

BASEBALL

Huskies score five in ninth to topple BC, 12-11

Elizabeth Thomas

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The baseball team (12-7, 3-3 Colonial Athletic Association) came back from a four-run deficit in the bottom of the ninth inning to score five runs to defeat cross-town rivals Boston College (9-13, 2-7 Atlantic Coast Conference) 12-11 at Friedman Diamond Tuesday afternoon.

For the second consecutive year, the Huskies' winning run against BC crossed the plate as a result of a wild pitch.

"This game just shows who we are as a team, coming back to score four runs in the ninth with our backs against the wall. It just shows you a lot about our team and how we play," sophomore starting pitcher Matt Cook said.

Leading off the bottom of the ninth inning senior left fielder and co-captain Matt Miller and junior designated hitter Jon Leroux both singled to left field to get on base. The third single of the inning by freshman first baseman Rob Fonseca loaded the bases. Freshman shortstop Jason Vosler then hit into a fielder's choice that drove Miller home for the first run. With two on and one out, freshman third baseman McKeon delivered with a hit a deep right center field doubling to bring in two runs closing the gap to one run, 11-10.

Junior catcher John Puttress' single brought Castoldi home to tie the game in the ninth inning.

"I was just sticking with the same approach," Puttress said. "I knew he was going to come at me, I just

waited for a fastball and made sure to put a good swing on it and hit it down the middle."

Puttress eventually scored the winning run on a wild pitch by Eagles senior reliever Kyle Prohovich.

Cook made his fourth start of the season (1-1), lasted three innings on the mound and allowed seven runs on seven hits. He held off the Eagles for two innings but struggled in the third: He walked the first two hitters, allowed a single down the left side to load the bases and walked in a run, putting the Huskies down 7-1 by the end of the inning.

Northeastern responded with four runs in the bottom of inning, with sophomore center fielder Connor Lyons, sophomore right fielder Aaron Barboas and freshman second baseman Michael Foster all hitting opposite field singles to lead the bases with no outs. Miller worked the pitch count earning a walk to bring home a run that cut Boston College's lead 7-2.

Leroux brought home Barboas on a sacrifice fly to center field for the first out of the inning. Fonseca was hit by a pitch, loading up the bases for Vosler, whose 2 RBI single cut the lead to 7-5.

BC sophomore starting pitcher Steven Green was pulled in the bottom of the third, giving way to sophomore pitcher Nate Bayuk. Roeder walked to load the bases for Lyons in his second plate appearance of the inning. Bayuk struck Lyons out to end the third inning.

Cook was pulled in the top of the fourth, after allowing a leadoff single. Freshman pitcher Matthew

Goreham took over and forced the Eagles to ground into a double play before sophomore center fielder Tom Bourbon grounded out to second base to end the inning.

Foster was able to make his third one-out triple of the season with a drive down the field line and was brought home when Miller hit a sacrifice fly into right field, lifting the Huskies ahead by one, 7-6.

