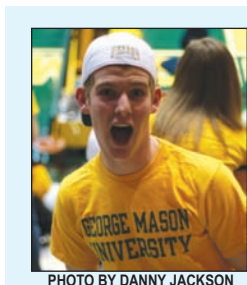


# sports



**Broadside's Fan of the Week**  
Thomas Fickley

*What makes you Mason's biggest men's basketball fan?*

"I have a deep rooted affection for the team!!"

## Pride Destroyers

*Patriots Win at Home Again after Punishing the Pride*

**RYAN DEMPSEY**  
*Broadside Correspondent*

With the George Mason University men's basketball team losing three of their last four games and senior guard John Vaughan back in the lineup after missing the last three games, the pressure was on for the Patriots to remain in the top three in the CAA.

Last Tuesday night, the Patriots (15-6, 8-3) took on the Hofstra University Pride (14-8, 6-5). The Patriots improved to 11-0 at home after defeating the Pride 78-54.

Mason started the game with senior forward Darryl Monroe, scoring a strong inside layup. Minutes later, senior guard Dre Smith was fouled from 3-point range, shooting and making all free throws, and extending Mason's lead to six.

The Patriots continued dominant defensive pressure, forcing the Pride to miss 10 of its first 11 field goal attempts. With a reverse fade-away shot by Monroe with 8:30 left in the first half, the Patriots went up again by 10 points and would never have their lead cut to single digits after that. The Patriots were fouled on five of their last seven possessions and ended the first half leading 39-21.

In the first half, freshman forward Ryan Pearson led the Patriots in scoring with nine points, and Monroe dominated shooting 80 percent.

The second half started with a steal by sophomore guard Cam Long, who then drove the ball all the way to the basket, got fouled and made the 3-point play. Mason continued its defensive intensity and fast-break scoring extending the lead to 25 within the first four minutes of the second half. Vaughan scored seven consecutive points before

Hofstra attempted a comeback with a 7-0 run.

The Patriots quickly answered with an 8-0 run of their own, including the crowd-erupting dunk made by freshman forward Michael Morrison. Mason continued to dominate the rest of the game by forcing the ball inside and being sent to the line. The Patriots went in the double bonus with more than eight minutes left in regulation and led by as many as 34 points.

The last five minutes of the game dwindled down as senior forward Chris Fleming and freshmen guards Jimmy Nolan and Brian Henderson were all given a chance to play.

Vaughan and Pearson led the Patriots with 16 points each, and the Patriots shot 49 percent from the field, 33 percent from 3-point range, and 77 percent at the free-throw line. Mason held the Pride to only 28.8 percent shooting and 19 percent from 3-point range. Additionally, Mason scored 14 fast-break points, 28 points in the paint, 24 points off of free throws and 27 points off turnovers.

"Tonight we came out with the attitude that we were going to improve our defense and get back to the way we were playing before. I think we did a great job of that tonight . . . We came out defensively, and set the tone," said Vaughan.

"This definitely helped our confidence . . . We were on the road and some of the [opponents] were making some unbelievable shots, sometimes even when we were there. We understand that and we needed to correct one or two things. We need to get one more rebound, take one more charge, or take away one more offensive possession and that will turn the Ls into Ws. That's all we look to in getting our confidence up."



John Vaughan had 16 points and seven rebounds in the Patriots win against Hofstra University 78-54.

## Dukes Overthrow the Patriots

*Mason's Road Struggles Continue after Loss*

**RYAN DEMPSEY**  
*Broadside Correspondent*

On Saturday, the men's basketball team (16-6, 9-3) traveled to Harrisonburg, Va. to play the James Madison University Dukes (15-9, 7-5). With Mason losing their last three road games, the Patriots hoped to remain one game behind the conference leader, Northeastern University. Unfortunately, the Patriots came away short of the win, and lost their fourth consecutive away game, 68-66.

Mason scored the game's first six points, but the Dukes responded with an 8-2 run of their own. The first half remained close throughout, with the Dukes walking into the locker room with a 30-26 lead.

