

she says. "That undiscoverable moment of discovery, I guess." When she first told me this, we were sipping coffee in the Lowell House courtyard, which we've been doing recently at the end of especially stressful days. "What are you waiting for?" she asked. I had thought about it, of course, and so I told her quite candidly: "For me, it's kind of like opening a closed door. It's got nothing to do with what's behind a door, it's just the opening of a door itself, the motion." I told her it was like that moment right before you eat really warm pie, or when you let up on your brakes when riding your bike down a hill.

"It's the moment right before the door opens," I said.

"That's it," she said. "That's what I mean by *anagnorisis*!"

Acropodium, *n.* [*'ækroo'poudiəm*] – There is a man down Brattle Street who pretends to be a statue. I've seen him when I go running. He dresses up like a Revolutionary War soldier, paints himself silver, stands stock still on top of a rectangular box, watches admirers gather around, and hopes they throw a few coins into his cup. Recently I've started to wonder what would happen if, seeking even more coins and more admirers, he practices standing still longer and longer until one day he stands perfectly still—and no one notices him.

The worry hangs about me most days like flies on a horse, but especially so now, thinking as I have been about those *xoana* I heard about in that archaeology class. As I read later, they were simple wooden idols that the Greeks gradually began to re-sculpt into humanoid forms until the beautiful wood structures underneath were all but forgotten. To be plank-like isn't enough, it turns out. Simplicity is demanded, but immediately forgotten. A xo-

anon can no longer be a plank; the statue man can no longer be still. Our language mustn't be ours.

In the first draft of this column, I included the statue man under *ivoriate*. I showed that draft to my roommate. "Don't say *rectangular box*," he said. "Say *acropodium*." ▢

Berta Greenwald Ledecy Undergraduate Fellow
Noah Pisner '14 recently finished his senior thesis, in which he used enumerate 39 times.

SPORTS

Speed to the Maks

Distance runner Maksim Korolev's record-breaking year

WHEN cross-country star Maksim Korolev '14 was a sophomore, he read a *Crimson* article in which basketball star Keith Wright '12 explained why he'd picked Harvard, which had never won an Ivy title, over perennial powerhouse Princeton. When a Princeton coach urged Wright to go there, citing the Tigers' rich basketball history, Wright replied, "I don't want to be

part of history. I want to *make* history."

That declaration mirrored Korolev's own reasoning. "I really liked [it]," the heavily recruited Missouri all-state runner says now. "And Harvard cross-country and track were real underdogs. Cross-country had been getting very poor results. But they were starting to come around." For example, Dan Chenoweth '11 (see "Hot-foot," November-December 2010, page 69) had just captured Harvard's first Ivy League cross-country championship in 15 years. "I was excited to be part of that," Korolev explains.

"Maks," as his teammates call him, has not only been part of that turnaround but has made some history of his own. Last fall, the *Crimson* qualified to compete at the NCAA cross-country championships for the first time in 35 years. Korolev finished third overall with a time of 29:59.5 over the 10-kilometer course, the highest such finish in Harvard history. He'd earlier posted an Ivy record time at the fall Heps while winning the conference title on an 8K course.

Indoors, at the Terrier Invitational in Boston in January, Korolev ran the 5K in 13:42.56, shattering the *Crimson* record of 13:59.35 by nearly 17 seconds.



Maksim Korolev
running last fall in the
NCAA Cross-Country
Regionals at Van
Cortlandt Park in the
Bronx.

His time was a new Ivy record, more than three seconds below the standard set by Olympian Donn Cabral of Princeton. Then in February, at the Boston University Valentine's Invitational, Korolev won the 3K run by 0.5 seconds in a time of 7:51.52. That lowered the Harvard record by six seconds, and also set a new Ivy mark. At the indoor NCAA Championships at Albuquerque in March, he placed thirteenth in the nation in the 5K, and fourteenth in the 3K, becoming a Second Team All-American.

Meanwhile, the team as a whole has been coming together and achieving the kind of success Korolev anticipated as a freshman. In March, at this year's Heptagonal meet (which decides the Ivy indoor track championship), Harvard's women finished first and the men's team third, making the Crimson the league's best combined track-and-field squad. In a photo finish there, Korolev came in second in the 5K, only 0.16 seconds behind his training partner James Leakos '14, who won in 13:58.67.

