

Boxers to highlight Lewiston fight card

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

Boxing will have a prominent role in New England Fights' next promotion, NEF 24, scheduled for June 18 at the Androscoggin Bank Colisee in Lewiston as three of the state's top professional pugilists will appear at the combined boxing-MMA show.

Russell “The MMA Haitian Sensation” Kramlich, both from the Portland Boxing Club, and Brandon “The Cannon” Berry of West Forks all will be featured in separate bouts.

Lamour (13-2) will make his NEF debut in a middleweight bout against Mexican veteran Roberto “El Viejo” Valenzuela (69-71-2, 56 KOs).

A Brooklyn, New York, native and graduate of Deering High

School in Portland, Lamour compiled a 79-16 amateur boxing record — a run that included five New England Golden Gloves championships. He also competed in the semi-pro World Series of Boxing where he was the top-ranked middleweight in the Americas.

Lamour then won his first 11 professional bouts as well as capturing the vacant USA New England middleweight title and competing on ESPN's Friday Night Fights before a national audience.

Lamour last fought a month ago, winning by technical knockout over Borngod Washington in Salem, New Hampshire.

Kramlich (4-0-1) will battle Zenon Herrera (0-1) in a four-round super welterweight contest.

Earlier this spring, Kramlich handed Boston's Jason Kelly (5-1)

his first pro loss in Salem, New Hampshire. He dominated the first two rounds before Kelly was unable to answer the bell for round three.

Berry (11-1-1) will put his Northeast junior welterweight title on the line in a rematch against James Lester (10-9-1) of Detroit, Michigan.

Berry and Lester met earlier this year at NEF 22 in Lewiston, but the six-round bout was judged a majority draw.

This time, a seventh round has been added to help determine a clear winner.

Berry won his Northeast title in October 2014 against West Virginia Toughman champion Eric Palmer (4-3-3), and the draw with Lester ended a three-fight win streak that included a unanimous decision over Valenzuela.

Lester comes from the world-famous Kronk Gym in Detroit.

Area fighters set for regional, national tests

One reason NEF may be gearing its June show toward boxing is because several MMA fighters with Maine ties will be busy competing on regional and national cards elsewhere this month.

Ryan Sanders (10-7) of Young's MMA in Bangor will challenge Luis Felix (14-9) for the CES MMA lightweight championship as the main event of CES 36 on June 10 at the Twin River Casino in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

Sanders stopped Felix in the second round of their non-title catchweight fight earlier this year after Felix reportedly suffered a knee injury, and their rematch will be broadcast nationally by AXS-TV.

Also at CES 36 will be Jon Lemke (5-4) of Team Irish MMA Fitness Academy in Brewer, who will face Josh LaBerge (10-5) of

Fall River, Massachusetts, in a lightweight test.

The following weekend, former NEF lightweight champion Bruce Boyington of Young's MMA and Boyington's Taekwondo Academy will be among three fighters with Maine connections on the undercard of the June 17 World Series of Fighting show at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut.

Boyington (13-8) will attempt to score his second straight win under the WSOF banner when he battles Boston's Saul Almeida (18-6) in a lightweight clash.

Also at WSOF 31 will be two current NEF champions, heavyweight Tyler King of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, and lightweight Devin Powell of South Berwick.

King (10-4) will face Lorenzo Hood (9-3), and Powell (6-1) will put his four-fight winning streak on the line against Tommy Marcellino (7-4).

Oceanside's Mazurek shuts out Presque Isle

THOMASTON — Nick Mazurek pitched a complete game one-hit shut-out, striking out 11 and walking none to lead the fifth-

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

ranked Oceanside Mariners by the No. 12 Presque Isle Wildcats 6-0 in a Class B North high school baseball prelim Monday.

Mazurek aided his own cause and gave the Mariners a lead it would not relinquish with a first-inning RBI double.

Oceanside added five runs in the fourth inning on Hunter Davis' RBI single, Thomas Curtis' two-run double with runs also scoring on an error and wild pitch. Davis finished with two singles.

Cooper Madore's leadoff single in the seventh was Presque Isle's only hit.

Oceanside improved to 13-4 and advanced to a 4 p.m. Thursday quarterfinal against No. 4 Erskine Academy in South China. Presque Isle finished at 6-11.

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Oceanside 100 500 x — 6 7 2
Nadeau, Winger (4) and Rider; Mazurek and Sprague

Class B Belfast 2, Gardiner 1

At Gardiner, the ninth-ranked Belfast Lions edged the No. 8 Gardiner Tigers in a Class B North prelim to earn a berth in the quarterfinal round.

Emery Dinsmore struck out eight batters to spark the Lions while Lucien Gordley-Smith, Skylar Perkins and Zachary Smith each notched a hit.

Gardiner finished with a 9-8 record while Belfast improved to 10-7 and will visit Old Town to take on the top-ranked Coyotes (15-1) at a date to be announced.

