

Coroner says former NFL player shot 8 times

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Former New Orleans Saints defensive end Will Smith's gunshot death was ruled a homicide by coroner Jeffrey Rouse.

On Wednesday Rouse said his preliminary autopsy results revealed Smith was shot eight times, with seven shots fired into his back.

"Seven of these wounds were penetrating in nature, with projectiles recovered and no corresponding exit wounds. These bullet tracks had entrance into the left upper back (1), left mid-back (2), left lower back (3), and left lateral chest wall (1). Many of these bullets perforated vital organs, including the lungs and heart," Rouse said.

The attorney for Smith's family

spoke for the first time Wednesday since the incident, which led to a second-degree murder charge for the alleged gunman, Cardell Hayes.

Hayes remains in custody with a \$1 million bail. His own attorney argued Monday that Hayes felt threatened after being rear-ended by Smith, who blocks later told Hayes he was armed.

Peter M. Thomson countered Wednesday that Hayes was intent on ramming Smith's car and was "enraged" Saturday night in New Orleans when he allegedly shot Smith.

Pitta restructures contract

Tight end Dennis Pitta restructured his contract to stay with the Baltimore Ravens as he attempts

to return from his second significant hip injury.

Pitta signed a five-year, \$32 million contract in March of 2014, and was due to earn \$5 million in base salary in 2016 along with \$2.2 million of his prorated signing bonus for a total salary cap hit of \$7.2 million. He was due to count \$7.7 million against the cap in each of the final two years of the deal. Terms of the restructured deal were not disclosed, although Pitta will have the opportunity to earn some of his reduced pay back through incentives.

Pitta missed the entire 2015 season after re-injuring his hip injury originally sustained on Sept. 21, 2014 at Cleveland. That came after recovering from a dislocated and

fractured hip suffered during the preseason in 2013.

Bengals exercise option on Eifert

The Cincinnati Bengals exercised the fifth-year option on tight end Tyler Eifert's rookie contract. Eifert is now signed through the 2017 season. The option is worth \$4.7 million.

Despite missing three games and most of a fourth due to injuries last season, the 6-foot-6, 250-pound Eifert scored 13 touchdowns, a record by four for a Bengals tight end and only one short of the NFL lead for all players.

Eifert, who turns 26 in Week 1 of the 2016 season, had career highs

of 52 catches and 615 yards and was an initial ballot selection for the Pro Bowl.

Browns pick up Ford

The Cleveland Browns picked up tight end Chase Ford off waivers from the Baltimore Ravens.

The Ravens let Ford go on Tuesday after he signed a \$1.67 million restricted free agent a few weeks ago and also after tight end Dennis Pitta re-signed with the team.

The 6-foot-6, 245-pound Ford spent last season with the Minnesota Vikings and the Ravens. He was inactive for eight games with the Vikings and one with the Ravens before the team placed him on injured reserve.

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the regular season over their four years, and the last eight seasons we always made postseason play, so we really had a successful run," said Norsworthy, who compiled a 122-56 record at Washburn that included a 114-27 mark over the last seven seasons.

"The unfortunate thing was there were no Eastern Maine championships or state gold balls, but we really did very well the last six or seven years."

State's ADs honored

South Portland's Todd Livingston has been named recipient of the 2016 Robert Lahey Athletic Administrator of the Year award by the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Livingston has led the athletic department at his alma mater since October 2011 after stints as athletic director at Falmouth High School for five years and as assistant AD at Greely High School in Cumberland Center for four years.

Livingston was a three-sport standout at South Portland before going on to the



BDN FILE

Washburn head coach Randy Norsworthy, seen here during the 2015 Eastern Maine semifinals at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, has announced his retirement from coaching.

University of Maine, where he was an infielder on the baseball team.

Before getting into athletic administration, Livingston was head baseball coach at Massabesic High School of Waterboro and Cheverus High School in Portland.