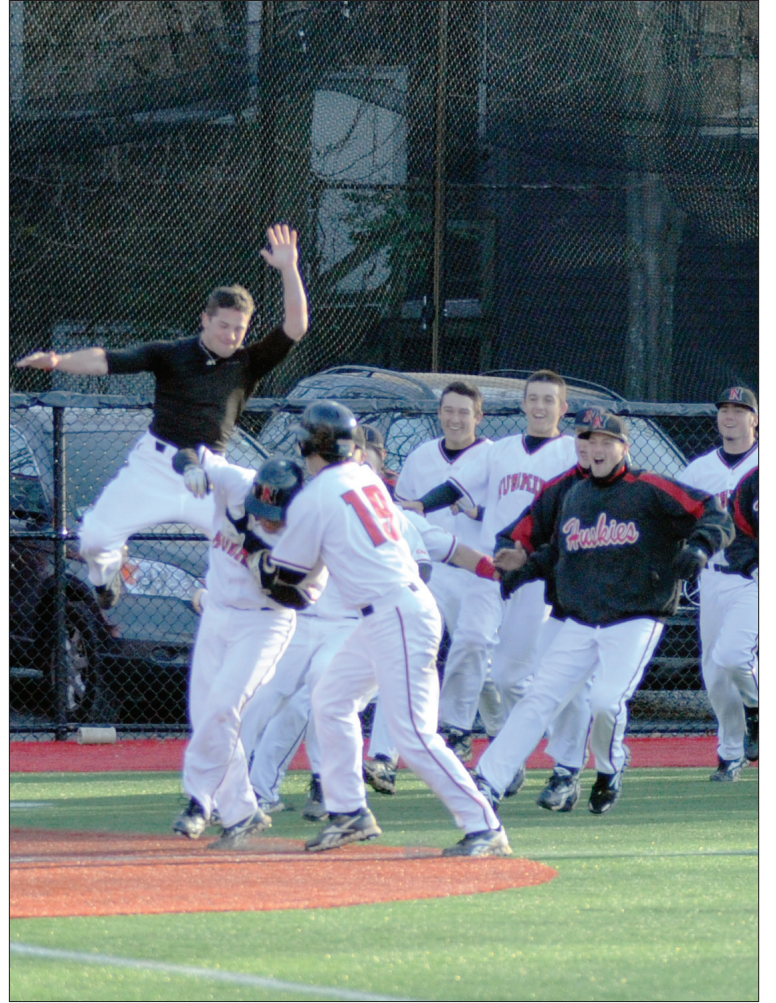
But BC scored four more runs in the fifth inning to take back the lead, 11-6.

Vosler led off the inning for Northeastern with his second triple of the game, with McKeon batting next a sacrifice fly to right field driving home Vosler to make it 11-7.

Sophomore pitcher Oliver Heart kept the Eagles off the score board for eight and ninth innings to record his first win of the season, pitching 1.2 innings and not allowing a hit, walk or run, struck out two, just before the Huskies ninth inning rally and wild pitch win.

The Huskies now look forward to facing Colonial Athletic Association rivals Virginia Commonwealth University for the first conference home series of the year at Friedman Diamond this weekend. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m. Friday, noon Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

"The way we are playing we are ready to beat anybody," head coach Neil McPhee said. "[Virginia Commonwealth University] is a tough team, we know that, everybody in this conference is going to be tough. The way we are playing we are ready to play anyone, VCU is tough and we know that, but we're ready."



News Staff Photo/Dan Pagliaroli

The Huskies celebrated as junior catcher John Puttress crossed home plate, scoring the winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of ninth inning Tuesday.

ROWING



News Staff Photo/Dan Pagliaroli

The women's crew rowed the Charles River on Saturday in the annual Beanpot. Head coach Joe Wilhelm picked up his 100th and 101st career wins as the Varsity 8 placed ahead of BC and MIT's boats.

Wilhelm grabs 100th win in Beanpot

Max Nagel

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Women's rowing head coach Joe Wilhelm – in his 14th season – picked up his 100th career win with the Huskies when his crew finished ahead of Boston College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the annual Rowing Beanpot on the Charles River Saturday.

Wilhelm led his boats to 101-65 in regular season races. The Huskies finished second overall in the points tally, falling just short of Radcliffe, but beating Boston University, BC and MIT.

"Winning 100 races at Northeastern is a reflection of the commitment the university has made to the rowing team which allows us to put competitive crews on the water every year," Wilhelm said. "I am in my 14th year as head coach of the women's team, and over that time we have consistently been one of

the best teams in New England. Our focus now is to elevate the program to one of the best in the country."

The women's Varsity 8 boat was locked in a tight three-way battle for third this weekend. With Radcliffe College and Boston University holding a steady lead over the field, Northeastern and MIT were engaged in a close match. BU gained water in the middle 1,000 meters of the race, but Northeastern and MIT remained bow to bow with 500 meters remaining. Northeastern's Varsity 8 pulled ahead by a few seats and was able to secure a third place finish, 0.6 seconds ahead of MIT.

