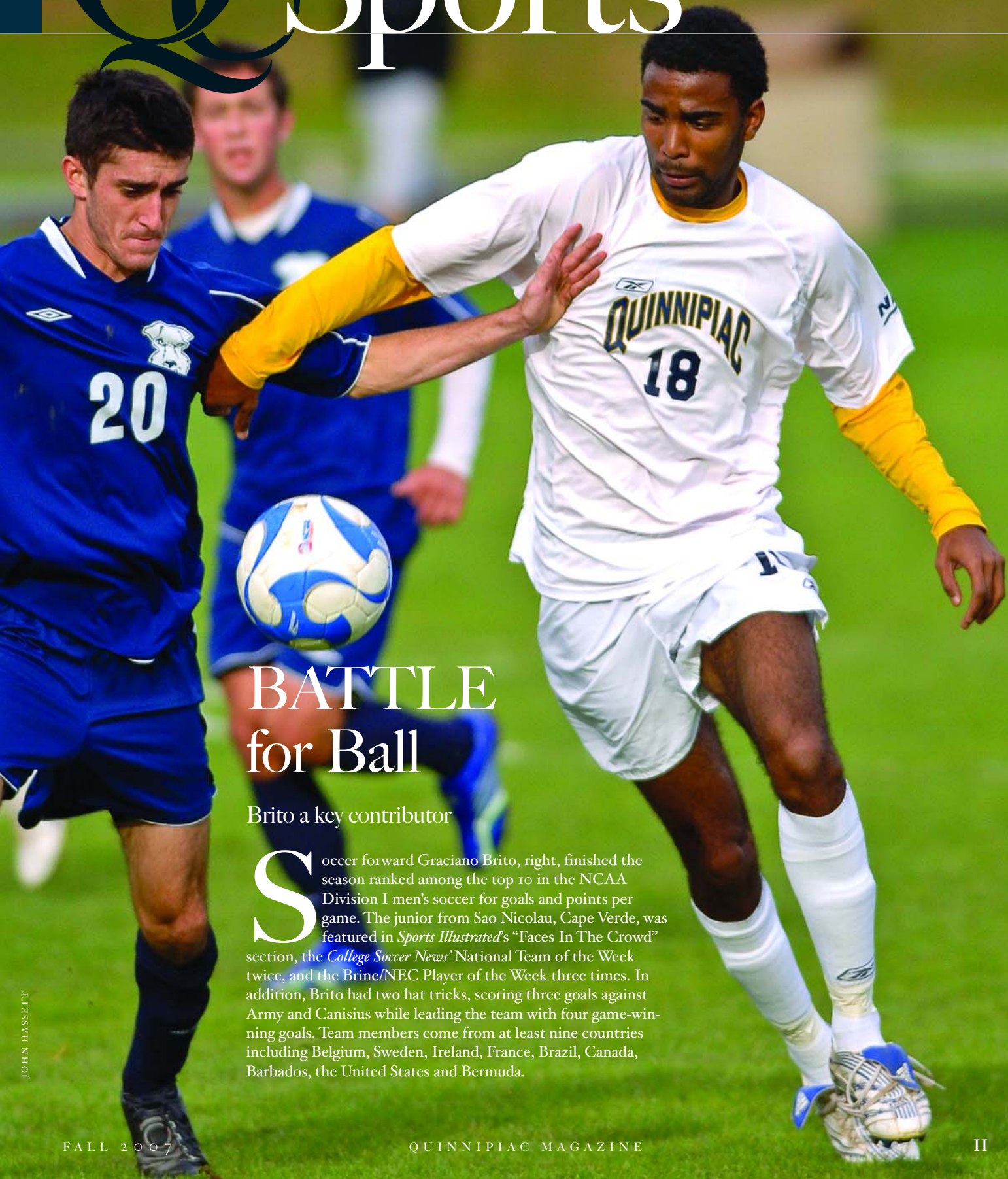


Q Sports



BATTLE for Ball

Brito a key contributor

Soccer forward Graciano Brito, right, finished the season ranked among the top 10 in the NCAA Division I men's soccer for goals and points per game. The junior from Sao Nicolau, Cape Verde, was featured in *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces In The Crowd" section, the *College Soccer News's* National Team of the Week twice, and the Brine/NEC Player of the Week three times. In addition, Brito had two hat tricks, scoring three goals against Army and Canisius while leading the team with four game-winning goals. Team members come from at least nine countries including Belgium, Sweden, Ireland, France, Brazil, Canada, Barbados, the United States and Bermuda.



The men's basketball team debuted a new coaching staff this season. Standing, from left: Assistant Coaches Scott Burrell and Eric Eaton, Head Coach Tom Moore, Assistant Coach Sean Doherty and Luke Murray, director of basketball operations. The team was chosen to finish fifth in the 2007-08 NEC coaches poll and won its first game against the University of Hartford 85-79 on Nov. 11.

Traveling coach

Spotting talent a small part of job description

By Janet Waldman

Heads turn and eyes pop when former Chicago Bulls forward Scott Burrell enters the South Kent Prep School gym. The “bling” on his finger is blinding—75 diamonds that catch the light and everybody’s eye.

