

Bang family celebrates Father's Day in the cage

BY TONY BLASI
SUN JOURNAL

LEWISTON — The good doctor not only was in, he was in a mixed martial arts bout at the Androscoggin Bank Coliseum on Saturday night.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Dr. Steve Bang, a bariatric surgeon from Auburn, brought along the family to New England Fights' NEF 24 boxing and MMA show — his four sons also fought, with two walking away with quick victories.

The event was billed as "Promised Land," but seemed more like another episode of "My Three Sons" for the Bang family. But there was a fourth son in the mix, too, with Dr. Bang standing in for actor and patriarch Fred MacMurray.

The wiry Dr. Bang earned a couple of takedowns in the first round of his amateur lightweight bout, but things got serious in the second round, when Bang took down Stacy Lupo of Corinna and remained on top of Lupo until Lupo flipped Bang at the bell.

Lupo belted Bang in the third round and dazed the doc-

tor, but Bang scored a take-down on his second attempt and then stayed on top and pounded his opponent before being declared the winner by technical knockout.

"It is such an honor on the eve of Father's Day to be able to do this sport with my sons," Dr. Bang said.

Steven Bang Jr. was the first of the four sons to enter the cage. He faced Dom Cofone, but the fight lasted only one round. Bang Jr. was declared the winner by guillotine choke 2:04 into the match.

"That was the game plan,

but I am not used to everything going as planned," Bang Jr. said. "It is incredible to live in the shadow of my father. He gives us motivation."

Skylar Bang followed with a first-round win. Skylar used a rear-naked choke to subdue Eddie DeRoche 2:19 into the match.

Conner Murphy, Dr. Bang's foster son, hoped to make it three in a row, but Justin Witham of Dexter won in the third round with a rear-naked choke.

Another brother, Shawn Bang, was knocked out by

Mike Bezanson 51 seconds into their match.

The 15-fight card, held before nearly 2,000 fans, featured eight amateur MMA bouts, two pro contests and five professional boxing matches.

Dustin Veinott won the New England Fights MMA amateur flyweight title with a second-round stoppage of former champion Ryan Burgess while Brandon Bushaw stopped Matt Denning via kimura in the third round and Jesse Erickson scored a first-round knockout of Amos Collins in pro bouts.

James Lester of Detroit, Michigan, won the New England Fights' Northeast junior welterweight boxing championship by unanimous decision over Brandon Berry of West Forks. This was a rematch of a bout earlier this year that ended in a draw.

Russell Lamour of Portland scored a first-round knockout of Roberto Valenzuela, while Portland Boxing Club teammate Casey Kramlich defeated Zenon Herrera by third-round TKO.

New England Fights has scheduled its next show, NEF 25, for Sept. 10 in Lewiston



MICHAEL C. YORK | BDN

Richmond player Meranda Martin heads for home plate in the fifth inning of the state championship game against Stearns at Coffin Field in Brewer on Saturday.

Richmond beats Stearns for title

Bobcats wins 70th straight game

BY LARRY MAHONEY
BDN STAFF

BREWER — When you score six runs and collect 12 hits in a state championship high school softball game, that often results in a victory.

CLASS D SOFTBALL

Not when you're playing the Richmond Bobcats.

The Bobcats pounded out 15 hits and collected their 70th consecutive victory and fourth straight state Class D championship with a 15-6 victory over Stearns of Millinocket.

The game was a rematch of last year's D final.

The Bobcats (18-0) jumped out to a 9-1 lead after two innings but the Minutemen rallied for five runs in the third and another in the fourth to close to within 9-6.

But winning pitcher Meranda Martin belted a two-out triple to right in the fifth inning and scored on an infield error to make it 10-6 and the Bobcats added another insurance run in the sixth on Sydney Tilton's sharp ground double down the third-base line and Kalah Patterson's ground single to left before breaking it open with four in the seventh.

"When it became 9-6, I wasn't really worried because we've been in situations like that before. I trust my team and I knew we'd come through. And I trusted Meranda," said sophomore catcher Sydney Tilton, who had two doubles, a single and three RBIs.

"They're definitely the best hitting team I've pitched against all season," added Stearns pitcher Jess Girska. "They put the bat on the ball really well."

The Bobcats wasted little time jumping out to a lead as they scored three times in the first inning when Martin was hit by a pitch, raced to third on Cassidy Harriman's sacrifice and, after a walk to Kelsea Anair, she scored on Tilton's base hit.

Kalah Patterson followed with a long RBI double to left and Caitlin Kendrick singled her home.

Audrey Dunstan singled home a run in the bottom of the first for Stearns but Martin's two-run single highlighted a four-run second-inning rally and Harriman blooped a two-run single into right in the third to make it 9-1.