In the first five minutes of the second half, the Dukes stretched the lead to 14 points. Throughout the second half, Mason fought back to cut the JMU lead. With less than six minutes left in the game, freshman guard Andre Cornelius stole the ball, went to the basket on the break, and put the Patriots ahead 58-57. On the next play, senior forward Darryl Monroe scored on a turnaround jumper to make it 60-57, capping a 13-0 run. Unfortunately, the Patriots were unable to hold on to the lead. JMU capitalized on a quick steal and after a few rounds of foul shots, the game was over.

Senior guard John Vaughan led Mason with 19 points, including three 3-pointers. Monroe was the only other Patriot to score in

double-digits with 13 points on 6-of-9 shooting before fouling out. Sophomore guard Cam Long also provided great assistance throughout with eight points, six rebounds, and three steals.

JMU starting forward Kyle Swanston had a sensational offensive performance with 19 points, including 5-for-11 from behind the arc. Dukes guard Ben Louis contributed from the bench with five rebounds, five assists, and four steals.

The Dukes scored nine 3-pointers, making 45 percent of their shots behind the arc, and shot 75 percent from the free-throw line. The Patriots shot only 29.4 percent from 3-point range, and converted only 57.9 percent at the line.

The last time the Patriots had lost to JMU was exactly five years ago. The game ended a 10-game winning streak in the Mason-JMU series.

Since losing their first conference game at Northeastern last month, the Patriots have struggled to win on the road. With Northeastern winning, the Patriots currently find themselves trailing by two games.

The Patriots will try to get out of a four-game road-slump as they travel to the University of Delaware this Thursday to take on the Blue Hens. At the end of the week, the Patriots look to avenge their loss against the top-ranked Northeastern Huskies for Mason's homecoming game.

Don't forget to read  
**Broadside's Homecoming coverage of the men's game against Northeastern in our Feb. 16 issue!**

## Unleashing the Dragon

*Dragons Take Advantage in the Second Half to Pull Away from the Lady Patriots*



Eugenia Broadus goes up for a shot against Drexel.

**BRIAN CHAN**  
*Sports Editor*

After a paltry shooting performance at Northeastern University last week, the George Mason University women's basketball team (2-19, 0-10) made three of their six first-half 3-pointers in their 71-52 loss to the Drexel University Dragons (13-8, 8-2) last Thursday.

Sophomore guard Brittany Poindexter led Mason with 13 points as she scored in double-digits for the 10th time this season. She raised her team-leading scoring average to 9.8 points per game.

Since the departure of Lateisha Wade, Poindexter's role on the team has been increasingly significant. She provides a balance attack as she is second on the team with 113 rebounds and 33 assists. Defensively, Poindexter leads Mason with 42 steals. In the loss to Drexel, she recorded two steals.

Mason battled early on as junior guard Rashauna Hobbs scored the team's first six points with two 3-pointers. She led Mason with nine points in the first half, but was held scoreless for the rest of the game. Drexel's suffocating defense was able to force Hobbs to turn the ball over

a game-high four times.

Drexel gave Mason problems throughout the night with full-court pressure, which led to 17 turnovers for the Patriots. Taking advantage with their 10 steals, the Dragons outscored the Patriots 27-10 in points off turnovers. Despite being able to contain Mason's offense, the Dragons were able to pull away in the second half after an offensive outburst.

Coming out of halftime with a 34-25 lead, Drexel exploded to a 12-2 run and never looked back after that. The Dragons shot 63.6 percent in the second half while outscoring the Patriots 37-27.

Dragons forward Gabriela Marginean only shot 2-of-7 in the first half, but responded by shooting 5-of-6 from the field in the second half to lead all scorers with 21 points. Entering the game, Marginean ranked fifth in the nation in scoring with 22.9 points per game. Marginean and three other Dragons' starters scored in double-digits.

