

sports

6

The number of consecutive games in which 2008 first-team CAA men's soccer player Kwame Adjeman-Pamboe scored at least a point.



Midfielder Jonathan Borrajo fights for the ball during the Patriots' game against Hofstra. The Patriots outscored the Pride 10-3.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH BIONDI

Patriots Overtake Pride in Second Half

Mason Scores Five Second Half Goals to Defeat Hofstra in the CAA Quarterfinals

BRENDAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

For the first 54 minutes, both George Mason University and Hofstra University were looking to break the scoreless tie. In a 30-minute span, the Patriots came up on top with five goals to defeat the Pride in a one-sided affair in the CAA Quarterfinals match at George Mason Stadium.

With the 5-0 victory over the sixth-ranked Pride, 6-9-4 (6-4-1 CAA), the Patriots improve their record to 11-6-2 (6-4-1 CAA) and advance to the semifinal round of the CAA Championship. Mason is set to play the number two seed William & Mary Tribe on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of top-seeded UNC Wilmington.

"Right now we don't think anyone can beat us. It's not cocky, it's just confidence. We are playing really well and everybody is just together. That should take us all the way," said freshman midfielder Ryan Gracia.

In the 55th minute, senior forward Lucas Pardew chipped a shot past freshman goalkeeper Greg Cumpstone from the right side into the top left corner of the net for his fourth goal of the season. Senior defender Jonathan Borrajo assisted Pardew, earning his second of the season.

"Five different people scored five goals. Each person is doing their role really well. This guy [Kwame Adjeman-Pamboe] has put six goals and six assists. Everyone is just playing their role. First half was kind of poor, but as soon as the first goal got in, the game opened up," said Pardew.

In the 65th minute, senior forward Kwame Adjeman-Pamboe, who recently earned his second consecutive CAA Player of the Week honor, slashed through the box and scored a header into the right side of the net for his team-leading sixth goal. Redshirt sophomore Irvin Martinez and senior defender Hugh Fike were credited with assists on the score.

Adjeman-Pamboe, who scored in his third consecutive game, has no idea why CAA teams have not been able to figure out a way to stop the star player's hot streak.

"It is like Fro says, I am unpredictable. I check back, I cut, I am always dancing on the ball and my teammates put me in good positions so that allows me to do well," said Adjeman-Pamboe.

"We were bitter about the way we lost to them [Hofstra] last time, especially because we outshot them 18-5 on our home field. They scored on their second chance after the half. It just left a bad taste in our mouth and tonight we were more critical in our chances," said Adjeman-Pamboe.

The Patriots added to their lead with a goal in the 72nd minute from Gracia on a breakaway. The team leading scorer Adjeman-Pamboe earned his team-leading sixth assist.

"As a team we are peaking at the right time and everybody is coming together really well," said Gracia.



Men's soccer players block a Hofstra player from scoring.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH BIONDI

The Patriots then earned a 4-0 lead in the 82nd minute when sophomore midfielder Anthony Han scored his second

goal of the season off an assist from freshman forward Parker Walton. Walton finished off the five-

goal 30-minute scoring span with his fourth goal of the season in the 85th minute to seal the 5-0 victory.

Getting Their Feet Wet

Mason Drops Season Opener Despite Strong Effort

TIM BLANK
Broadside Correspondent

Despite an 11-point loss to the Bucknell University Bison on Friday 62-51, many of the coaches and players were very much optimistic after the performance that was given against the defending Patriot League champions.

"We told the kids in the locker room after the game, when we were fresh, it looked really good," said new head coach Jeri Porter.

In truth, the first half gave those in attendance glimpses of what may be to come for the future of the women's basketball team. Two separate 9-2 runs in the first half helped the Patriots to a seven-point lead, their biggest of the night, with 5:01 left in the first half. Despite it being erased by a 16-4 Bucknell run to close the half, with a 10-2 run in the last 1:50, Porter finds herself pleased, especially with a team that played only seven players.

"We [set] ourselves a goal of grabbing 40 rebounds, we ended up with 41, we [set] ourselves a goal of getting at least 12 offensive rebounds, we got 18," said Porter.

Although they allowed 22

points by Bucknell senior guard Amanda Brown, 12 of those coming from three-point range, Mason did not allow any other Bison player to score more than 12. Not only that, the defense played tough against the Bison, quite frequently getting them towards the end of the 30-second shot clock in much of their offensive possessions.

