

Ellsworth all-stars shut out Calais for District 1 win

ELLSWORTH — Ellsworth pitcher David Baugh struck out nine batters in five innings to help lead his team by Calais 3-0 in a District 1 Little League baseball all-star game for ages 11-12 Wednesday.

YOUTH LEAGUES

Michael Palmer came on to pitch one shutout inning of relief. Nathan Smith singled and drove in a run for Ellsworth while Brett Bragdon and Baugh each chipped in with a single.

Calais starting pitcher Aiden Arsenault struck out five in 3 ⅔ innings before being relieved by Braden Barre. Colby Saunders singled for Calais.

D3 baseball, 11-12

Bangor West 4, Hermon 3

At Hermon, Bangor West used a four-run second inning to beat Hermon in the District 3 tourney game.

Brayden Caron led off with a triple and came into score on an error. Ben Caron drove in a run with a bases-loaded walk, Gavin Young forced in a run with a bases-loaded hit by pitch and Max Clark drove in the fourth run with

a fielder's choice.

Young picked up the win on the mound, striking out four.

For Hermon, Brayden Moses recorded a double and single while Alex Taylor added two singles.

Hermon 002 100 — 3 6 2

Bangor West 040 00x — 4 2 1

D3 baseball, 9-10

Bangor West, Brewer post wins

At Brewer on Tuesday, Bangor West defeated Orono-Veazie 12-2 and Brewer beat Seabiscokook Valley 8-1 in the District 3 tourney.

Marc Parron pitched a complete game to earn the win for Bangor West. Lucas Rutherford doubled and Chase Carron singled.

Mason Kenney and Adam Sherman each had a single for Orono.

Brewer pitcher Grady Vanidestine struck out 10 in its win and helped his cause with a double. Braden Carr and Hunter Merrithew each added a single.

D1 baseball, 11-12

Ellsworth 3, Machias 1

At Beal Field in Machias on Monday, Hunter Curtis allowed just three hits in five innings and

struck out 14 to lead Ellsworth to the District 1 tourney win.

Lucas Gagnon tripled and singled for Ellsworth while Curtis, Nathan Smith, Michael Palmer and Landon St. Peter each added a single.

Jack Emery, Caleb Campbell and Jayden Rhodes each singled for Machias.

Ellsworth 011 001 — 3 61

Machias 100 000 — 1 3 3

Curtis, Baugh (6) and Smith; Rhodes, Feeney (5) and Cates

American Legion baseball

Post 51 7, RH Foster 3

At Hampden on Tuesday, Jacob Trask recorded a complete-game win for Post 51 of Skowhegan as he scattered seven hits over nine innings while striking out four and walking two.

Post 51's Derek Bowen, Trask and Jared Cunningham combined for eight hits and four RBIs. Cunningham had four hits and Bowen had a double and a home run.

Zach Nash was the lone repeat hitter for RH Foster.

Post 51 040 000 003 — 7 12 1

RH Foster 000 000 300 — 3 7 3

Trask and Gettig; Guerrette, Gilmore (9) and Thomas

Brewer 13, Motor City 3

At the Orono High field Tuesday, Brewer's Logan Rogerson, Alex Maxsimic, Kobe Rogerson and Alex Brooks each recorded two hits in Brewer's 12-run second inning en route to the win over Motor City.

Kobe Rogerson and Alex Maxsimic each chipped in with three singles, a double and three RBIs for Brewer. Logan Rogerson finished with a single, double and three RBIs while Brooks singled twice.

Jack Corey picked up the win after scattering seven hits over six innings. He struck out six.

Jacob Ketch sparked Motor City with two singles, a double and an RBI. Billy Phillips added a two-run double while Ethan Stoddard singled and scored a run.

Brewer 1(12)0 000 000 — 13 17 2

Motor City 2 0 0 100 000 — 3 8 0

Corey, Gauvin (7) and Maxsimic; Jurgiewich, Farnham (2), Perfitt (7), Philips (9) and Young, Hanscom (4)

Coffee News 11, Acadians 2

At Blue Hill on Tuesday, Gary Farnham pitched eight innings of seven-hit, two-run baseball as Coffee News of Bangor beat the Trenton Acadians.

