

BASEBALL

Huskies fall to Byrant at home

Elizabeth Thomas
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Despite wearing “lucky” black home jerseys, Northeastern (14-18, 4-10 Colonial Athletic Association) suffered a 13-5 loss against non-conference Bryant University (21-15) Tuesday afternoon at Friedman Diamond.

The Huskies benefited from freshman third baseman Rob Fonseca’s two hits and two RBIs along with senior co-captain first baseman Tucker Roeder who also had two hits with an RBI.

“We gave up a lot of free bases yesterday with walks and hit batsman and we didn’t [have a] couple of plays we should have had defensively,” Roeder said. “It’s always frustrating when you can’t get that first guy out of the game. We’ll just have to do a better job of trying to get outs.”

Freshman pitcher Nick Berger’s (2-2) third start this season lasted two innings, in which he allowed six runs on five hits to take the loss.

Bryant Bulldog senior pitcher Brian O’Neil (1-2) pitched three innings allowing just three hits and two walks for his first win of the season.

Bryant scored the first run of the game on a fielder’s choice by senior catcher Mike Delponte scoring senior center fielder Connor Carignan. The Bulldogs added two more runs before ending the inning, 3-0.

The Huskies were unable to hold off the Bulldogs as they scored five runs in the top of the third to increase their lead to 8-0, before taking a 12-run lead into the sixth inning.

Northeastern finally got a run in the bottom of the sixth, when senior co-captain left fielder Matt Miller led off with his third walk of the game. Junior catcher Jon Leroux reached base on a throwing error by junior shortstop Dan Muscatello to bring up freshman second baseman Jason Vosler. Vo-

sler’s RBI single scored Miller for the Huskies’ first run of the game.

“I don’t think we gave up at all,” Roeder said. “We put up runs on the board and sometimes you struggle and have to do a better job of getting timely hits and getting guys on base and advancing runners. We just beat ourselves and sometimes it seems like sometimes we have it and sometimes we don’t.”

Leroux and Vosler both advanced into scoring position for freshman third baseman Rob Fonseca, who had missed the last six games due to an ankle injury. Fonseca doubled to left, scoring both runners cutting the Bulldogs lead to 12-3. Sophomore shortstop Oliver Hart reached on a throwing error, advancing Fonseca and bringing up Roeder who hit a sacrifice fly scoring Fonseca. Sophomore centerfielder and pitcher Conor Lyons along with junior DH John Puttress hit back-to-back singles, scoring Hart making it 12-5 before ending the inning.

Lyons relieved Berger and allowed two earned runs in an inning and a third’s work.

Junior pitcher Michael Murphy came on in the seventh and eighth and allowed just one run. Freshman pitcher Alex McKeon made his first appearance at the mound and pitched a scoreless ninth inning, ending the game as a 13-5 win for the Bulldogs.

“We have a lot of strengths and cohesiveness; there are a lot of positives,” Roeder said. “We just have to turn it on going forward to get into the playoffs, as well as this weekend series being such a big series.”

Northeastern will be back at Friedman Diamond this weekend against Colonial Athletic Association conference leading rivals University of North Carolina-Wilmington, for a three game series. Saturday’s double-header will start at noon with the second game scheduled to start at 3 p.m.



Junior catcher Jon Leroux reached on an error during the Huskies’ five-run sixth inning Tuesday at Friedman Diamond.

TRACK & FIELD



Freshman hurdler Jared Lane placed third in the 400-meter hurdles Saturday.

Courtesy Photo/NU Athletics/Mark Majewski

Track grabs 34 medals at last home meet of outdoor season

Madeline Sattler
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The men’s and women’s track and field teams out-ran, out-jumped and out-threw the competition at the last home meet of the 2012 season on Saturday at Soloman Track in Dedham as they combined for 34 medals.

“It was a very smooth meet,” assistant coach Tramaine Shaw said. “We had great weather and it was exciting to finish strong at home.”

Sophomore throwers Connor Ebbs, Max Milder and senior Patrick Jablonski all had personal bests in their events.

Ebbs finished third in the discus with a 44.58 meter toss while Milder’s 56.79 hammer throw also placed him third. Jablonski cleared 54.01 meters in the discus which earned him the gold medal and was also good for fifth-best throw in Northeastern history.

“We’re just trying to throw farther,” Ebbs said. “The goal for the season is always to just throw better and farther.”

