

UMaine junior sets five school records

BY ROBBY MACDONALD
SPECIAL TO THE BDN

Junior Nick Sundquist's five record-setting individual performances at the ECAC competition held at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, led the University of Maine's sharply impressive racing that resulted in nine school records for coach Susan Lizzotte's men's swim team.

SWIMMING NOTEBOOK

swims, the Black Bears set records in four relays. The Midshipman won the ECAC title, and UMaine scored 10th in the 23-team field. Collecting second place in the 100 free, Sundquist touched in 44.9 seconds for a record. Earlier in the meet, the junior split 20.6 in the first leg of the 200-free relay for a Black Bear mark. Shane Kinnon, Matt England and Justin Hafner joined Sundquist in the record 1:23.8 relay. Sundquist also led off the

800 free relay in a record 200 free swim of 1:39.3. Adding speedy swims to UMaine's final record time in the 800 relay of 6:48.2 were Coulter Morrill (1:44.1), Thomas Edison (1:43.6) and Andrew Majeski (1:41.1). Sundquist also finished second in the 100 butterfly (48.5) for a school record. And, the former Windham swimmer's 1:50.2 200 individual medley is a new Black Bear standard.

Bangor's England (23.2) and Lewiston's Peter Tira-

bassi (25.9) swam the backstroke and breaststroke legs, respectively, on the fourth place 200-medley relay that received a 21.9 butterfly swim from Sundquist and a 20.9 anchor swim from Kinnon to set a record at 1:32.

In the meet's final event, UMaine's 400-free relay team of England (47.5), Kinnon (46.9), Edison (47.7) and Sundquist (44.1) lowered the record to 3:06.3.

College notebook

• At the Atlantic Coast

Conference Championship, Brewer's Josh Williams, competing for Boston College, swam a 49.8 100 backstroke, a 1:49.2 200 backstroke, and opened Boston College's 1:29.6 200-medley relay with a 23-second leg.

The Eagles placed 11th in the meet won by North Carolina State University.

• The NCAA Division III selections for the national championship meet set for March 16-19 in Greensboro, North Carolina, have been announced and include Ban-

gor's Emma Waddell, who competes for Williams.

Waddell is the No. 1 ranked 100 butterflyer in the field and is the second ranked competitor in the 200 individual medley.

Also included among the 478 swimmers selected are Oakland's Lindsey and Kristen Preglovick who race for Bates as well as Bobcat teammate Hope Logan of Boothbay Harbor. Bangor's David Smallwood (WPI) and Mariah Reading (Bowdoin) also were selected.

Irving denies wanting to leave Cavs

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Kyrie Irving responded to a report that he was unhappy with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The All-Star point guard said he is focusing on winning a championship in Cleveland.

