

Basketball updates

By Deena Zaru
SENIOR WRITER

WOMEN'S B-BALL SPORTS SOLID RECORD

"We are currently at 5-5 at the turn in the conference," said women's basketball coach Stephanie Flamini. "So we are aiming at trying to go at least 5-5 again in the final 10 games. The conference is really even this year and that has really made it exciting and fun to be a part of."

During winter break the women's basketball team played five games and won three of them.

They won 77-42 over Old Dominican Athletic Conference (ODAC) contender Hollins University on Jan. 6, and 69-61 in overtime against another ODAC foe, Bridgewater on Jan. 9.

The Quakers enjoyed another win versus Randolph, 72-64 but lost to Randolph-Macon 84-64 on Jan. 16, which was followed by another loss, 70-61 against Virginia Wesleyan.

"We've won some big games and we've suffered some tough losses but they've all helped us grow as a team," said junior Jasmine Wood.

Senior and team captain Brittany Bumgarner said that she is most proud that the team learned from their past experiences and are applying their knowledge to their performance in the current season.

"This season, I feel like our experience is very evident," said Bumgarner. "We have been able to pull out three overtime conference wins, and I don't think we would have been able to do that last season."

Even though experience has helped the women's performance, they strive for improvement.

"I would like to improve our defense so we can shut teams down, so it won't be

an even game," said senior Tracey Croner. "We need to come out more intense and play how we know we can."

Bumgarner agrees: "Our weakness is playing a consistent 40 minutes of great basketball. If we could to that, we wouldn't need overtime."

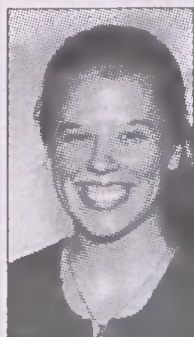
Senior Shevon Hackett said that the women have the chance to apply what they have learned starting Jan. 20, because the team will begin to play their competition for a second time.

"We are excited about that because there are

a couple of teams that we didn't get the first time that we would really like to beat the second time around," said Hackett. "Our goal for the end of the season is to make it to playoffs."



Women's basketball coach, **Stephanie Flamini** (pictured above) is has high hopes for the team during this year's conference



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Brittany Bumgarner, Senior

MEN'S TEAM CREDITS CHEMISTRY FOR SUCCESS

"We are 12-3 and 5-1 in the ODAC," said men's basketball coach and athletic director Tom Palombo. "Our team plays with a lot of heart and guts."

The Quakers began winter break by playing McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., with a win of 68-62 on Dec. 17 and notched four consecutive wins after that. The men won games versus Hiram, 73-70, Emory, 70-49, Lynchburg, 103-60, and Randolph, 73-73.

The Quakers lost to Roanoke by a score of 80-76 on Jan. 12, but have garnered three consecutive wins after that against Emory and Henry, 97-70, Virginia Wesleyan, 66-59,

and Hampden Sydney, 69-51 on Jan. 19.

"The season has been going well," said junior Clay Henson. "We have a bunch of guys that never give up. The only downs we have had have been the three losses on the season, but we always bounce back from them."

Palombo said that the team has great chemistry.

"I think the thing that helps us the most is the fact that we are so close as a team," said sophomore Jake Engenbretsen. "Some things we need to improve are things like team defense and realizing that it's not all about one person—it's about all of us."

Palombo said he makes sure that every player knows that his role is important.

"It doesn't matter if a player plays a lot or scores a lot," said Palombo. "Everyone has a role and their role is critical for us to be a good team."

Senior Mat Stanley said that the team constantly strives to better itself.

"The season is going well but there is always room for improvement," said Stanley. "We have a great group of guys who love the game of basketball and have accepted their roles on this team. Our goal is to improve every time we step onto the court."

The \$400 million deals

YANKEE SPENDING HAS HIT A NEW HIGH WITH THREE NEW SALARIES FOR TWO PITCHERS AND A FIRST BASEMAN

By Liz Farquhar
STAFF WRITER

It is hard for any one person to imagine what they would do if given \$400 million dollars. It would be even harder if told they had to spend it all at once. A person could buy a mansion, a yacht, hundreds of pieces of artwork by the world's most renowned artists, donate it to help fight AIDS and starvation in Africa, or even use it to explore

their new contracts, they will spend approximately \$20 to 30 million less on their players than last season, according to the Post.

In addition to players' contracts, the Yankees are opening a new stadium that's estimated cost is close to a billion dollars.

When asked if greed has consumed major league baseball, sophomore Jordan Nelson said, "I hope players still love the game and don't get greedy, but I can't help but notice that money does play a part."

Nelson takes the same stand as Pratt when it comes to the Yankees spending.

"I don't care too much for the Yankees," Nelson said. "They are one of the wealthiest teams in the league, which isn't fair to other teams, as there is no salary cap. But I also don't think (the spending) is bad; if they have the money to do it, you can't say any-

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Jordan Nelson, sophomore

the world's most beautiful and mysterious places.

However, some might use the \$400 million on new contracts for three of the most expensive baseball players in league, just as the New York Yankees have recently done.

During the 2008 off-season the Yankees added pitchers AJ Burnett and C.C. Sabathia, along with first baseman Mark Teixeira.

"Some people think that the Yankee spending was irresponsible with the current economy, but I guess my logic is, if you have the money, spend it," senior James Pratt said. Pratt has been a Yankees fan since he was seven. "The Yankees were disappointing last season, especially with the playoffs."