Jablonski reached the podium a sec-

ond time Saturday for his 15.68 meter throw in the shot put which earned him the bronze.

Other strong throwing performances came from sophomore Christopher Reider and junior Daniel Brooks. The athletes placed first and second respectively in a field of 14 javelin throwers. Reider’s throw cleared 57.27 meters while Brooks finished just behind his teammate at 52.42 meters.

The jumpers continued the Huskies strong showing, medaling in each event. Senior Andrew Staples tied for first in the high jump clearing 1.98 meters.

“I’ve been working on my approach at practice lately and just trying to stay in the right position at the bar,” Staples said. “[I’m working on] being patient to get over the higher heights.”

Sophomore jumper Jackson MacDonald won the long jump leaping 6.84 meters. Freshman jumper Jasper McCoy earned bronze in the triple jump with an average length of 13.85 meters in five jumps. Freshman Stefano Combi soared 3.81 meters to claim the runner-up position in the

pole vault.

“People are just trying to perform right now,” Staples said. “We’re kind of getting ready for our conference championships, so this is kind of the last preparatory phases for that.”

On the track, senior distance runner Teddy Vrontas got the day started for the men winning the 10,000-meter run in 32:22.20. Sprinters senior Darius Velez and freshman Jared Lane also earned gold in the 100-meter dash and 110-meter hurdles respectively.

Sophomore Alex Shapiro sprinted to a runner-up finish in the 400-meter dash crossing the line in 48.60 seconds. Shapiro, Lane, Velez and MacDonald combined to win the 4-by-100-meter relay in 42.28 seconds.

“It was more of a warm-up meet for them,” Shaw said. “But they were on good pace on Saturday.”

The women blew away the competition, medalling 20 times.

Senior sprinter Saleena Abdur Rashed blew away the competition in her final home meet. The Huskies’ captain earned gold in the 100-meter

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BOSTON MARATHON

Student, faculty, alumnus fight record heat for personal goals in Marathon

Sarah Moomaw
NEWS STAFF

Crowds lining the Boston Marathon route helped three Huskies finish the 26.2-mile journey Monday from Hopkinton to Copley Square in record-breaking heat, which reached 87 degrees.

Sixth-year pharmacy student Adrian Wong, international affairs co-op coordinator Joani Lamachia and class of 1981 alumnus Mark Kreditor crossed the finish line outside the Boston Public Library still standing and thanking those cheering them on.

“Every year at the Marathon, the crowds are amazing and what I look forward to each year,” said Wong, who ran his sixth Boston Marathon and seventh marathon overall. “They are probably the reason that many people finish and especially this year with it being so hot.”

Boston Athletic Association (BAA) officials warned runners about the high temperatures forecasted for the Marathon and said runners the could defer to the 2013 race to avoid the heat. The BAA estimated that roughly 5,000 runners did not participate, but only 427 runners officially

deferred, which required picking up their race packets in person at the weekend marathon expo and then not running, the BAA said in a report Monday.

Wong’s time of 2:53:48 qualifies him for next year’s race, which was his goal as he hopes to one day break the Marathon’s “streaking” – running consecutive marathons year after year – record.

Neil Weygandt retired from the Boston Marathon this year and currently holds the record of 45 consecutive marathons. Boston Marathon legend and local John Kelley ran 61 Boston Marathons between 1928 and 1992, but did not break Weygandt’s streak due to missed races.

“I feel that when people lose their interest in something, it’s because they haven’t set goals,” he said. “Every year I plan on coming back to Boston regardless of where I am ... Having a long-range goal has constantly motivated me throughout school and I thought that was a good way to apply it to my running career as well.”

Wong said hopes to do the same, and said running gives him a sense of accomplishment and goal-setting. He plans to return and run every year even if, or after, he moves away.

“I plan to run every year that I’m alive,” Wong, 24, said.

With Monday’s hot temperatures, runners looked to keep themselves cool and on pace, but were advised to slow down by the BAA to avoid overheating and heat exhaustion. Even the heat was a battle for the Elite runners as they ran the course roughly 10 minutes slower than in 2011. Kenya’s Wesley Korir finished at 2:13:13 this year, while the 2011 winning time of 2:03:02 belonged to Kenya’s Geoffrey Mutai.