"I think the current athletes understand that we need to continue working hard to improve, and we have shifted their focus from the Beanpot to our next race against Dartmouth and Columbia this weekend," Wilhelm said.

Women's crew will row against

Dartmouth College and Columbia University March 31 at 8 on the Charles River. Men's crew will next take on Boston University April 7 in the Arlett Cup on the Charles River.

The men's crew opened its season with races against George Washington University on Friday and two more against the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University in Saturday's Burk Cup on the Cooper River in Camden, N.J., sweeping all three.

"We work very hard all year long to make sure our oarsmen and crews are prepared to handle a full 2,000 meter of racing in any conditions," men's head coach John Pojednic said. "Our crews remained poised and strong from start to finish and were all fortunate to win each race they entered by a significant margin."

Friday's racing included dual

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TRACK & FIELD

Track sprints to top finishes at home

Madeline Sattler

NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Northeastern track and field team welcomed 16 schools for a home competition on Saturday, and finished the day with 28 top three finishes combined.

"Overall we did really well performance-wise given the weather," head coach Sherman Hart said.

The men dominated in the field, winning six of eight events. Senior jumper Andrew Staples won the high jump clearing 1.98 meters. Sophomore jumper Jackson MacDonald took the long jump title in a field of 17 athletes with a 6.68 meter leap.

The Huskies won one medal in the triple jump and one in the pole vault events. Sophomore Dylan Lucas soared over 4.27 meters to win gold in the pole vault while teammate senior Pablo Rodriguez finished third in the event. Husky jumpers junior Tejorn Davis and freshman Jasper McCoy finished first and third respectfully in the triple jump. Davis combined for a 14.06 meter leap to top the competition.

"I really wasn't surprised by the performances at all," Hart said. "I thought we were ready for the meet."

Senior thrower Patrick Jablonski won his second discus title this season with a 51.83 meter toss. The senior was also victorious last weekend in South Carolina where he bested 61 other throwers.

"We didn't change our game plan at all this week," junior thrower Mark Mastone said. "The throwers have done well today and all season."

Jablonski and Mastone took silver and bronze respectively in the shot put. Jablonski threw 15.95 meters

while Mastone launched the shot 15.04 meters. Sophomore thrower Max Milder won the hammer throw clearing 56.27 meters.

"We're looking for some more top performances down the way," Mastone said. "The number one goal right now is the CAA [Colonial Athletic Association] championships."

On the track, senior sprinter Darius Velez was the only male runner to win gold. The Massachusetts native ran the 100-meter dash in a quick 11.05 seconds to take the title in a field of 45 other runners. Fellow sprinter, sophomore Alex Shapiro posted two runner-up performances on the day. In the 200-meter dash, Shapiro ran a speedy 22.70 seconds and finished just two-tenths of a second behind the first-place finisher. The sophomore completed his 400-meter dash in 49.54 seconds.

"It felt really nice to get some outdoor races that meant something," Shapiro said.

Freshman hurdler Jared Lane raced the 400-meter hurdles for the first time in his Northeastern career. The New Jersey native finished third in the event with a time of 55.76 seconds.

"I was really scared," Lane said. "I just wanted to come out today and finish."

Senior distance runner Sebastian Putzeys clinched second place in the 1500-meter run posting a time of 4:03.65. Fellow distance runner, senior Teddy Vrontas finished third in the 5000-meter run in 15:16.64.

"I'm proud of all the guys," Lane said. "We came out and did well today."

On the women's side, the Huskies won gold in four different events. Se-

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WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Five Huskies recongized with postseason awards

Madeline Sattler
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The ice has melted at Matthews and the women's hockey team stopped playing a few weeks ago, but the Huskies are still being recognized with postseason awards.

