

Reynolds leads Searsport by Valley in Class D South title

SUN JOURNAL

STANDISH — Troy Reynolds was setting them down early.

The Searsport senior had 11 strikeouts through the first four innings on his way to 15 in a seven-inning, complete-game effort to lead the Vikings to a 6-2 victory over Valley in the Class D South baseball final on Wednesday at St. Joseph's College.

"He struck out a lot, and he walked a few. He didn't have his 'A' game," Searsport coach John Frye said. "It was a struggle out there today for him to throw. You know what? Even with him at his 'B/C' game, he's better than most pitchers we see. He battled all day, but he came up big."

Reynolds threw 162 pitches, allowing eight walks on four hits. He also pitched in last year's regional and state finals, both of which the defending Class D champs won.

His counterpart, the Cavaliers' Cody Laweryson, who's headed to the University of Maine to play baseball, also

went the distance, striking out seven while allowing five hits and walking two.

Missed opportunities cost Valley. Reynolds never had a clean inning, but Valley left runners on in each stanza. The Cavaliers loaded the bases in the fourth, and they left two on in the fifth and sixth innings.

"We stranded too many guys," Valley coach Scott Laweryson said. "We made way too many mistakes in the game."

Searsport (16-3) capitalized on Valley's errors in the bottom of the first. Eric Phillips reached on error by shortstop Luke Malby. Kyle Moore drove him in from first with a double over Brandon Thomas' head in center field.

Mitchell Philbrook reached first when the ball took a bad bounce over Malby into left field, and Moore advanced to third. Moore scored when Valley couldn't turn a double play.

Searsport added a run in bottom of the third when Barrett Grant led off with a walk. He scored when Eric Phillips grounded out.

The Vikings added three more in the bottom of the fifth.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

Old Town's Troy Crawford slides safely to second before Hermon's Zach Nash can get the ball during their Class B North championship baseball game on Wednesday at Mansfield Stadium in Bangor.

Old Town

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six-inning stint with two strikeouts and no walks, and took a no-hitter into the bottom of the fifth before Austin Sheehan hit a one-out single to right and Gifford beat out a slow chopper to third base for an infield hit.

A wild pitch advanced the runners to second and third, then T.J. Crawford grounded to second base and Sheehan beat Alex Applebee's throw home for the game's first run.

"I had two strikes on me, and I knew I had to get the bat on the ball," said Crawford. "I tried to place it between second and first, and our baserunners are smart, [Sheehan] ran smart and got the run."

Gifford scored on an errant throw to third by catcher Christian Greener as Crawford was stealing second.

That was more than Gifford needed, as he retired the final 10 batters he faced.

Curry

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"There's kind of an expectation of the all-time greats in this league that have had great Finals moments," Curry told reporters on Wednesday.

"None of them played for this team and understood how I try to help my team every single night."

Curry's scoring line through the opening three games of the Finals — 11, 18 and 19 points — prompted him to say he had to play "a hundred times better" after Golden State's embarrassing 30-point Game 3 loss that cut their series lead to 2-1.

He responded in style by scoring a game-high 38

"I thought both teams played a great game," said Kinney. "We made a couple of mistakes, and they took advantage. That's basically the way it happened."

The victory was a long-awaited one for Old Town, which lost a nine-inning heartbreaker to Caribou in the 2014 regional final and had an undefeated regular season last spring before the state's 2015 Mr. Baseball, Eric Hoogterp, was injured and unable to pitch during postseason play, leaving the Coyotes to fall to Winslow in the semifinals.

Then Old Town veteran pitcher Dana Ouellette went out for the season with an ankle early this spring, leaving the Coyotes needing to regroup quickly.

"We lost Dana Ouellette, and we thought that was going to set us back," said Crawford, "but we fought through it."

"Knowing we have one more game is a great feeling. We've worked hard every day in practice. We've put our hearts into it, and it's paying off."

points to give his team a commanding 3-1 series lead but then struggled on his home court three nights later with a chance to close out the LeBron James-led Cavaliers.

