yeah, still not over that), Northeastern's slump seems to be a product of the traditional ups and downs of the season, as opposed to a college diet and frat boy mentality.

Much like the Red Sox, however, the Huskies need to get more out of their pitching staff. Three runs per game certainly aren't enough from the offensive end, but it's plenty if the pitching staff comes out and dominates opposing bats.

Pitchers like senior Andrew Leenhouts (5.16 ERA) and junior Dylan Maki (7.25 ERA) have to step up and put a stop to this losing streak. Considering Leenhouts is the ace of this staff – don't think he doesn't know all eyes are on him.

The other thing to remember is we're only at the midway point of the season. The team has plenty of time to right the ship in time for a CAA tournament run at the end of June. This losing streak is equivalent to one a team in the majors might experience during August: It certainly won't help your playoff chances, but it isn't a death sentence.

This team has talent. They play in a difficult league and play a relatively difficult out-of-conference schedule. They'll put wins on the board. It's only a matter of time. And in case anyone forgot, they did jump out to a 12-7 start. Something other than pure luck and weak opponents got them there.

Stay tuned, because hope is not lost.

– Andy MacDougall can be reached at sports@HuntNewsNu.com.

TRACK & FIELD

Huskies bring home medals from two states

TRACK & FIELD, from page 16

Reider set a personal record in the javelin throw with a 59.59 meter pitch.

Jumpers senior Brian Racca and junior Tejorn Davis placed second and third respectively in the triple jump. Racca put together a 14.29 meter jump while his teammate finished just behind at 14.19 meters.

"Our field athletes are very deep," Jablonski said. "We have a lot of talent, which we're going to need at conferences."

Northeastern was represented at an out-of-state meet in Gainesville, Fla., where six women and five men competed against some of the best college athletes from eastern seaboard and southern schools.

"Florida was just a cool experience because it was such a big track meet, so that was a lot of fun," sophomore sprinter Alex Shapiro said.

Senior jumper Andrew Staples had the highest Northeastern finish at the meet, placing seventh in the long jump with a 7.10 meter leap. Freshman Jared Lane and sophomore Jackson MacDonald finished 49th and 53rd respectively in the 110-meter hurdles.

The men's 4 by 200-meter quartet of Lane, MacDonald, Shapiro and senior sprinter Darius Velez combined to finish 22nd with a time of 1:27.55.

"We ran the second fastest time

in school history which was pretty cool considering we were out in lane nine," Shapiro said. "The outer lanes of the track are at a disadvantage in having to cross throw traffic coming out of the barrels."

For the women, senior sprinter Saleen Abdur-Rashed crossed the line in 14.43 seconds for the 100-meter hurdles placing 28th. Junior jumper Georgia Pingue also performed well in the triple jump leaping to a 23rd place finish at 11.63 meters.

The 4 by 100-meter squad of Abdur-Rashed, senior sprinter Nia Howard, senior sprinter Sarah Trotman and freshman sprinter Monet Brathwaite combined for a time of 47.28 seconds which was good enough for 38th. Abdur-Rashed, Brathwaite, Trotman and freshman sprinter Victoria Alexander joined forces for the 4 by 200-meter relay placing 23rd with a 1:47.76 time.

"[The race] made them feel like they are ready for the upcoming conference championships and that they are headed in the right direction," Shaw said.

The Huskies will welcome competitors to their home track this weekend for the Solomon Invitational.

"We're really trying to compete as best we can at every meet," Shapiro said. "We step up when it counts the most, so hopefully that bodes well for conferences."

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012

BASEBALL

Huskies swept in second straight weekend series

Zolan Kanno-Youngs

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Freshman pitcher Nick Berger picked up a loss in his first career start as the Huskies fell 16-7 Sunday, allowing James Madison University to pick up the series sweep.

JMU won Friday's series opener 6-14 and took Saturday's one-run game, 3-2.

Berger allowed six runs on nine hits through three innings in the series finale.

The Huskies stayed within three runs until the eighth when the Dukes opened up the game with a seven-run inning.