Class D Central Aroostook 2, Shead 1

At Eastport, Alan Rideout earned a complete-game win with a four-hitter to lead the No. 12 Central Aroostook Panthers by the No. 5 Shead Tigers in a Class D North prelim.

Rideout and Dustin Pryor each scored a run for the Panthers while Pryor also added a single.

Philip Farrell took the tough-luck loss for Shead as he allowed just three hits in a complete-game effort. Ryan Eylar doubled, singled and scored a run while Riley Demolet added a single and an RBI.

The Panthers are now 6-8 while Shead finished at 14-3.

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Rideout and Pryor; Farrell and Eylar

Softball Class A Mt. Ararat 12, Brewer 2

At Coffin Field in Brewer, the ninth-ranked Eagles of Topsham jumped on the No. 9 Witches early and maintained control throughout the game to earn the Class A prelim victory.

Mt. Ararat tallied 17 hits, its first three batters combining for 10 of those. Katelyn Cox recorded four hits while Zoe Stilphen and Alana Weaver had three each.

Weaver also pitched a complete game to earn the win, holding Brewer to five hits.

Jordan Goodrich was the only multiple hitter for Brewer with a single and a double.

The Eagles improved to 10-7 and the Witches finished at 8-9.

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Weaver and Temple; Chapman, Davis (4) and Sellars

‘A’ North team tennis championships moved

AUGUSTA — The Class A North boys and girls high school team tennis championship matches have been moved from Tuesday to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and will now be played at Bates College in Lewiston instead of the University of Maine in Orono, the Maine Principals' Association announced Monday.

The changes were made because of the uncertainty of the weather, facilities, staffing and conflicts with end-of-year events at the schools, according to Gerry Durgin, the Maine Principals' Association's assistant executive director.

The matchups are No. 4 Mt. Blue of Farmington (11-3) against No. 3 Lewiston (11-3) in the boys final and No. 1 Lewiston (14-0) will battle No. 2 Brunswick (13-1) in the girls final.

The Classes B and C North championships are still set for Tuesday at UMaine, and the South championships will take place on Thursday at Bates.

The North C matches will begin at 9:30 a.m. and feature No. 1 George Stevens

Academy of Blue Hill (12-2) against No. 2 Orono (11-3), and No. 1 Mattanawcook Academy of Lincoln (12-2) will take on No. 2 GSA in the girls final.

In the North B matches at 1 p.m., No. 4 Caribou (13-1) will challenge No. 2 Camden Hills (13-1) in the boys final, and No. 2 Waterville (14-0) will meet No. 4 Camden Hills (12-2) in the girls final.

Thursday's schedule for the South championships will be Class C at 9:30 a.m., followed by Class B at 1 p.m. and Class A at 4:30 p.m.

The matchups are: boys — Class A, No. 1 Thornton Academy of Saco (14-0) vs.

No. 2 Falmouth (14-0); Class B, No. 5 York (8-6) vs. No. 3 Cape Elizabeth (12-2); Class C, No. 3 Hall-Dale of Farmingdale (13-1) vs. No. 4 Waynflete of Portland (12-2); girls — Class A, No. 1 Falmouth (14-0) vs. No. 2 Scarborough (14-0); Class B, No. 8 York (8-6) vs. No. 2 Cape Elizabeth (11-3); and Class C, No. 1 St. Dominic of Auburn (14-0) vs. No. 6 Waynflete (8-6).

The state championships are set for Saturday at Lewiston High School.

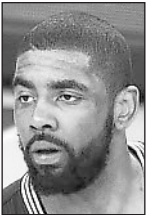
Irving, Love were supposed to make Cavs better

BY TIM BONTEMPS
THE WASHINGTON POST

CLEVELAND — With Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love watching from the sidelines last spring, the Cleveland Cavaliers pushed the Golden State Warriors to six games in the NBA Finals.

So, the thinking went, with both of Cleveland's supporting

“I think we're much better,” Thompson said. “I think we know what to expect on this stage, first off, and I don't think anyone's going to be nervous out there like we were last year. I think including myself, a lot of guys were probably nervous for the first game. There's obviously unfamiliar territory, but now we know what to expect.”



Irving



Love

The second reason, though, has become increasingly obvious through Golden State's two comfortable victories to begin this best-of-seven

series: The Cavaliers were a far superior defensive team with Irving and Love on the bench.

Last season, Cleveland used a physically imposing front line of LeBron James, Tristan Thompson and Timofey Mozgov to attack the Warriors on the glass — a tactic the Oklahoma City Thunder also utilized during their battle with Golden State in the Western Conference finals. But the presence of Thompson in place of Love and Matthew Dellavedova in place of Irving meant the Cavaliers went from having subpar defenders

playing at point guard and power forward to having above average ones.