"The key was how aggressive and how hard we played, we were able to push them out and forced them to keep passing the ball around the perimeter, and that way it was tough for them to get a shot in the post," said senior forward Whitney Ward who scored a career high 12 points and grabbed six rebounds during the game.

Improvements can definitely be made, especially in passing on offense, as Mason only recorded two assists the entire game, one in each half. But another major reason that the team seemed to be a bit overwhelmed was lack of depth on the bench. Only two players on the entire active roster were substituted in during the game, with two players redshirted because of a transfer and one other suspended for violation of team rules, the women's team

had very little to turn to in order to give girls breaks.

"Once we get more bodies available to us, people will be able to get more rest," said Ward.

One of the bright spots in the game was the collegiate debut of freshman forward Amber Epps. One of her first plays after being substituted in the first half, she made an aggressive play on a rebound and ended up making both foul shots that followed the play. Epps, who played at established girls basketball powerhouse Forest Park in high school, spoke of the differences.

"It's different, when I went to Forest Park, we were already established, here we're rebuilding, we're starting to get everything together so hopefully this program will get there," said Epps.

With a roster that includes seven newcomers to the team, the future may indeed be looking bright for the woman's basketball team. If they showed anything against Bucknell, it is that they will indeed be competitive this season.

Women's Basketball 2008-09 Home Schedule

- Nov. 16: Richmond
Time: 2 p.m.
- Nov. 23: Virginia Tech
Time: 2 p.m.
- Dec. 30: Appalachian State
Time: 7 p.m.
- Jan. 4: James Madison
Time: 2 p.m.
- Jan. 6: St. Joseph's
Time: 7 p.m.
- Jan. 11: Towson
Time: 2 p.m.
- Jan. 18: Northeastern
Time: 2 p.m.
- Jan. 29: UNC-Wilmington
Time: 7 p.m.
- Feb. 5: Drexel
Time: 7 p.m.
- Feb. 8: Georgia State
Time: 2 p.m.
- Feb. 22: Old Dominion
Time: 2 p.m.
- Feb. 26: Hofstra
Time: 7 p.m.



Brittany Poindexter had a career high of scoring 20 points during the Women's game against Bucknell.

PHOTO BY COURTNEY ERLAND | PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

SPORTS IN A MINUTE

MEN'S SOCCER

Senior forward Kwame Adjeman-Pamboe is having the time of his life on the soccer field as he kept his point-streak to six games after scoring a goal in Mason's 5-3 win over the College of William & Mary Tribe in the CAA Semifinals on Friday night. The Patriots move onto the CAA final against Northeastern University after their win against the top-seeded UNC-Wilmington Seahawks. Mason improved to 12-6-2 overall and 6-4-1 in the CAA as the Tribe fell to 10-6-3, 6-4-1. In the last six games, Adjeman-Pamboe scored seven goals, four of them coming in the last four games, and recorded four assists. Adjeman-Pamboe scored two goals on Friday night in the 34th minute and again in the 38th minute to give the Patriots a commanding 4-0 lead. In a week full of excitement, four Patriots were named to the All-CAA teams.

With Adjeman-Pamboe receiving first-team honors, junior midfielder Richard Edgar, senior defender Jonathan Borrajo, and junior goalkeeper Sean Kelley earned second-team honors. Forward Axel Levy and midfielder Ryan Gracia were named to the All-CAA Rookie team. Levy scored the game's first goal at the 5:02 mark as senior forward Lucas Pardew's pass ricocheted off the Tribe sophomore goalkeeper Andrew McAdams to Levy, who fired the shot into the net. Fellow freshman midfielder Eber Martinez scored his first goal of his collegiate career in the 27th minute and also assisted on both of Adjeman-Pamboe's goals. Edgar scored his second goal of the season in the 53rd minute before the Tribe rallied with two quick goals. After Edgar's goal put Mason up 5-1, junior forward Andrew Hoxie cut the Mason's lead to 5-3 in the 60th minute after scoring on two penalty kicks in a two-minute span. The Patriots held on in the last 30 minutes as Kelley made two saves while allowing three goals to earn his 11th win this season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The last time Mason lost a season opener was in the 2002-03 season at Central Michigan University. For the sixth consecutive season, the Patriots prevailed in the season opener as the team inched past the University of Vermont Catamounts 80-79 in overtime to open their 2008-09 campaign. After missing all of last season, senior forward Darryl Monroe made a strong return as he scored a team-leading 19 points, making both of his free throws with 0.7 seconds left to give the Patriots the win. Monroe was especially strong in free-throw shooting, converting 9-of-10 in the game whereas shooting less than 50 percent from the line in 2007. Monroe led all players with 17 rebounds, including nine offensive boards.