"Our depth of bullpen and lack of experience is where we're hurting," head coach Neil McPhee said. "We're struggling to maintain leads late in the game. Losing [freshman utility player] Mike Foster is currently a major factor of the last two weekends."

The freshman was not only playing second base, but also served as the team's closer with two saves on the season. Foster played two weeks on a broken foot before being benched. He is expected to be out for four to six weeks.

The bullpen couldn't hold the game after junior catcher John Puttress cut JMU's lead with a two-run single in the top of the fourth, closing the gap to 6-5.

JMU was able to stretch the lead to two in the bottom of the inning when junior catcher Bradley Shaban brought sophomore infielder Connor Brown home on an RBI double.

The Huskies once again responded when freshman second baseman Jason Vosler hit a solo shot for his fifth home run of the season to make a 7-6 game.

Junior shortstop Pete Castoldi homered in the top of the eighth to bring the Huskies within two runs, but the Northeastern bullpen could not stop the JMU offense in the bottom of the inning as the Dukes



News Photo/Chris Mullen

Sophomore right fielder Aaron Barbosa, above, had four hits yesterday afternoon against Harvard.

scored seven runs on five hits.

With the score 16-7, the Huskies were retired in order in the ninth to end the game.

In game two of the series, junior pitcher Kevin Ferguson bounced back following a rough outing against VCU in which he gave up eight runs on six hits. He struck out five and allowed only three runs on 11 hits Saturday.

"I thought it was probably the most important game of his career here," McPhee said. "[He] rebounded a so-so performance against VCU and then came out and essentially dominated James Madison."

The Dukes struck first in the bottom of the third when senior designated hitter Even Scott brought junior shortstop Casey Goss home on an RBI groundout.

Vosler helped power the Husky offensive with two RBI singles. The first tied the game in the fourth and drove home senior Matt Miller in the fifth.

JMU took the lead in the sixth with a two run inning. The Dukes then took the lead 3-2 when Shaban stole home plate with junior catch-

er Billy Logan batting.

The steal held as the winning run.

"Right now, through the last two weekends, we've seen two great bullpens and that's a part of any team that is absolutely critical to win any three game set," McPhee said.

The Huskies started the weekend with a 14-6 loss Friday.

Senior captain Andrew Leenhouts took the loss, allowing seven runs on 10 hits through four innings.

Again, the Huskies took the lead late into the game, but a seven-run in the sixth inning by JMU led to a Northeastern downfall.

Vosler and junior catcher John Leroux each had two hits in the loss and junior outfielder Jason Roth hit a pinch hit home run in his first at bat of the season.

"We are down about this, anyone would be," McPhee said. "A seven-game [losing] streak can be very hard on a team, which it is, no doubt about it, but we all think that we can turn it around the next game we play."



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ROWING

Men's crew sweeps Terriers on the Charles

Max Nagel

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The men's rowing team earned their 10th Arlett Cup in the 12th annual race Saturday morning in Boston in a sweep of Boston University. The women's team also raced this weekend, placing second against the University of Pennsylvania and Syracuse University in the Orange Challenge Cup.

The men's Varsity 8 finished with a time of 6:01.5, beating BU by 1.7 seconds. For nearly all of the race, Northeastern held either a six-seat or full-length lead over their opponent. The Terriers made a push in the last few hundred meters, but the Huskies were able to hold them off with a strong final sprint.

"I thought our crews raced aggressively in tough headwind conditions ... We need to row with a long aggressive rhythm."

— John Podjendnic, men's rowing head coach

The Freshman 8 had a close race, beating BU by only .8 seconds. After retaining a moderate lead for most of the race, BU began to slowly inch their way toward the Huskies' bow, but it was no match for the fresh-

man.

The final race of the day was between Northeastern's second Varsity 8 and BU's second and third Varsity 8s. Northeastern commanded the race, winning by a margin of 7.7 seconds, completing the sweep.