The difference between having Irving and Love on the floor through these first two games — at least before Love left the third quarter of Game 2 with dizziness following an inadvertent blow to the head by Harrison Barnes and is following the concussion protocol — has been startling. Golden State shot 49 percent in Game 1, despite terrible games from Stephen Curry and Thompson, before shooting 54 percent in Game 2.

Golden State has been able to get whatever it wants offensively even without getting to the foul line, converting 16 of 20 free throws through the opening two games.

“I would say we'd like to get to the free throw line a little more,” Curry said. “We're probably going to need to do that in Cleveland. But some things, the way they guard and what might be open, you know, shots-wise, might cater to that lack of a lot of free throws.”

In other words: If the Warriors keep consistently getting wide-open looks like they have through the first two games of this series, they don't even need to get to the line.

Therein lies the challenge for the Cavaliers. In the time

between Sunday night's 110-77 massacre in Oakland and Game 3 in Cleveland on Wednesday night, the Cavaliers have to figure out a way to slow down the Warriors enough to give themselves a chance to win. Cleveland was able to get this far by outscoring its opponents in the Eastern Conference — none of whom had anywhere near enough balance to consistently take advantage of the Cavaliers' defensive frailties.

Not surprisingly, facing off with the team that set an NBA record with 73 regular season wins — one that continues to pile on evidence as to why it should be considered the greatest team of all time — has led to a stress level that appears to have the Cavaliers near a breaking point.

“It's hard for me to pinpoint what's not working, and what could work right now,” James said. “We can't have as many mental lapses. ... These guys put you in so many mental positions where you have to figure it out, and they make you pay for it when you don't.”

Through the opening two games of the Finals, the Warriors have made the Cavaliers pay dearly. And, as the series shifts back to Cleveland, what's at stake now isn't just the state of this series, but the future of this roster.

Marshawn Lynch confirms he's retiring from NFL

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

KIRKLAND, Washington — After months of speculation about whether he may try to play one more season, running back Marshawn Lynch confirmed he plans to retire from the NFL.

Lynch was placed on the reserve/retired list by the Seattle Seahawks last month, but has yet to file his retirement papers with the league, fueling speculation he may return for a final season — perhaps with his hometown Oakland Raiders. But he confirmed in a joint 60 Minutes Sports/Sports Illustrated segment that he is done with football.

“No I'm done. I'm done,” he told Sports Illustrated in a segment that will appear on ‘60 Minutes Sports’ on Showtime on Tuesday night. “I enjoyed my time playing,

now it's time to watch my cousins do their thing.”

Lynch, 30, played nine NFL seasons, but was bothered by hamstring and abdominal injuries while rushing for 417 yards on 111 carries in 2015. That came after rushing for at least 1,200 yards in each of his previous four full seasons with the Seahawks. He returned for the team's playoff loss at the Carolina Panthers, rushing for only 20 yards on six carries after having not played since Week 11 due to the abdominal injury.

If he stays retired, Lynch will finish his career with 9,112 rushing yards and 74 touchdowns on 2,144 carries, and another 1,979 yards and nine touchdowns on 252 receptions.

However, agent Doug Hendrickson said he wouldn't close the door on anything with his unpredictable client.

“Well, I know, I think if you could write the perfect story as far as the last year of his career, if he played, come back to Oakland, it makes sense right? But the reality is, look, he told me he's done,” Hendrickson told Sports Illustrated. “With Marshawn, I'll never say never.”

Bills sign No. 1 pick Lawson

The Buffalo Bills announced the signing of first-round pick Shaq Lawson, an outside linebacker from Clemson, on Monday.

Terms of Lawson's rookie deal were not released, but Pro Football Talk reports the contract spans four seasons with a team option for a fifth year.

“It felt great to finally get the deal done and be part of the Buffalo Bills,” Lawson told the team's website. “I've

been waiting for this opportunity. It's something I dreamt of as a kid — have a chance to play in the National Football League.”

Lawson, the No. 19 overall pick in this year's draft, underwent shoulder surgery in May and is expected to miss training camp and the beginning of the regular season.

The 21-year-old had 167 tackles, 46.5 tackles for losses, 20 sacks and two forced fumbles during his 41-game college career with the Tigers.

In 2015, he led the country with 25.5 tackles for losses and was a consensus first-team All-American.

Cardale Jones, a quarterback from Ohio State selected by the Bills in the fourth round, is the team's only remaining unsigned draft pick.

cluding ones involving the Veazies and Theberge.

She said her players will work hard, but they will also have fun.

“I don't believe in all-work, no-play. I like to have a good time,” said Cunningham, who will insist on having a close-knit team.

“Chemistry is a key part of being a team,” she said. “We're going to set expectations. I believe we can be a good team. I hope we will be.”

Cunningham expects to get involved with the youth program in Waterville so she can establish a culture and pipeline like the one in Dexter.

“I began playing in second grade,” she said.

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