Kings of the East

Dan Dennis '97 (top) was in a league of his own this weekend, backboning wins over Boston University and Maine as the Friars captured the Hockey East crown. BU netminder Tom Noble (prone) was bowled over by Mike Omicioli '99, who is celebrating this goal, along with teammate Dennis Burke, while a dejected Chris Drury hangs his head. Stories p. 2-3
The Cowl

Established in 1935

PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN April 30, 1996

"I think I learned a lot from Bob Bell and a lot from [Head Coach] Paul Peters. They helped me make the transition from a pretty awful goalie to a not bad one now. I've mirrored Bob Bell's work ethic and the way he went toward the game. I've tried to copy that somehow. Coach Pooley has come in and it's been a bit of a struggle for me, but I'm much happier now.

In Saturday's semifinal against BU, one of the most dangerous offensive squads in the nation, the defense in front of him was stellar. But when the defense broke down, the netminder was solid, stopping three partial or total breakaways. In the final against Maine, Dennis turned away 26 shots and survived a feverish third period that brought yet another penalty shot his way. The performance placed him on the All Tournament team, and earned the praise of his rival, stellar backstop netminder Blair Allison.

"The difference of the game was finishing," said Allison. "(Providence) capitalized on most of their chances whereas I don't think we did. Obviously Dan had a lot to do with that.

The other side tale is one of a giant and a sprite. Picture a David and Goliath story, only David and Goliath are linemates. Six-foot-three, 241 pound senior Joe Hulbig came to Providence College highly celebrated, a first-round draft choice of the Edmonton Oilers. He was expected to do great things for this club. But several injuries in his first two seasons slowed him, as earned him Tournament MVP honors.

"It's definitely been a long four years," explained Hulbig. "My first four years I'd just like to put behind me. I had a new beginning when Coach (Pooley) came in. It was just like a new chance to work harder. I had to start all over again and lead this team and this year I have."

One of the reasons for the success has been 5-5 freshman linemate Mike O'miccoli. The West Warwick, Rhode Island native started the year strong, but missed a large chunk of the season with a shoulder injury. When he returned, Pooley moved him to write his name to the starting line-up on Hublig's line. O'miccoli finished the season strong. In the tournament, he complemented Hublig nicely, as their line figured in six of the Friars' eight goals in Boston. "Mike did a great job," praised Hulbig. "The pack goes into the corner, Mike goes in there, you think he's gonna get killed, but he comes out with the puck more times than I usually do. As far as playing with him? As long as we

"WOMEN LEADERS IN RHODE ISLAND"

NANCY MAHER - RI General Treasurer & currently running for U.S. Senate

JUDGE O. ROGERIEE THOMPSON - RI District Court Judge

LILA SAPINSLEY - Former RI State Senator & currently a panel member of "The Lively Experiment"

BARBARA COTTAM - Former Press Secretary for Governor Sundlin, currently Director of Public Relations at Citizens Bank, & 1981 PC Graduate

Chaired by: Amy Fracasso ’96
Co-sponsored by: Political Science & Women's Studies Departments

"Women Leaders in Rhode Island"

Wednesday, March 27th
in Moore Hall III
at 7:30 pm
Refreshments served

---

The Tale of Three Friars

by John Carduchi ’98

Astr Sports Editor

These are two tales about perspective. The first is about Friar goaltender Dan Dennis. The setting is a decent sized, slightly well known hockey rink in Boston. A year ago, Dennis and his 4.62 goals against average sat on a Boston Garden bench during the Hockey East Tournament, watching fellow Friar stopper Bob Bell carry the Black and White to the championship game, narrowly missing the title.

This season, Dennis had nothing to do with the nine, starting 36 of the Friars' 38 games and all 24 of league contests. He played of and on and, well, nothing roughly a 3.00 GAA, earning a spot on the All-Hockey East team. The kicker: Dennis' play figured heavily in their capture of the 1996 tournament crown last weekend at the Fleet Center. Dennis gave a lot of the credit of his turnaround to Bell.

