

Auburn father, sons on MMA card

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

LEWISTON — Father's Day weekend will include a unique homage of sorts for the Bang family of Auburn.

Dr. Steven Bang Sr., a 46-year-old bariatric surgeon and triathlete, will compete on the amateur undercard at New England Fights' NEF 24 show at the Androscoggin Bank Coliseum on Saturday night — as will his three sons and a foster son.

Steven Bang Jr., Shawn Bang, Skyler Bang and foster son Connor Murphy all will join their dad on the card, set to begin at 7 p.m.

The elder Bang, 1-1 in MMA competition, will take on 48-year-old Stacy Lupo, a millwright from Corinna as

well as a kickboxing instructor at The Outlet in Dexter.

"I love competition and how it drives us to improve and become a more perfect version of ourselves," said Steven Bang Sr., a native of Riverton, Wyoming, who graduated from Brigham Young University in 1994 and from the Des Moines (Iowa) University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1998.

"It has been a year since I have battled in the cage. This past year has been filled with the accomplishment of personal milestones and athletic goals with many more yet to be realized. Amidst all of this chaos, the stars have once again aligned to give me the opportunity to re-enter the battle arena where the stakes of competition, for

me, are highest."

Steven Bang Sr. weighed in Friday afternoon at 154.3 pounds for the lightweight (155-pound division) battle, and Lupo (0-0) weighed in at 154.2.

Among Bang's sons, Shawn Bang (1-1) is returning to the cage for this Father's Day reunion for the first time in nearly three years after a two-year stint as a missionary in accordance with his Mormon faith.

He will face Mike Bezanon (1-0) in a welterweight contest.

"I cannot begin to express how excited I am to reunite with my CMBJJ brothers," said Shawn Bang, who trains with his family at Central Maine Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Auburn. "I have

only spoken with my own family on Christmas and Mother's Day, and to have the opportunity to rejoin the 'Bang Clan' in battle ... is a fitting reunion.

"Since childhood our father has always told us, 'The first rule of brothers is to stick together.' Ultimately, it will be me alone in the cage to battle my opponent, but it is family, both immediate and extended, that gets me there and beyond."

Other matches involving the Bang family will have Skyler Bang (0-0) against Eddie DeRoche (0-0) at a catchweight of 150 pounds, Steve Bang Jr. (3-5) against Dom Cofone (6-5) in a lightweight test, and Connor Murphy (1-0) against Justin Witham (1-4) in a 130-pound battle.



CHARLES LECLAIRE | USA TODAY SPORTS

Dustin Johnson hits his second shot on the 2nd hole during the continuation of the first round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Oakmont Country Club on Friday.

US Open

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score of the week with a seven-birdie 65 to surge up the leaderboard.

Among the big names at Oakmont, Australian Adam Scott was even after 15 holes, while world number one Jason Day, playing in the same group, was 5-over.

Fifty-one players completed the second round on Friday.

Both Spieth (72) and Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy (77) finished their opening rounds early Friday and are among half the field who will start the second round on Saturday morning. Should they make the cut, they would face 36 holes of golf Saturday. Both spent much of Friday afternoon practicing at the range and on the practice green.

Firming up

As the treacherous Oakmont layout began to firm up under a blazing sun after being softened by heavy rain earlier in the week, Johnson said that putting became much more of a lottery.

"No matter how close you are to the hole, they're tough to putt," said the 31-year-old, a nine-time winner on the PGA Tour who is still seeking a first major title after several close calls.

"I mean, I hit so many good putts today that I thought were going in, and burned the edge or lipped out. But that's just how it goes. These greens are tough."

Garcia, like Johnson seeking his first grand slam crown after several near-misses in the past, was happy to finish at 2-under on a course he rates as the toughest in the world.

Bangor Muni course record holder playing in US Open

BY LARRY MAHONEY
BDN STAFF

Mike Van Sickle, who set the Bangor Municipal Golf Course record by shooting a 60 at the Greater Bangor Open two years ago, shot a 6-over-par 76 at the U.S. Open on Thursday at the Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pennsylvania.

Van Sickle is from Wexford, Pennsylvania, which is 19 miles from Oakmont.

The 29-year-old Van Sickle was 6-over par after nine holes as he had a double bogey and four bogeys, but he managed to shoot even par over the final nine holes with three birdies and three bogeys.

Because of rain on Thursday, which postponed a healthy portion of play, he isn't scheduled to tee off for round two until 7:11 a.m. Sat-

urday. One of his playing partners will be PGA rookie Andrew Landry, who led the tournament with a 4-under par 66 after the first round.

Two years ago, Van Sickle, a three-time All-American at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recorded two eagles and five birdies en route to his course-record 60 at the Bangor Municipal Golf Course.