"I certainly expect our crews to perform to the best of their ability on race day," men's head coach John Podjendnic said. "I anticipate very challenging and close races from some very formidable opponents and our crews will need to work very hard day to day and week to week to make sure that we are gaining speed in preparation for our upcoming duels, cup matches and championship races."

In Syracuse, the women's crew competed in the Orange Challenge Cup against Penn and Syracuse. The race dates back to 1977, when women's rowing became a collegiate sport and the Cup is currently one of the oldest trophies in women's rowing.

The strong headwinds on the water Saturday were nothing unusual for a race, but an element all crews had to overcome. Ultimately, Northeastern finished second overall, as Penn walked away with their 11th Orange Challenge Cup for the first time in 15 years.

"I thought our crews raced aggressively in tough headwind conditions," women's head coach Joe Wilhelm said. "We need to row with a long aggressive rhythm when the racing heats up in the second half of the race."

The Varsity 8 crossed the line

only 4.6 seconds behind Penn, who held a lead for much of the race. In the last 1000 meters, Northeastern tried to make a move on Penn, but they were able to maintain the lead through the finish.

The third Varsity 8 finished second behind Penn, while the second

Varsity 8 and the two 4s all finished in third place behind the other schools.

"It's always a tough battle when these two programs get together," Wilhelm said.

The women will travel to Lake Monticello in Charlottesville, Va.,

to take on Clemson, Michigan State, Minnesota, Notre Dame, San Diego and Virginia in the Virginia Invitational Saturday.

The men will return to the Charles River Saturday when they host Brown University in the Dreisigacker Cup.



News Staff Photo/Dan Pagliaroli

The men's first Varsity 8 beat Boston University by 2.1 seconds and grabbed Northeastern's 10th Arlett Cup in 12 years. The second and third Varsity 8 boats also placed first completely the sweep of BU Saturday on the Charles.

PLAYERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Men's hockey players start clothing company in dorm

Jill Saftel

NEWS STAFF

AND

Christina Bivona

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

What was just an idea in a freshman dorm room turned into a thriving business when men's hockey players Jake Hoefer and Zak Stone created their hockey apparel company, Hoffzaz.

The two sophomores, Stone a forward and Hoefer a defender, started the company last summer when they came up with the idea to make hockey skate lace bracelets with buckles on them.

Hoefer, the creator of the company and environmental studies major with a minor in business, was tossing around ideas with his roommate, Stone, a sociology major, when they decided to make it a reality.

Hockey players are known for wearing skate laces around their wrists to practice as a symbol of good luck, but the functionality of getting them on and off was always tricky, Hoefer said. Common solutions like melting the fibers together or sewing the bracelet on make the lace nearly impossible to get off.

"We came up with the idea of putting the buckle on it so you could easily snap it off and put it back on during practice," Hoefer said.

Hoefer and Stone then created sketches for the logo of Hoffzaz. After coming up with a few different designs, the two finally decided on the image of a dinosaur with the letters "h" and "z" as the logo.

"It was mostly [Hoefer's] idea, I just tagged along," Stone said. "He came up with the idea and to fit our names together with the dinosaur, so we just ran with it. I knew a lot of my friends back home would like it and so I started telling them about it and once [the product] came out it just spread."

Since neither of them had previously run a company, there were several things the new business-

men had to learn.

"I pretty much just did it all myself. I did a lot of research and then made the website myself, I didn't really go for any outside help," Hoefer said. "It just took off from there, we started taking it to different pro shops and started to get some big orders and that's when we started the website and started to really push some products."

The store's newest additions include men's and women's t-shirts and tank tops (\$10-\$14), as well as hats (\$10), all manufactured overseas.

"Last month we had a bunch of big orders from hockey pro shops. We just sold a couple thousand bracelets to companies like TSR Hockey, Commonwealth Lacrosse and others," Hoefer said. "We're getting a bunch of retail stores out in New Jersey and there's also word of mouth so that has helped make a lot of sales too."

That word of mouth recently got Stone and Hoefer a sale for bracelets to be used as gifts at a girl's hockey tournament in Canada. For now, their marketing strategy is made up of buzz in the hockey community and on social media combined with sending samples to hockey players. Hoefer said he hopes to run advertisements in hockey magazines as soon as they start to make a profit.