"When I saw the guys play last year, said, 'Boy I want to play bad,'" recalled the junior from


---

Keith Christensen ’96

Sport Editor
by John Carchedi ’98
Ass’l Sports Editor

A long time ago, the nine Hockey East coaches were polled and predicted Providence to place seventh. Fortunately, polls are inaccurate by nature, and there’s a reason we play the games. The Friars topped their admissible fourth-place regular season finish (as predicted by our fearless sports editor, see The Cowl, October 19) by winning the Hockey East Tournament this weekend at Boston’s Fleet Center. After sweeping Boston College in the best of three quarterfinals on March 7th and 8th, PC upset number one seed Boston University 5-4 in the semi’s last Friday.

The victory earns Providence a coveted spot in the NCAA Tournament. The journey begins this Saturday in East Lansing, Michigan against first round opponent Minnesota.-

The Providence Friars swept Maine in their first tourney meeting in 1985. "It’s a huge advancement for the program, getting the Hockey East Championship," admitted Head Coach Paul Pooley, the architect of the title team and the best outlook for the future the Friars have shown in recent years. "It does not mean we’ve arrived by any means. We lose a lot of quality kids next year, so that’s going to be a big step. But it puts Providence College back on the Hockey Map, and I guess gains us some respect and recognition that we’d like to have.

"But we have to keep things in perspective. Our whole program is based on work ethic and preparation, and that’s been the key to our success this weekend."

Saturday night’s championship against the Black Bears started off frightfully. With Maine on probation from any NCAA tournament appearances, this contest meant their season. With the Black Bears riding on that emotion, PC had beaten arguably the best squad in the nation a night earlier.

"The big challenge was getting up for (Maine), because BU was such a drain on us emotionally," admitted Pooley. "It sounds weird saying you can’t get fired up for a championship game, but neither team was to start with."

Although neither team looked good in the first period, the Black Bears had the edge and gained more momentum after Brad Peddle swept home a power play goal midway at 10:48.

In the past, the Friars have faltered when down, and they looked sluggish after Puriel’s tally. That’s where the captain stepped up. With a power play of their own in the final minute, freshman Mike Omicioli shuffled a pass to co-captain Joe Hulbig at the point. The pair traded passes again before Hulbig scoched a slapshot past standout Bear goalie Blair Allison. The score knotted the game at 1-1, and lifted PC spirits as they headed into the locker room.

As big as Hulbig’s goal was, the story of the night was a five minute major penalty to Bear Tony Frenette. At 11:39 of the second, Friar defenseman Scott Balboni was moving to retrieve a puck deep in his zone. Balboni was hit from behind and knocked down hard by Frenette before he reached the puck, earning the Maine winger a five minute rest.

"It was frustrating, obviously," said Black Bears’ interim Head Coach Greg Cronin, who filled in for Shawn Walsh while he serves a year suspension for NCAA violations. "You get a five-minute major against you, it kind of takes the wind out of your sails, puts your team on its heels."

"We got the advantage when we got the five minute power play," agreed Pooley.

Maine killed the first three minutes fairly easily, until the strategy of having the humanoid as a key-ward, playing the point on the power play paid off again.

The Wrentham, MA native hustled and just kept the puck in at the blue line. Hulbig blazed another slapper which Friar winger Travis Dillabough deflected past Allison for a 2-1 PC advantage.

Then the killer. With seconds left on Frenette’s breather, Hulbig sent a pass from the corner to line mate Dennis Burke in front. Burke was foiled by Allison, but the rebound bounced back straight to Hulbig, now on the opposite side after circling the net. The big senior sent it back to the net. The puck kicked up in the air. Mainers Robin, captain, and standout Jeff Tary tried to grab the puck out of the air, but accidentally swatted the puck onto his own net. That was the game winner.