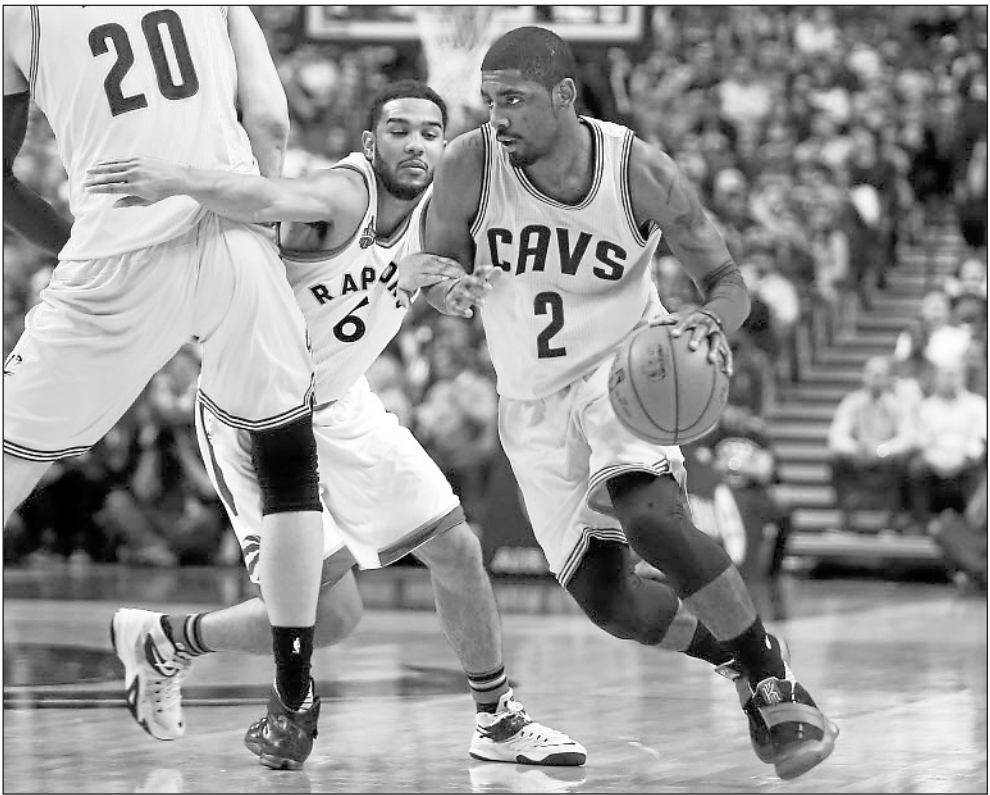
“Obviously there's going to be some misunderstandings; it's part of being on a team,” Irving said Monday night. “For me, as a maturing young player in this league, I know what we have and the opportunity we have in order to be something special. My communication is open with all of my teammates, just knowing what's going on and how I feel about things.

“For me, all that other stuff, what everyone is going to say, they're going to pick one player, it's going to change every single week. When they think that we're down and out, they're going to choose one player, so, for me, it has no effect on my life or what's going on. It's all about winning and winning a championship for Cleveland.”

Irving, 23, had two direct dust-ups with LeBron James in 2014-15, their first season together. This season, Irving was idle until December recovering from knee surgery. The report from ESPN's Stephen A. Smith came one day after Irving had one assist in a loss to the Washington Wizards on a night the Cavs played without James.

James credited Irving on Monday with responding in the best way possible.

“You go 11-for-11 from the free throw line like Kyrie did and you lead the team to a victory. Those are just talks and reports,” James said. “I've been around it so



JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI | USA TODAY

Cleveland Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving dribbles around Cavaliers center Timofey Mozgov (left) and Toronto Raptors guard Cory Joseph (center) during the first half Friday at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto.

long, I don't really get involved with it too much. We have a big point in our season right now. We need to continue to get better and get ready for the postseason. I don't think it affected Kyrie or affected our team. I don't think he (knew about it). I didn't know about it, so, I'm just now hearing about it.”

Celtics-Jazz notes

Utah F Gordon Hayward and newly acquired Jazz G Shelvin Mack were also teammates under current Celtics coach Brad Stevens at Butler.

“Anytime you have two guys that have a good feel for the game, they integrate, I'm talking just about basketball,” Utah coach Quin

Snyder said. “At the same time, the familiarity I think accelerates that. But I haven't seen them wearing Bulldog colors or anything like that. I know they appreciate one another.”

Utah forward Trevor Booker Monday night's game to attend his grandmother's funeral in South Carolina and will rejoin the team for Wednesday night's game at Toronto.

Stevens on his team's 18-point loss in Utah Feb. 19: “We've been in every game with the exception of that



Booker

one in the last two months.”

The Jazz ran up a 51-34 rebounding advantage in that game but then lost three of the next four games heading to Boston.

Suns' Pressey lands second 10-day deal

The Phoenix Suns signed point guard Phil Pressey to a second 10-day contract on Tuesday.

Pressey has played in four games for the Suns and is averaging 5.0 points and 6.0 assists.

The third-year veteran played for the Philadelphia 76ers earlier this season and averaged 3.9 points and 3.3 assists in 14 games.

Pressey, 25, is the son of former NBA player Paul Pressey.

Track

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Paolo DeMarco of Deering turned in a sixth-place effort in the 300 meters with a time of 35.52.

