

Sports

Huskies stake at Fenway Park, fall 2-1



Frozen Fenway
January, 14th 2012

Northeastern 1 Boston College 2

News Photo Illustration/Erica Casacci and Dan Pagliaroli

Sun Life's Frozen Fenway 2012 set the stage for area high school and college hockey programs to get a taste of the outdoors in one of Boston's greatest sports facilities. Exactly 29,601 fans turned out to see Northeastern take on then-No. 4 Boston College despite bone-chilling temperatures.

By Eoghan Kelly
NEWS STAFF

Coming into games against then-No. 6 Boston University and then-No. 4 Boston College last weekend, the men's hockey team was poised for glory.

With No. 17 University of North Dakota, No. 19 Lake Superior State University and No. 20 Northern Michigan University all losing at least one of their two games this past weekend, two wins undoubtedly meant that, come Monday morning, the Huskies would be ranked in the United States College Hockey Organization's Division I Men's Poll for the first time since early in the 2009-10 season. Even if they had faltered in one of their matchups, knocking off one top-six opponent would have, at the very least, put the team in the conversation to be named one of the top-20 squads in the country.

Instead, Northeastern dropped both of its contests, a 4-3 implosion to the hands of BU Friday night and a 2-1 heartbreaker to BC Saturday afternoon at Fenway Park, in the final installment of

BC	2
Northeastern	1
BU	4
Northeastern	3

Sun Life's Frozen Fenway 2012.

Now, the Huskies sit at 8-9-3 overall and 4-9-2 in Hockey East, good for ninth in the conference. In Monday's national poll, they were granted a measly six votes, down drastically from the 48 and 75 they had received in each of the prior two weeks, respectively.

And the worst part: Both games were ones that the Huskies could have won.

Given this, what went wrong?

"We did some good things well, but we need to do a few more things better for an entire 60 minutes," head coach Jim Madigan said following Saturday's game.

That contest was a defensive showcase for the Hockey East-leading Eagles of Boston College (14-8-1, 10-5-1 Hockey East). For most of the game, the Huskies were largely incapable of creating quality scoring chances against a

vaunted BC defense and in front of a crowd of 29,601 fans.

Madigan acknowledged the team was certainly feeling the effects of having sophomore forwards Braden Pimm and Cody Ferriero out of the line-up due to a team rules violation, but it was not a cause for their lack of offensive firepower.

"We try to have other guys step up," Madigan said. "Certainly the two players that weren't in the line-up are good players, and the balance of your lines is affected a little bit, and those two players have obviously put up some good numbers. But there's not a nervousness, because the other guys step up and everyone's worked hard all year long, so they deserve an opportunity to play when their number gets called."

Junior forward Garrett Vermeersch attributed his team's offensive troubles to the Huskies' own play, rather than that of the Eagles' defense.

"I don't know if it was exactly anything that [BC] were doing in particular," Vermeersch said. "I just think that we weren't getting as many pucks to the net as we

would have liked to. But I thought we had a lot of good cycles and a lot of sustained pressure on them."

On paper, Saturday's outdoor matinee seemed very much like a game Northeastern could win. The Huskies had lost each of the first two meetings between the sides by a goal - 4-3 in overtime Oct. 22 and 2-1 Nov. 11 - and held the lead for sizable chunks of both of those games.

But the Eagles were eager to prove all thoughts wrong.

BC dominated the opening period, producing several quality scoring chances in front of the Northeastern net and in the slot cut forcing Rawlings to make 13 crucial saves. Sophomore forward Kevin Hayes nearly put the Eagles ahead when he rang a wrist shot off the crossbar and out of play midway through the period.

On the other side of the ice, however, the Huskies struggled to get the puck deep into the BC zone. After a strong opening possession, Northeastern looked hesitant to shoot the puck and instead tried to stickhandle its way through the Eagles' defense.

By the end of the first period,

Huskies had been outshot 13 to three.

"We got off to a slow first period. We thought we came back in the second and third period with more energy," Madigan said. "They're obviously a very good hockey club. They play the game fast and they limit our scoring opportunities. We didn't have very many shots in the first period obviously and in the third period."