Four players – senior defender Stephanie Gavronsky, junior forward Casey Pickett, freshman forward Kendall Coyne and senior goalkeeper Florence Schelling – were named All-New England Division I All-Stars by the New England Hockey Writers Association Tuesday in addition to coach Dave Flint being named New England Division I Coach of the Year.

Gavronsky was the lone defensive representative on the All-Star team. The Alberta native notched a career high in goals, assists and points this season (6-9-15). Gavronsky was first among defenders in the Women's Hockey East Association (WHEA) for the lowest goals-against ratio.

"We are proud of all our players who were named to the New England All-Star team," Flint said. "I was a bit surprised that we had so many players named to the team considering how many great players there are in New England."

Pickett was also selected to the All-Star team. Pickett's 23 assists put her third in WHEA and her 41 total points scored were fourth-best in the league. She also scored the game-winning goal during overtime in the Beanpot Championship game against the Boston University Terriers. After the game, Pickett was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Coyne began her Northeastern career with a breakout season. She led the Huskies and all WHEA rookies in points scored with 45. Her 26 goals scored were second in Hockey East. Coyne also came up big in the clutch with a WHEA-leading seven game-winning goals.

"I couldn't have [had this season] without the support of my family friends, the coaching staff and my teammates," Coyne said.

Last week, Coyne was recognized as the United States College Hockey Online (USCHO) Rookie of the Year, a distinction awarded to the nation's best college rookie. Coyne edged out Cornell's forward Jillian Saulnier for the title.

"I was really shocked and didn't know what to say," Coyne said. "The other candidates are very good players, so the ball was in anyone's court."

Schelling was the final Husky named to the All-Star team and was also selected as New England Player of the Year. In her final season for Northeastern, Schelling led the nation with a .950 save percentage. Her 1.42 goals against average was second in the country and first in the WHEA.

"Florence was very deserving of this award," Flint said. "It wasn't really surprising considering the year that she had."

Earlier this month Schelling was named one of the top three finalists for the Patty Kazmaier Award, which is given to the top player in Division I women's hockey. Schelling was also

selected as Hockey East Player of the Year and the WHEA goaltending champion.

"We are very proud of all that she's accomplished throughout her career at NU," Flint said.

The players were not the only ones recognized by the New England Hockey Writers Association as Flint was named New England Division I Coach of the Year.

"I was honored when I heard that I won the award because there are so many great coaches that are very deserving," Flint said.

He led Northeastern to 22 wins this season, the most in 10 years. Flint also coached the Huskies to their first Beanpot title since 1998.

"He has taken this program to being a program that's on the map," Coyne said. "People want to play us and people want to come watch us."

The Huskies finished the season with a 22-7-4 record and the program's first Hockey East regular season title.



Freshman forward Kendall Coyne was named USCHO All-Rookie of the Year and earned a spot on the All-New England Division I All-Star team.

News Staff Photo/Dan Pagliaroli

Someday, it'll be us

It's the most wonderful time of the year, especially if you're a college basketball fan.

March Madness is well upon us, now down to the four "best" teams the country has to offer with only three games remaining to crown the national champion. Kansas, Ohio State, Kentucky or Louisville will leave New Orleans with claims as the nation's best.

Though there is no true Cinderella story this season, the road to the Final Four was surely packed with surprises, as it is nearly every year.

Syracuse started it off right, nearly making my wildest dreams come true (seeing a No. 1 seed lose in the first round) when the Orange – down superstar center Fab Malo to academic ineligibility – nearly choked against 16-seed University of North Carolina at Asheville. Alas, I must wait another year to see such a historic victory.

The following afternoon, No. 2 Missouri (this writer's Final Four pick) and senior guard Kim English elected not to show up to their game against Norfolk State, making the Spartans only the fifth 15-seed to upset a second-seed since the field expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

So as I wipe my tears with my sham of a bracket, trying to figure out why I would ever choose Missouri (a team that Associated Press and USA Today named the third-best in the nation) to defeat a team like Norfolk State, something unforeseen occurred.



Andy MacDougall
Mac Minute

It happened again.