Other top girls performances included an all-time Maine best of 1:34.45 in the 600 meters. Elisabeth Redwood of Bonny Eagle High in Buxton finished sixth.

The 4x200 relay team of Anna Beaudet, Morgan Knowlton, Kailey Norcross and Katie Ferrara of Auburn's Edward Little High established an all-time Maine best with a 1:47.70 clocking. The group took 14th place.

Also, senior Moriah Newcomb of Brewer claimed sixth in the long jump with a leap of 17-2.

There were more top ef-

forts at the Maine USATF Championship held at the University of Maine's New Balance Field House in Orono.

South Portland senior Dan Guiliani returned to action after a six-week layoff because of an injury to continue his dominance of the shot put.

Guiliani, who was shut down by an elbow ailment in mid-January, established an all-time Maine best of 65 feet, 4 inches.

Tia Tardy of Lincoln also had a good day, winning the 1,000 meters (2:59.73) and the 600 (1:35.55). Her time in the latter event was a state standard until it was surpassed later in the day by Redwood.

Tardy, a junior at Orono High, is among some Maine athletes who are training for the upcoming New Balance Nationals Indoor meet, which is scheduled for

March 11-13 at The Armory in New York City.

Tardy has qualified for the 400, the 800 and the mile division, while Casavant will run the two-mile and Becky Lopez-Anido of Orono is entered in the 800.

That trio has been working out together in Orono this week with David Nantkes to prepare for the competition.

College Masters, Leithiser win for UMaine

Athletes from Maine colleges turned in strong efforts at last weekend's New England championships held in Boston.

Jaclyn Masters and Jake Leithiser of the University of Maine each came home with gold medals.

Masters, a senior from Auburn, established a school record in the pole vault and won

the event at 13 feet, 3½ inches.

Leithiser was victorious in the 400 meters as the senior from Old Town ran a 47.68.

Other men's standouts included UMaine's Jesse Orach, who was third in the 5,000 meters (14:47.07), and teammate Brian Martin, who took fourth in the high jump (6-6¼). Joseph Slatter of UMaine finished fifth in the pentathlon with 4,631 points and Colby's Brian Sommers placed fifth in the 200 at 21.88.

On the women's side, Grace MacLean of Bangor was fourth in the heptathlon (3,451 points) and UMaine teammate Nicole Kirk finished fourth in the 200 (25.04). UMaine's Kaitlin Sautler of Hermon added a sixth in the 500 meters (1:15.83).

And Bangor High product Angelyn Masters, competing for the University of New Hampshire, was fifth in the mile with a time of 4:56.59.

Brewer edges MDI for fourth victory

BREWER — The Brewer Witches held off a strong second-half surge by the Mount Desert Island Trojans en route to a 57-55 unified basketball victory in a regular-season finale Tuesday.

Brewer (4-4) built up a big lead early behind the hot shooting of Jacob Gray (17 points), Kyle Grant (14 points) and Clancey Brazier (14 points). Aaron Adams chipped in with 10 points and Miles Adams had two for Brewer. Jacob Fallica netted 14 points for the Trojans, including three, 3-pointers. Faith Mitchell had 12 points and Sarah St. Clair had 10 points with Cameron Swan scoring 8. Nellie Page and Zachary Johnson both contributed six points. Fallica also scored 10 points in MDI's 50-46 loss to Orono on Tuesday.

Hampden Academy 68, Nokomis 64

At Hampden, the Broncos took a six-point lead at half-time and then held off the Warriors of Newport to take the win.

The Broncos were paced by Tyler Hewey with 18 points, Kenny Brewer-Frazee with 17, Zac Ewing with 16 and Isaiah Palmer with 11.

Ashley Norris scored 26 points to lead the Warriors while Michael Towle added 22 and Ketrina Bennett put in 10.

Hampden 20 38 50 68 Nokomis 18 32 54 64

Hampden: Hewey 9-0-18, Brewer-Frazee 7-1-17, Ewing 8-0-16, Palmer 4-1-11, Tripp 2-0-4, Martin 1-0-2

Nokomis: Ashley Norris 13-0-26, Michael Towle 11-0-22, Ketrina Bennett 5-0-10, Daniel Leonard 3-0-6.