Early in the second period, an untimely turnover once again led to Northeastern's demise.

When Rawlings misplayed a puck behind his cage, BC junior forward Steven Whitney was first to retrieve it and quickly dished it to classmate forward Pat Mullane, who was left to tap the puck into the abandoned Northeastern net.

The Huskies once again put themselves in a position to win the game after Vermeersch tied the game with a backhand goal with under four minutes to play in the second period.

But that was as close as they would come to a victory. Just four minutes into the third period, BC

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NEWS STAFF PHOTO/DAN PAGLIAROLI



NEWS PHOTO/ERICA CASACCI

Left: Freshman forward Ludwig Karlsson had an assist on teammate Garrette Vermeersch's game-tying second period goal. The Huskies couldn't muster up another goal. Right: Sophomore defenseman Luke Eibler readied for a face-off under the Fenway Park lights on Saturday. Additional photos from Frozen Fenway can be found at HuntNewsNU.com.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Kerkhof leads to first CAA win of season.

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Freshman Ford frightens forth comers.

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Schelling shines behind No. 1 penalty kill team.

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MEN'S HOCKEY

Northeastern can't hold two goal lead

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junior standout Chris Kreider took a feed from freshman forward Danny Linell in the neutral zone and did the rest on his own, skating with speed to the net and putting a shot on goal that buzzed past Rawlings and freshman defenseman Dan Cornell.

Madigan said the goal was a product of a bounce that went the Eagles' way.

"A couple good breaks for goals for them were the difference in the game," Madigan said. "We gave up a shorthanded goal there where we just got a little caught to the outside and let their speed attack the net, which they have, and it was the game-winning goal."

Kreider admitted that he was unsure what happened on the play after he drove to the net.

"I tried to get to the net and to be honest, I don't really know what happened after that," Kreider said. "I just remember being on the ice. I thought Danny [Linell] scored it. I guess I kind of ran into the goalie and the puck just sort of squirted in."

Friday night against BU (13-6-1, 10-4-1 Hockey East), appearances on paper were again proven wrong. Northeastern played a consistent first period before treating the live-NESN broadcast audience and the sold-out crowd of 4,746 at Matthews Arena to six minor penalties, a major penalty and two game misconducts through the final two periods.

The Terriers converted on two of their six power play opportunities, with freshman forward Evan Rodrigues scoring the go-ahead goal at 11:51 of the second period and junior first-liner Wade Megan putting home what would prove to be the game-winner at 1:52 of the third.

But in the end, it was much more than penalty trouble that did the Huskies in.

In Friday night's opening period, Northeastern was dominant. The Huskies' breakouts out of the defensive zone were clean, their physical play was at a premium and they were winning almost every puck battle along the boards. Nearly every puck played out of the BU zone was intercepted in the neutral zone and controlled by a Northeastern player.

As a result, they amassed a whopping 19 shots on BU senior goaltender Kieran Millan by the time the first 20 minutes had expired. Two shots from junior Alex Tuckerman and freshman forward Ludwig Karlsson each found the back of the net within a minute of one another, just before the period ending-buzzer.

"It looked like men playing with boys at times," BU head coach Jack Parker admitted after the game.

That ended almost as soon as the second period started.

The Terriers came out of the opening intermission with something to prove, and the Huskies weren't entirely prepared. The two sides played an up-tempo, highly physical game similar to the first period, but Madigan's squad wasn't able to continue the good habits that had originally got it a two-goal lead.

BU began making cleaner break-outs from their end, allowing the team to gain speed through the middle of the ice and get the puck into the Northeastern zone with ease. The Huskies began losing puck battles behind their net and were forced to play prolonged defensive spells as a result.

The lost battles led to the Terriers' first goal. Sophomore defenseman Adam Clendening made it a 2-1 game at 8:23 of the

second period after junior forward Justin Courtinall and redshirt freshman forward Yasin Cisse won a tough fight for possession behind the Northeastern net.