Providence played stellar defense in the third, featuring the play of netminder Dan Dennis (28 saves, 13 in the third). Cronin’s club cut the deficit to 3-2 with Allison out and less than a minute to play. But the last minute ticked away, and Providence completed a feat few saw in their reach.

"We just focus on doing what we do best," said Pooley. "We prepare for the opposition and we try not to think ‘Hey, can we beat BU and Maine back to back’. If you focus on that, it becomes overwhelming."

As for the intangible aspects, Maine may have had more to play for, but Providence had the talent on this night.

"That was a big challenge for us," Pooley said about Saturday being Maine’s added incentive. "They are a tremendous hockey club. I have a lot of respect for the coaching staff. We knew they would be tough to beat because of the emotion, and we tried to pick up our emotional intensity up just to match them."

Boston University pounded Providence 8-1 in their last regular season meeting just a few weeks ago. Whether or not payback fueled their 5-4 victory is unknown, but the Black and White definitely played hungrier.

Providence jumped out to a 2-0 cushion on goals by Hulbig and Omicioli. Terrier captain Jay Pandolfo backhanded a shot past Dennis to make it 2-1.

In the second period, Dillabough banged home a rebound at 15:20 for a 3-1 cushion.

A minute later, Friar defenceman Hal Gill ’97 tallied one against BU.

Hal Gill ’97 tallied one goal against BU.

The Friars celebrate a goal at the Hockey East Tournament.

No matter how crazy their fans were, the Terriers couldn’t beat the Friars.

Hal Gill ’97 tallied one goal against BU.

A minute later, Friar defenceman Hal Gill ’97 notched his fifth goal of the season with a vicious slap shot from the point. Both tallies came with a man advantage.

Omicioli struck again in the third, lifting a rebound over fallen BU goalie Ron Noble for a 5-2 lead. As expected, the Terriers charged back with two quick goals midway through the third. But the locals hung on, again with tremendous defense and the play of Dennis. "We didn’t seem quite ready to play, we didn’t seem quite as physically strong as we should be,” surmised BU mentor Jack Parker. "We looked a little slow and I think that had a lot to do with US being physically down and I think it had a lot to do with hard Providence played. Tiredly like how hard we played in the third period being very short-handed and short battered, and a little hit under the weather. I liked our competitive ness but it was very, very too little too late. We weren’t nearly as competitive as Providence was in the first two periods.

"Give Providence a lot of credit for how hard they played, and give them a lot of credit especially for how smart they played. We didn’t get heat because we were under the weather; we got beat because Providence played harder and smarter for 60 minutes."

The All-Tournament team included Pandolfo from BU (seven points in tournament), Tony from Maine, and four Friars: Hulbig, Omicioli, Dennis, and senior defenceman Justin Gould.
Water Under the Ice

by Rebecca Joyce ’96
Sports Writer

As the women’s ice hockey program readjusts to make room for next year’s rookies, five seniors were told to empty out lockers that had stored four years of struggle, joy, and disappointments. The struggle paid off for these seniors as they maintained a championship tradition for their first three years here at PC. Though this year had a rocky start, the Lady Friars hiked step by step from eighth to fourth place in ECAC standings.

After a 4-2 tournament semi-final victory over the regular season champ, Brown, PC carried the momentum of a ten game winning streak into the UNH match-up. The scene of both teams was stretched out in five overtime periods. Never before in the history of men’s or women’s hockey had a game lasted this long.

The door quietly closed on PC’s hopes for a fifth consecutive crown when UNH’s Brady Fisher lifted the puck over goalie Megan Smith’s shoulder. “We went down fighting. None of us had ever known what it felt like to lose,” said Karen McCabe as she looked around at her four fellow seniors who had a far away look in their eyes. Someone added as an afterthought, “It was original.”

All things said and done, PC had a successful season erasing the barriers they had built for themselves. In the ECAC semi-final game against Brown, the first goal was popped in by senior Sheila Killion on an assist from Alison Wheeler and McCabe. Laura Baker netted the second goal just minutes later in the first.