Others honored during the MIAAA's recent annual spring conference at the Samsot Resort in Rockport were the following:

Craig Sickels, Freeport

High School: Martin E. Ryan, CMAA, Award of Excellence; Alfred "Bunky" Dow, Mount Desert Island High School of Bar Harbor; Gerald Durgin Award for Excellence in Leadership; Jason Fuller of Lewiston High School; NIAAA State Award of Merit;

Susan Robbins, Yarmouth High School; Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence; Tom Chard, Portland Press Herald (retired); MIAAA Print Media Award; Dave Eid,

WGME-TV: MIAAA Electronic Media Award; Bob Philbrick, Gorham: MIAAA Distinguished Service Award (local level);

Mike Haley, former administrator, official, coach and director for the Maine Shrine football program; Lawrence LaBrie MIAAA Distinguished Service Award (statewide); Rich Drummond, Windham High School: MIAAA Past Presidents Memorial Special Achievement Award.

Blood

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year at Belfast, two years at the former Mexico High School and 13 years at Hermon.

Blood became Brewer's head coach for the 2008-09 season and guided the Witches to a 14-5 record while earning Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class A co-coach of the year honors.

He left the job after one season for family reasons but returned as Brewer's freshman boys basketball coach for 2012-13.

Blood regained the varsity post a year later after Ben Goodwin resigned for job reasons and guided the Witches to postseason appearances each of the last two seasons with a core group of veterans that included 2016 KVAC all-stars Matt Pushard and Carter Smith.

Blood earned KVAC Class A coach of the year honors again last winter and capped off his four years at Brewer with a 41-35 record that brought his career total to more than 200 victories.

"He's always teaching," said Brewer athletic administrator Dave Utterback. "You see it in the classroom and on the basketball court. It's just a constant passion for teaching that you see in the way he delivers the message of what he wants the kids to do and how they should do it in his opinion. They're always watching him and when he speaks, they listen. The delivery really makes a difference there."

Blood's heart attack, which he described as between "mild" and "major," was followed by a procedure to place two stents in his arteries to facilitate better blood flow. It brought a sudden sense of uncertainty to his immediate teaching and coaching future last fall.

He was determined to return to both the classroom and the basketball court, but the latter hope was almost short-circuited on the day of Brewer's first game of the new season against Cony of Augusta when Blood had to return to the hospital.

"My blood pressure spiked again, and I had to fight to get out of the emergency room to get to the game on time," he said.

Blood did take his customary seat on the Brewer bench, and any further concerns that evening may have been alleviated by the Witches' 68-60 victory.

Blood credited assistant coaches Nick Arthers, Phil Pushard and Mark Savage for their support that night and throughout the winter.

"They were the biggest blessings I had this year. They were fantastic," he said. "The support I got from them for my physical well-being was tremendous — and I did need help because this season was hard. There

were games when I physically had to sit down."

Blood said he benefitted from being able to sleep in on Wednesdays during basketball season, per doctor's orders.

"If you think of a basketball coach with a Tuesday night game, that allowed me to make up school work and also basketball plans instead of getting home and then having to get right up again," Blood said.

Blood says he feels good these days.

"I've been walking, and the stents are working," he said.

He will miss the relationships he's made through basketball as well as with the students he has nurtured in his classroom.

"You teach people," he said. "It isn't just the subject matter you teach, and I've always felt that way with coaching, too. You teach people and you work with people. That's the big thing for me."

Husson baseball team sweeps UMF

FARMINGTON — Four pitchers combined on a five-hitter and the winning run scored on an error in the fifth inning as Husson University of Bangor nipped the University of Maine-Farmington 3-2 to complete a sweep of Wednesday's doubleheader.

Husson won the opener 3-1 behind Robert Graff's one-hitter.

In the nightcap, Alex Chapman singled and eventually scored on a two-out infield error to break a 2-2 tie in the fifth.

Husson's Ryan Rebar doubled home two runs in the fourth but the Beavers tied it in the bottom of the fourth on Jordan Croteau's two-out, RBI single.