"We let them back in the game on a couple of poor plays down low," Madigan said following Friday night's game.

The Huskies turned the puck over to junior winger Ryan Santana behind their own net, and Santana fed a wide-open Megan for his first of two pivotal goals on the evening for the game tying goal, only 57 seconds after Clendening's.

Madigan said the Huskies were plagued by undisciplined play in the second and third periods and allowed BU back into the game. BC's Rodrigues responded to the Terriers game tying goal by putting them ahead two and half minutes later.

"It gave them a little momentum," Madigan said. "We tried to come back, but we took too many penalties in the second and third periods for our liking. That's a team that's got a lot of skill on the power play and moved [the puck]. Two for six on the power play, that was the difference."

Down two goals and two players - freshman defenseman Josh Manson and junior forward Steve Quailer received game misconducts for contact to the head and unsportsmanlike conduct, respectively - the Huskies still managed to put themselves in a position to tie or win the game in the second and third periods.

The Huskies had their chances, most notably a three-on-one breakaway that almost immediately followed BU's second goal and a two-minute five-on-three power play in the third period.

But they failed to convert until Karlsson's laser from the point



NEWS STAFF PHOTO/DAN PAGLIAROLI

Freshman Forward Adam Reid and the Huskies face University of Massachusetts Lowell in home-and-home weekend series. Puck drops at 7 p.m. in Lowell tomorrow night, and 7 p.m. at Matthews on Saturday.

found the upper corner of the BU net with just over three minutes remaining in regulation.

By then, it was too little too late, especially with Quailer and sophomore defenseman Anthony Bitetto serving penalties in the game's final minutes.

"We still [had] a chance to tie the game late," Madigan said. "You're down by two, but if you get one, now you've got a chance to tie it. So you've got to be able to manage it. We had two of our better players in the penalty box... We're trying to score to tie the game and two of our best players who are on the power play and on the ice in those situations aren't on the ice."

The good news for Northeastern fans is that all hope is not lost following the disappointing weekend. The Huskies now sit at No. 22 in the Men's

Division I Pairwise Rankings, and with good showings this weekend against UMass-Lowell and next weekend in back-to-back games at the University of Vermont, Northeastern could rise up to five spots in the Hockey East standings.

To do so, Vermeersch said, the answer is simple.

"I think we just need to get back to basics," Vermeersch said. "We had a good stretch of out-of-conference games and I think it's just a coincidence that we're not putting together wins in the league, but I think it'll come soon. We did a lot of good things tonight, and I don't want to take anything away from [BC], but I think we're moving in a good direction. I think you'll see things turn around soon."

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NU wins one CAA match, but drops another

Kerkhof, Iervolino lead Huskies on the court

By Justin Clear-Vekinis
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Delaware	70
Northeastern	54
George Mason	58
Northeastern	54

The Huskies dropped a 70-54 decision to University of Delaware Blue Hens Sunday afternoon on Solomon Court, after picking up their first Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) win last Thursday to George Mason University.

The team was unable to overcome its No. 20 ranked opponents, despite keeping the game within single digit points until midway through the second half, dropping to 1-4 in the CAA (3-13 overall).

The Blue Hens put the game out of reach when they went on a 6-0 run 9:41 minutes into the second half, forcing a Husky timeout. They extended their lead to 16 points after the timeout until Huskies senior guard Dani Iervolino answered with a three-pointer.

team and gets them going, and I think they needed her to pick it up another level and then matched that level," Northeastern head coach Daynia LaForce-Mann said.

Junior guard Deanna Kerkhof led the Huskies through again game, posting 14 points on the afternoon, with co-captains Iervolino and senior guard Jamie Conroy both knocking down 9 points each.

Kerkhof had a career-high nine rebounds, but Delaware out-rebounded Northeastern 39-30 and limited the Huskies' shooting to 36 percent, while the Blue Hens hit almost 45 percent of their shots.

"I thought we had some good looks on the perimeter," LaForce-Mann said. "But I thought it was a game where we didn't make the shots."

