

Lawrence standout to play field hockey at UM

BY LARRY MAHONEY
BDN STAFF

Two-time All-State field hockey player Lilla Tilton-Flood from Clinton and Lawrence High School in Fairfield has verbally committed to attend the University of Maine.

COLLEGE REPORT

Midfielder/defender Tilton-Flood intends to study molecular and cellular biology, and she said she is receiving a presidential scholarship for academics.

She has already been accepted into the school and met NCAA eligibility requirements.

Tilton-Flood was a midfielder for the Bulldogs and helped lead them to a 23-5 regular season record the past two seasons.

She also has played for the prestigious Waterville-based Maine Majestix club program since she was in middle school.

"She has always been focused and a hard-working player," said Majestix coach Amy Bernatchez. "She is very consistent. I have never left a game feeling Lilla had an off-day."

"She's not fancy, but she gets the job done," added Bernatchez.

"She's a quiet player." Majestix coach and former UMaine standout Katie (Flaherty) McCabe said. "If

you don't [specifically] watch her, you don't realize how good she is. You never worry about her. She doesn't make mistakes. If someone comes down the field in a one-on-one against her, you know she is always going to come up with a good play."

Tilton-Flood said she is "very excited to be a Black Bear."

Tilton-Flood, who has grown up on the family's large dairy farm in Clinton, said she had originally intended to attend UMaine because she wants to be a geneticist and it had the field of study she sought.

"One of my Majestix teammates, [Messalonskee of Oakland star and UMaine-bound] Riley Field, told me

Maine was looking for one more player," said Tilton-Flood.

Tilton-Flood asked McCabe if she should look into it, and McCabe said she should.

Tilton-Flood contacted UMaine head coach Josette Babineau and assistant Courtney Veinotte and eventually met with them. The meeting went well, Tilton-Flood said.

Bernatchez and McCabe said Tilton-Flood's career had a breakthrough two years ago after she began working out at Littlefield's Gym in Oakland.

"She had all the skills, but she needed the strength, and after working out at Littlefield's Gym, she really increased her strength

and her speed," said McCabe.

"I was never a natural athlete, but after working out at Littlefield's Gym, I got a lot stronger, and I noticed one night at practice I was able to keep up with one of the fastest girls on our team," said Tilton-Flood, who said that she has a "defender's mindset."

The 17-year-old continues to work out at Littlefield's three times per week, focusing on different parts of the body, and she and Field also are going to focus on improving their skill sets over the summer.

"She has worked hard for everything she has. And she's very smart. She will be a great asset to that program," McCabe said.

Kinkaid makes 39 saves in win over Bruins

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

NEWARK, New Jersey — Travis Zajac and Reid Boucher scored power-play goals as the New Jersey Devils damaged the Boston Bruins' playoff hopes with a 2-1 victory at Prudential Center on Tuesday night.

NHL

The Bruins have 88 points, one more than the Detroit Red Wings, who were still in action Tuesday night. The teams are fighting for third place in the Atlantic Division.

The Philadelphia Flyers also have 87 points as they fight with Boston and Detroit for the second Eastern Conference wild card. However, the Flyers have played two fewer games than the Bruins, who have lost six of seven in regulation.

Devils goaltender Keith Kinkaid made 39 saves.

Brad Marchand scored the lone goal for the Bruins, who received 13 saves from Tuukka Rask.

Boucher scored the game-winner at 4:05 of the third period, snapping a 1-1 tie. After Kyle Palmieri had his shot blocked, Zajac snapped a pass across the ice to an open Boucher, who whipped a shot past Rask before the goalie could shift across the net.

Despite holding a 24-12 shots advantage, the Bruins were merely tied with the Devils after two periods.

Zajac scored a power-play goal while the Bruins were without Patrice Bergeron, their top penalty-killing forward who was in the box for high sticking. Zajac took a pass from Boucher and snapped a shot from the middle of the ice that beat Rask far side to make it 1-0 with 3:01 left in the first period.



