

Jim Rice



Jim Rice Fields Questions from Sellout Crowd

FORMER RED SOX GREAT SPEAKS AT HAWKS FUNDRAISER

Jim Rice, former Red Sox All-Star, delighted a sellout crowd of baseball fans at the University's 2007 Spring Fundraising Baseball Dinner this past May.

Head Coach Jeff Calcaterra and members of the Hawks baseball team listened intently to Rice's tips on how to improve their hitting and pitching. Rice played 16 seasons (1974–89) in the major leagues, all with the Boston Red Sox, and was the 1978 American League MVP. He finished his career with a .298 batting average, including seven seasons of .300 or better, and finished in the top-five in the MVP voting in six different years. He was also a superb fielder (a .980 average with just 66 errors in 16 years).

Rice answered a wide variety of questions from attendees. When asked about the Red Sox's chances of winning the World Series in 2007, Rice responded in the positive. "I think it's a strong possibility this year, given how well the team is put together."

Following the dinner and Rice's remarks, there was a lively auction of items ranging from signed jerseys of Hall of Famers Ernie Banks and Al Kaline to tickets to the 2007 World Series. ■

Flying High in the PGA

FORMER STAR HAWK STILL LEARNING

BY JONATHAN EASTERBROOK

With a fifth-place finish at the 2007 Masters and a seventh-place showing two months later at the U.S. Open, Jerry Kelly '89 arrived at Connecticut's rejuvenated stop on the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) Tour with momentum.

Yet one of the biggest impressions he made at the Travelers Championship, held June 21–24 in Cromwell, had nothing to do with his golfing prowess.

Before hitting off the first tee during third-round play on Saturday, Kelly spotted a young spectator in a wheelchair. The former Hawk walked over to shake the youngster's hand and present him with a signed golf ball.

Kelly told *The Hartford Courant* after his round that the fact that some individuals have disabilities does not make them different from anyone else. "They've got feelings and good days and bad days. I hope what happened at the first tee made it a good day for him."



Kelly had plenty of good days in the early months of the 2007 season when he racked up six top-10 finishes. As we went to press in the second half of August, he was 32nd on the tour money list with more than \$1.6 million in prize winning.

Part of Kelly's rejuvenation this year is due to his tag-team work with coaches Jim Schuman (swing) and Lanny Basham (mental). Kelly has repeatedly stressed that his new swing allows him to make the most of the mental conditioning techniques he is using.

While Kelly has learned that it's never too late to be coached, he also clearly knows that some things go beyond reaching the green in two shots. ■

Jerry Kelly signs a program for a fan at the Travelers Championship.

AE Championship Is Back!

"We are proud to bring the 2008 America East Women's Basketball Tournament back to Hartford," announced Patricia H. Meiser, director of athletics and special assistant to the president. The 2007 tournament took place at Binghamton University in New York. Hartford hosted the championship in the 4,000-plus-seat Chase Arena at the Reich Family Pavilion from 2002 to 2006.

The 2008 tournament begins on Thurs., March 13, with the championship game on Sun., March 16. All semifinal games and the championship game will be produced by America East and ESPN Regional Television. Mark your calendars now. ■

Hawks Have Swoosh

University of Hartford student-athletes are now wearing Nike products, thanks to a three-year agreement with the company.

"We are very happy with our partnership with Nike," says Director of Athletics Patricia H. Meiser. "We're excited to have an all-department program in place, and the power and quality of our association with the Nike brand is an important step forward for the University."

Associate Director of Athletics Jim Keener says that by getting all their uniforms and equipment from Nike, the Hawks will see some cost savings, adding that "having Nike come on board with us says a lot about what they think about our future." ■





2007-2008 SEASON

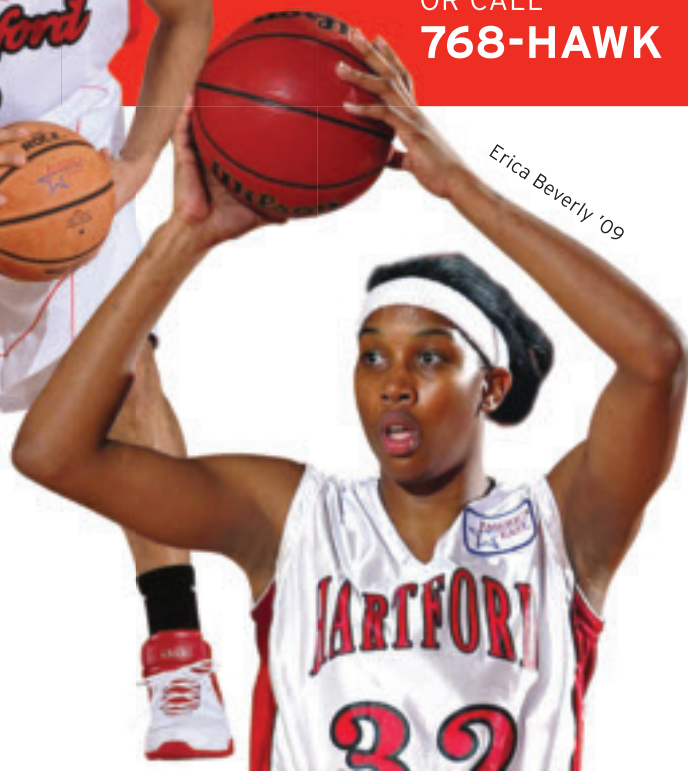
Joe Zegjinski '10



Michael Turner '09



Erica Beverly '09



On the SCOREBOARD

University of Hartford BASKETBALL

MEN'S

13 HOME GAMES

Nov. 14	Sacred Heart
Nov. 28	Army
Dec. 11	Monmouth
Dec. 22	Brown
Jan. 5	Yale
TBD	Albany
TBD	Binghamton
TBD	Boston University
TBD	Maine
TBD	New Hampshire
TBD	Stony Brook
TBD	UMBC
TBD	Vermont

WOMEN'S

12 HOME GAMES

Nov. 16	Columbia
Dec. 7	St. John's
Dec. 9	Hofstra
Dec. 22	Michigan State
TBD	Albany
TBD	Binghamton
TBD	Boston University
TBD	Maine
TBD	New Hampshire
TBD	Stony Brook
TBD	UMBC
TBD	Vermont

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