Leakos and Korolev like to run together on Sundays, traversing 18 miles, often around Walden Pond in Concord, where exposed roots and uneven dirt terrain offer useful practice in agility, keeping your balance, and staying aware of the footing. Korolev typically trains about 100 miles weekly; head track coach Jason Saretsky forbids him to run more, so Korolev has added some cycling to his regime. "One of the most important things is being consistent," he says. "You want to train every day and not get injured. Running injuries are usually from repetitive stress, so I run on dirt whenever possible. There's less impact than on pavement." He trains year-round, taking a week off around Thanksgiving after cross-country season, and two weeks off in the summer. Since the thousands of impacts are hard on the body, Korolev tries to sleep eight to 10 hours a night to recover. In this, he is going against the grain: "The mentality at Harvard," he says, "is to get four hours of sleep a night, and try to do too many things throughout the day."

Distance runners aren't known for towering height, and at six feet, five inches, Korolev is one of the taller ones. He might have good running genes. Born in Kazakhstan, he is half Russian and half Tatar. On a trip to the old country he took runs with his biological father (his parents divorced when he was two), and found that the older man, with no training at all, could run

Roundball Royalty

Five seasons ago, Harvard had never won an Ivy basketball championship. Now it has captured four in a row and to all appearances is becoming a national hoops power. Returning to the NCAA tournament after their first win at the "dance" last spring, the twelfth-seeded Crimson upset fifth-seeded Cincinnati, 61-57, in their initial game. Next they faced Michigan State, a heavy favorite ranked first in the country early in the year and picked by many to win the whole tournament. But Harvard astounded the basketball-savvy crowd in Spokane with a stunning 29-11 run in the second half. Facing a daunting 16-point deficit early in the stanza, the Crimson took a 62-60 lead with 7:12 to play, bringing the arena to a frenzy. Ultimately, the Spartans found enough counters in the closing minutes to pull out a 80-73 victory. (More details are available at <http://harvardmag.com/ncaa-14>.)

"I can't say enough about our team and the effort and the guts that they showed in the second half to make a run, to take the lead, to play with so much composure and fight," Harvard coach Tommy Amaker declared in a *New York Times* report. "I was so proud to see that happen." Clark Kellogg, the lead college basketball analyst for CBS, which aired the game, said, "I am really impressed

for an hour alongside him, if not at "Maks" pace. At 160 pounds or less, Korolev himself has minimal bulk to transport; less body weight also softens the physical impact of each footfall.

Korolev came to the United States at age seven with his mother, who sought better opportunities here. They settled in Harrisonville, Missouri, where the boy enjoyed playing soccer. In seventh grade he heard about a sport called cross-country, where "you just run," he recalls. "For some reason that sounded like fun to me."

He spoke only Russian until arriving in



Tommy Amaker

with the Crimson. Harvard played with the kind of tenacity you may not expect from an Ivy League team." And one veteran observer of Crimson athletics, former *Sports Illustrated* editor Dick Friedman '73, declared it "the best loss in Harvard sports history. Sometimes defeat makes you prouder than many victories. Tonight was one of those nights."

Amaker, who has spearheaded the spectacular turnaround in Crimson basketball fortunes, was in the news for another reason as the tournament unfolded. The firing of Boston College's head coach instantly triggered media speculation that Amaker would leave Harvard after his seven seasons at the helm to take over the floundering program across town—no doubt with a drastically enlarged salary and the big-time challenge of Atlantic Coast Conference competition. Instead, Amaker surprised many by electing to stay with the Crimson. "After thoughtful deliberation, I continue to realize my heart is at Harvard," he declared. "To teach, lead, and serve at this amazing institution, and in this special community, is truly meaningful to me."

America, but forgot it all to learn English; Harvard courses have helped him recover much of his first language. Korolev concentrates in human developmental and regenerative biology; he's been interested in the aging process since high school. He took computer science at Harvard, and likes technology and "tech stuff"; next year he will enroll in an M.S. program at Stanford in management science and engineering (a "techie M.B.A.," he calls it). "I respect Apple," he notes, "but I like Android a bit more." Even more than that, he likes making history.

—CRAIG LAMBERT

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