Farnham struck out four and allowed only one earned run in a 91-pitch performance.

Kyle Stevenson recorded four hits and an RBI to lead Coffee News' 18-hit attack. Sam Huston chipped in with two doubles and two RBIs, while Derek Fournier had a double and a single with an RBI. Peter Kemble and Andrew Hillier each added two hits along with an RBI.

Nick Cowperthwaite and Brian Pierce also chipped in with two hits. Ben Crichton added a two-run double and Ryan Brookings hit a solo home run.

For Trenton, Conor Maguire had four singles and scored two runs from his leadoff spot. Chris Barnes, Brad Smith, Tom Paola, and Beckett Slayton added singles.

Coffee News 210 103 220 — 11 18 2

Acadians 000 001 010 — 2 8 1

Farnham, Pierce (9) and Fournier; Bagley, Keenan (4), Clark (7) and Chipman, Barnes (6)



GARY A. VASQUEZ | USA TODAY SPORTS

Pittsburgh Penguins defenseman Brian Dumoulin skates with the puck against the San Jose Sharks in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Final, on June 6, at SAP Center at San Jose.

Cup

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roster engraved on the Cup, which was called the Dominion Hockey Challenge Cup at that time. Their names were engraved in the inner bowl.

The Stanley Cup has been at the focal point of some misadventures in the past according to an mentalfloss.com story.

When the members of the champion Montreal Canadiens got a flat tire on the way to their victory banquet in 1924, they had to remove the Cup from the trunk to get the spare tire. They changed the tire and made their way to the party without realizing they had left the Cup in a snowbank by the side of the road.

Fortunately, upon speeding back to the spot

of the flat tire, the Cup was still right where they had left it.

Colorado Avalanche defenseman Sylvain Lefebvre had his daughter christened in the Cup in 1996 and Detroit winger Tomas Holmstrom allowed his cousin to baptize his daughter in it in 2008.

In 1991, at a party hosted by Pittsburgh Penguins great Mario Lemieux, Penguins winger Phil Bourque tossed the Cup into Lemieux's inground pool to see if it would float.

It didn't. It sank to the bottom but was recovered unharmed.

The cup was also found at the bottom of Montreal goalie Patrick Roy's pool two years later and, in 2002, Red Wings goalie Dominik Hasek tried to swim with the Cup but the chaperone forced him to dry it off and give it back.

Manziel going sober July 1

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Johnny Manziel is vacationing in Cabo San Lucas Mexico, where a group of 20 people are staying at a mansion being rented by Manziel and another person.

A woman staying at the mansion posted a picture on Snapchat that showed her holding several bags of what appear to be drugs. She did not insinuate they were Manziel's, writing, "Cabo Ready! Just kidding, I would NEVER!!"

Manziel told TMZ Sports the bags are not his, and that he's not doing any drugs while planning on going completely sober July 1 — which is Friday.

"They're absolutely not mine. I don't even know that girl," he told TMZ.



Manziel

The report said Manziel doesn't know everyone staying with him, and he said he will stop drinking, begin eating healthy and training in an effort to get back in the NFL.

Manziel's father, Paul, told ESPN last week that his son is "a druggie" and that jail "would be the best place for him."

Johnny Manziel posted an Instagram photo from Cabo with him standing on the edge of a cliff-side pool wearing a Browns No. 12 jersey of Josh Gordon, the embattled receiver who is indefinitely suspended by the NFL and a friend of Manziel's.

Photos and video of Manziel in Cabo comes days after his attorney in a domestic assault case resigned after accidentally texting an Associated Press reporter that Manziel had spent more than \$1,000 in drug paraphernalia several hours after a hit-and-run accident.