Wong said that the crowd support is always key to get through any race and this year wasn’t any different. Not only did the spectators help, but his fraternity brothers of Beta Theta Pi and friends were along the route to cheer him along and meet at the finish.

“The crowd support is amazing,” he said. “But I can depend on my friends and fraternity brothers to always be there somewhere along the course to help cheer me on as well as others. I feel that motivation and support is really what gets people to the finish line in one piece.”

Faculty co-op coordinator Lamachia has been running since high

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ROWING

Men fall, women split win

Max Nagel

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Tough competition on the waters in Boston and Virginia left the men's and women's crew teams without a solo victory this weekend.

The No. 9 men fell to Brown University in the Dreissigacker Cup on the Charles while the women's team split the victory at the Virginia Invitational in Charlottesville, Va.

No. 6 Brown won all three races except the Freshman 8. On what seemed to be a perfect day for rowing on the Charles, Northeastern fell short of victory, losing their first race of the season. Every race this spring prior to Brown, the Huskies had swept their competition.

The Freshman 8 race was dominated by Northeastern, who got off to a quick start and maintained a lead over the 2,000-meter course, finishing 6.3 seconds in front of Brown. This is only the second time in the cup's 48-year history that the Northeastern freshmen have beaten Brown.

"The freshmen have worked very hard and did a nice job of coming together," head coach John Pojednic said.

As for the first and second Varsity 8s and the Open 4, Northeastern fell short of their competitor, finishing second in each race. Brown got an early jump on Northeastern in both Varsity 8 races and the Huskies



News Staff Photo/Dan Pagliaroli

The first Varsity 8 finished 8.2 seconds behind brown at 6:08.2.

couldn't fight back.

The Northeastern Open 4 took a lead ahead of Brown in the first 1,200 meters, but in the final 800 meters, the Bears surged allowing them to beat the Huskies by 1.2 seconds, finishing with a time of 7:22.1.

The women's crew traveled to Lake Monticello in Virginia April 14 and 15 to take on Michigan State, Clemson and San Diego for the two-day Virginia Invitational. The three schools split the victory.

The Varsity 8 finished second behind Michigan State, but 6.2 seconds ahead of Clemson, who defeated the Huskies earlier this season.

The second and third Varsity 8s, as well as the Varsity 4, fell short of their competition, finishing third in the respective races.

Both crews will be on the Charles Saturday, when the women host the University of Rhode Island and men take on the University of Oregon and the College of Holy Cross in the battle for the Congram Cup.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Madigan names '12-'13 captains

Eoghan Kelly

NEWS STAFF

The men's hockey team isn't wasting any time preparing for next season. Head coach Jim Madigan announced the Huskies' three captains for the 2012-13 campaign at the team's annual awards banquet April 12.

Junior forward Vinny Saponari will captain the Huskies for his senior season, while junior forward Robbie Vrolyk and freshman forward Ludwig Karlsson will serve as assistant captains.

Neither Madigan nor the players could be reached for comment on this story.

Saponari's journey to being named Northeastern's captain was tumultuous. After scoring 47 points in two seasons and winning a Beanpot title, Hockey East title and national championship at cross-town rival Boston University from 2008-2010, Saponari was dismissed from the team for a team rules violation in May 2010.

Saponari spent the 2010-11 season playing junior hockey for the Dubuque Fighting Saints of the United States Hockey League before committing to Northeastern and returning to Boston.

In his first season with the Hus-

kies, Saponari was fourth on the team in scoring with 23 points, including 16 assists, tied for the team lead with Karlsson. Saponari also scored three power play goals and two overtime goals, including the game-winner in a 5-4 win over BU in Northeastern's final game of the season March 3.

He has one remaining year of NCAA eligibility.

A native of Powder Springs, Ga., Saponari will replace current captain and graduating senior forward Mike McLaughlin, who was a consistent forechecking and defensive presence for Northeastern and the Huskies' most reliable penalty killer for the past two seasons. In his four-year collegiate career, McLaughlin, a native of Seaford, Ontario, scored 13 goals and 46 points in 120 total games and earned just 42 total penalty minutes.

Many of McLaughlin's achievements happened off the ice, as he was also named to the Hockey East All-Academic Team three times and was awarded the 2012 Herbert Gallagher Award as Northeastern's top male scholar-athlete.

One of the Huskies' current assistant captains, sophomore defenseman Anthony Bitetto, will not be returning to Northeastern next season. Bitetto signed a two-year con-

tract with the Nashville Predators in March, the team announced in a press release March 29.