Last Thursday, the Huskies snagged their first conference win of the season with a 58-54 decision over George Mason University at Soloman Court.

The Huskies showed some sign of life as they dominated their opponent in the second half coming back from a 16 point deficit at the half to snatch the win out of the Patriots' hands.

"I think we made some mistakes in the first half," Iervolino said. "So we went downstairs and talked about what we needed to fix."

Kerkhof had a career-high 25 points on the evening and was

responsible for scoring the go-ahead basket and the final two free throws to seal the game.

"Excitement, I guess would be the biggest [emotion I felt]," Kerkhof said of the shot. "I feel like everyone played really well, everyone contributed to the win."

Kerkhof had 19 points in the second half, including the lay-in with 17 seconds left to bring the Huskies ahead.

"She'd been out a couple of games," LaForce-Mann said. "So I think she had a lot of energy built up inside and was ready to really step out there."

Kerkhof then went on the defensive and blocked the Patriots' last opportunity at grabbing the win. She sank both free throws to seal the Patriot's fate and come away with a conference win for the Huskies.

"It was the overall team commitment to get stops on the defensive end," LaForce-Mann said. "When you're getting stops, offense is a lot easier."

The Patriots shot 29 percent in the second half, while Northeastern knocked down 46 percent of their shots. Senior guard Taleia Moton lead the Patriots with 21 points.

For the fifth time in six games, freshman guard Alece Mark scored in double digits, knocking down 10 points and grabbing six rebounds.

The Huskies are on the road tonight and Sunday playing in two conference games, hoping to turn around CAA play. Tonight, they take the court at 7 p.m. at Drexel University (4-1 CAA, 8-7 overall) in Philadelphia. The team then travels to Hofstra, New York Sunday to face the undefeated-CAA Hofstra Pride team (13-3 overall).



NEWS PHOTO/LOUISA GORBATOV

Sophomore forward Jewel Tunstall had eight points Sunday and last Thursday. The Huskies play two conference games in hopes of salvaging their season. Currently they are 1-4 in the CAA. Tonight they take on Drexel.

I feel like everyone played really well, everyone contributed to the win.

— Deanna Kerkhof,
Northeastern junior guard

Junior guard/forward Elena Delle Donne, the country's leading scorer, led the Blue Hens with 22 points, which was a career-low, and pulled down 10 rebounds.

"[Donne] really energizes her

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Newcomer causes fear in visiting CAA coaches

NU freshman in the running for CAA's Rookie of the Year Award

By Patrick McHugh
NEWS STAFF

Tony Shaver sat on the bench with a look of frustration and despair on his face. The William & Mary head coach was learning what many Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) coaches have discovered: Quincy Ford is an opponent's nightmare.

Ford, the 6-foot-8 freshman forward/guard of the men's basketball team, was having another standout performance against the Tribe Saturday at Matthews Arena. In one sequence Ford took a feed from junior captain Joel Smith, elevated over two defenders and slammed the ball home with authority. Later, he cut to the basket and used his wingspan to reach around traffic for an easy layup. With William & Mary packing the paint in order to prevent shots near the basket, Ford went to the outside and drilled a three-pointer.

The youngster finished with 13 points on five of 10 shooting and also grabbed 10 rebounds for his first double-double in a Husky uniform. Northeastern won 64-50, the squad's fifth win in its last six games.

Shaver wasn't shy about praising NU's emerging star in the post-game press conference.

"I think he's unbelievable," Shaver said. "I mean, I think it's scary how good he can be. There's no phase of the game he doesn't do well. He shoots it, he handles it, he can score inside, and he defends you. I think his future is unlimited."

The emergence of Ford – the St. Petersburg, Fla., native who turns 19 tomorrow – has been a major reason for Northeastern's recent suc-

cess. After modest numbers in his first five college games, the freshman exploded with 16 points in a Dec. 3 loss against Old Dominion and then followed that up with 18 points on eight of 15 shooting attempts at Bradley three days later.

has delivered.