Coming off a strong freshman season, second-year guard Cam Long scored 16 points. The freshmen represented the Patriots with strong performances from guard Andre Cornelius and forward Ryan Pearson. In his collegiate debut, Pearson shot 5-of-7 from the field and made all three free throws for 13 points. Cornelius scored 12 points, 4-of-8 shooting. The Catamounts were led by junior forward Marqus Blakely with 24 points. Only one other Vermont player scored in double-digits while four Mason players scored at least 10 points. The Patriots return to the Patriot Center for the home opener Monday night against Brown University with areas needing improvement. Despite shooting 53.1 percent in the first half, Mason shot only 36 percent in the second half, and only 20 percent in the overtime period. The strong showing from the freshmen in the opener against Vermont provides a positive outlook for the upcoming season.

CROSS COUNTRY

The men's team competed at the NCAA Southeast Regional tournament with a 16th place finish out of 29 teams. Sophomore Scott Tekesky led all Mason runners with a 51st place finish with a time of 32:12. Freshman Everett Hackett and senior Ryan Murphy ranked in the top 100 with times of 32:48 and 33:07, respectively. Juniors James Snyder, Chris Palmer, James Burns, and Anthony LaMastro also represented Mason in the regional meet. Snyder finished in 106th place while Palmer ranked 110th out of 212 runners. Burns crossed the finish line with a time of 34:17 and LaMastro placed 147th with a 34:25 finish. Only two Mason runners competed in the women's meet. Freshman Karlyn Lockie finished in 199th place with a time of 24:51 and sophomore Samantha Fickel ranked 219th out of 231 runners. Both teams conclude their seasons at the IC4A Championships next week.

BRIAN CHAN

Sports Editor

The last time the George Mason University Patriots registered a sweep was against Rutgers University in the Davidson Invitational approximately two months ago. On Friday night, the Patriots returned to the Field House after a month long road-trip to defeat the UNC-Wilmington Seahawks 25-18, 25-12, 25-14. The Patriots improved to 8-18 overall and 4-9 in the conference while the Seahawks stay winless in the CAA at 0-13 and drop to 6-22 overall.

Freshman outside hitter Noelle Fanella led the Patriots with 12 kills and sophomore middle blocker Holly Goode tacked on a career-high 11 kills. Mason out-hit the Seahawks .323-to-.020 and registered nine team blocks to hold off the opponent's offense.

UNC-Wilmington came running out of the gates with a 4-0 lead, but that was countered by Mason's 7-1 run as the Patriots never looked back in the first set. Mason extended their lead from two points (7-5) to six points (22-16) until they closed the set with a 25-18 win.

"We felt more confident once we started picking up our game after the slow start," said Fanella. "It definitely feels good to get the sweep after a long season."

Goode recorded four kills in the first set to lead the Patriots and Fanella followed closely behind with three.

With only one kill in the first set, junior outside hitter Rebecca Walter got back to what she had been doing throughout the season. She recorded five

Block Party

Mason Dominates Seahawks With 3-0 Sweep



Rebecca Walter had a record 11 digs during their game against UNC-Wilmington.

kills and six digs as the Patriots broke open a 7-6 lead to widen the margin to eight points after a 7-0 run. Walter would end up leading the team with 11 digs. Mason closed out the second set with a double-digit win, 25-12. Sophomore setter Fernanda Bartels, who finished with a game-high 32 assists, recorded 13 of them in the second set.

Mason took an early lead in the third set after winning five of the first six points. As the Patriots inched their way to victory, the team showed signs of improvement along the way. After hitting .188 in the first set, Mason increased that percentage to .308 in the second

set, which boosted to .500 in the final set. Fanella led all Mason players with five kills in the third set.

Three Mason seniors contributed a good amount to the team's strong victory as they look to close out their careers with the team on a high note. Middle blocker Jourdan Dozier scored six kills along with three blocks. Libero Chelsea Kropp had a strong performance in the second set with five digs.

"This game was definitely important as we hope to finish strong in our last home game tomorrow night. However, it is more important for us to have fun," Kropp said.