Van Sickle wound up being the runner-up at the Greater Bangor Open as he lost on the fourth extra hole to David Chung of Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Each shot a Greater Bangor Open-record 191 over the 54 holes, which is 16-under par. Scott Hawley of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, held the previous record of 194.

Van Sickle also had captured the long drive competition with a drive of 353 yards.

Baylor, Briles reportedly reach contract settlement

BY SCOTT ALLEN
THE WASHINGTON POST

One day after Art Briles accused Baylor of wrongful termination, Bleacher Report's Jason King reported that the school and football coach reached a contract settlement Friday.

Briles was ousted last month amid revelations that the program responded to sexual assault accusations against players with indifference or hostility toward alleged victims and had about \$40 million remaining on his contract.

On Thursday, Briles, indicated he had no interest in settling a federal lawsuit filed against him and the university by former Baylor student Jasmine Hernandez, who was sexually assaulted by Baylor football player Tevin Elliott in 2012.

Hernandez claims that Baylor knew Elliott, who was sentenced to 20 years, had a history of assaults and failed to protect her and others who were attacked.

In a letter filed to Baylor's lawyers on Thursday, Briles' personal attorney, Ernest Cannon, suggested the school used Briles as a scapegoat for what an independent investigation determined were failings in how Baylor handled accusations of sexual assault.

"The conclusion is inescapable that the motive of Baylor and the Board of Regents was to use its head football coach and the Baylor athletic department as a camouflage to disguise and distract from its own institutional failure to comply with Title IX and other federal civil rights laws," Cannon wrote.

Pats owner part of group trying to buy UFC

BY DES BIELER
THE WASHINGTON POST

We know Robert Kraft loves Tom Brady. But how does he feel about Conor McGregor?

We may soon find out, if the Patriots owner goes on to acquire a stake in the UFC. The mixed martial arts giant is reportedly close to being sold, and Kraft is part of a group hoping to make the winning bid.

ESPN's Darren Rovell reported Thursday that two groups, WME-IMG (in conjunction with Dalian Wanda Group) and China Media Capital, have both made bids of about \$4.1 billion for the UFC. Citing sources, Rovell wrote that WME chief Ari Emanuel was asking investors to provide \$25 to \$50 million toward the purchase, an arrangement agreed to by the Kraft Group, which owns the Pa-

triotics and MLS's New England Revolution.

UFC President Dana White, a native of New England and a 1987 graduate of Hermon High School, has a friendly relationship with Kraft and has appeared on the sidelines during Patriots games. In turn, Kraft attended a 2013 UFC event held in Boston. The Patriots recently traded away Chandler Jones, brother of former UFC light heavyweight

champion Jon Jones.

Neither White nor a spokesman for the Kraft Group offered a comment for ESPN. White had vehemently denied a report in May by Rovell that the UFC was close to being sold.

With or without Kraft's involvement, Lorenzo and Frank Fertitta, the brothers who purchased the UFC for \$2 million in 2001 (at White's behest), appear set to make quite a profit.

MMA

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Boyington made his World Series of Fighting debut last Oct. 17, scoring a split-decision victory over Rodrigo Almeida at Foxwoods.

Boyington and Saul Almeida originally were scheduled to fight on April 12, 2014, in Boston, but Almeida pulled out because of injury. Boyington instead defeated Ruslan Khubeshvili by unanimous decision to win the vacant CFX lightweight championship.

Boyington followed up by defeating Jesse Erickson of Auburn to win the New England Fights MMA pro lightweight title in September 2014. He vacated the NEF belt earlier this year after making three title defenses, largely to pursue national-level competition.

Saul Almeida was coming off a first-round loss to Alexandre Almeida in a title eliminator bout on the same card Boyington scored his first World Series of Fighting victory. Alexandre Almeida went on to dethrone Lance Palmer by five-round unanimous decision on Dec. 18 to win the WSOF featherweight championship.

"Those two guys I've just beat both signed [WSOF] contracts," said Boyington. "I'm ready for mine. Age is just a number."

Devin Powell of South Berwick, who replaced Boyington as the NEF lightweight champion, scored a three-round split decision over Tommy Marcellino of Amsterdam, New York, in another bout on the WSOF 31 undercard.

Powell scored two knockdowns, but Marcellino otherwise controlled much of the action.

As was the case in the Boyington-Almeida bout, two judges scored it 29-28 for Powell and the third scored it 30-27 for Marcellino.

"I'm no judge," said Powell, 7-1. "I thought I did more damage, but he had good control. He's a great fighter, but I think submission attempts and damage did it."

And New England Fights heavyweight champion Tyler King used a guillotine choke to submit Lorenzo Hood in the second round of their

three-round matchup. King, from North Attleboro, Massachusetts, is a former pro football player and the son of former New England Patriots linebacker Steve King.

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).

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