"He just keeps getting better and better," Coen said. "He's got the versatility that we can move him up and down the lineup. We've played him pretty much in four different positions this year, and he's got the unique ability to beat a point guard on the perimeter defensively, get you 10 rebounds in a game, make threes and handle the ball."

Though not the tallest player on the team – that would be 6-foot-11 junior forward Dinko Marshavelski – Ford has become the squad's best rebounder with 5.4 boards per contest. He is also averaging a block and an assist per game while shooting 41.6 percent. Perhaps most impressive has been Ford's defensive prowess against both quick guards and towering post players.

"When you have somebody with that type of versatility it really helps in your defensive schemes and your offensive schemes," Coen said. "He's got a ton of potential. I think he's just scratching the surface of what he could be. We're very excited about Quincy."

Ford is in contention for the CAA's Rookie of the Year award, handed out annually to the conference's best newcomer. He was named the league's Rookie of the Week Dec. 12 after he led Northeastern with 18 points and seven rebounds against Bradley. He ranks fourth in the CAA in scoring amongst freshmen with an average of 10.1 points per game, a number that should continue to rise as he gains more experience.

That's a scenario opposing coaches and players would rather not think about.

"I'm telling you, [Ford] is frightening for me as a coach in the league," Shaver said.

When you have somebody with that type of versatility it really helps offensive schemes ... he's got a ton of potential. I think he's just scratching the surface of what he could be

— Bill Coen,
men's basketball head coach

Ford has reached double digits in scoring in seven of his past 11 games and is now third on the team in scoring behind only Smith and his junior co-captain Jonathan Lee.

So far, Ford has taken his success in stride.

"I just go out there, play as hard as I can, get out, rest up and just try and do my job," Ford said after a Jan. 7 victory at James Madison, a game in which he dropped a career-high 20 points. "Whatever coach wants me to do, I do."

Men's basketball head coach Bill Coen, said he has been asking his freshman to do more each time he steps on the court, and thus far he



NEWS STAFF PHOTO/LAURA POND

Freshman forward/guard Quincy Ford is in contention for the CAA Rookie of the Year award. After last night's game, Ford has scored double digits in eight of his last 12 games and is averaging 10.1 points per game.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Schelling shines in goal

Huskies penalty kill ranks No. 1 in nation; will partake in first-ever ESPN broadcast

By Kathryn Uggerholt
NEWS STAFF

In their third meeting this season, the Huskies and the Boston College Eagles played a hard 65 minutes of hockey and ended within a 1-1 draw at the Eagle's Conte Forum arena Tuesday.

It was a battle of the goaltenders as senior Florence Schelling stopped 31 shots on one end of the ice and BC junior Corinne Boyles made 40 saves at the other.

"I don't think this team would be where they are unless we had her on the team," co-captain and senior defenseman Stephanie Gavronsky said. "Florence is just a clutch player in our system. She's definitely one of those players that you look up to."

The first period ended scoreless, proving a test of both penalty kill teams. Freshman defenseman Ann Doherty took a checking penalty at 8:43 to allow Boston College to test the then-United States College Hockey Organization (USCHO) No. 4 ranked Northeastern penalty kill. The unit lived up to its rank with no shots or opportunities allowed in the span of two minutes.

The Huskies had their own power play opportunity late in the period, but failed to score.

Another power play early in the second had the Huskies shooting for the back of the net, but they came up empty. Freshman forward Lucie Povova prevented a shut-out at 10:02 when she buried a rebound for her sixth goal of the year. Sophomore defenseman Maggie Dimasi had wristed a shot at Boyles. Povova picked up the rebound to light the lamp to make it 1-0.

The Huskies risked their lead just a few minutes later when they found themselves doubling up in the penalty box. Dimasi took a tripping penalty and senior defenseman Stephanie Gavronsky

BC	1(20T)
Northeastern	1

Providence	2
Northeastern	1

took a checking penalty to give the Eagles a two man-advantage for 1:28.

BC had six opportunities on the power play but came up empty as the Huskies penalty kill and goaltending came through to keep it 1-0 going into the second intermission. Following the game, the Northeastern penalty kill is now ranked first in the nation by USCHO.