Rebar also singled and Mike Wong doubled for Husson (13-1, 8-2 North Atlantic Conference).

Austin Smith, Steven Hanscom, Ben Holmes and Ben Walls teamed up on the five-hitter.

Nick Attaliades-Ryan had two singles for UMF (8-10, 1-7 NAC). Jimmy Neal pitched six innings of five-hit, three-run ball.

In the opener, Graff struck

out six and walked two while allowing just a one-out single to Tom Grady in the sixth inning.

J.T. Whitten's leadoff homer in the fourth broke a scoreless tie and Christian Corneil added an RBI single in the inning.

Whitten added a single and Corneil had a sacrifice fly, while Zach Sugar singled twice.

Mark Leahy tossed six innings of eight-hit, three-run ball for the Beavers.

USM 10, Colby 7

At Waterville, Sam Dexter laced a three-run triple to break a 7-7 tie in the 11th inning and spark the University of Southern Maine to victory over a Colby team for which his father Tom is an assistant coach.

Paul McDonough drove in three runs with three hits to lead the Huskies (15-5), who had overcome a 6-3 deficit. Sam Strauble stroked four hits and Kyle O'Connor posted two, while Jake Dexter hit an RBI triple.

Matt Mitchell, Andrew Carrier and Tommy Forese each had two hits and an RBI for Colby (5-14).

Softball

Thomas sweeps Husson

At O'Keefe Field in Bangor, junior Sonja Morse threw two complete games as Thomas College of Waterville swept Husson University 2-0 and 3-2.

In the nightcap, Morse fired a seven-hitter, striking out five and walking two, and Molly Carroll highlighted a three-run fourth inning with a two-run double after Lindsay Hoopingarner had singled home the first run.

Husson scored twice in the sixth behind Sami Cyr's RBI single and a run-producing error but the Eagles stranded the tying run at third.

Carroll had a single to go with her double for Thomas (7-12, 2-0 North Atlantic Conference).

Lexi Colpack and Hoopingarner had two singles each and Courtney Veilleux doubled. Lyndsay Merrill doubled and singled for Husson (5-17, 1-3 NAC) and Casey Lopes hit two singles. Kristen Chipman doubled.

In the opener, Morse threw a three-hitter, striking out 10 and walking three. She scored the winning run when she walked, raced to

third on Jordanna Agger's single and scored when Agger was caught stealing second after a rundown.

Pinch-hitter Michaella Arsenault singled home a seventh-inning run.

Agger singled twice for Thomas.

Merrill, Cyr and Brianna Bires singled for Husson and Alannah Healy tossed a four-hit complete game with six strikeouts and two walks.

Football

USC hires Swann as AD

USC named Lynn Swann as the Trojans' new athletic director to succeed Pat Haden on July 1, the school announced Wednesday.

The 64-year-old Swann, a Pro Football Hall of Famer, becomes the third consecutive former USC football player to hold the position.

Swann, a four-time Super Bowl champion with the Pittsburgh Steelers, won a national championship at USC while playing for coach John McKay in 1972. He is also a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

He graduated from the university with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

Pats waive 2014 first-round pick

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Defensive tackle Dominique Easley, a first-round pick in 2014 who ended his two seasons with the Patriots on injured reserve, is about to hit the waiver wire.

CSNNE.com's Tom Curran broke the news Wednesday that Easley was injured he would not have a role with the Patriots in 2016.

Easley was a surprising first-round pick out of Florida because of durability concerns. He had hip, ankle and thigh injuries during the 2015 season and was placed on injured reserve on Dec. 16 after playing in nine games and registering two sacks.

NFLDraftScout.com's Dane Brugler said in 2014 "He has an explosive first step and is extremely fluid for his size, showing lateral burst to attack gaps and win angles. Easley is a tough, high motor kid and forces the issue with his penetration, making an impact even if he doesn't get the sack or tackle. He is a high character person with a strong work ethic so if anyone can return from an injury like this, it's him."