NFL isn't phasing out the kickoff ... yet

BY MARK MASKE
THE WASHINGTON POST

The NFL's leaders have made several moves in recent years to attempt to make kickoffs safer. They continue to explore potential changes to a play that they long have considered unusually hazardous to players.

At this point, people within the sport say, they have no intention of taking the kickoff out of the game entirely.

Could that change in the future? Perhaps.

But for now, the effort remains to try to make kickoffs as safe as possible for players.

"Could I see a day when there is real consideration of taking the kickoff out of the game? Yeah, I could probably see that," one person familiar with the league's inner workings said this offseason. "But we're not there yet. We're not at that point. We're looking at what we can do to make it a safer play, if that's possible."

The inherent problem with the kickoff is the violence of the collisions cre-

ated by prospective tacklers on the kicking team having a running start before they're met and slowed by blockers on the team receiving the kick. It is a unique play in that regard, and league leaders for years have cited it as a play about which they have particularly strong concerns.

The NFL's approach thus far to trying to make the play safer has been to attempt to reduce the number of kickoffs that actually are returned by increasing the number of touchbacks on kickoffs. This offseason, the franchise owners ratified a proposal by the rule-making competition committee to place the football at the 25-yard line, rather than at the 20, for touchbacks on kickoffs. Previously, the league moved the spot of the kickoff closer to the opposite goal line to make it easier for kickers to send kickoffs far into the end zone.

The latest rule change to place the ball at the 25-yard is designed to give greater incentive to returners to remain in the end zone, and accept a touchback, when they field the football

in the end zone on a kickoff. Some coaches have said the switch could have an effect quite different from what is intended, possibly increasing the number of kickoffs that are returned because kicking teams might opt to regularly send the kick short of the end zone and do what they can to tackle the returner shy of the 25-yard line. The owners approved the rule change on only a one-year basis, giving the competition committee the opportunity to study what happens during the upcoming season and make a determination next offseason about what to do next.

League leaders continue to study the play. USA Today reported last week that Dean Blandino, the NFL's vice president of officiating, conducted a conference call with special teams coaches league-wide to seek their input. Among the possible future tweaks, according to the USA Today report, are requiring players on the kicking team to line up and begin the play from a stationary position without a running start, and requiring a certain number of players

on the receiving team to line up closer to the spot of the kickoff.

If the league ever does turn its attention to getting rid of the kickoff, perhaps the biggest problem it will have is finding a way to give a team trailing late in a game a way to potentially regain possession of the football, as with the onside kick.

"I'm not sure how you replicate the onside kick," the person with knowledge of the league's inner workings said. "That's a competitive issue that would have to be worked out. But the bigger issue is the safety issue, and that will dictate how this eventually goes."

There's always the proposal of Greg Schiano, the former coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Schiano once suggested getting rid of the kickoff and instead having the team that just scored a touchdown get the football at its 30-yard line for a fourth-and-15 play. The team could opt to try for a first down to retain possession, or it could simply punt the ball away.

Someday, perhaps. But not now.

Patriots

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Amendola is optimistic about the upcoming season. The Patriots have added several new players such as tight end Martellus Bennett from Chicago and wide receiver Chris Hogan from Buffalo, New York.

"We've got a lot of good guys coming, a lot of new faces, and we also have a lot of good old faces," Amendola said. "I'm excited about it."

He played with Bennett in Dallas and called him a "great player" and the most "creative person I know."

Bennett recently wrote a children's book.

"Returning punts is my favorite part of the game," said Amendola in response to an audience question about one of the most dangerous jobs in football.

Amendola said the fact the Patriots have won four Super Bowls since 2001 and played in six altogether is a credit to owner Bob Kraft, head coach Bill Belichick

and quarterback Tom Brady.

"They are just about the best at what they do," he said.

He said Kraft is a hands-on owner who frequently talks to the players in the locker room, something most owners avoid.

Brady, who will turn 39 on Aug. 3, is a fierce competitor, he said.

"I think he can play eight more years," said Amendola. "He's the coolest guy. He loves to play football. He's the hardest worker. He's electric. He makes everybody around him better."