The Eagles scored at 6:38 in the final period when junior forward Ashley Motherwell caught Schelling out of position to tie the game, sending it to overtime.

Northeastern forced Boyles to make three saves during overtime, but neither team found the back of the net, ending in a draw.

Prior to the midweek match-up, the Huskies scored two consecutive goals to come from behind to edge the Providence College Friars 2-1 at the Bog in Kingston.

Schelling denied 26 shots to Providence's goaltender Genevieve Lacasse's 34 saves.

The Huskies had scoring opportunities in the opening stanza but all 13 shots were denied by Lacasse. The Friars got on the board with a goal at 11:22 in the first period, in which Schelling faced only four shots, junior forward Jessica Vella beat the goaltender to put her team up by a goal.

"It really helps us as a team to know that the backbone is Florence," freshman forward Kendall Coyne said Tuesday afternoon in a phone interview. "It gives us so much more confidence and that has helped us be so successful."

Providence took two late

penalties to give Northeastern the man advantage to raise its chances but they failed to convert on either power play.

Two more power play chances for the Huskies in the middle frame brought their shot total on the power play to 12, but the visitors scored to tie the game during a five-on-five bout. Junior forward Rachel Llanes kept up her effort and knocked in her own rebound to make it a 1-1 game.

"Providence is a kill unit, they are very aggressive," Coyne said. "We have not seen as an aggressive style in prior games. That was one thing that we struggled with."

Northeastern almost let the game get away in the final 20 minutes with penalties. After three unsuccessful power plays, Providence kept their power play goal total for the season at nine when they could not beat the then-fourth ranked Northeastern penalty kill.

Coyne gave Northeastern the go ahead goal at 10:41. Coyne's 17th goal of the season brought her point total to 30 in just 19 games. She leads freshmen in scoring in not just Hockey East but in all of NCAA Division I women's hockey.

Schelling denied a late flurry of shots as Providence tried their best to tie the game for overtime. The goaltender just back from playing with the Swiss International team stood tall to keep the score at 2-1 to give Northeastern the win.

The Huskies take the ice at home for back-to-back games this weekend. Saturday's game against University of New Hampshire will be the first-ever ESPN broadcast of a women's college hockey game ever. Puck drops at 2 p.m. at Matthews Arena and on ESPN3.com. Sunday's game is also slated for 2 p.m. at Matthews against the University of Vermont.

Not another Tebow article

I wasn't a fan of Denver Bronco's quarterback Tim Tebow all season. Now I've figured out why. It's not his fault.

Could I do without the religious references in interviews? Yes.

Does his eternally thankful attitude sometimes seem so inspired and naïve that it comes across as suspiciously disingenuous? A little.

What bothers me about Tim Tebow is probably the very thing that bothers Tim Tebow about himself; the media's coverage of Tebow and the Broncos this year. When the Broncos win, the story is that Tebow won, it's rarely reported as a team effort. Tebow attempts to correct this in his interviews, always being sure to identify teammates for their contributions and rarely taking credit, but to no avail.



The DL

Dylan Lewis

Surely after the Broncos left Foxborough with their tails between their legs this Saturday, the story would be about the Denver defense's inability to contain the Patriots' passing attack, or the Broncos' anemic offensive efforts. But no, the Yahoo! homepage had an article on Monday with the headline "Tebow not done with playoffs just yet?" which went on to reveal CBS has started talks with the Tebow camp about having him as a guest analyst for the AFC Championship game broadcast this weekend.

Headlines after the Broncos' wildcard round victory over the Steelers read "Mapping Tim Tebow's Road to Super Bowl XLVI: What Would God Do?" "Tim Tebow, Broncos Shock Steelers in Overtime," and "Tebow's Heroic Play May Have Been Illegal." Tebow played well, but his overtime pass to wide receiver Demaryius Thomas would not have gone for a score without the wideout's extraordinary after-the-catch effort. Even further, no mention of the Broncos overcoming running back Willis McGahee's costly late fumble that let the Steelers back in the game, or Denver defense pushing the Steelers out of field goal range with three sacks during the final drive in regulation.