He estimates they've invested a couple thousand dollars into the company, and expect to see a profit within the next few months.

Hoffzaz's bracelets are available in eight different colors and can often be custom designed as well.

"Most of the orders have been custom orders ... we received one for a bunch of bracelets for a girl's hockey tournament," Hoefer said. "They were fundraising for breast cancer so they ordered pink bracelets with the name of the tournament on them. Stuff like that is good too because it's for a good cause."

In addition to putting time and effort into their business and schoolwork, Hoefer and Stone are dedicated to the hockey team.

"What I'm observing overall about Northeastern students — and I'm sure it applies to hockey players as well — is they come to Northeastern because it's a great place to learn about the working world and start your career before you graduate," said Dan Gregory, faculty adviser for Northeastern's venture accelerator, Idea, who has no involvement in Hoffzaz. "I see students spending 20 to 30 hours a week working on their ventures while getting straight A's or playing a sport."

Busy practice schedules can often make it challenging for the student athletes to keep all of their commitments, but Stone and Hoefer say they're dedicated to the success of Hoffzaz.

"It was really hard at first but then it just became a part of what I do," Stone said. "I'm always trying to help spread it, let people know about it. On the way to practice I'll head over to the post office, sift things out, give the receipts to Jake but he does most of the work, so a lot of the credit goes to him."

Although the team of two is working alone, they said they're happy to continue working to keep the business growing.

"It can be really tough when you get a bunch of orders and have to go to the post office and you have to mail everything out and you don't have a lot of people helping you," Hoefer said. "In the end it's worth it."

In the next few months, Hoefer and Stone plan on releasing some new products to customers.

"Our whole thing is to do stuff differently. The t-shirts have armpit vents and pockets and we put a different twist on the wristbands," Hoefer said. "That's Zak's and my motto — when we make stuff, we don't want to make something everyone else has, we want to make something a little bit different."

CLUB SPORTS



Courtesy Photo/Nick Varamo

Members of the cycling team spend up to 30 hours between group practices and personal workouts a week training for races.

Cycling relies heavily on teamwork to beat pack

CYCLING, from page 16

between mountain and road biking, however, I encourage everyone to try both," Scott said. "Even though people are scared about different racing styles, most people who do try both end up sticking with them."

The difficulty level of the cycling goes unnoticed by casual observers, even if they are familiar with, Famous the Tour de France race, he said.

"The easiest way to think about a bicycle race is that fundamentally it is a moving chess match," Farrar said. "Riders and teams make 'moves' to try to influence the outcome of the race and put their best riders in the best possible position."

Riders travel at high speeds, generally moving around 25 mph, reaching up to 50 mph on descents, for about 100 miles a race. At these speeds, it is inevitable for crashes to occur — with at least three this outdoor season — which can cause injuries, setting riders back in training.

Farrar said that even without injuries, the sport difficult to prepare for as riders can top 30 hours a week between practices and training on their own.

"Getting into shape on the bike means that most of our riders have

been training since the fall for the road season," he said. "Training and eating right is a very scientific and complicated beast. One missed week of training or training improperly, not enough, or too much, can result in setbacks on the order of months."

Because of the long hours spent together, the cycling team has a sense of community built around their mutual competitive natures and a shared sense of commitment.

"Bicycling is a lot of fun, and there is a lot of mutual respect," said road co-captain and senior architecture major Ashley Hopwood. "I have met a lot of my best friends here that I will continue to see after college. You have to be very ambitious and dedicated to be on the cycling team, but it has resulted in many years of good times."

Both mountain and road cycling have a men's and a women's teams. Although the women's teams are smaller, they are quickly increasing in membership and publicity, said Hopwood.

"I wish I was going to grad school just so that I could keep racing collegiate," said Nick Varamo, a senior mechanical engineer major. "I've never been more fit or had more fun on my bike and everyone on the team is super nice."