Amendola wears the No. 80 to honor his idol, former undersized New York Jets wide receiver Wayne Chrebet.

"That was the only poster I had on my wall growing up," said Amendola, who met Chrebet recently. The two have become friends.

The Super Bowl victory will always remain a highlight for Amendola. He caught a touchdown pass that pulled the Patriots within 24-21 in the fourth quarter, and New England went on to win 28-24.

"I'll never forget it. I was

too tired to spike the ball," said Amendola.

Amendola credits his parents for his success. His father is a high school football coach and his mother is a teacher.

"My dad always told me to do what is right and treat people with respect," said the 30-year-old Amendola.

He also exhibited his sense-of-humor on several occasions.

Fellow wide receiver Julian Edelman threw a touchdown pass to him during a game against the Baltimore Ravens and cracked up the locker room the next day.

"Tom Brady usually comes into the meeting the next day with a bag of ice on his shoulder. Julian came in with ice covering his entire arm," grinned Edelman who considers Edelman a close friend.

Amendola has caught 342 passes in his career for 3,207 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also has returned 129 punts for 1,355 yards and 146 kickoffs for 3,430 yards.

He caught 109 passes for 1,245 yards as a senior at

Texas Tech, but he wasn't drafted.

The 5-foot-11, 183-pound Amendola was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Dallas Cowboys but spent the 2008 season on the practice squad and never appeared in a game. The Philadelphia Eagles signed him in 2009, but he didn't appear in a game until St. Louis signed him off the Eagles' practice squad on Sept. 22, 2009.

He played in 14 games for the Rams in 2009 and caught 43 balls for 326 yards. He also returned 31 punts for 360 yards and 66 kickoffs for 1,618 yards.

He caught a career-high 85 passes for 689 yards in 2010 and also returned 40 punts for 452 yards and 50 kickoffs for 1142 yards.

He spent two more seasons with the Rams although injury limited him to one game in 2011.

Amendola came to the Patriots in 2013 and, in his three seasons, has caught 146 passes for 1,481 yards and six touchdowns. He also has returned 40 punts for 421 yards and 28 kickoffs for 654 yards.

Predators acquire Subban from Canadiens

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Montreal and Nashville pulled off a major trade involving two veteran defensemen on Wednesday

NHL NOTEBOOK

as the Predators acquired P.K. Subban from the Canadiens for Shea Weber.

Subban was the 2013 winner of the Norris Trophy, which goes to the NHL's top defenseman. The 27-year-old Subban had six goals and 45 assists this past season.

Subban has six years remaining on his contract that carries an annual sala-

ry cap hit of \$9 million. He is heading into the third season of his eight-year, \$72-million pact.

"P.K. Subban is an elite offensive defenseman with tremendous skill and contagious energy that makes the Nashville Predators a better team now and into the future," Predators general manager David Poile said. "Superstar defensemen of his caliber are a rare commodity, and we are thrilled to add him to the organization."

Weber had spent the past 11 seasons with the Predators and has played in four All-Star Games. The 30-year-old had 20 goals and 31 as-

sists in 78 regular-season games this past season. This was the eighth NHL season in which Weber had at least 40 points. He added three goals and four assists in 14 postseason games this year.

Weber is under contract for 10 more seasons. His average annual salary cap hit is \$7.85 million.

"We completed today an important transaction which I am convinced will make the Canadiens a better team. It was also one of the most difficult decisions I had to make as general manager of the Montreal Canadiens," Montreal general manager Marc Bergevin said.

"In Shea Weber, we get a top rated NHL defenseman with tremendous leadership, and a player who will improve our defensive group as well as our power play for many years to come. Shea Weber led all NHL defensemen last season with 14 power-play goals. He is a complete rear-guard with impressive size and a powerful shot.

"P.K. Subban is a special and very talented player. He provided the Canadiens organization with strong performances on the ice and generous commitment in the community. I wish him the best of luck with the Predators."