In what can only be considered the basketball gods' way of evening the playing field, Duke somehow took a play from Missouri's playbook and fell to Lehigh, also a 15-seed.

As a sports fan, I could only imagine the elation and pride felt with these wins, with David slaying Goliath, proving that one's underdog team could be more than just a footnote to another team's historic run.

Here enters Northeastern, a team that hasn't been to the tournament in 21 years, and who hasn't won a NCAA tournament game since Husky-great Reggie Lewis paced Northeastern to a 90-87 first-round win over Long Island University in 1984.

Our Huskies play in arguably one of the more demanding mid-major conferences in the country, the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). Outside of the "Power Six" conferences (Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, SEC, ACC and Pac 12), the Mountain West Conference, the Atlantic 10 and the CAA are the best three basketball conferences out of 32 Division I conferences in the NCAA.

In many ways, playing so many talented teams hurts our postseason chances each year. A team can only win so many games against the likes of George Mason, Virginia Commonwealth, Drexel and Old Dominion, teams with proven tournament pedigree.

On the other hand, if Northeastern were to ever get back to the tournament, that exposure would come in handy against the best teams in the nation.

So-called "mid-major" schools have made a name for themselves over the past few seasons. George Mason made it to the Final Four as an 11th seed in 2006. Virginia Commonwealth did the exact same thing with the exact same seed last season.

Outside of Colonial, Butler made it to back-to-back national championship games in 2010 and 2011, helping to fuel the argument that "mid-major" is an outdated term, especially considering the success of so many basketball programs. Mid-major really just indicates second-best, but the reality of the matter is that any team, on any given day, can pull off the upset.

Any team also includes Northeastern. If the Huskies reached the tournament, chances are they would be given a low seed with experts giving them little chance of advancing simply because they don't play in a Power Six conference.

But in reality, Northeastern would stand a fairly good chance against any team. To get in the tournament, Northeastern would have to have those marquee wins against the CAA powers, good performances against any top-25 teams they may face and impressive romps of teams they have to beat.

And could you imagine if they did win? It would be on the same level as Northeastern hockey winning the Beanpot, or even the Hockey East regular-season title. It would be little Northeastern, for the most part a hockey school, beating a basketball powerhouse on a national stage. There would be avid buzz about the team throughout campus, an insatiable delirium for all things Husky basketball and a yearning desire for a repeat performance in the following round.

And sooner or later, it will happen.

I won't sit here and guarantee a Northeastern tournament victory any time soon. But it will happen. One day, the Huskies will get that marquee victory, most likely as a low-seeded team.

And when it does happen, I'll see you all at the party in Centennial.

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MEN'S HOCKEY

Ex-Huskies make strides in juniors and pro

Eoghan Kelly
NEWS STAFF

Northeastern has a history of losing both graduating seniors and underclassmen to professional contracts, so as the hockey world awaits the announcement of the Huskies' departures, here is a survey how some recent Northeastern alumni have managed so far in the professional leagues.

With 1:48 remaining in the first period of the 2011 Beanpot Championship game, forward Tyler McNeely darted across the ice toward forward Brodie Reid.

Reid just gave the men's hockey team a 2-1 lead over Boston College, and McNeely skated over to embrace Reid in celebration. The pair of forwards, then a senior and freshman respectively, on a Northeastern team that would go on to lose in overtime, 7-6, in one of the most memorable Beanpot title games in tournament's history. They glided over to the Northeastern bench in tandem and received a flurry of congratulatory high-fives from their teammates.

But a lot can change in a year. Last Sunday, McNeely again embraced Reid, but this time as a member of the American Hockey League's (AHL) Bridgeport Sound Tigers, the minor league affiliate of the NHL's New York Islanders, more than a year after they collectively celebrated their stellar Beanpot performance. McNeely and Reid, now with the Worcester Sharks, dropped their gloves and exchanged crush-

ing blows in Reid's first professional fight.

