Men’s and women’s swimming prepared to splash WPI and Clark in Worcester City Championship at Hart

BY BRIAN CUGLEWSI  CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

As many of you have seen this week with the abnormally spring-like temperatures experienced on the Hill, students are breaking out the shorts and tank tops from the back of their closets. But as we all know too well, the frosty chill of New England will soon be back, and those warm-weather articles will be stowed away until at least the end of March. So go ahead, try them out for one more weekend, and wear them when you go cheer on your Holy Cross men’s and women’s Swimming teams at the sauna also known as the Hart Center Pool!

This weekend, both the women and men are in action at WPI and Clark hope to make a splash in this year’s Worcester City Championships, held this Friday (5 p.m.) and Saturday (12:30 p.m.) at the Hart Center Pool. But the Crusaders teams, as they have done all year, will make it hard for the other Worcester programs to score a victory here on Compton Saint James. Both HC squads have dominated in the friendly confines of the Hart Center Pool, boasting undefeated records at home. Both the “Holy Cross teams” records better those of the opposing schools; overall, the men have posted a 5-1 record prior to their meet at BC last Wednesday, and the women have demonstrated their skill in achieving the 5-3 mark. And yet these teams need our support to secure bragging rights in the Worcester area for the next year. Especially at a meet of this magnitude, a home-field advantage is immeasurable. Though the swimmers may be underwater for a good portion of the time while they compete, and the divers usually have silence when they are about to dive, like any other sport participants, they feel the electricity in the air (though hopefully not in the water) that comes from a raucous home crowd. The dedication these athletes put forward everyday to stay in peak condition ought not go unheralded: they deserve our support in as full force as any other program here receives. But if I have failed to convince everyone that this will be the most exciting, intense swimming meet in the history of human swim meets on earth, I have compiled my Top Ten reasons why you better show up at the Hart Center Pool to support your Crusaders.

1) Flipper the Dolphin is their mascot. No one ever gets carded at a swim meet.
2) Speedos
3) Any excuse to paint your face purple.
4) What other programs here consistently put up over 100 points when they compete? Me, I’m too busy to paint your face purple.
5) The Olsen twins will be there signing autographs.
6) You can watch Sportscenter later.
7) Speedos
9) You can feel the electricity in the air when they are about to dive, like any other sport participants, they feel the electricity in the air that comes from a raucous home crowd.
10) You can watch Sportscenter later.

So find the time this weekend to make it up to the Hart Center Pool and cheer on your Crusaders. The seniors deserve to be recognized for their four years of commitment, while the teams as a whole need some momentum heading into the last few weeks of the season; let’s make sure our Crusaders are hot heading down the stretch. So hot even, that we have to wear those spring clothes for a couple more weeks.

Contact Matt Chmura (mjchmura) or Brad Holzwart (baholzwa).

Write for the Crusader!

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Pats season culminates Super Bowl

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Although his numbers diminished down the stretch and he is what will be looked back upon as a very improbable season by throwing for 2,843 yards and 18 TDs. His effort was good enough to carry a very talented Nebraska team to its first appearance in the Big Ten. The game is on turf which doesn’t help, but the Patriots were at home and were able to demonstrate their skill in achieving an improbable return last week in Pittsburgh. My head says the Rams will win, but my heart is with the Patriots; not just as a longtime fan but because this story is so endearing.

The great debate this week will be who should play QB this weekend, Brady or Bledsoe. The former has the better tools as quarterback, Brady was the right man for all year. Seeing the winning streak, while the teams as a whole need some momentum heading into the last few weeks of the season; let’s make sure our Crusaders are hot heading down the stretch. So hot even, that we have to wear those spring clothes for a couple more weeks.

But enough about the quarterbacks, my take is this: Belichick did the right thing to stick with Brady in November. Bledsoe did not appear to be 100 percent as he was visibly smaller after his internal injuries. The Patriots offense this season has been built around the abilities of Brady. A short passing game favors Brady’s touch passing skills, whereas Bledsoe is a drop back quarterback who needs time to deliver the ball downfield, and is deadly accurate when he is on. To plug Bledsoe in the middle of a winning streak would have disrupted the chemistry that had emerged. Although Bledsoe obviously has better tools as quarterback, Brady was the right man down the stretch for the system that was being run in New England. The great debate this week will be who should play QB this weekend, but if he is healthy, Brady should start. It’s his team this season; the offense has been built around his abilities. The Rams offense in recent weeks has been based around the abilities of Mannings, but if anyone thought this would be the year Manning could become a star, you are far wiser that anyone I know, and probably could make a lot of pop quiz questions on Mannings’s ball knowledge. And lastly, do not count the Patriots out on Sunday. So what if St. Louis is the heavy favorite? The game is on turf which doesn’t help, but the Patriots appear to be a team of destiny. Think of all that has gone right: the call of Patten’s head being out of bounds in Buffalo, Oakland choking down the stretch allowing the Pats to get a bye and homefield advantage, the “immmaculate incompletion,” and then Bledsoe’s improbable return last week in Pittsburgh. My head says the Rams will win, but my heart is with the Pats, not just as a longtime fan but because this story couldn’t be any more improbable, and could possibly be one of the greatest stories of an NFL season ever.

The running game allowed Brady to throw as a second option, and not take risks downfield. Brady was the right man for all year.” Seeing the winning streak, while the teams as a whole need some momentum heading into the last few weeks of the season; let’s make sure our Crusaders are hot heading down the stretch. So hot even, that we have to wear those spring clothes for a couple more weeks.

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