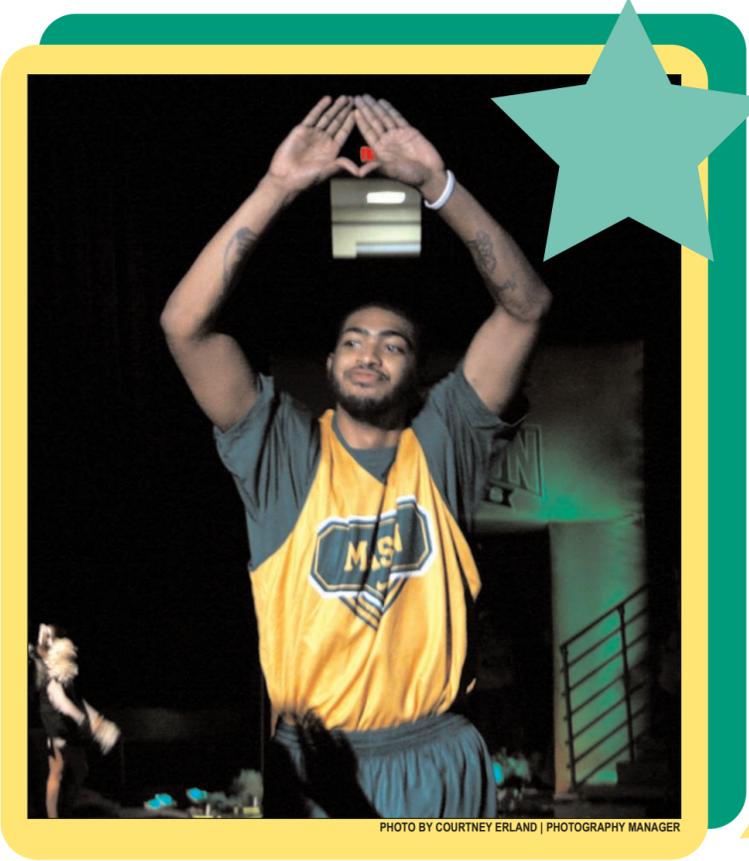
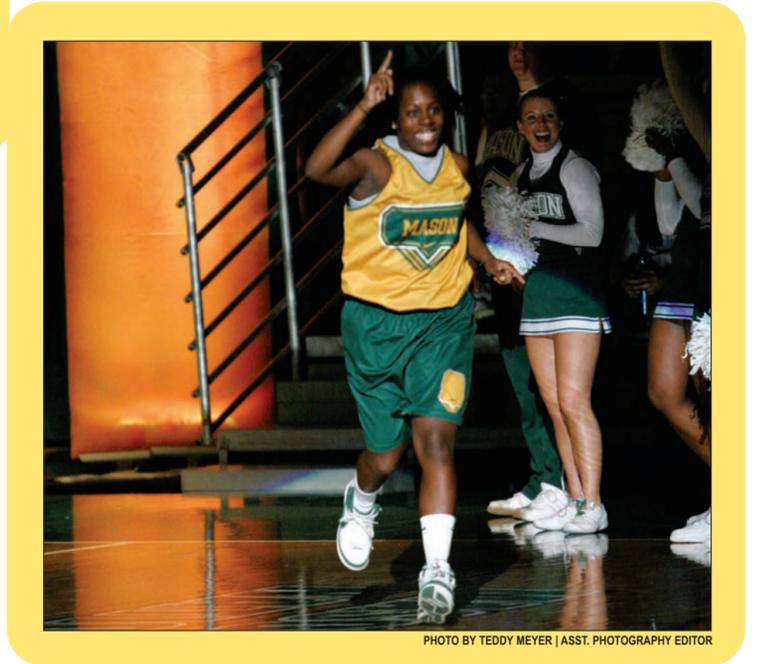
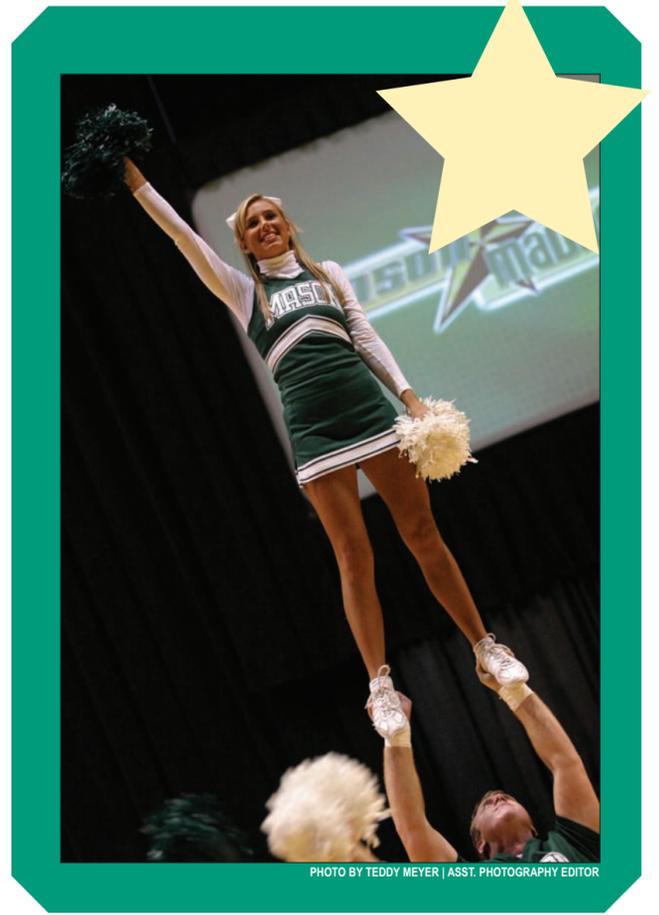