Following Northeastern's loss to BC in the 2011 Hockey East semifinals, McNeely, Reid and three other Huskies on the 2010-11 roster left and joined the professional ranks.

Even before this season, Northeastern was well-represented in professional hockey at the NHL level, particularly within the Pittsburgh Penguins organization. Two members of the 2008-09 team who led Northeastern to its first NCAA tournament berth since 1994 – forward Joe Vitale and goalie and 2009 All-American Brad Thiessen – are on the Penguins' roster.

Vitale, who is 50th on Northeastern's all-time points list, has amassed four goals and nine assists in 63 games on Pittsburgh's fourth line this season, as well as a 55.6 percent faceoff percentage, second on the team only to third-line center Matt Cooke.

On Feb. 3, Penguins vice president and general manager Ray Shero announced that the 26-year-old Vitale signed a two-year contract extension with the Penguins through the 2013-14 season.

At the other end of the ice, Thiessen is in a battle with Brett Johnson for the Penguins' back-up goalie job. Thiessen earned a 4-2 win in his first-ever NHL start Feb. 26 against the Blue Jackets, and is 3-2 overall in five starts this season.

Thiessen will become a free agent at the conclusion of the 2011-12 season.

McNeely, one of three seniors to

graduate and sign a professional free-agent contract following the 2010-11 season, signed a one-year, two-way deal with the Islanders April 20, 2011, after scoring five goals and adding six assists in a 10-game amateur tryout period with the Sound Tigers. In 61 games played with Bridgeport in 2011-12, McNeely has accumulated seven goals, 12 assists and a plus-8 rating.

Including his tussle with Reid, McNeely has earned five fighting majors this season with the Bridgeport Sound Tigers, who are currently in sixth place in the AHL's Eastern Conference with 75 points.

McNeely also played on the Islanders' fourth line in their first pre-season game against the Bruins Sept. 23 in Boston.

Wade MacLeod and Steve Silva, McNeely's linemates while at Northeastern, joined the Burnaby, British Columbia, native in the minor leagues after graduation by signing free-agent contracts with the AHL's Springfield Falcons (affiliate of the Columbus Blue Jackets) and East Coast Hockey League's (ECHL) Trenton Titans.

"We're blessed to have them because not only are they good players, they're good people," former head coach Greg Cronin said in a February 2011 interview with the News. "Those guys are critical [to the team]."

MacLeod scored seven goals and 17 assists in 58 games with the 12th-place Falcons this year, while Silva has tallied eight goals, 25 assists and



News Staff File Photo/Dan Pagliaroli

Pittsburgh Penguins back-up goalie Brad Thiessen lead the Huskies to a 25-12-4 finish in 2008-09.

a minus-9 rating with the Titans, the ECHL affiliate of the Philadelphia Flyers. Silva also has 75 total penalty minutes, including two games with at least 12 penalty minutes.

But the Huskies also lost two freshmen who were integral to their 2010-11 Hockey East playoff push. After being named to the 2011 Pro Ambitions Hockey East All-Rookie Team, Reid signed an entry-level contract with the San Jose Sharks April 15, 2011, less than a month after Northeastern's season-ending loss to BC, and reported to San Jose's AHL club in Worcester.

"I was really impressed with Brodie Reid," Boston University head coach Jack Parker said in April 2011. "He can really shoot the puck – he's a terrific freshman forward for [Northeastern]."

Two months later, defenseman Jamie Oleksiak was drafted by the Dallas Stars with the 14th overall pick in the 2011 NHL Entry Draft following his stand-out freshman year.

Oleksiak, the highest-selected draft choice of any player in Northeastern history, subsequently signed a three-year entry-level contract, the Stars announced Oct. 6.

Oleksiak participated in the team's summer development camp and training camp, but has split time during the 2011-12 season between the Saginaw Spirit and Niagara IceDogs of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). In 62 total games this season, Oleksiak has scored 12 goals and 20 assists, helping lead the IceDogs to the OHL playoffs after winning the regular season championship.