Sadly, the media firestorm surrounding Tebow is what makes me resent him. It doesn't matter where you go, you can't get away from him. News articles, Twitter, Facebook. Tebow, Tebow, Tebow. It doesn't matter the subject, hearing about something non-stop will eventually wear on you.

This is especially true when the articles shift the focus off of football and branch into the ludicrous: Biblical connections being made to Tebow's passing numbers against the Steelers, stories of "halo-like" cloud formations over Mile High Stadium during Broncos games. Google them if you don't believe me. The more preposterous the headline the less I want to hear about him.

I've experienced this type of media infatuation with athletes before, most notably ex-Green Bay Packer quarterback Brett Favre. The seemingly never ending "will he/won't he return?" saga grew thin on my patience. There were even ramblings (initiated by the former No. 4) that Favre would listen to offers from the Chicago Bears to fill in for the injured Jay Cutler this season. But while Tebow and Favre both serve as buzz-words for ESPN's talking heads, there is a principle difference between them. Tebow enjoys the limelight, but doesn't seek it and generally uses it as a platform for benevolence. Favre thrives on it and uses it to feed his own ego. Feeling forgotten, Favre fights to remain relevant.

I should like Tebow. He really is a rare exception to the modern athlete archetype. Yes, it is incredibly ironic that this opinion piece about Tebow was published in a newspaper after it berated the media for its over-coverage of Tebow. Much like a Denver win, the prevailing thought in this piece shouldn't be about No. 15. It should be about fans and the media. Don't let story-desperate news sources turn you sour on a true winner.

- Dylan Lewis can be reached at sports@huntnewsnu.com.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's hoops extends win streak to four; sixth win in seven games

Looks to continue streak against Drexel

By Patrick McHugh
NEWS STAFF

The men's basketball team ran its win streak to four games with a 60-57 win over visiting Georgia State last night at Matthews Arena.

Northeastern's back-court tandem of co-captains Jonathan Lee and Joel Smith led the hosts to victory. The junior guards scored 19 points and 13 points respectively, while freshman forward Quincy Ford added 14. Senior forward Eric Buckner led the visiting Panthers with 17 points in a losing effort.

The Huskies improved to 9-8 overall and 5-2 in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) with the win. Northeastern has now won six of its last seven games to

pull into a tie for second place in the conference.

Georgia State is now 12-5 overall, and 5-2 in the CAA.

Three-point shooting played a major factor in the outcome, with Northeastern drilling 11 of 21 shots from downtown. The trio of Lee, Smith and Ford collected 33 of their combined 46 points from long range. Conversely, the Panthers hit only three of 10 outside shots.

"We had all we could handle tonight and fortunately we shot the ball well," Northeastern head coach Bill Coen said after the game. "The game always looks easier when you make shots. I thought that was the key tonight, we were able to get enough quality looks on the offensive end. We were able to knock them down and beat a very feisty Georgia

State team."

Northeastern attacked Georgia State's 2-3 zone defense by dialing up shots from the perimeter. The Huskies first five made field goals, which were all three-pointers, and the team rode the hot shooting momentum to a 35-31 halftime lead. The game plan remained the same after the break and more converted threes gave the Huskies a 48-38 advantage at 12:10 to play for the largest lead of the game. The Panthers used a 10-2 run to cut the deficit to two, but the Huskies capitalized on free throws down the stretch to clinch the victory.

The Huskies look to continue their recent success when they face the Drexel Dragons at 4 p.m. Saturday in Philadelphia.

Last Week's Scoreboard

MEN'S HOCKEY

	Jan. 14, 2012
BC	4
Northeastern	3

Jan. 13, 2012

BU	2
Northeastern	1

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

	Jan. 17, 2012
BC	1 (20T)
Northeastern	1

Jan. 15, 2012

Providence	1
Northeastern	2

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	Jan. 18, 2012
Georgia State	57
Northeastern	60

Jan. 14, 2012

William & Mary	50
Northeastern	64

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	Jan. 15, 2012
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