MASON MADNESS



sports

.520

The postseason batting average of L.A. Dodgers outfielder Manny Ramirez, the highest total of all-time, minimum 25 at-bats.

The Madness Within

Mason Madness Returns and Marks the Start of the New Basketball Season

BRENDAN MURPHY
Broadside Correspondent

This past Friday, the Patriot Center welcomed the 2008-2009 basketball season with the 12th anniversary of Mason Madness, the first formal practice of the season and a celebration of basketball and school spirit.

"It has become a tradition here. It's not just a basketball event; it has become so much bigger for our students. It really is a celebration of George Mason University and the excitement that surrounds our campus," 12th-year Head Coach Jim Larranaga said.

Mason Madness featured Doc Nix and the Green Machine, a performance by Step Afrika, the first professional company in the world dedicated to the tradition of stepping and of course the Mason cheerleaders, Masonettes and the introduction of the men's and women's basketball teams.

"The support has grown so much it is hard to fathom. When

I first arrived here, 2,000 fans would come to our games and now we have sellout crowds averaging more than anyone in the league," said Larranaga.

The men's team comes off a 23-11 record, second most wins in CAA and school history. The Patriots defeated William & Mary to capture the CAA Championship, earning them an automatic bid to the tourney as the 12th seed, where they endured a first-round loss to fifth-seed Notre Dame.

This will be a transition year for the Patriots, as they lose star-player Will Thomas, coming off his most impressive season. Thomas was named First Team All-CAA, made his third straight CAA All-Defensive team and was runner-up for both the CAA Defensive Player of the Year and CAA Player of the Year. The team also graduates Folarin Campbell and Jordan Carter, but returns four seniors, junior forward Louis Birdsong and welcomes what is widely regarded as the best recruiting class in the

conference.

"We not only want to get into the Big Dance, but we want to challenge the top teams in the country, eventually head back to the Final Four and win a national championship at George Mason," said Larranaga.