Curry managed 25 points in the Game 5 loss but was a mere 8-for-21 shooting with four turnovers, a performance that will only put more focus on him when the Warriors get a second chance to end the series.

"I was out there doing what I was trying to do to help our team win and it didn't work," said Curry. "So that happens in sports."

"It happens in our game, and nothing's going to stop me from coming back and doing what I do to help lead my team in Game 6. So I'm comfortable with that."

Wright pitches Red Sox past Orioles

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON — Steven Wright continued his marvelous first half, helping the Boston Red Sox back into a tie with the Baltimore Orioles atop the American League with a 6-4 victory Wednesday night.

The knuckleballer, who made the Red Sox rotation out of spring training only because of an injury to Eduardo Rodriguez, won his fifth straight start and raised his record to 8-4 with 7 1/3 strong innings as Boston evened the early first-place showdown at a game apiece.

Hanley Ramirez hit his first home run in a span of 105 at-bats since May 10, a three-run shot that left Fenway Park entirely in a five-run third inning. Ramirez also had a single and a walk for the Red Sox, who chased Orioles starter Kevin Gaus-

man (0-4) in three innings.

Wright, who came into the game leading the American League with a 2.09 ERA, had it down to 1.93 before Adam Jones crushed a two-run homer in the sixth inning. Wright finished with a 2.22 ERA.

He left with a runner on first and Junichi Tazawa gave up an RBI double to Matt Wieters before Jonathan Schoop singled Wieters home. That created a save situation for Craig Kimbrel, who worked a perfect ninth for his 15th save.

Wright's eighth win broke a three-way tie among him, David Price and Rick Porcello for the team lead in wins. He has allowed three earned runs over his last three starts and seven in 35 2/3 innings during his winning streak.

Xander Bogaerts and David Ortiz had two hits and an RBI apiece. Mookie Betts

and Dustin Pedroia also two hits apiece for Boston with both Pedroia and Betts making outstanding fielding plays behind Wright.

Gausman worked a perfect first and a walk to Ramirez was the only baserunner through 1 2/3 innings. But seven of the next eight hitters collected hits, capped by Ramirez's blast.

Travis Shaw doubled home a run in the second. Bogaerts and Ortiz delivered RBI singles before the Ramirez shot.

Wright pitched out of a jam in the inning and got a great diving play from Pedroia to aid a perfect fourth. Pedroia, playing to the left of the second base against Mark Trumbo, dove to his left for the shot up the middle and then threw Trumbo out.

NOTES: RHP Tyler Wilson will start the series finale for the Orioles on

Thursday night. He will face former Baltimore farmhand Eduardo Rodriguez. The Boston left-hander beat the Orioles in his first start off the disabled list May 31, but has faltered since — both Thursday starters dreadful in their last two starts. "It's all about consistent command," Red Sox manager John Farrell said of Rodriguez. "It's something he's done in the past and something he did in his first start against the Orioles. He threw six quality innings in Baltimore and has shown it in a few other starts. It's all about maintaining consistent command."... SS J.J. Hardy will come off the disabled list either Friday or Saturday, while RHP Yovani Gallardo comes off the DL to start against the Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday and C Caleb Joseph begins a minor league rehab this weekend.

Howlers

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struck out seven, but finally ran into some difficulty in the pivotal sixth inning when he walked two and was victimized by two errors.

In spite of their limited hits, the Howlers put the ball in play and ran the bases aggressively.