Ten boys with man-sized professional basketball dreams hustle to show off for Burrell and other college recruiters this fall day. Sneakers chirp as they traverse the court, sweat darkening their shirts. They are desperate to be noticed but careful not to show it. Still, they can’t help noticing Burrell.

For one thing, he’s six-foot-seven and the way he walks tells observers he must be somebody. And, there’s that gold NBA championship ring he earned in 1998 playing alongside legends such as Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman. He wears it on recruiting trips.

“You take a good look at that ring and think about what it takes to get one,” says South Kent Prep School basketball coach Raphael Chillious to his team.

Many in Connecticut remember Burrell leading the UConn Huskies to victories in the late ’80s and early ’90s. He’s still competing, but with recruiters around the country for that one kid “who can pass, shoot, play hard, that special kid who can help us win,” Burrell says.

Bobcats Head Coach Tom Moore hired Burrell as an assistant coach in July. He joins seasoned coaches Sean Doherty and Eric Eaton. Doherty played for Moore at Worcester State. Moore, who joined Quinnipiac in March after 13 years as Jim Calhoun’s assistant coach, is known for his recruiting savvy, and the Bobcats are in a rebuilding phase. Moore and company have added five players for this year, and two more have signed for next.

“Recruiting is a tricky business, and it’s a big part of the job. Recognizing talent is the easy part. Fans don’t realize how much work

we put in watching players, talking to coaches, doing background, cultivating, and building relationships,” Moore says.

Moore knows Burrell’s reputation will help attract recruits. “He’s a role model who does what comes naturally on the court,” he says. Moore’s other handpicked assistants come with impressive resumes as well. As head men’s basketball coach at Salem State College, Doherty led his team to three NCAA Division III tournament appearances. Eaton has been to the NCAA Division I tournament five times in the past six seasons as an assistant coach at University at Albany and Holy Cross.

“Back in April, we rolled up our sleeves, got on the horn, and recruited in Texas, Las Vegas and Maryland... Sometimes we watched 10–20 games a weekend,” says Doherty.

Eaton describes the coach’s role as part teacher, admissions counselor, recruiter and mentor. “My cell phone has not been turned off in 10 years,” Eaton says.

Settled in a comfy chair in his office that overlooks the basketball arena in the TD Banknorth Sports Center, the head coach with the boyish face and Boston accent said he and his staff look for players who have the talent to play in a higher league than the NEC, but would choose Quinnipiac because of its reputation for academic excellence and the spectacular arena. Moore’s immediate goal is an NEC conference championship and NCAA tournament berth.

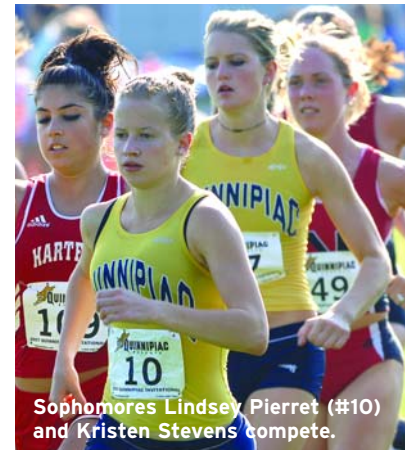
“I want a fast-breaking team, like UConn’s, that can change quickly from defense to offense. I want to be one of those schools people fear. We want to be a program that should be competing for an NEC championship every year,” Moore says.

What will halftime be like in Moore’s locker room? “It’ll be part technical changes and part motivating the team.” Moore says yelling is not his style. “I coach more on emotion, I try to get them in the mind frame to compete and find the right buttons to push before we go back out there.”

WINNING STREAK The Women’s Cross Country team won its third consecutive Northeast Conference championship in October. Sophomore Kristen Stevens of Succasunna, N.J., took home the Outstanding Performer honors, placing first in the 5K course. The team finished with seven runners in the top 14, each receiving all-conference accolades.

“It’s an exciting day for Quinnipiac cross country,” said Head Coach Shawn Green, who was named the NEC Coach of the Year for a second time. “I’m very happy for our student-athletes who have worked so hard all year.”

The men’s cross country team captured the NEC championship for the second straight season, with runners seizing the top three spots. Senior Jacob Gurzler of Ballston Lake, N.Y., finished the 8K course in first place. Head coach Ed O’Connor was also named the NEC Coach of the Year.



Sophomores Lindsey Pierret (#10) and Kristen Stevens compete.

COACHES’ PICK The women’s basketball team was picked to finish third in the Northeast Conference 2007-08 Women’s Basketball Preseason Coaches Poll. The Bobcats received two first-place votes and were chosen to finish behind Long Island and Robert Morris.



CITY SERIES CHAMPS Tyler Brett hurled a one-hit game against Yale University, helping to secure a 5-2 win in the championship game of the 2007 Fall City Series at Yale Field in November. The Bobcats defeated Yale for the second straight year to take the City Series crown. Brett, a senior from Waterford, Conn., kept Yale off balance all day as Quinnipiac scored two unearned runs in the bottom of the second inning.