One constant the team can count on is the continued support of the Mason faithful at home.

"We love it. It is incredible. They are the reason we had the record we had last year at home," said senior guard Dre Smith.

The young team faces a stiff challenge early, starting three of their first four games on the road, opening on Nov. 15 at University of Vermont.

"We have a different type of team than we had before. We are much more athletic," said redshirt senior John Vaughan.

Mason Madness is not just about the men's team though. The women's team looks to rebound from an abysmal season, one in which they finished with a 9-21 record,

starting fresh with a new head coach.

The team welcomes new Head Coach Jeri Porter, formerly of Radford University.

In six successful seasons as head coach at Radford University from 2002-2008, Porter earned a 93-85 overall record.

Prior to her tenure at Radford, Porter coached the University of North Alabama from 1998-2002, earning a 64-43 record and was the assistant coach at Liberty University for seven seasons.

Porter also brings all three of her assistant coaches from Radford: Jana Ashley, Simone Edwards and Greg Pulliam.

Sophomore Eugenia Broadus, who started 12 games and saw action in 30 in the 2007-08 season, leads the team. Broadus was first on the team with 18 blocks, finished third on the team in field goal percentage and fifth in scoring.

Sports in a Minute

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

In this past weekend's Penn State National, the men's cross country team placed 13th out of 28 competing schools. No. 8 in the nation Georgetown University won the cross country meet. Representing Mason runners, sophomore Scott Tekesky finished in 54th place with a time of 26:22 and junior James Snyder and freshman Everett Hackett finished back-to-back with the 58th and 59th slots, respectively, with times of 26:25 and 26:26. Junior James Burns ranked 73rd in the meet, coming in ten seconds after Hackett. Senior Ryan Murphy and juniors Chris Palmer and Anthony LaMastro also ran for Mason in the 5.2-mile race. The team's next meet will be on Nov. 1 at the CAA Championships at Bull Run Park.

GOLF

Junior Branson Real led the team in the first two rounds on the first day at the Duke Coca-Cola Individual Collegiate with a 13-over-par two round score. The first day was tough for all 63 players with only one of them posting an under-par score. Freshman Josh Apple and sophomore Silas VanSky tied for 46th place on the first day with 81-76 scores. On the final day, Apple played his best round with a 74, which boosted him to a 38th place finish and led the team with all scores combined. Real dropped to a 40th place tie after shooting a 78. Real had been consistent throughout the event with scores of 78 twice and 77. Freshman Adam Van Houten, tied for 44th place, shaved off five strokes in the final round, but VanSky fell to fourth place on the team after adding six strokes. The team travels this week for its appearance in the Sycuan Collegiate Invitational in El Cajon, Calif.

MEN'S SOCCER

After a 5-2-1 start, the men's soccer team has fallen down to Earth after losing three of their last four contests. Their latest was a 2-1 loss to the Delaware Blue Hens (2-8-3, 1-2-1) on the road. The Patriots rallied to cut the deficit in half with a 72nd minute goal from senior forward Lucas Pardew, but the Blue Hens held on to win the game, leaving the Patriots to fall to 6-5-1. Delaware defender Andy Streilein got his team to a quick lead, nothing an unassisted goal in the 4th minute. Streilein scored off a rebound after Mason goalkeeper Sean Kelley temporarily stopped forward Andrew Englehart's shot. Delaware midfielder Paul Danaher assisted on Courtney Hewitt's first goal on a breakaway at the 61:35 mark for a 2-0 lead. After 10 minutes of play, Mason responded with Pardew's third goal of the season. Despite holding advantages in shots and corner kicks, Mason was unable to force overtime. Mason had a final chance in the last minute, but they were unable to put the ball into the net as time expired.