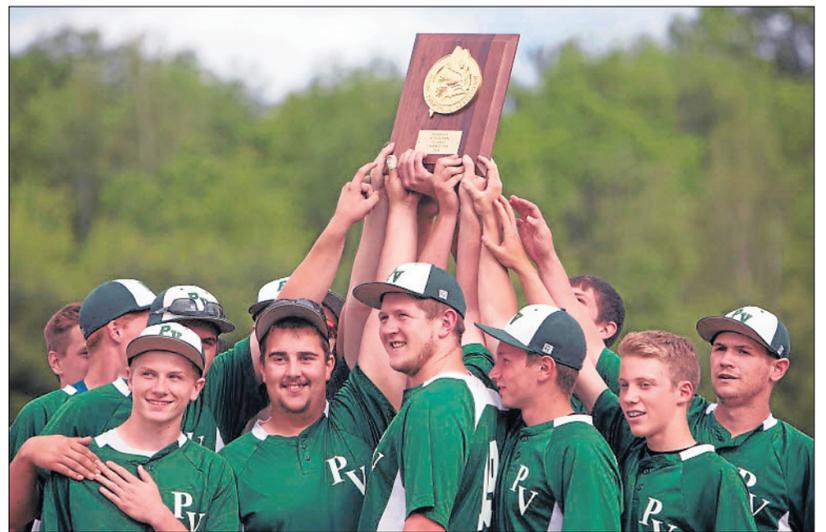
Grant Doane and Priest each had a single for Penobscot Valley, both in the fourth inning.

Coach John Ala's Tigers posted five hits, all singles, but could not come through in enough clutch situations. Malcolm Langner hit two singles and scored both runs for Fort Fairfield.

"We couldn't get the lead-off runner on base," Ala said. "It kind of kept us from being able to develop a big inning."

Trailing 2-1, Penobscot Valley rallied in the sixth. Freshman No. 9 batter McKechie sparked the rally with a soft grounder that resulted in a throwing error by the second baseman. McKechie moved up on a groundout and Batchelder worked a walk, then stole second.

Harvey walked Spencer, and Ball 4 was a wild pitch-



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

Penobscot Valley celebrates after defeating Fort Fairfield during their Class D North championship baseball game on Wednesday at Mansfield Stadium in Bangor.

that allowed the tying run to score. After Spencer stole second, Priest hit a fly ball that was dropped by the left fielder and plated the eventual winning run.

Priest atoned for his two errors by driving in two runs.

"You can't do anything but just let them go, because it's just going to get in your head longer," Priest said.

Bruce came on to get the last two outs.

"We had a costly error or

two here today, which was uncharacteristic," Ala said.

The Tigers grabbed a 1-0 lead with a two-out rally in the second inning. Langner lined an opposite-field single to right, then stole second. Joshua Ricker beat out an infield hit, and a run scored on a throwing error.

PVHS equalized in the fourth inning after Doane singled and stole second but was picked off second. Batchelder rekindled the rally with a walk and moved

up on a groundout, then scored on Priest's soft single to shallow center.

"Just the right hit at the right time and made our hits count," Spencer said of overcoming the limited hits.

Fort Fairfield regained the lead in the fifth. Langner singled and advanced on an errant pickoff throw by Spencer. Ricker got aboard on a fielding error that allowed the run to score.

Coyotes

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man was up and she knew in advance we wanted to get her to third. That's why we were trying to bunt. She played it really smart and it worked out perfectly for us."

Gasaway struck out but Kayla Hayward reached on a fielder's choice as Libby fielded her grounder and looked Richards back to third.

Libby then uncorked a wild pitch in the dirt which allowed Richards to score.

Old Town took the lead with an unearned run in the first inning as winning pitcher Olivia Albert reached on a two-out infield error, moved to second on King's soft line-drive single into left center and to third on a wild pitch before scoring on a passed ball.

Winslow tied it in the fourth on a Paige Veilleux single, her stolen base and Natalie Greene's crisp line-drive single to center.

Freshman righthander Albert pitched a complete game for her third playoff win, scattering seven hits with five strikeouts and two walks.

Winslow had scored 10 or more runs in 13 of its 16 regular season games.

"I did pretty good," said Albert, who is now 8-1. "I threw mostly curveballs. I also threw some changeups to throw them off. My de-

fense backed me up a lot. They made a lot of great plays. They definitely saved the game."

"Not many pitchers throw curves," said Winslow pitcher Libby. "It was harder to adjust to. We moved up in the box."