Left to fill his shoes are Vrolyk and Karlsson. Vrolyk has battled injury problems during his career at Northeastern, most recently missing Northeastern's final five games of the 2012 season with an ankle injury. When healthy, Vrolyk was frequently paired with McLaughlin on the penalty kill and skated on a full-strength line with McLaughlin and redshirt junior Alex Tuckerman. The three combined for 35 points (15 goals, 20 assists) in 2011-12.

In 25 games for the Huskies this season, Vrolyk earned just eight points on five goals and three assists. However, each of his five goals were scored in a six-game stretch from Jan. 28 to Feb. 13.

Karlsson is coming off of a decorated freshman season during which he led Northeastern in scoring (10-16-26) and earned one of three unanimous selections to the 2011-12 Pro Ambitions Hockey East All-Rookie Team. Karlsson, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, was the first freshman to lead Northeastern in scoring since Chad Costello in 2006-07.

Karlsson was also awarded the Ed Arrington Rookie of the Year award for Northeastern's top freshman.

TRACK & FIELD

Season records shattered at Soloman

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hurdles crossing the line in 14.19 seconds. She then took the silver in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.23 seconds.

"I'm getting ready for [Colonial Athletic Association Championships] in three weeks," Abdur-Rashed said. "I'm a senior, so I just want to bring it home for the team."

Freshman Monte Brathwaite and senior Christina Gallagher placed second and third for the 400-meter dash respectively. Senior sprinter Sarah Trotman took placed first out of 34 athletes in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.23 seconds. Sophomore sprinter Ashlee Pitts earned bronze in the 100-meter dash finishing in 12.47 seconds.

"Everybody is busting out good times and just getting ready for next week," Abdur-Rashed said.

Pitts and Trotman combined with freshmen Jessica Dunnigan and Victoria Alexander to win the 4 by 400-me-

ter relay in 3:59. Senior Annie Scully was the lone distance runner to medal in the 1,500-meter run where she earned the silver.

In the field, the pole vaulters swept the medals.

Junior Jilena Decarteret cleared 3.81 meters for a season-best. Teammates junior Lauren Bennett and freshman Dana Schweiger placed second and third, respectively.

Sophomore jumper Georgia Pingue earned a pair of golds in the long and triple jumps. The Cambridge native jumped a season-best 5.70 meters in the long jump and then leaped 11.46 meters in the triple jump.

"We had quite a few [personal records], especially our triple jumper Georgia jumped very well in the long jump," Shaw said.

Dunnigan, sophomore Olivia Stevens, and senior Ida Chance also medaled in jumping events. Dunnigan placed third in the long jump clearing 5.38 meters. Stevens earned bronze

in the triple jump with a 10.75 meter combination. Chance tied for first in her final high jump at the Huskies' home track jumping 1.58 meters.

The throwers also medaled in multiple events.

Junior thrower Julia Westover threw for a personal best 54.21 meters in the hammer event. Her distance now holds the fifth-best throw in Northeastern history.

Junior thrower Rachel Taback earned a silver in the discus throw and a bronze in the shot put. Senior Christina Izzicupo finished second in the javelin throw with a 34.70 meter throw.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the competition next weekend," Shaw said. "We're focusing on championships."

The Huskies will head to Princeton next weekend and then prepare for the CAA Championships on May 4.

It's the most grizzly time of the year

The average fully developed man grows facial hair at a rate of roughly half an inch a month. Should his team continue to advance through the drawn-out, two-month saga that is the NHL Stanley Cup playoffs, he might find himself sporting an itchy inch-plus beard by mid-June.

The playoff beard is my undisputed favorite sports superstition-turned tradition. Beards are for grizzly, Brawny-paper-towel-man-esque fellows. Hockey players are these grizzly-esque men. Frankly, hockey players look strange without facial hair. Nothing looks worse than a face with a black eye and broken smile devoid of a furry face.

Appearances aside, it does wonders for team chemistry. What better way to reinforce team unity than a roomful of bearded men? Beards for solidarity.

The tradition started in the early 1980s with the New York Islanders, a team that won four straight Stanley Cups between 1980 and 1983. I'm not going to say the team's string of Stanley Cups was attributable to facial hair karma being on their side, but teams rarely win four consecutive titles.