Forward Nicole Hester recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds and made three 3-pointers for Drexel. The Dragons made nine total shots from behind the arc. Marginean and guard Jasmina

Rosseel made two 3-pointers apiece.

Rosseel scored 15 points and guard Andrea Peterson added 11 points and five assists.

"We stopped defending and lost our intensity as we allowed them to penetrate easily. We did not have enough energy in the second half. Good teams [like Drexel] will make you pay," said head coach Jeri Porter.

Freshman guard Becky Cox was limited in the first half after picking up two early fouls and a third just before halftime.

"Those early fouls were important because I could not play aggressively on defense, which hurts the team," said Cox.

Since being placed in the starting lineup against the James Madison University Dukes on January 22, Cox has been a major part of the team's offense. She scored 12 points in a near-upset over the Dukes and followed that performance with a career-high 14 points against the University of North Carolina-Wilmington Seahawks.

However, Cox was held to just three points in her limited role against Drexel.

Entering Thursday night's matchup, the Patriots were the lowest scoring offense in the CAA, while the Dragons had the third-best scoring defense.

"We have struggled to score all season and it has been difficult finding a particular hot-hand. Drexel did a good job mixing things up, which challenged us to find ways to score points," said Porter.

Sophomore forward Eugenia Broadus added nine points, and sophomore guard Brittany Eley and senior forward Brittny Wilkins each scored eight points.

Against the Northeastern Huskies, the Patriots shot only 20 percent in the first half in a game they lost by 10 points. Even though Mason kept the score close in the first half, the team still shot below 40 percent against Drexel.

As the Patriots fall for the 11th consecutive time, the team remains winless in conference play. Yet, the team continues to search for their first CAA win even when they face top-tier opponents like Drexel.

"The loss [to Drexel] sends us back to the drawing board to find ways to win in the conference," said Hobbs. "It is very important to keep fighting because we will realize that our hard work will eventually pay off."

The two teams will meet again on March 1 in Philadelphia.



# Contender or Pretender?

## What the Patriots Must Do to Win the CAA Crown

**RYAN DEMPSEY**  
*Broadside Correspondent*

There is no question that the George Mason University men's basketball team has talent. But what exactly does the team need to do to take that extra step to be number one, win the CAA conference championship and guarantee a spot in the NCAA tournament?

On a positive note, Mason has an undefeated home record, great coaching staff, healthy team and players who have the hearts of true champions. But these things only make a good team, not necessarily a great one. Some of the things that Mason must do to take that extra step are:

- 1. Win on the road:** All of Mason's losses this season have been against teams on the road. After playing at James Madison University this past Saturday, Mason has lost their last four road games. Mason has done a great job to keep the games close with their road presence, but a loss is a loss whether it is by two points or by 10.
- 2. Secure the win:**

Hitting clutch free throws, not turning the ball over and not taking ill-advised shots help teams from giving up a lead late in a game.

On the other hand, Mason's careless mistakes have given opponents chances to come back. Mason gave up leads towards the end of regulation and at the tail end of overtime against the Liberty University Flames. Against the University of Dayton Flyers, Mason's eight-point lead evaporated as the Flyers, who never led by more than four points, rallied to win 66-62.

Mason came within one point late in the game and controlled the tempo, but sloppy play in the latter part of the second half led to their loss against CAA rival, the Virginia Commonwealth University Rams. Six of the Patriot's seven losses have been against quality programs this year, but it is a matter of putting in the extra effort.

**3. Control the tempo and do not let the tempo control you:** Mason can be extremely explosive with their offense, especially scoring points off of turnovers. While the crowd excitement boosts players' confidence, sometimes it can be a little too much, causing players to overthrow a pass or lose control of the ball. In addition, Mason does not always capitalize on its momentum. In the game this past weekend against JMU, the Patriots rallied with a 13-0 run late in the game, giving Mason a three-point lead, but just could not hold on. One of the things that would help Mason secure the win is better time management. The Patriots should use the majority of the 35-second shot clock to their advantage for better shot-selection, especially when leading toward the end of the game.