Halfway through the third period, when the score had evened out to 2-2, McCabe made the game winning goal with the help of Katie Lachapelle and Baker. Baker added the insurance shot, which secured both a 4-2 win and a chance at the crown in a duel with UNH.

The excitement rushed through the veins of the Lady Friars when they entered the cement walls of UNH’s Towsie rink for their second and final game on March 10. UNH hit the first punch with the only first period goal, soon to be returned at 9:02 into the second by Wheeler on an unassisted shot.

UNH took another step ahead of PC in the third, which Killion echoed in a goal by an assist from Wheeler and Catherine Hanson. Regulation time ended with a 2-2 head to head draw. Then came the overtimes.

PC’s determination stretched like an elastic band over the trek of five overtimes until it snapped with a UNH goal. Senior Alana Blahoski commented on the game, “If there was going to be a loser, I guess that’s the way to do it. Neither team gave it away, and it wasn’t lost on a poor play. We gave it all we had.” UNH had more teammates and a home ice advantage, yet Blahoski said, “I didn’t think it was a test for endurance. They were as tired as we were at the end of the game.” The seniors agreed that by the third overtime, it was more of a mental trial than a physical one. McCabe opened the window to what was going through her head during these tense minutes, “Keep going, and keep up adrenaline!”

On the edge of her seat was senior Amy Carlson, who could only offer a teammate’s moral support. She watched the Black and White struggle through the season’s last game without her, due to injury.

Though everyone gave all they had, McCabe said, “It doesn’t feel good to lose. It’s not like getting a ‘B’ in a class.” Blahoski emphasized the connection by saying with a wry chuckle, “It’s failing a class and getting kicked out of school.”

Fortunately, time is not like skating; you can only move in one direction. After leaving their last game in PC uniforms, the seniors look ahead to graduate schools, coaching possibilities, and Life After College.

The Lady Friars finished their season with a 17-12-0 record.

IAB PRESENTS....
SUPERSPORTS 1996!
APRIL 20, 1996

EVENTS:
1) HIGH JUMP
2) RUNNING RELAY
3) OBSTACLE COURSE
4) BASKETBALL SHOOT-OUT
5) TUG-OF-WAR
6) MIN-PUTT GOLF

*TEAMS CONSIST OF 4 MEN + 4 WOMEN*
*PRE-REGISTRATION AND ROSTERS IN IAB OFFICE LOWER PETERSON*
*DAY OF COMPETITION - REGISTRATION 11 A.M. COMPETITION 12 NOON AT PETERSON RECREATIONAL CENTER*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL X2340

Class of ’96
Photo Drop-off
Drop off photos at the Yearbook office in Slavin 102.
We want pictures of Senior year only! Class of ’96 events, parties, people, etc. Be sure your name and box numbers are on the back if you want them returned. Also include the name of event! The is your last chance to get into the Yearbook!!!
Friars Split at Big East Tourney

by Keith Christensen '96 Sports Editor

The Friars split with St. John's in the first round of the Big East Tournament with wins over the Red Storm in the first and losses in the third game. Stability in the backcourt and post play from leading scorers Abdul Kittles, Kevin Brown, and Jason Croshere enabled the Friars to win the first game, 68-67, in the opening round of the Big East Tournament in Madison Square Garden on March 2. The Friars were defeated, 80-72, in the second round.

In the opening round, the Friars had a great defensive effort, forcing St. John's to score only 68 points. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 21 points, and Brown, who scored 20. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 56% from the field and 50% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 46% and 35% from three-point range.

In the second game, the Friars were defeated by the Red Storm, 80-72, in a game that was played on March 2. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 26 points, and Brown, who scored 17. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 51% from the field and 42% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 56% and 37% from three-point range.

Men's Basketball Continued from page 8

The Friars had a great defensive effort, forcing St. John's to score only 68 points. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 21 points, and Brown, who scored 20. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 56% from the field and 50% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 46% and 35% from three-point range.