3-pt. goals: Palmer, Brewer-Frazee

University of Buffalo football player dies

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

University of Buffalo red-shirt sophomore defensive end Solomon Jackson died Monday, one week after he collapsed during offseason training.

He was transported to an area hospital for what the school called “a medical emergency” on Feb. 22. He died on Monday, the University of Buffalo announced.

Solomon, from Stone Mountain, Georgia, was known as “Solo,” around the team.

“It is with deep sadness that I write to share that we have lost one of our own, UB football player Solomon Jackson, who passed away

last night,” UB Athletics Director C. Allen Greene said in a statement Tuesday morning. “Our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies go out to Solomon's family as together we mourn his tragic and untimely death.

“From the outpouring of prayers and support over the past week since Solomon was hospitalized, it has been abundantly clear just how many lives he touched on a daily basis through his contributions and character: as an athlete, as a student, as a friend and mentor to others, and as an active and engaged member of our campus community.”

Panthers

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16-foot wrister trickled through Hochevar's pads and sat on the goal line. The alert Wentworth tapped it home.

“That goal at the end of the first period gave us momentum,” Oliveira said.

“After the first period, we talked about playing our game and getting back to basics,” said Denis who also had two assists.

“We came out with more intensity in the second period and started doing all of the little things we did all year,” said Waterville coach Dennis Martin whose team did a better job attacking the net and winning puck battles.

The Eagles were without standout senior defenseman Sam Bell due to illness and Cunningham said being without Bell and having to kill off a pair of five-minute majors was “pretty draining.”

The Eagles received another five-minute major in the third period and penalty troubles helped prevent them from mounting a comeback.

Denis made it 4-1 5:58 into the third period after Hochevar had stopped Cody Pellerin's slap shot from the top of the right faceoff circle. The rebound spilled to Denis at the edge of the crease and he was able to tuck it into the net from a tough angle after getting control of it.

Aldrich made it 5-1 on a five-on-three 3:36 later when

he was set up in the slot by Wentworth and sailed a 16-foot wrister past Hochevar.

The Eagles had the better of the play in the first period and took a deserved lead at the 9:49 mark when the school's all-time leading scorer, Cunningham, converted a Nale feed.

But a five-minute boarding major on Messalonskee just 29 seconds later gave the Panthers some energy and Roderigue equalized with just 10 seconds left in the period.

Denis was knocked down trying to carry the puck to the net down the right-wing side and the puck continued behind the net. Oliveira tracked it down on the other side of the net and fed a precise pass to Roderigue in the low slot and he one-timed a 10-footer past Hochevar's blocker.

“I saw the opening and [Oliveira] passed it out to me,” said Roderigue. “I think if we hadn't scored, we would have been down in the locker room after the period.”

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UMaine

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Troy Reid-Knight is sidelined again.

Reid-Knight, who has suffered seven concussions while at UMaine, needed four stitches in his mouth after a collision with a player in the Feb. 24 Hartford game, then wasn't feeling well after logging nine minutes in the regular-season finale at Binghamton.

“He was cleared to play, but he wasn't feeling good,” Walsh said of Saturday's game.

“We tried to get him going in practice and see what he could do and he just wasn't feeling right, so he's not going to play.”

Walsh won't use the injuries as an excuse, but losing three of his top six guards will continue to impact UMaine's ability to press and create a fast tempo.

“When our pressure has gotten to them and they haven't been able to settle into their half-court sets, we've been successful (in stretches),” Walsh said.

“We've got to do it (press), we've got to be a little more selective with it, but I think they're too good of a team for us to beat over 40 minutes (if we don't),” he added.

Vermont takes a conference-best, five-game win streak into Wednesday's contest. The Catamounts capped the regular season on Saturday by knocking off No. 1 Stony Brook on Long Island.

“They're a really good defensive team, especially when their feet are set and are in position,” Walsh said.

“We've got to move them around a little bit to create driving angles to be able to create plays.”