"We didn't hit like we usually do. We didn't connect with our bats today," said smooth-fielding Winslow senior center fielder Jenna Petrovic, who made three exceptional catches to take hits away from the Coyotes.

"Olivia had a lot of movement on her pitches again," said Old Town catcher Natalie St. Louis.

"She did an amazing job. You can't expect any more from a freshman," said Flourde.

Libby also turned in a gem.

She allowed just the two hits while striking out eight and walking one. She threw 62 strikes among her 102 pitches.

"It wasn't one of my better days. The mound was different. The field was completely different. Where I had my back foot, there was a little water spigot," said Libby. "But I can't let that affect how I play. I just went out there and played my hardest."

"She was a very good pitcher," said Richards. "She threw hard."

Winslow's Sarah Guimond was the game's lone repeat hitter with a double and a single.

Stearns

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fence in left center field for her 10th homer of the season.

"I was just looking to get on and move the runners," said McLeod. "As soon as I hit it, I knew it was gone."

"That grand slam really got us going," said Stearns coach Nick Cullen.

Madawaska scored its only run in the third on one-out singles by Alexis Levesque and Liz Theriault and Aspen Cote's run-scoring fielder's choice.

Stearns answered with four in the bottom of the third.

Abby Russell singled and Grace Farrington knocked her in with a double over left fielder Gabby Cyr's head.

Ingersoll singled and Al-ley's bunt single loaded the bases.

Girsa then drilled a ball that appeared to be headed for a grand slam but Madawaska center fielder Aspen Cote did a nice job getting her glove on the ball and keeping it in the park. So it wound up being an RBI single.

McLeod capped the rally with a sharp two-run ground-ball single to center.

Stearns scored its final two runs in the sixth on Russell's RBI single and Farrington's two-run single.

"I didn't throw my best game but I threw decent today," said Girsa. "My defense backed me up really well."

"We don't usually play against fast pitching, we aren't used to fast pitching," said Madawaska's Cote. "She was pretty close to the fastest we've seen."

"They got the timely hits," said Madawaska coach Matt Rossignol. "We had runners on base but we couldn't get a hit at key times, especially early on."

"Stearns has a lot of depth in their lineup. They don't make many mistakes and their pitcher is always around the strike zone," said Rossignol. "We don't see a lot of fast pitching in our league but I thought we put the ball in play pretty well."

"It was quite exciting. I'm pretty proud of us," said Cote.

Stearns had to adapt to the slow deliveries of freshman Jenna Dugal, who did not use the windmill delivery.

"It was hard to adjust to a slow pitcher," said McLeod. "But everybody did that really well."

In addition to McLeod's three hits, Farrington had two singles to go with her double and finished with three RBIs. Jamo had three singles and an RBIs and Russell and Ingersoll each singled twice.

Levesque doubled and singled for Madawaska and Dakota Cyr singled twice.

Baylor to settle with Briles

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Art Briles will not be brought back as Baylor coach in 2017, according to a report Wednesday.

After USA Today reported Monday that some Baylor donors wanted Briles to serve a one-year suspension and then return to coaching, sources told HornsDigest.com on Wednesday that con-

tract settlement talks between Briles and the school are taking place.

A Baylor spokesperson had told the Austin American-Statesman on Tuesday that the school's board of regents did not vote on the status of Briles, who was suspended May 26 with intent to terminate after the reports of sexual assaults involving members of the football team

and the manner in which the program handled the allegations surfaced.

Briles, 60, was 65-37 in eight seasons while taking the program to unprecedented heights. The Bears have won 10 or more games in four of the past five seasons.

Briles had eight years and nearly \$40 million in guaranteed salary left on his contract when he was let go amid detailed findings that revealed the football program turned a cold shoulder

to alleged victims of sexual assault and violence.

HornsDigest.com reported that the settlement would be in the \$20 million range.

Baylor hired former Wake Forest coach Jim Grobe as interim coach on May 30.

Bob Simpson, a Baylor booster and co-owner of the Texas Rangers, told The Dallas Morning News that he supported bringing Briles back.

"We'd like to see that," Simpson said.