In the second game, the Friars were defeated by the Red Storm, 80-72, in a game that was played on March 2. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 26 points, and Brown, who scored 17. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 51% from the field and 42% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 56% and 37% from three-point range.

The Friars had a great defensive effort, forcing St. John's to score only 68 points. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 21 points, and Brown, who scored 20. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 56% from the field and 50% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 46% and 35% from three-point range.

In the second game, the Friars were defeated by the Red Storm, 80-72, in a game that was played on March 2. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 26 points, and Brown, who scored 17. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 51% from the field and 42% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 56% and 37% from three-point range.

The Friars had a great defensive effort, forcing St. John's to score only 68 points. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 21 points, and Brown, who scored 20. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 56% from the field and 50% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 46% and 35% from three-point range.

In the second game, the Friars were defeated by the Red Storm, 80-72, in a game that was played on March 2. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 26 points, and Brown, who scored 17. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 51% from the field and 42% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 56% and 37% from three-point range.

The Friars had a great defensive effort, forcing St. John's to score only 68 points. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 21 points, and Brown, who scored 20. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 56% from the field and 50% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 46% and 35% from three-point range.

In the second game, the Friars were defeated by the Red Storm, 80-72, in a game that was played on March 2. The Friars were led by Kittles, who scored 26 points, and Brown, who scored 17. They also had a combined 10 rebounds, with Kittles rebounding 7 and Brown rebounding 3. The Friars shot 51% from the field and 42% from three-point range, while St. John's shot 56% and 37% from three-point range.
The madeness has gripped us all.

The madness that is NCAA tournament basketball has met the unbridled lunacy that is downtown Providence.

Now there is a perfect 8-9 matchup.

If you were in a pool, who would you go with (a pool meaning just for fun). I mean, we all know that gambling is illegal?

March is the greatest month of the year if you love college basketball. The regular season is ending, making the final few games that much more important. The Conference Tournaments are held and for some teams, it is their only chance of getting a ticket to the big dance; for others, it provides a taste of the excitement and the majesty that is the NCAA tournament.

And finally, the dance itself.

This is where dreams are made, hearts are broken, and men emerge.

And it came to our backyard.

Sounds great, huh?

Wrong. And you wanna know why?

Okay, let's talk a little about downtown.

Where it's crowded even on Sundays; where the crazies and the sane are so intermingled it's tough to tell them apart; where a "kill or be killed" attitude prevails on the roadways, where parking is regulated to a total of 42 spaces on the streets, and the parking garages charge you eight bucks a pop.

Our own version of "March Madness." Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Coach Molinari, "You're not going to see a better individual performance in the NCAA tournament than Anthony did today."

There are two possible wise-crack answers for this. Pick your favorite. (A) Coach Molinari was not aware that Georgetown and Allen Iverson were in the tournament this year, or, (B) Coach Molinari was not aware that that's who. After trying to kick the crap out of him physically, they decided in the second half of the game to actually play some basketball. Big mistake. UMass ran away with it. I fell in love with Carmelo Traveno and his sweet shooting, but I soared even more on Edgar Padilla. Let's face it kids, if I had Camby on my team, I could play the point, too.

Let's face it kids, if I had Camby on my team, I could play the point, too.
Racing for Gold

McMahon Wins 5000M Title

by Michael Sahbone '98 A&E Sports Writer

Over spring break you probably did not get much exercise, save twisting your body in order to catch golden sun-rays. Coach Ray Treacy’s Men’s and Women’s Indoor track teams get some exercise and captured real gold as they raced their way to the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis. One shone through brighter than the rest, as Marie McMahon pow- ered her way to a first place finish in the 3000 meters, beating out ri-nals Kathy Butler from Wisconsin and Jen Rhines from Villanova.

Early on in the season, Coach Treacy set the goals for his produc- ts. “We wanted to get as many people qualified for NCAAs as possible.” Some runners went above and beyond Treacy’s stan- dards. Overall, PC walked away with the All-American crown.