In the years since, most NHL playoff teams have followed suit. As the team continues to advance, the razors stay on the bench, the rare exception being a desperation shave in the hopes it will reverse a skater's poor play.

The phenomenon isn't unique to the NHL. Facial hair fortitude was a mainstay of the late '90s New York Knick squads led by Patrick Ewing, and more recently has been seen during playoff runs by the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots. San Francisco Giants closer Brian Wilson had Bay area fans on the "fear the beard" bandwagon during their World Series run in 2010.

Beyond its presence with professional teams, playoff beards have helped transcend the ever-present divide between hardcore fans and the multi-million dollar athletes they support. Fans live with their team, die with their team and grow with their team.

Which brings me to my playoff beard complex, the lone issue I have that creates a love-hate dynamic with the practice. Despite my best efforts, I simply cannot grow a beard. To put it into perspective, my facial hair makes Sidney Crosby look like Ron Swanson.

At 21 years old, I find my follicle impairment to be a sore subject and when NHL playoff time comes around, this anxiety hits a fever pitch. It's hard not to feel a little emasculated when you see your peers walking around flaunting their big, thick, bushy beards.

It would be bad enough if these furry faces merely reminded me of my own inadequacy, but they also serve as a painful indication that those fans' teams are still in the playoff hunt. These lucky men complain, often citing the itchiness and maintenance that comes with their gift, but to a clean-cut guy these are petty objections. They just don't know how good they have it.

Of course, this stance is simply because I am a bitter, jealous, baby-faced fan. I'm still hanging on to the glimmer of hope that I am a late bloomer, that my day will come and someday I will join the bearded masses.

When that day comes, my beard will be in full force; I'll be a deep sea fisherman, drink sap straight from the tree and women will swoon, provided my team keeps winning.

Just look around campus as the Bruins continue their journey through the 2012 NHL playoffs, there will be stubbled students everywhere.

— Dylan Lewis can be reached at sports@HuntNewsNu.com.

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BASEBALL

Rookie of the Year still leading

Zolan Kanno-Youngs
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Winning the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Rookie of the Year award doesn't guarantee continued success, but last year's winner Aaron Barbosa has picked up right where he left off.

Barbosa, a sophomore outfielder, continued to put up team and conference leading numbers through the first month of the season.

Barbosa took command in the leadoff spot in the Northeastern line-up, leading the team in batting average with .353 – which also ranks 11th in the CAA of players with 30 or more starts this season – and in hits with 48.

"He's gone to the next level from being Rookie of the Year in the conference to now being probably a legitimate all-star in the conference," head coach Neil McPhee said.

However, the starting center fielder seems to have his focus on more team goals rather than individual honors.

"What I try to focus on is being better for the sake of our team being better," Barbosa said. "Our goal coming in to the season was to finish sixth and make the conference tournament. I really kind of built my motivation around that."

Barbosa has had a red-hot April, recording a 19 game streak of reaching base before going 0-4 at bat Sunday against George Mason University.

However, the streak came during the team's worst slump of the season as the team has now only won two of their last 13 games,

nine of those games being in-conference play.

"Really, all my focus was on that the team wasn't winning, like I wasn't paying attention to how well I was doing and everyday, even during the little losing streak we had, I was focused on getting hits for the sake of the team breaking the losing streak and the team winning this game," Barbosa said.

He played a key part in the Huskies finally breaking the eight-game losing streak April 11 against Harvard. Barbosa led the team with four hits and his first home run of the season against the Crimson. The sophomore also got four hits in the Huskies' 6-3 win in Friday's series-opener against George Mason.

"From my personal experience, when I see someone else or a group of guys hitting well it definitely improves everyone's confidence going up to the plate," Barbosa said.

In Saturday and Sunday's losses to George Mason, Barbosa did not have a hit, going 0-for-9. However, throughout the season, Barbosa has been one of the most consistent contributors to the Husky line-up, batting .353, current ranked 10th in the CAA.

"He's got a chance to go beyond this level. He can really swing the bat, got great speed so for us, he's a huge key at the top of our order," McPhee said. "Hopefully we add more of the talent that came with this freshman class and you start meshing it all together, he's going to be the spark that gets the offense going, no question."

BOSTON MARATHON

Huskies cross finish line on Marathon Monday in high heat

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school. At age 50, she said she was hoping to break four hours on the clock and did, coming in at 3:57:57.