**4. Avoid committing sloppy turnovers and fouls:** This has not been an overwhelming problem, but was very apparent in the first 10 minutes against the University of Delaware Blue Hens. Mason tried to push the tempo and made sloppy passes. This type of play leads to costly turnovers and wasting important possessions later in a game. Another problem is giving other teams free points at the free-throw line. Mason commits a number of unnecessary fouls, both near and away from the

ball. In their first loss of the season against the Hampton University Pirates, Mason allowed 22 free throw attempts and only went to the line seven times. In their loss against Old Dominion University Monarchs, Mason sent ODU to the line 13 times in which the Monarchs hit seven more free throws than the Patriots. Allowing 15 more free throws was easily the difference in their six-point loss to Hampton.

**5. Get the ball down low:** One of the great things that Mason has been able to do is hit the 3-point shot. Although players are tempted to take the 3-pointer, sometimes making the extra pass down low to force the opponent to play aggressively inside works as well. If Mason is able to force the ball inside and force the other teams to attack the post, one of two things will happen. Either Mason will be hacked and go to the line more often, or there will be a lot more open 3-point attempts.

With a little extra focus on the things the team lacks, the program could be superior to others in the CAA.



PHOTO BY COURTNEY ERLAND | PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

# A-Rod Reportedly Tested Positive for Steroids

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP)—As Barry Bonds prepares to defend his name, the slugger who may eventually surpass him as the all-time home run leader has become ensnared by the Steroids Era: Alex Rodriguez.

Rodriguez tested positive for two anabolic steroids during his MVP season with Texas in 2003, *Sports Illustrated* reported on its Web site Saturday.

The New York Yankees star has long denied using performance-enhancing drugs. He declined to discuss the tests when approached by *SI* on Thursday at a gym in Miami.

"You'll have to talk to the union," he said.

Major League Baseball and the players' union issued statements Saturday, refusing to confirm or deny the report, citing player confidentiality.

An e-mail from The Associated Press to Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras, was not immediately returned. The Yankees and Rangers declined comment.

The *SI* revelations come at a time when baseball's focus on drugs has concerned Bonds and the legal maneuvering leading to the start of his trial March 2. The government is trying to prove Bonds lied when he told a grand jury he never knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs.

A three-time AL MVP, Rodriguez has hit 553 career homers. At age 33, the All-Star third baseman is the highest-paid player in baseball and regarded by many as the most likely to break Bonds' record of 762.

With this latest report, Rodriguez joined a growing

Who's Who lineup of drug-tainted stars that includes Bonds, Roger Clemens, Mark McGwire, Rafael Palmeiro and Jose Canseco.

In his 2008 book, "Vindicated: Big Names, Big Liars, and The Battle to Save Baseball," Canseco claimed he introduced Rodriguez to a steroids dealer. Canseco, who has admitted using steroids, subsequently said he had no knowledge of any drug use by Rodriguez.

The drug allegations follow an already bumpy offseason for Rodriguez, marked by further talk of his dalliance with Madonna and clubhouse gossip stemming from Joe Torre's book in which some teammates referred to him as "A-Fraud."

But a week before the Yankees open spring training, Rodriguez, certain to be dubbed "A-Roid" in the New York tabloids, faced more serious allegations after four sources told *SI* about his drug tests.

Rodriguez's name appears on a list of 104 players who tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs in a 2003 baseball survey, *SI* said. He reportedly tested positive for Primobolan and testosterone.

In a December 2007 interview with "60 Minutes," three days after George Mitchell's report on drugs in the sport was released, Rodriguez denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

"I've never felt overmatched on the baseball field. ... I felt that if I did my, my work as I've done since I was, you know, a rookie back in Seattle, I didn't have a problem competing at any level," he said.

Rodriguez reiterated his stance at spring training last year.

"Right now, the game is in a very not-trusting situation with our public, with our fans," he said. "Some of the things that I've accomplished and potentially some of the things that people think I can accomplish, my name has come up and will probably come up again in the future."