On the women’s side, Moira Harrington placed seventh in the 3000 meters, gaining her second All-American honor this year. The Distance team of Maria McCambridge, Erin Murphy, Harrington and McMahon finished eighth, adding to PC’s All Ameri-can honors. Other highlights for the girls included Susan Muranne’s advancement to the final of the mile and Krispy Haacke narrowly missing the final in the 5000. “Overall we were very happy on the girl’s side on how the season ended up,” Treacy lauded.

In the men’s 3000 meter race both David Healy and Andy Wedlake had standout perfor-mances. Each reached the final and Healy placed eighth, giving the men’s team their only All American status. Treacy saw this as an important one for Healy, commenting that it was “a good stepping stone for him, getting All American status for the first time in his career.”

There was one race that stood out from the rest. The women’s 5000 meters. Butler, McMahon and Rhines led the pack for most of the race. Then with 1200 meters to go, McMahon made her move. She broke away for good from the pack with a hard 400 meters. The last 800 meters was devoted to McMahon extending her lead.

“It was the distance race at the championships,” commented Treacy. “It was a great one to win for [McMahon] to beat those two girls who have beaten her up to this point in time.”

The men’s time of 15:42.71 proved not only good enough to beat the rest of the field, but as Treacy put it, “It put her in great shape for the rest of the season and made the qualifying for the Olym-pic Games his hammer in At-lanta.”

According to Treacy it is still up in the air whether or not McMahon will be running for Ireland in the Olympics. If she does she will focus her attention on At-lanta, most likely preventing her from adding a third NCAA title to go with the Cross Country Team Championship and the Indoor crown. This was not the first time she had run an Olympic qualifying time. On two other occasions she has beaten the clock.

However there was more than just time on the women’s minds. This year’s woman triumvirate of Butler, Rhines and McMahon have changed rulers. Speaking of the rivalry between the three, Treacy smiled and said “That’s always going to be there. [However] They are all good friends as well at the same time, they get along pretty well together. They are great athletes and they race hard against another when they do race.” McMahon was unavailable for comments as she is currently running for the American team in the World Cross Country Championships.

Continuing the rivalry is Kathy Butler, who also is in South Africa.

With the Indoor Track season behind them, Treacy’s barricers are looking forward to a fruitful spring. The big meets that the Friars hope to make some noise in are the Penn Relays and the NCAAs. The Friars definitely have a bright future, for this season they had more people qualify for the NCAA’s than ever before. Heading into the third season of track this year, the Friars are sitting on top and it is a time that they might never give up.

Marie McMahon ‘97 outgunned rivals Kathy Butler and Jen Rhines for the 5000m Championship

FYI:
The following are the only remaining publishing dates for The Cowl this year:

March 28
April 3 (Wed.)
April 18
April 25
May 2

Friess Continued

continued from page 8

Connecticut
Mississippi St.

Georgia Tech
Cincinnati

SWEET 16

Connecticut
Mississippi St.

Georgia Tech
Cincinnati

Georgia
Syracuse

Arizona
Kansas

Massachusetts
Arkansas

Texas Tech
Georgetown

Kentucky
Utah

Louisville
Wake Forest

The following are the only remaining publishing dates for The Cowl this year:

March 28
April 3 (Wed.)
April 18
April 25
May 2

FRIESS CONTINUED

Mike Friess: Georgia Tech, Syracuse, Georgetown, Wake Forest. “I like ACC vs. Big East.”
John Cardcchi: Mississippi State, Georgia, Texas Tech, Louisville. “I like their uniforms.”
Cory McGinn: Connecticut, Kansas, Georgetown, Kentucky. “I like their players.”

STAFF FINAL FOUR PICKS:

Mike Friess: Georgia Tech, Syracuse, Georgetown, Wake Forest. “I like ACC vs. Big East.”
John Cardcchi: Mississippi State, Georgia, Texas Tech, Louisville. “I like their uniforms.”
Cory McGinn: Connecticut, Kansas, Georgetown, Kentucky. “I like their players.”