ED MULHOLLAND | USA TODAY

New Jersey Devils goalie Keith Kinkaid (right) makes a save against Boston Bruins left wing Loui Eriksson (left) during the first period at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, on Tuesday night.

The Bruins trailed until early in the second period, when Marchand scored his 35th goal. Marchand accepted a pass from defenseman Zdeno Chara, split Devils defenseman Adam Larsson and Andy Greene before faking out Kinkaid for a backhand goal to make it 1-1.

In the third period, the Bruins had multiple golden opportunities to tie the game. Matt Beleskey had a chance to put a rebound into a gaping net with about eight minutes remaining, but Kinkaid managed to get enough of the attempt to preserve the lead.

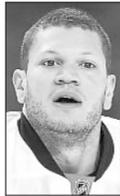
Shots on goal in the third period were 16-3 in favor of the Bruins, giving Boston a 40-15 edge on the night.

NOTES: Bruins RW Lee Stempniak played his first game in New Jersey since he was traded by the Devils to Boston on Feb. 29. Stempniak still ranks third for the Devils with 15 goals and 41 points. ... The Bruins made D Tyler Randall and D Zach Trotman healthy scratches. ... The Bruins signed Yale D

Rob O'Gara and Miami (Ohio) C Sean Kuraly to entry-level deals. ... Devils G Cory Schneider hopes he can return Thursday after missing 11 games with a knee injury. ... Devils G Scott Wedgewood was on the bench for the first time since making his NHL debut on March 20.

Islanders 2, Hurricanes 1

NEW YORK — Kyle Okposo scored the only goal of the shootout on Tuesday night as the New York Islanders helped their position in the Eastern Conference playoff race with a come-from-behind 2-1 win over the Carolina Hurricanes at Barclays Center.



Okposo

With their second overtime or shootout victory over the Hurricanes in as many games, the Islanders (41-25-9) moved four points ahead of the idle Phil-

adelphia Flyers in the race for the Eastern Conference's first wild card and ensured they'd stay at least two points ahead of the Detroit Red Wings, who began the day in ninth place.

Anders Lee scored on a power play with 7:52 left in the third period for the Islanders, who have won three of four (3-1-0) after a 1-4-2 skid.

Goalie Thomas Greiss made 26 saves in regulation and overtime before turning back all three shots he faced in the shootout.

Center Derek Ryan scored for the Hurricanes (33-28-16), whose flickering playoff hopes dimmed with their seventh loss in nine games (2-2-5).

Carolina goalie Cam Ward had 30 saves in regulation and overtime.

The Islanders dominated the third period before Lee's equalizer. Nick Leddy was just wide of the net on a breakaway seconds before Ward turned back a shot by Josh Bailey.

By the time Lee redirected a shot by John Tavares to tie the score, the Islanders had outshot the Hurricanes 9-1 in the period.

Ryan's second NHL goal provided the lone highlight of a meandering first 40 minutes in which the two teams combined for just 35 shots.

The 29-year-old helped set up the goal by pestering Bailey along the left boards. Bailey briefly shook Ryan and controlled the puck, but his pass intended for Calvin de Haan ticked off the stick of Nathan Gerbe. Ryan, pursuing the play, picked up the loose puck, eluded Bailey and fired a shot through de Haan and under the glove of Greiss.

Lebanon Valley rallies by UMPI in 9th inning

ANNVILLE, Pennsylvania — Glenn Dietrich's RBI single to right center in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted the Lebanon Valley Flying Dutchmen to an 8-7 baseball victory over the University of Maine-Presque Isle Owls on Tuesday.

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

UMPI had tied the game in the top of the inning when Matt Curry's double to right center plated Matt Cauchon.

Greg Orlando turned in a 5-for-5 effort for the Dutchmen (10-10) while Marshall Kiessling added three hits and Zach Smith singled twice and drove in two runs.

Matt Curry recorded two doubles, a single and RBI to spark UMPI (4-14). Adam Begos chipped in with three hits and an RBI while Ryan Sanderson added two hits and an RBI.