The Minutemen (17-3) rallied with four in the third on singles by Lauren Jamo, Cassidy McLeod, Grace Farrington and Maddy Morrison and two infield errors.

They added another in the fourth on McLeod's lead-off triple and Grace Farrington's two-out single. But that's as close as they were to get.

Martin went the distance for the win despite giving up a season-high 12 hits. She struck out three but walked just one while throwing 100 pitches, 71 for strikes.

"My approach was just like every other game. Mix up my pitches and throw hard. I knew they were going to hit the ball. The newspaper articles said they were a good-hitting team one-through-nine. But my defense backed me up. I trusted my team," said Martin.

In addition to Tilton, Patterson tripled, doubled and singled and knocked in three runs, Kendrick had a triple and two singles and drove in two runs. Martin tripled and singled and knocked in two runs.

McLeod went 4-for-4 with a triple for Stearns, giving her seven hits and a walk in eight plate appearances between the Class D North final against Madawaska and Saturday's game.

Farrington added two singles for Stearns.

"We got off to a slow start. We didn't make a few plays on 50-50 balls and they capitalized," said Stearns coach Nick Cullen. "You can't get in a 9-1 hole against Richmond. It's hard to get out of it."

Madison defeats Bucksport for crown

BY KEVIN MILLS
SUN JOURNAL

STANDISH — Aly LeBlanc knew she had a second chance.

Madison's senior catcher popped up behind the plate in the sixth inning Saturday and nearly had her third straight at-bat end in frustrating fashion. Instead, the Bucksport catcher couldn't come up with the catch up against the fence.

"That was a big sense of relief because that would have been very disappointing to me," LeBlanc said. "After that, I knew I had to make up for that."

LeBlanc followed with a drive to right that turned into an RBI triple, plating the winning run as Madison upended defending champion Bucksport 3-1 in the Class C softball state final at Bailey Field at St. Joseph's College.

It was the second state crown for the 20-0 Bulldogs in three seasons.

LeBlanc drove in pitcher Madeline Wood with go-ahead hit and later scored on a sacrifice fly.

"It's amazing," said LeBlanc, a Miss Maine Softball finalist and the daughter of

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL



JUSTIN PELLETIER | SUN JOURNAL

Bucksport third baseman Julia Zavalza (left) gets ready to put the tag on Madison High School's Madeline Wood after the Bucks caught Wood in a rundown during the Class C softball championship at St. Joseph's College in Standish on Saturday.

Madison coach Chris LeBlanc. "It's an indescribable feeling. I'm just so proud of my team. It's incredible to be I don't think we've done it in a long time. This year we had very high expectations for ourselves and thought we should be able to win it all."

Wood got the win for Madison, allowing four hits and striking out seven. Katelin Saunders pitched well for Bucksport, scattering six hits and striking out five.

Sydney LeBlanc had two hits for Madison, while Darian Jellison led the 18-2 Bucks with two hits.

"Our hitting wasn't up to

par," said Bucksport coach Mike Carrier, whose team defeated Telstar for the title last year. "We were a little excited. I don't know why. All of them were here last year."

After Wood drew a leadoff walk in the Madison sixth, LeBlanc's drive to right found the gap and rolled to the wall.

"Aly's a great player," Carrier said. "That pitch she hit was kind of sick. It was way outside but she went with it."

Erin Whalen followed with a sacrifice fly to left to score LeBlanc to make it 3-1.

Madison took the lead in the third when Aishah Malloy led off with a triple. She

scored on a Kayla Bess fielder's choice.

Bucksport got its first hit in the fourth when Eliza Hosford singled. Jellison reached on a bunt hit, but Madison limited the damage. Saunders singled in Hosford to tie it, but the Bucks stranded a runner.

"(Wood) did nothing different," Carrier said. "We just started hitting the ball a little bit. We'd been watching the ball."

Wood got a pair of strikeouts and a fly out to Whitney Bess at third to escape the threat.

"They're a good team and they're always going to put runners on the bases and scores on the board," Wood said. "You just have to keep your composure and know you're going to get it back and you've just got to keep calm."

Madison graduates just three players — Kayla Bess, Whalen and Aly LeBlanc — while Bucksport graduates four — Kaylee Grindle, Tyler Dupont, Hosford and Julia Zavalza.

"We do have a really good group of sophomores and a couple of really good freshmen," Carrier said. "We're going to miss our seniors terribly. They're the core of our team, but we have some good kids coming back."



