

Senior day for women’s soccer

By Julian Markese
Sports Editor

The women’s soccer team held their senior day celebrations at Jess Dow Field on Saturday, Sept. 27. The team faced the Purple Knights of Saint Michael’s in front of their families and supporters.

Before the game, seniors were honored with a walk out featuring flowers and framed photos. It was a bittersweet moment for the seniors who have sacrificed so much for the team and sport they love.

“We’ve been through so many things together. We’ve worked so hard together. We’ve seen the best of each other, the worst of each other,” Head Coach Adam Cohen said.

Cohen will see off six seniors this year.

Forwards Shianna Reeves and Nicky Deslauriers, who have appeared in 45 and 52 games respectively, will move on.

Defender Mackenzie McCormack, who has appeared in 48 games, and midfielder Aimee Girard, who has appeared in 59 games, will both graduate.

The two captains: defender Shelby Green, who played 44 games for the Owls, and midfielder Olivia Jones, who, since transferring last year, started in all 25 possible games, are also leaving the team.

Jones is a leader now, but just last year, she was a newcomer relying on



Defender Nelli Miettinen, a freshman, clears the ball from the Owls’ box.

her team for support.

“It was the greatest transition I could have hoped for. The girls were supportive. They kept it high level and pushed me to compete to be my best,” Jones said.

Jones and her fellow seniors are not just graduating from school or moving on from a team. They are leaving their second family.

“The team are my best friends. I love coming to practice. It always puts a smile on my face, no matter how my day is going,” Girard said.

The game itself was frustrating. After the Owls allowed a goal in the first half, forward

Elizabeth Bishop, a freshman, headed home a corner in the 69th minute to tie the game at one.

The Purple Knights would score three more goals in the final 20 minutes, solidifying a final score of 4-1.

It was a lackluster result on a celebratory day. The team was frustrated, but they have a lengthy season ahead and a support system that will not quit.

“We always stick together. No matter what happens, we always have each other’s backs. That’s something I won’t ever take for granted,” Deslauriers said.

The seniors will trek on



Defender Lova Modig, a junior, coming onto the field.

together and in support of their teammates.

After graduating, they will take the lessons learned on the field with them into their adult lives.

They will be able to cherish these moments with their friends forever.

“I love them like sisters,” Girard said.

Owls better than Setters

By Julian Markese
Sports Editor

The men’s soccer team earned their first victory of the season. They defeated the Pace University Setters 1-0 at home.

The Owls displayed their superior quality throughout the game. The team tallied seven shots on target, dwarfing Pace’s one.

“We continued to stick to a plan that showed poise and confidence,” Head Coach Kevin Anderson said.

Midfielder Ryad Benmessaoud, a freshman, was an anchor in the middle third. He was an effective distributor and leader.

Lopsided possession and chances did not lead to a halftime advantage for the Owls. Benmessaoud sent a shot over the net, and a goal was called back for offside.

It was 0-0 at half, but the process was working. The Owls had established a clear foothold on the game.

They were more physical than Pace, more disciplined.

At halftime, the message from Anderson was clear: play simple, play early.

In the second half, the Owls continued to lean on their opponent. They sent probing balls over the top.

The Owls’ advances were enough to unsettle the Setters’ goalkeeper. In the 54th minute, defender Jah Nyanforh, a freshman, sent a dangerous ball into the penalty box. The Pace goalie lunged off of his line and made contact with an Owl striker. The referee blew for a penalty.

Defender Edward Mensah, a graduate student, buried the chance chest-high into the right side of the net.

Mensah peeled off



Midfielder Ryad Benmessaoud, a freshman, plays the ball upfield.

to celebrate. The crowd breathed relief. His teammates embraced him.

“There are more to come. This is not the first. It’s not going to be the last,” Mensah said.

The call was controversial. Pace coaches and fans badgered the linesman.

The game petered out. The Owls withstood what little the Setters had to throw their way. Goalkeeper Diego Flores, a freshman, was only forced to make one save.

Perhaps an unsatisfying journey, but the product remained.

“At the end of the day, it is the three points that are needed,” Mensah said.

The Owls carried their three points proudly into their game against Assumption University on Saturday, Sept. 27. The season is heating up. NE10 competition is stiff. The pressure remains.

After taking a moment to relish, Mensah refocused.

“We have standards for this team,” Mensah said. A championship hunt requires the full attention of every student athlete on the roster. It requires a coach who demands more.

A 1-0 victory on a penalty is not quite what the team was searching for, but it is a step toward enacting a vision set forth by their coach.

“Let’s be brave,” Anderson said.



Forward Jayson Dumont, a sophomore, dribbles.

Op-ed:
Patriots struggle early on



By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Writer

The New England Patriots sit at 1-2 through the early stretch of 2025. It has been a season defined by turnovers and defensive struggles. There are questions about whether this roster can be salvaged under new leadership.

The Patriots’ performance has offered fans more concern than encouragement. The team’s struggles are hard to dismiss as growing pains. The team suffered an upsetting loss to the Las Vegas Raiders in week one and a defeat at home to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

At 1-2, New England is off to a shaky start.

Their offense, however talented, is unable to protect the ball. Running backs have fumbled repeatedly. In the loss to Pittsburgh, running backs Rhamondre Stevenson and Antonio Gibson had a collective total of three fumbles that turned promising drives into turnovers.

That kind of collapse against what some would call a mid-tier opponent is not a fluke; it is an urgent reminder that they need to get their act together.

Quarterback Drake Maye, who is now in his second season, has shown flashes of promise.

But his gains are overshadowed by overarching instability: his offensive line remains vulnerable, receivers have struggled for separation, and red-zone execution is lacking.

Unless this supporting cast steps up, Maye’s strengths will not be enough to revive the whole team from this slump.

Defensively, the Patriots are vulnerable, especially in the passing game. They rank 29th in passing yards allowed, and the absence of cornerback Christain Gonzalez worsens the issue.

Meanwhile, there are younger contributors like defensive end Keion White who show potential, but inconsistency and lack of depth raises questions on how the unit can play week in and week out.

There is also pressure on the coaching staff. Head Coach Mike Vrabel must quickly galvanize his roster to avoid repeating the mistakes of his predecessor.

Despite the red flags, it is not all hopeless. The AFC East remains beatable. The Buffalo Bills will always be a threat. The Miami Dolphins have seen better days. The New York Jets are the same as they have always been.

If New England can tighten ball security, protect Maye and slow the passing game, they can remain in the mix.

The franchise cannot afford to stumble in another rebuilding season. It needs proof that this current team is more than its mistakes.

Sports recap

Women’s Soccer: 1-4-2
Sept. 23 vs. Assumption University

L 1-0

Men’s Soccer: 2-2-2
Sept. 27 @ Assumption University

W 1-0

Swimming and Diving: 0-1
Sept. 27 @ Westchester University of Pennsylvania

L

Volleyball: 7-3
Sept. 27 @ Assumption University

W 3-1 vs. Assumption University

W 3-1 vs. Felician University

Field Hockey: 4-4
Sept. 27 vs. Assumption University.

L 8-0

Football: 1-2
Sept. 27 @ Catawba College

Week ahead

Oct. 1

Women’s soccer @ Queens College – 6 p.m.

Oct. 3

Women’s soccer vs. Chestnut Hill College – 4 p.m.

Cross country @ Lehigh – 10 a.m.

Field hockey @ Bentley University – 4 p.m.

Volleyball @ Molloy University – 6 p.m.

Swimming @ Fairfield University – 6 p.m.

Oct. 4

Men’s soccer @ Mercy University – 1 p.m.

Football @ Bentley University – 2 p.m.