Connecticut
Mississippi St.

Georgia Tech
Cincinnati

SWEET 16

Connecticut
Mississippi St.

Georgia Tech
Cincinnati

Georgia
Syracuse

Arizona
Kansas

Massachusetts
Arkansas

Texas Tech
Georgetown

Kentucky
Utah

Louisville
Wake Forest

the 8 of the ACC, it is clear that the Big East is vastly superior. During the regular season, 5 Big East teams were ranked in the top 25, with 4 in the top 15, including # 6, # 4 and # 4 (UConn, Georgetown, and Villanova). The ACC had only four in the top 25, and only 2 in the top 15. In the tournament, the 6 ACC schools went 5-4 including three first round losses, while the Big East’s 5 schools went an amazing 8-2 with 0 first round losses. The ACC has 2 schools in the Sweet 16 and the Big East has 4.

The controversial sixth team from the ACC was Clemson, coached by former Providence coach Rick Barnes. Clemson ac-tually had a losing conference record and a weak out-of-confer-ence schedule. However, the ACC did not deserve 6 bids. Let’s take a look at how the ACC and the Big East stacked up against each other so far.

The ACC is made up of 9 teams compared to 13 for the Big East. Three of the 13 are in their first year in the league, and have not had the chance to use their mem-bership in the Big East to lure star recruits and thus better themselves. Miami and only has had four years in the league. The ACC has only one team, Duke, who has qualified for the Big East. So if one ignores the schools who are new to their conferences, which is most of the teams in the league, and look at the 9 estab-lished members of the Big East and

Marie McMahon's '97 outgunned rivals Kathy Butler and Jen Rhines for the 5000m Championship.

Connecticut
Mississippi St.

Georgia Tech
Cincinnati

SWEET 16

Connecticut
Mississippi St.

Georgia Tech
Cincinnati

Georgia
Syracuse

Arizona
Kansas

Massachusetts
Arkansas

Texas Tech
Georgetown

Kentucky
Utah

Louisville
Wake Forest

the 8 of the ACC, it is clear that the Big East is vastly superior. During the regular season, 5 Big East teams were ranked in the top 25, with 4 in the top 15, including # 6, # 4 and # 4 (UConn, Georgetown, and Villanova). The ACC had only four in the top 25, and only 2 in the top 15. In the tournament, the 6 ACC schools went 5-4 including three first round losses, while the Big East’s 5 schools went an amazing 8-2 with 0 first round losses. The ACC has 2 schools in the Sweet 16 and the Big East has 4.

The controversial sixth team from the ACC was Clemson, coached by former Providence coach Rick Barnes. Clemson ac-tually had a losing conference record and a weak out-of-confer-ence schedule. However, the ACC did not deserve 6 bids. Let’s take a look at how the ACC and the Big East stacked up against each other so far.

The ACC is made up of 9 teams compared to 13 for the Big East. Three of the 13 are in their first year in the league, and have not had the chance to use their mem-bership in the Big East to lure star recruits and thus better themselves. Miami and only has had four years in the league. The ACC has only one team, Duke, who has qualified for the Big East. So if one ignores the schools who are new to their conferences, which is most of the teams in the league, and look at the 9 estab-lished members of the Big East and

Marie McMahon's '97 outgunned rivals Kathy Butler and Jen Rhines for the 5000m Championship.
The Suffering is Over

Up and Down Season Ends With Disappointing NIT Loss to St. Joseph's

by Cory McGann '98
Assistant Sports Editor

The Providence College Men's Basketball team ended their season on a severely sour note on Tuesday as St. Joseph, a small school from the Atlantic 10, completed its second straight upset of the Friars. Senior Mark Bass, a 5'9" guard from Trenton, New Jersey, led the Hawks with 21 points, 17 of them in the first half. Contributions also came from guard Rashid Iley, who had 16 points to go with 8 assists. Derrick Brown and God Shammond had 19 points each for Providence, who finished the season at 18-12.