Next opponent/home game: vs. Hofstra (10/22)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Last week, the women's soccer team recorded their 10th loss of the 2008 season after a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to the UNC-Wilmington Seahawks at home. Mason rallied from a 2-0 deficit to tie the game at the 71:16 mark on midfielder Jessica Paris' goal. Defender Colleen Killiany recorded her second assist of the game. UNC-Wilmington midfielder Maddy Bullington broke the tie with an 84th minute goal on a poor goal kick from Mason goalkeeper Melissa Mailley. The Patriots outshot the Seahawks 17-4 in the second half, but the ample opportunity to take the lead was shut down. This past Friday, Mason travelled to Drexel to force a 1-1 tie as the two goals came in the last five minutes. Mason forward Kelly Keelan saved the team in the 88th minute after Drexel's Jourdan Halasz's score seemed to have extended Mason's losing streak to six games. In the end, Mailley's play in goal was exceptional as her eight saves on nine shots was a season best.

Next opponent/home game: vs. William & Mary (10/24)



Above: Freshman libero Katrina Boryc, right, sets up for a dig as junior outside hitter Rebecca Walter, left, looks on.

The Patriots' attempt to match their season-high of three consecutive wins was snapped by a 3-2 loss to the Towson Tigers at the Field House. Mason (6-13, 2-4) could not complete their rally, as the Tigers (15-7, 4-2) survived the upset, winning in the fifth set by the score of 16-14. Towson defeated Mason 25-19, 25-11, 20-25, 19-25, 16-14. Mason's juniors Rebecca Walter and Sam Simmonds led with 14 and 12 kills, respectively and freshman Katrina Boryc contributed 17 digs. At one point in the first set, the score was tied at 17, but Towson closed it out with an 8-2 run. In the second set, Towson responded with an 8-0 run to prevent Mason from cutting the deficit. In the third set, the Patriots outthit the Tigers .250-.148 and again improved their hitting percentage to .387 in a fourth-set rout. Mason had match point in the final set at 14-13, but Towson extended the match on Ally Perko's kill. Towson closed out the set and match with the final two points.



Free Tickets for Mason Students!



GMU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA and CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 8 p.m.
\$15 Adults, \$10 Students/Seniors CH
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Now

AUT VISUAL VOICES SPEAKER SERIES
A Printmaker's Voice: The Art of Karen Samo
Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Free HI

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Showstopper in Hollywood
Oct. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.
Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 2 at 2 p.m.
\$12 Adults, \$8 Students/Seniors TS
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Angela Cheng, piano
Saturday, Oct. 25 at 8 p.m.
\$25, \$45, \$25, \$25 CH
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GMU WIND SYMPHONY and FAIRFAX WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT
Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m.
\$15 Adults, \$10 Students/Seniors CH
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Now

MASON DANCE COMPANY FALL CONCERT
Thurs., Oct. 30 at 8 p.m., Fri., Oct. 31 at 2 & 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.
\$15 Adults, \$10 Students/Seniors HI
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Oct 21

BALLET FLAMENCO JOSE PORCEL
Friday, Oct. 31 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.
\$44, \$26, \$22 CH HI
Free Student Tickets Available Oct 21

KEYBOARD CONVERSATIONS w/ JEFFREY SEGEL
Bringing in Bachman
Sunday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.
\$28, \$20, \$19 CH
Free Student Tickets Available Oct 21

AGUILA THEATRE COMPANY
Cimarron of Errors
Friday, Nov. 7 at 8 p.m.
\$24, \$26, \$17 CH HI
Free Student Tickets Available Oct 28

HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO
Saturday, Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. TS
\$44, \$26, \$22 CH HI
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Oct 28

THEATER OF THE FIRST AVENUE ENT - THE YEAR IN CR
Saturday, Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. TS
Limited Free Student Tickets Available Oct 28

GMU PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
Sunday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.
Free HI

VISION SERIES: ROBERT M. HAZEN
Thomas and Variations in Evolution
Monday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m.
Free, Tickets \$5 quizze & CH

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Center for the Arts