"My goal [was] to run comfortably, finish strong and have fun," she said.

This was her third Boston Marathon and seventh official marathon. She said she's grown to love running and hates missing a session.

"I like the movement," she said. "I like the freedom, I like the fresh air. I do all my running outside. I like the break from [everyday life]. I love it. I hardly really ever feel like not taking a run."

Her passion for hitting the pavement, and having to train for Mon-

day's long run, encouraged her to begin running to Northeastern from her Arlington home. The commute is roughly seven miles and generally takes her just over an hour.

"It's upped the efficiency of my running," Lamachia said. "It's my commute. It's my contribution to the environment to save gas. It's my contribution to my bank account to save money ... I get to window shop in Cambridge."

Running to work helped her fit in more training for the Marathon, she said. She qualified for Boston with a time from an Ohio marathon that she ran with her son in the fall.

She said the heat was an added challenge, but not one that held her

back.

"It was a thoughtful race as you had to think about how to stay cool at the same time you were thinking about pacing," she said. "One of the things that is challenging but fun about marathons is that you never know what you'll get on marathon day and you have to go with the flow."

Her goal these days is to complete one marathon a decade and like Wong, she hopes to be running into her 80s.

Mark Kreditor graduated from Northeastern in 1981 with a bachelor of science in marketing and now lives in Texas. He ran his first marathon as a bandit – an unofficial, bibless runner – as a junior in 1980, and again in '81. In 1983, he ran for charity as a member of the American Medical Joggers Association.

He was inspired to run the Boston Marathon in the spring of 1979 while on co-op when he met that year's winner, Bill Rodgers.

"I was selling racketball rackets, backgammon boards and jump ropes [on co-op] and Bill Rodgers Running Center bought an order from me in 1979," he said. "I was at the Quincy YMCA when Bill Rodgers won the Marathon and I had just met his brother delivering this order on my co-op job and I said, 'Wow, I'm going to run.' ... I never stopped running. I've been running for 33 years."

He returned to the course this year to run his fourth and final Boston Marathon, with the chance to run with his daughters attending Boston University.

"There is nothing in the world like running the Boston Marathon," he said. "And as much as I would like to tell you it was easy as when I ran them as a junior and senior at Northeastern, that would be a lie."



Courtesy Photo/Adian Wong
Sixth-year pharmacy student Adrian Wong (left) finished his sixth Boston Marathon in 2:53:48, qualifying him for next year's race.



INFORMATION DAY:

BOSTON

Hosted By: MTV's Sway Calloway

WHO:

Boston Area College Students

WHAT:

Hear from the President of MTV, other Executives and recent college graduates about:

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- Potential Job Openings

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WHERE/WHEN:

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We met at The News,

We met at The News, technically. And by met, I mean every so often the door at The News would swing open and in bounced this beautiful girl, always beaming, and it felt like all of my insides were exploding in every single possible direction at once and I was far too intimidated to talk to her and all I could manage to think was (and I'm paraphrasing here) 'Whoa.'

But that suffices for meeting these days, and at any rate I'm not complaining.

A lot has happened since then, obviously. Six years have passed. It's crazy to think of things like that, especially when it feels like just yesterday I was sitting in the production room at The News, pretending to write a story, desperately trying to make you laugh. To make you notice me. And you did. I'll never forget that moment, the first time I made you laugh. I was amazed. Dumbstruck. Thrilled beyond belief. Bianca Strzelczyk, gorgeous freshman, laughing because of me, completely-average-in-every-way dude. It made no sense to me then, and that hasn't changed.

Still, that was nothing compared to what I found over the months and years to follow. The fact that you're nice to look at is obvious; any idiot can see that. And it's great, really, but I fell in love with you because you're such a wonderful person. You're kind and genuine and dedicated and caring. You're fun and silly and awesome. You're, well, you. It's truly a blessing to have you in my life at all, let alone in such a major way.

My friends have told me over the years that you're out of my league, Bianca, and I must say I agree. But as I always respond, that's not my problem. I would be thrilled and honored if it remained your problem forever and ever and ever. We may never have a lot of money, or fancy things, and life won't always be a breeze. But it will be fun, and it will be us. That's more than a boy from a small town in Illinois ever dreamed of. So, **Bianca Strzelczyk,**



~ will you marry me? ~

designed by: Kevin Strzelczyk