The Patriots were active reloading at the position, signing former Redskins and Broncos nose tackle Terrance Knighton to a one-year, \$4.5 million contract and bringing back 31-year-old Alan Branch.

Easley is likely to be claimed considering his talent and the fact that at 23—he turns 24 the first day of the 2016 NFL Draft—he's younger than some prospects in the 2016 draft.

NHL

Leafs sign Rielly, Kadri

The Toronto Maple Leafs signed defenseman Morgan Rielly and forward Nazem Kadri to new six-year contracts on Wednesday.

They both could have become restricted free agents on July 1.

Rielly, 22, led all Maple

Leafs' defensemen with a career-high 36 points (nine goals, 27 assists) while skating in all 82 games this year. The native of Vancouver, British Columbia, also led the team with 23:13 of average ice time per game. Since entering the league in 2013-14, Rielly has collected 92 points (19 goals, 73 assists) in 236 regular-season games.

Kadri, 25, led the Maple Leafs with 45 points (17 goals, 28 assists) in 76 games this season. In parts of seven NHL seasons, the London, Ontario, native has registered 197 points (81 goals, 116 assists) and 207 penalty minutes in 326 regular-season games.

Rangers recall Hrivik

The New York Rangers recalled forward Marek Hrivik from the Hartford Wolf Pack of the American Hockey League.

Hrivik, 24, skated in five games with the Rangers this season, registering one assist and a plus-three rating. He made his NHL debut on Feb. 21 and tallied his first career NHL assist/point on Feb. 23 at New Jersey. Hrivik also recorded two shots on goal, posted a plus-one rating, and led all Rangers forwards with 18:18 of ice time on April 9 against Detroit.

The 6-foot-2, 205-pound Hrivik skated in 68 games with the Wolf Pack this season, recording 41 points (12 goals, 29 assists) and 18 penalty minutes.

Coyotes to retain Tippett

After Arizona fired general manager Don Maloney on Monday, the Coyotes made a point to let it be known that coach Dave Tippett was in no danger.

President and CEO Anthony LeBlanc said Tippett, who has two years left on his contract, would be back. Tippett also had a chance to leave and decided against exercising an out clause in his contract. According to reports, the Coyotes will give Tippett more control over player personnel.

Barron

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Barron said. "We're very happy here. It would take something extraordinary for us to leave."

He explained that despite Maine's mid-major status, it beats some big-time programs.

"People care here. You can't put a price tag on that," said Barron.

Barron, the 2015 America East Coach of the Year, said it would have been a bad time to make a move with eight incoming freshmen replacing an exceptional, eight-member senior class.

"Clearly, I wouldn't want to abandon them," said Barron, whose teams won just 12 games in his first two seasons. "This is an exciting time based on where we've gotten and where I think the ceiling is for the program."

He has led Maine to three straight postseason appearances, including two consecutive bids to the Women's NIT. Maine has evolved into a major member of the Mid-Major Top 25 poll, finishing 2016 ranked 16th.

Maine's home attendance (2,077 fans per game last season) has increased by 63 percent during his tenure and the Black Bears have gone 25-2 at the Cross Insurance Center the last two years.

Barron said he is excited about the fact the early rounds of the America East tournament will be played at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland the next two years.

Maine's success on the court continues to be matched by its community service and academic excellence.

Academically, the Black Bears finished the 2014-15 season ranked 24th nationally in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Academic Top 25 Honor Roll with a 3.399 grade point average. For 2015, all 16 team members were recognized at UMaine's Academic Awards night for achieving individual GPAs of 3.0 or better.

Team members also are attached to the community, participating in numerous clinics, school visits and holiday service events.

"We are extremely delighted to have coach Barron staying at the University of Maine," said Creech in a press release. "Coach Barron's team has become a model of excellence on the court, in the classroom, and throughout the community. We are happy with the growth and success of the women's basketball program over the last five years but even more excited about the future of this program under his guidance."