Rodriguez played for the Rangers in 2003, when he won the AL home run title and MVP award. He was traded to the Yankees in 2004. He is drawing a major league-high \$27 million salary after signing a record \$275 million, 10-year contract with New York in 2007.

"We are disturbed by the allegations," MLB executive vice president Rob Manfred said in a statement. "Because the survey testing that took place in 2003 was intended to be nondisciplinary and anonymous, we cannot make any comment on the accuracy of this report as it pertains to the player named."

Said the union: "Information and documents relating to the results of the 2003 MLB testing program are both confidential and under seal by court orders."

"Anyone with knowledge of such documents who discloses their contents may be in violation of those court orders," the union added.

Baseball's drug policy prohibited the use of steroids without a valid prescription since 1991, but there were no penalties for a positive test in 2003.

As part of an agreement with the players' union, the testing in 2003 was conducted to determine if it was necessary to impose mandatory random drug testing across the major leagues in 2004.

The results of the testing of 1,198 players were meant to be anonymous under the agreement between the commissioner's office and the union. *SI* reported Rodriguez's testing information was found after federal agents, with search warrants, seized the 2003 results from Comprehensive Drug Testing, Inc., in Long Beach, Calif.

That was one of two labs used by baseball in seizure with the testing. The seizure in April 2004 was part of the government's investigation into 10 baseball players linked to the BALCO scandal, the magazine reported. Rodriguez has not been connected to BALCO.

Primobolan, also known as methenolone, is an injected or orally administered drug. It improves strength and maintains lean muscle with minimal bulk development and few side effects. Bonds tested positive three times for methenolone, according to court documents unsealed by a federal judge Wednesday.

Primobolan is not an approved prescription drug in the United States. Testosterone can be taken legally with a prescription.

Rodriguez is set to be honored Friday by the University of Miami at a dinner on the infield of Mark Light Field in Coral Gables. He donated \$3.9 million to refurbish the baseball complex, which is named Alex Rodriguez Park.

The dinner is expected to be held as scheduled, Miami spokesman Mark Pray said. He said the ceremony with Rodriguez is a part of the school's annual baseball banquet.

Visit [Connect2Mason.com](http://Connect2Mason.com) for additional sports coverage!

# SPORTS IN A MINUTE

**MEN'S VOLLEYBALL**

The George Mason University men's volleyball team succeeded in their first road match of the season last Thursday evening in Muncie, Ind. The Patriots swept the 13th-ranked Ball State Cardinals by a final score of 3-0 (30-25, 30-26, and 30-24). In all of their wins, Mason has yet to lose a single set. Senior Kyle Gramit and junior Ben Nichols had 14 and 10 kills, respectively. Junior setter Ryan Kwiatkowski recorded 40 assists in the win. Mason's defense was led by senior middle blocker Brandon McLaughlin, who had seven blocks. Todd Chamberlain led the Cardinals with 12 kills, while J.D. Gasparovic added 10. Mason hit .380 as a team to improve its record to 3-1 on the season.

Mason was victorious in its second straight road match against a ranked opponent last Friday when they defeated the 12th-ranked Ohio State University Buckeyes in five games (18-30, 30-27, 30-24, 25-30, 19-17). The fifth set had 13 lead changes and Mason had four chances to end the match, but Ohio State answered with five kills to tie the score. With an 18-17 advantage, Mason ended the match with an ace by sophomore setter Brandon Joyner. Five Patriots had double-digit kills including Kyle Gramit (21), Brandon McLaughlin (14), Ben Nichols (12), Luke Maloney (11) and Erik Lanham (10). Ryan Kwiatkowski had a double-double with 58 assists and 10 digs and sophomore libero Eric Lucas led Mason with 18 digs. Mason had 18.5 team blocks in the match to improve their record to 4-1 on the season. The Buckeyes fall to a 4-5 record on the season while recording 14 blocks in the loss.

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