USM 16, Framingham St. 5

At Northborough, Mass., Sam Dexter hit his first

two home runs of the season, with a career-high six RBIs as the University of Southern Maine (7-4) rolled by Framingham State (3-8).

Dexter had an RBI double in the first inning to help USM build a 2-0 lead. He hit a two-run homer in his third turn at bat in the fifth inning, and had a three-run shot to cap off a six-run seventh inning.

Nick DiBiase and Jake Glauser and Kip Richard also had three hits for the Huskies.

Softball

Southern Virginia sweeps UMPI

At Buena Vista, Virginia, Southern Virginia held the UMaine-Presque Isle Owls to five hits to earn a 5-1 victory in the first game of a doubleheader.

Southern Virginia won the second game 8-3 for a twinbill sweep.

Muse struck out eight and walked two in the first game

to spark Southern Virginia (10-4).

Rachael Moore notched three hits while Sarah Edwards and Brianna McGuire each drove in two runs.

Sara Packard hit a solo homer for the Owls.

In the second game, Tara Hilton recorded a triple and two singles to lead Southern Virginia while Muse, Annie Clark and Jordan Stites each added two hits and drove in a run.

Hannah Williams, Carly Bell, Packard, Mikayla Churchill and Nicole Marcussi each singled for UMPI.

On Monday, UMPI swept New Rochelle (N.Y.) in a doubleheader 18-1 and 23-1.

Packard hit a solo homer for UMPI in the first game and Katie Patenaude finished with three hits and an RBI. Williams and Dalynn Jacobs each chipped in with two hits while Williams drove in a run.

In the second game, Patenaude smacked two home runs, a solo shot and a three-

Outrage

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Super Bowls in Florida since 1998. The College Football Playoff title game will be in Tampa next year. Shouldn't the NBA threaten to move the 2019 NBA Finals away from Orlando if the state keeps codifying inequality?

OK, that last one's a joke. Sort of like the NCAA's stance in Houston.

Remember the furor around last year's Final Four in Indianapolis after Indiana passed a law allowing busi-

nesses to refuse to bake wedding cakes for gay couples?

"The NCAA national office and our members are deeply committed to providing an inclusive environment for all our events," NCAA president Mark Emmert said.

Last November, Houston voters overwhelmingly struck down an ordinance making it harder to discriminate against LGBT people. The focal point was using public bathrooms based on gender identification.

In English, that means you have to use the room that matches your biological equipment. That's also a key

feature in the Charlotte debate.

Guess where the Final Four is this weekend?

Here's hoping a transgender person doesn't use the wrong bathroom at Houston's NRG Stadium, because the NCAA sure isn't going to bail them out. It said there wasn't enough time to even consider moving the event.

God created the heaven and earth in six days, but the NCAA can't move a Final Four with only five months notice? And lest we forget, guess where the next Super Bowl is?

Same city, same bathrooms.

Different NFL than Georgia has been dealing with.

Texas owner Bob McNair even donated \$10,000 to the bathroom-ordinance movement. He rescinded it when his donation became public. Even the supposed bad guys in this battle can't keep their principles straight.

As the Final Four ends, TBS should show something that truly illustrates how leagues are handling these battles. Instead of "One Shining Moment," it should show clips of a Marx Brothers movie.

I suggest "Horse Feathers."

Red Sox

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play center field anymore.

"There's competition happening at certain positions. We've seen that play out to date," Farrell said. "There's nothing unhealthy with competition and knowing that performance earns and generates more playing time."

"Every day is a competition — every single day, every moment," said Sandoval last week. "Every guy competes to be better and better. Every guy here is working together to be better and better, so that's good."

Of course, such competition doesn't always lend itself to the long-term view baseball often requires. Spring training doesn't allow for simple one-to-one evaluations, and what's best for the team today isn't always best for the team this week or this year or over these next few years. For instance, re-signing Jacoby Ellsbury would undoubtedly have made the 2014 Red Sox a better team. But few would argue today that it would have been a wise long-term strategy.

How does Farrell balance those competing perspectives as the field manager?