Reid, meanwhile, has scored just two points in his last 11 games, but has eight goals and 14 assists in his 62 contests this season. The Sharks are currently in 13th place with 67 points in the Eastern Conference, just four points out of the eighth and final playoff spot.

Cronin did not respond to a request for comments on this story.

TRACK & FIELD

Track returns decked in metals

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nior sprinter Saleena Abdur-Rashed won the 100-meter dash over 44 other athletes in a speedy 12.50 seconds. The Huskies' 4 by 100-meter 'C' relay finished first with a time of 48.12 seconds.

"Overall it went smoothly and we competed really well as a team," said freshman sprinter Monet Braithwaite, who was a part of the relay.

Other first-place finishes include junior vaulter Jilena Decarteret in the pole vault who soared over 3.51 meters. Teammates and fellow vaulters, sophomore Kelly Benfey, senior Lauren Bennett and junior Ashley Furlong tied for third in the pole vault event clearing 3.13 meters.

Sophomore jumpers Georgia Pingue and Olivia Stevens finished first and second in the triple jump with leaps of 11.64 and 11.23 meters respectively.

ROWING

Men's crew sweeps GWU and UPenn

ROWING, from page 12

heats between the Huskies and George Washington. The Varsity 8, lead by sophomore stroke seat Justin James, defeated GWU by 16.3 second with a finishing time of 6:14.7. The Second Varsity 8, the Freshman 8 and the Open 4 all enjoyed decisive victories over the Colonials.

On Saturday, the crew shared the same success as Northeastern took on the University of Pennsylvania in the Burk Cup. With a strong headwind blowing down the 2,000 meter course in the Varsity 8 and Open 4 races, the Huskies swept their opponents in each heat. The Varsity 8 was able to gain a slow but steady lead over UPenn, winning the race by nearly two lengths, 8.6 seconds. The Freshman 8 also had an impressive win with a 22.9 second margin, putting up a finishing time of 6:33.

"The freshmen have worked very hard and did a nice job of coming together to begin the season," Pojednic said.

In their third two-kilometer race in 24 hours, the Huskies pulled

"They did really well with it being so cold," Hart said.

Junior throwers Rachel Taback and Julia Westover also placed in their respective events. Taback finished second in the discus with a 42.53 meter toss. Westover launched the hammer 52.07 meters to earn the bronze in a field of 29 competitors.

Senior sprinter Christina Gallagher and senior middle-distance runner Courtney Mortimer both earned bronze on their home track. Gallagher crossed the finish line in the 400-meter dash in 59.92 seconds. Mortimer completed the 800-meter run in 2:20.35, just three seconds behind the first-place finisher.

In the distance department, sophomore Danielle Klein had a solid showing in the 5000-meter run. Klein finished in 18:31.08 which put her second out of 14 runners, behind Rhode Island's Cassandra Olson.

away with four more wins. Each boat again swept the field and left Georgetown in its wake. Showing no signs of stopping or exhaustion, Northeastern was able to leave the Cooper with open-water victories.

The women's crew was on home water Saturday taking on BC, BU, MIT and Radcliffe College in the annual Beanpot Regatta.

Northeastern had a strong showing at the race as the fourth Varsity 8 won their race defeating BC by 20.5 seconds with a time of 7:16.2. The Varsity 4 B, 2nd Varsity 8 and 3rd Varsity 8 all finished in second behind Radcliffe. The Varsity 8 and Varsity 4 A boats both finished in third in their respective races.

"This is a very young team," Podjednic said. "The season is long and our league is relentless. It's too early to know how far we will get this year. At this point, we are focused on trying to improve with each practice. What is certain is that I think very highly of all of our athletes and believe in their ability to succeed."

"Everyone did what they were supposed to be doing at this meet," Hart said. "We performed really well."

The Huskies' season continues this Friday and Saturday with the Best Western Invitational in Jacksonville, Fla.

"We've been prepping all year for this outdoor season," Hart said. "As I

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