

Bentley Beatdown



Forward Reyna Steinauer, a senior, celebrates with guard Jillian Martin, a graduate.

PHOTO | WILLIAM GAGNE

Blackwood, Steinauer shine; win streak hits nine

By Julian Markese  
Sports Editor

The women’s basketball team extended their winning streak to nine games, the longest in 20 years. They beat Bentley University 57-39 on Saturday, Jan. 31 at home. The win takes the Owls to a 10-1 record in the NE10 and places them atop the conference alongside Bentley, who had won 28 straight conference games prior to Saturday’s matchup. It was the first time the women had beaten Bentley in two years. “They have a really great coach. They have

really great players. They are really well disciplined,” forward Reyna Steinauer, a senior, said. “But we are too, and today we overstepped them.” Steinauer led the team with 21 points, including two soul-crushing three pointers in the second half, bringing her season average to 15.5 points a game. She leads the team and is fourth in the NE10. Steinauer and forward Tish Blackwood, a freshman, have taken over in the paint after an injury to forward Jada Williams, a graduate. “I’ve had to become more aggressive in the

post. I wasn’t here to be a post player. I was here to be a floater, but now I have to take that role,” Blackwood said. “It’s a lot, but it’s made me a better player.” Blackwood, despite battling through injuries herself, has taken on an outsized role in the team. She leads the team in rebounds and did so again against Bentley, finishing with 14. She also scored 18 points. “It can take awhile to get comfortable as a freshman, but she’s really stepped up,” Head Coach Kate Lynch said. The Owls led, save the first basket of the game,

from wire to wire. The largest lead was 23 points. For the first 13 minutes of the second half, Bentley only managed to score four. “We over-prepared on defense. We shut down their go-to players thanks to our amazing defenders,” Steinauer said. “They didn’t know how to handle it when we shut down their main players.” All five starters played 30 minutes. Guard Ally Sentence, a senior, was the only bench player to play meaningful minutes. Point guard Jillian Martin, a graduate, controlled the offense with

poise. She helped guide an organized unit each and every time the Owls took the ball up court. She finished with four assists. Through attrition, the Owls maintained composure. The team finished with seven blocks, never took a play off and forced their opponent into submission. Leadership exudes from Lynch, channels through her players and bleeds onto the court. The team is hungry for more. “We know what we have to do. It’s nothing new now. We just have to keep pushing forward,” Steinauer said.

Ellison takes over, scores 32 for double-double



Guard Justice Ellison, a graduate, looks up court with the ball while guard Malik Banks, a junior, trails.

PHOTO | WILLIAM GAGNE

By Julian Markese  
Sports Editor

The men’s basketball team beat Bentley University 82-78 on Saturday, Jan. 31 at James Moore Field House. The win gives the Owls a record of 5-6 in the NE10, where they languish toward the bottom half. The team had lost five of its last six games heading into the matchup against Bentley. An early spark from forward Simon Percy, a junior, gave the Owls a lead they did not relinquish. “When we play with

passion and compete like this, we are a great defensive team. We gotta compete like that for 40 minutes,” Head Coach Scott Burrell said. The first 10 minutes were played at break-neck speed. Percy kicked things off and guard Justice Ellison, a graduate, threw down his first of four dunks in the game. Ellison was the best player on the court. He shot 15-21 from the floor, finishing with 32 points. He had 10 rebounds and hit his first three pointer in seven games. “Justice was special

today. We want to give him confidence every game. We just got him the ball, and he executed,” Diarra said. “He was jumping out the gym.” The Owls were in control for most of the game. Bentley simply did not have the size to compete with Diarra and forward Kazell Stewart, a senior. The Owls finished with 48 points in the paint to Bentley’s 32. Diarra demanded attention from several defenders anytime he had the ball and was more than comfortable finding his hot hand-

ed teammate. Diarra had seven assists, finding Ellison several times and igniting the gym. “My teammates kept finding me and trusting me,” Ellison said. “That means a lot for my confidence.” With the win, the Owls completed their first ever season sweep of the Falcons. Still, a game that should have been a runaway victory turned into a four-point game in the final minute. Lengthy inbound plays and a few mental errors allowed Bentley to creep back in.

“When we get into a lull, we can’t get down. We can’t shrug our shoulders. We gotta keep grinding through the tough times,” Burrell said. After the game, Burrell walked into the locker room with a gold wrestling belt slung over his shoulder. It was Ellison’s prize for the day, another confidence builder, and a moment of joy for the team. “Don’t lose this feeling,” Burrell said. “If you wanna win, this is the way you gotta play every game.”

Super Bowl LX Preview



By Draven Dabrowski  
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The New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks will be facing off Sunday, Feb. 8 in Super Bowl LX, marking the second time these two franchises have met on the NFL’s biggest stage. Their first meeting in the Super Bowl came more than a decade ago in Super Bowl XLIX, a game that ended in heartbreak for Seahawks fans. Both franchises have been through winding paths since their last Super Bowl appearances. Each have endured rebuilding phases, reshaped rosters and have embraced new leadership. On paper, many view this Super Bowl as a lopsided matchup in favor of Seattle. The Seahawks enter the game carrying their own version of the 2011-2018 Seahawks Legion of Boom, labeled “The Dark Side.” They carry the perception of dominance, with the expectations that their physicality will overwhelm the Patriots. This narrative has become a rallying point for the Patriots in the buildup to the Super Bowl. The Patriots’ path back to the Super Bowl has been defined by discipline and adaptability. This entire season they heard the chatter of easy scheduling, but they did not let that stop them come play-off time. This version of New England does not exactly rely on overwhelming star power. They did acquire key pieces in free agency like defensive tackle Milton Williams from the Eagles and wide receiver Stefon Diggs from the Texans this past off-season, but their homegrown talent has been making names for themselves as well. For Seattle, that Super Bowl XLIX ending remains one of the most debated endings in NFL history. While the roster and coaching staff look nothing like the one that took the field that night, the narrative still exists. This offers the Seahawks an opportunity to reshape how that chapter is remembered; not as a defining failure, but as part of a larger journey that ultimately led back to them to the big game. This is what makes this Super Bowl interesting. This is not just a matchup between two teams with strong defenses and capable quarterbacks. It is a clash of legacies trying to redefine themselves. For the Patriots, a win would prove their success was never tied to a single era, but to a culture that evolves with the league. For the Seahawks, a trophy would finally allow the franchise to step out from the shadow of its past and establish a new defining moment. Sunday night will decide more than a champion. It will determine which narrative gains clarity and which continues to linger unanswered.