"We're not playing for tomorrow," he said. "It's kind of similar to how you're managing a bullpen over 162 games, but you're also managing for today. I can't control what tomorrow brings. Players have to feel your trust, and that trust is a two-way street."

Maintaining that trust figures to be critical. Players respond differently to daily pressures on their playing time; some thrive and others wilt when a brief hitless stretch can influence their daily spot in the lineup. We all know that betting on small samples isn't the wisest long-term strategy. For Farrell and the Red Sox, outlining roles — even within a fluid, competitive framework — could be key.

Even more so than usual, Boston needs to get off to a strong start in 2016. The Red Sox play 13 of their first 16 games against divisional opponents. Their first 19 games are against teams that won at least 80 games last year. They'll play those contests without a mid-rotation starter in Eduardo Rodriguez and an important set-up man in Carson Smith.

A good start would reduce the worries brought on by consecutive last-place finishes and a far-from-ideal spring. As important as anything else, it would lessen the daily talk of Farrell's job security.

UMaine

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but think he was needed in the starting rotation.

"We get through Florida where we didn't have a lot of save situations and he wasn't pitching," Trimper said, "so



Trimper

here I am saying as the head coach, one of our best pitchers is sitting around. Getting into conference [play], it changes a little bit.

We've got to try to win everything we can, so we wanted to try to give him a start."

Trimper had told Fullmer, who was ready to serve as the closer during Saturday's doubleheader, that he would start the finale if he had not pitched.

Switching from a quick warm-up with a sense of ur-

Farrell said he didn't have time to concern himself with his job last fall, not while undergoing rigorous chemotherapy treatments for cancer — "that's pretty all-consuming," he said.

While he acknowledges a wider perspective of gratitude derived from that battle, he said it has not affected his own competitive drive as he heads into his fourth season as Boston's manager. Asked if he had any concerns that his private life — a local television reporter recently resigned amid rumors of a relationship with the manager, and Farrell said he is in the process of a divorce — would affect how he goes about his job, Farrell said, "Not one bit."

"I am completely focused and committed, and I can't wait for this season to begin," he said. "There's always urgency in Boston. The expectation to win never leaves us. Despite the outcomes of the last two years, you're always trying to provide opportunity, do what's right for the team. To me, that urgency exists as we come out of the gate here to win and get off to a good start."

Ortiz honored

David Ortiz went hitless in three at-bats Monday, but festivities to honor Ortiz, who was playing in his final spring training home game at Fort Myers, overshadowed the Orioles' 5-3 win.

Ortiz had a street named after him and he was escorted off the field after his final at-bat in the seventh inning by Red Sox greats Luis Tiant and Jim Rice as the David Ortiz farewell tour started.

Price to start opener

David Price will be Boston's opening day starter when the Red Sox travel to Cleveland to face the Indians on Monday.

The Red Sox made the announcement on Tuesday morning.

Price will face Indians' right-hander Corey Kluber, the 2014 American League Cy Young winner.



Price

Boston signed the 30-year-old free agent left-hander to a seven-year deal worth \$217 million in the offseason.

He finished second in the A.L. Cy Young Award voting last year after going 18-5 with a 2.45 ERA while pitching for both the Detroit Tigers and Toronto Blue Jays.

Price will be making this third straight opening day start, each with a different team.

gency as a closer to facing more protracted preparation for a much longer haul did not seem to adversely affect Fullmer.

"I doubled my innings in this one game, but it is what it is," he said. "I'm used to going one inning or two innings here and there, but once you get going you feel fine."

Fullmer, who has given up only seven hits and three runs in 17 1/3 innings, has struck out 27 and walked seven and owns a 1.56 earned run average. He is committed to doing whatever is needed.

"Whether it's closing, coming in mid-innings or starting, it doesn't really matter to me," he said.

Trimper saw enough Sunday to realize Fullmer may be able to effect the staff more as a starter.

"Next week, I'm sure we'll probably stick with the same and get him into a starting role [at Stony Brook]," he said.