Last season was the first since 1993 that the team didn't make the postseason, which left a bad taste in the mouth of the Yankees "money-man" and owner, George Steinbrenner. Steinbrenner and the Yankees have recently begun revving up their team in an attempt to change their standings from last season's third place finish. According to the New York Post, the team dropped three of their more expensive players, making them more financially capable for the salaries of their new players.

The Yankees are technically spreading the \$400 million over the next eight years, and regardless of

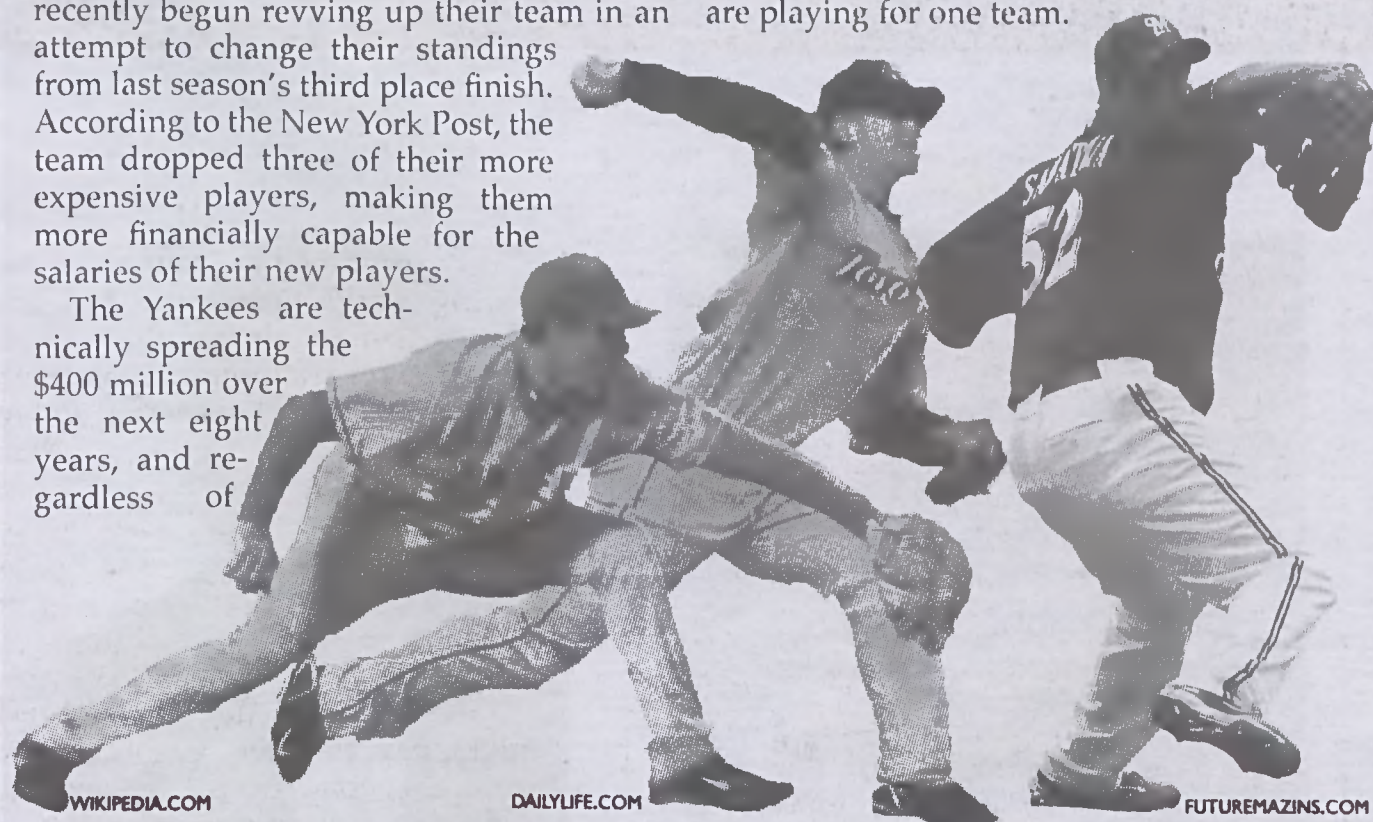
thing. They didn't make the playoffs, which is huge for Yankee baseball. I guess they had to do something."

Red Sox fan and senior Anthony Inangelo sees the Yankees attempts to make a comeback as futile.

"I think that the amount of money they spent was ridiculous, but I guess it will make it that much funnier if they don't make the playoffs again," Inangelo said. "I could be mad about the fact that they have so much money to throw away but I like to laugh at them instead."

The only question remaining is if Teixeira, Burnett and Sabathia are the impact players that the team needs.

Teixeira had a .308 batting average in the 2008 season, with 102 runs; Sabathia's ERA (earned run average) was 1.65 and Burnett's was 1.78 last season. These all-star players have proven their worth in previous seasons; the true test comes in 2009, when they are playing for one team.



From left to right: **Mark Teixeira** (first-base), **AJ Burnett** (pitcher), and **C.C. Sabathia** (pitcher) have all been hired in an attempt to rejuvenate the Yankees playing power in the league. While some wonder if this is enough, others simply see the move as another example of MLB's out-of-control spending.