Along with teammates Dozier and outside hitter Morgan Connell, Kropp started playing volleyball for Mason in 2005. Kropp has been a key reserve player over the years as she has seen players come and go. At the end of this season, she will be one of those players as the torch is handed to a young group entering 2009.

"With all of the ups and downs, I enjoyed playing with all of my teammates. In my four years here, I have learned a lot about everyone and once you are here, your friends are family to you," Kropp said.

Epee, Foil, Sabre—Oh My

Mason Sweeps Competition to Fight for BWCF C Title

BRIAN CHAN

Sports Editor

Junior Chris Atwood first took up fencing, along with his friends during his sophomore year in high school. Fencing, a sport competed at the high school level in New Jersey, became a passion for Atwood as he currently stands as George Mason University's fencing club president.

The fencing team swept the competition last Sunday with five wins over George Washington University 21-6, St. John's College 18-9, St. Mary's University 19-8, University of Maryland-College Park 14-13, and the United States Naval Academy 16-11 in their first ever dual meet. The team heads into its next competition, which will be held on February 15, with great confidence.

"We felt pretty strong going into the meet. We expected to finish in the top three, but going undefeated is great and it puts us in a great position to win the BWCF C [Baltimore-Washington Collegiate Fencing Conference] championships," Atwood said.

The freshmen had a strong showing as Matt Bedker led the epee at 14-1 and Jay Carty went 12-2 for the foil team. Foil fencer Victoria Owens was also solid at 11-3. Atwood led all sabre fencers at 13-2.

Fencing emerged as a club sport at Mason in the spring of 2007 with founder Atwood and co-founder Kim Weigend.

"It was definitely a lot of work in the beginning, but with her in charge of administration and me coaching the team, it was a lot easier. It was great getting past the first stage where we had to find space on campus and we were able to find people to join," Atwood said.

It was not easy recruiting people at first since a number of the current members on the team had no experience before joining. It was a first-time experience for 16 of the 28 fencers. The only requirement is the willingness to learn the sport. Neither experience nor training is necessary to join Mason's fencing team. There is a huge range of skills between the experienced and non-experienced fencers.

Atwood says that they do not ask a lot from their beginners, but those fencers do get some good experience out of it. As far as the experienced fencers, they devote more of their time to the sport.

The team has two-hour practices three times per week in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Aquatic and Fitness Center.

Atwood believes fencing is a great workout and is "a lot more fun than running on a treadmill

for an hour." Experienced and non-experienced fencers end up having a great time.

Aside from the fun, the team believes that they need to continue to work harder in order to reach the goal of winning a conference championship. Fencing requires people to make quick decisions as Atwood refers to it as a "very cerebral sport."

Among mainstream sports, fencing, known as the "physical chess," is considered to be the safest. In the past 15 years, more deaths occurred in chess than fencing. Fencing can only cause sore muscles, but unlike the other sports, no severe injuries are involved.

A regular team consists of nine people per squad, and three of them are either epee, foil or sabre fencers. The rules are different for each. For instance, the epee and foil fencers can only hit with the point of their sword, while the sabre fencers can hit opponents with the edge. This is what makes sabre attacks much quicker and more physical. Each fencer goes through a three-round rotation, fighting all of the opposing fencers of that kind.

Fencers duel for approximately 90 minutes over the course of the 27-bout match.

The fencer that gets to five touches in three minutes first wins the bout. If a bout is tied at

the end of the three minutes, the two fencers go into a one-minute sudden death. A priority is an advantage to one fencer, which is determined by a coin toss. If both fencers fail to score a touch in overtime, the one with priority wins the bout. This occurs more often in epee matches since epee fencers have the slowest tactical weapon.

This was nearly the case in last weekend's match against Maryland-College Park when Bedker and his opponent were tied at four. With the teams tied at 13-13, Bedker recorded the fifth touch to give Mason a thrilling win.

"It was great to have a team-spirited environment, everyone was cheering and fencing their hardest," Atwood said.

From day one, Atwood never expected fencing to be a long-term commitment. Today, he is not only the president and coach of Mason fencing, but he referees at the national level. One can say Atwood is an entrepreneur of the sport, but he believes Mason fencing will only get stronger after he graduates. With an overly strong freshman class and a huge opportunity to win this season's conference championships, Mason fencing may soon find themselves competing at the NCAA level.

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