"Our guys just had nothing left in the gas tank," explained Head Coach Pete Gillen as to why the Friars played the way they did terribly. "I don't think they really wanted to be here tonight, to be very honest with you. They were just drained physically, mentally, and emotionally." Providence was considered a "bubble team" as the NCAA tournament field was being selected, and the Friars, disappointed that they weren't invited to the Big Dance, expressed their frustrations on the court.

"(We were) disappointed not getting to the Big Dance. We just didn't want to be here. They had enough - enough of the pain, enough of the pressure, enough of the stress. They're kids. They're not machines, and just emotionally they had nothing left." The game started out with sloppy play from both teams, yet the Hawks were, unfortunately, less sloppy than the Friars. Bass began an 11-2 run with a short running jumper with 14:08 to play. The run was highlighted by a Terrell Myers three pointer to make it 13-6. Hawks St. Joe's then slowly infected the wound, leading 18-10 after one. Providence dented the cut to 12 behind a jumper, a layup, and two free throws for "Flight" to even the game two minutes to play. The half ended with PC down 42-28 and the crowd quite hostile.

God Shammond '99, seen here scoring on UNH, was a member of the Big East All-Rookie Team.

What's the Method To Their Madness?

by Mike Friess '97
Sports Writer

6:27 P.M. March 10, 1996. It could have been any other Sunday evening with college students eating dinner, watching a video with friends, studying, or getting ready to go out. But this was Selection Sunday! Hundreds of thousands of 18-22 year olds were glued to CBS or ESPN to see whether or not their school's team made the most heralded tournament in college sports: the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, otherwise known as the Big Dance or March Madness. There they sat with their pencils and their brackets, ready to feverishly fill in the 64 teams that would compete for the crown. The lucky schools like Kentucky, UCLA, or UNC usually don't have to worry if they made the tournament, but instead how high they are seeded and who they are playing in the first round.

But some schools, known as "Bubble Teams," nervously look to see if they measured up and were deemed worthy by the NCAA Selection Committee. The Committee is made up of Athletic Directors from major schools across the country, and it's their job to decide which schools will receive the 34 at-large invitations that are left over after the 30 Conference Champions are invited. The 300 plus Division I schools are ranked by a computer program known as the RPI (RATING POWER INDEX). The RPI judges such criteria as strength of schedule, margin of victory, record versus top 25, record vs. top 100, and obviously their overall and conference records, and lists all the schools in order of strength. The Selection Committee uses the RPI as a reference and a guideline, but they insist that the decisions are made by the actual committee members.

Every year, teams that think they should go aren't invited and are left wondering--why? They who decide which schools will receive the 34 at-large invitations that are left over after the 30 Conference Champions are invited. The 300 plus Division I schools are ranked by a computer program known as the RPI (RATING POWER INDEX). The RPI judges such criteria as strength of schedule, margin of victory, record versus top 25, record vs. top 100, and obviously their overall and conference records, and lists all the schools in order of strength. The Selection Committee uses the RPI as a reference and a guideline, but they insist that the decisions are made by the actual committee members. Every year, teams that think they should go aren't invited and are left wondering--why? The committee frequently uses criteria like who's hot or who plays in the best conference to augment the purely mathematical formula used by the computer. This year, the committee judged, once again, the ACC and the Big Ten to be the best conferences in America. The ACC's selection criteria this year, however, were different in that it was true as recently as two or three years ago, but the fact is that the Big East is the best basketball conference in America, with the SEC coming in second.

The ACC and the Big Ten live off the glory of days gone by, as in the Duke of Laettner, Hurley, and Hill; the UNC of Jordan, Worthy, and Stallworth. Even the Georgia Tech of Price and Wake Forest of Childress are mere memories, while the ACC has some talented players and has a bright future ahead. The ACC is a slam. Poor recruiting, early entry of young players into the NBA, and the intense competition of the game's greatest coaches has caused the ACC to fall behind the star-filled Big East. But the Selection Committee for the