RUSS DILLINGHAM | SUN JOURNAL

George Stevens Academy's Nick Norton puts the tag on Sacopec Valley's Jared Jordan to catch him stealing. The Eagles went on to a 3-2 victory over George Stevens Academy at St. Joseph's College in Standish on Saturday afternoon to win the Class C state championship.

Sacopec Valley edges George Stevens for title

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

STANDISH — Roderick Maynard pitched a five-hitter as Sacopec Valley of South Hiram edged George Stevens Academy of Blue Hill 3-2 in the Class C baseball state championship game at Saint Joseph's College on Saturday.

Maynard, who required 138 pitches over nine innings a week earlier to lead the Hawks to an upset of top-ranked and previously undefeated Monmouth Academy in their Class C South semifinal, needed just 75 pitches over seven innings to fend off George Stevens.

"My arm was good," said Maynard, the Western Maine Conference Class C player of the year and a Mr. Baseball finalist. "I had a week off. I didn't throw until Friday and I threw light bullpen so I was feeling fresh and live and ev-

erything was strong. I felt good."

The senior left-hander struck out nine batters, walked no one and came up with the big pitches he needed late in the game as GSA attempted to rally from a 3-0 deficit.

"We knew he was a good pitcher coming in," said GSA coach Dan Kane. "I had heard a lot of scouting reports on him. He had a plus-fastball and a good breaking ball. Early in the game it took us three innings to get adjusted to him. He was a tough pitcher and he did his job."

"But you could start to see that once we put a couple of good swings on him that they started to tighten up a little bit. We just needed to start earlier in the game."

Kyle Jordan paced 17-3 Sacopec Valley offensively with a double, two singles and an RBI, while Jake Keenan singled twice for 18-2 GSA.

Sacopec Valley used three straight two-out hits off Keen-

an to take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first.

Brady Anderson singled to center and Jordan blooped a hit off the infield dirt just behind first base to put runners on first and third. Maynard then lined a 2-2 pitch into right field to drive home Anderson with the game's first run.

Jordan lined a two-out, RBI double down the left-field line in the bottom of the third to make it 2-0, and Brandon Burnell's similar shot to open the Sacopec Valley fourth, prompting Kane to turn to reliever Beckett Slayton.

Burnell advanced to third on a groundout to first by Peter Cates and scored to make it 3-0 as Taylor Schildroth overthrew home plate on Jarrod Jordan's grounder to shortstop.

GSA reached Maynard for single runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

Stefan Simmons lined a triple to straightaway center

in the fifth to drive home Will Entwistle, who had reached on a fielder's choice.

GSA made it a one-run game an inning later. Tyler McKenney hustled out a pop double down the right-field line and was sacrificed to third by Tyler Snow before scoring when Schildroth grounded out to second.

But the comeback ended there, as Maynard struck out the side in the seventh around a one-out single by Keenan to give the Hawks their first state championship since 1993.

"I kept them off balance and tried to manipulate the way I pitched and it turned out pretty good in the end," said Maynard, whose team had lost to Washington Academy of East Machias in the 2014 state final. "They squared me up a couple of times but that's going to happen in the course of a long game. Seven innings is plenty of time for them to figure me out."

D Baseball

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Moore managed to catch his breath and stay in the game, and he struck out Jaeden Folster on four pitches and got a double play pop-up on a failed suicide squeeze attempt by

Zach Carr to end the inning. Moore, who scattered two runs on nine hits, gave up just two hits the rest of the way.

"I don't know how to explain it," said Moore, who couldn't get his glove up in time. "It's just an all-in-the-moment type thing. When it hit me I just blanked out and got zoned in the game more."

Moore, who described him-

self as a contact pitcher, kept his pitches down and his teammates committed just one error behind him.

"From Day 1 he knew he'd be pitching in this game because Troy [Reynolds] would go the South [regional final]," Frye said. "He's been waiting all season to be on this mound."

After being held in check by

Priest over the first three innings, the Vikings started to square him up the second time through the batting order and plated five runs in the fourth, sparked by Ben Powell's two-run single and an RBI single by Matt Barlow.

After facing hard-throwing Cody Lawryerson of Valley, who will pitch for the University of Maine next year, in the

South regional final, it took the Vikings a few innings to adjust to Priest.

"This guy was probably 20 miles per hour slower so we started lunging in the first two, three innings," said Frye. "Once we started to get our weight back we started hitting the ball right up the middle."

Searsport put the game away with its five-run sixth-

inning uprising. Moore aided his cause with a two-run single and Reynolds hit a two-run double. Barrett Grant added an RBI base hit. Charlie Spiegel contributed three singles and a run.

The Howlers got their other run in the bottom of the sixth on an RBI double by Spencer. Priest was PVHS' lone repeat hitter with two singles.