

Lester meets up with ex-Sox teammates

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SAN DIEGO — Back in 2010, Jon Lester faced his former minor league teammate, Hanley Ramirez, in the All-Star Game in Anaheim, California.

When he was asked later that night if back in their Double-A days in Portland, Maine, they ever went out for a pizza and talked of playing in the Midsummer Classic, Lester turned cold.

"I'd have a better chance of being struck by lightning than me and him getting a pizza together," Lester said. "You can take that for what it's worth. But there was no chance on God's green earth that I was getting a pizza with him."

Again, that was six years ago, when Lester was pitching for the Red Sox and Hanley Ramirez was playing shortstop for the Florida Marlins. Lester now pitches for the Chicago Cubs, and he has nothing but praise for the former Red Sox teammates — right fielder Mookie Betts, shortstop Xander Bogaerts, center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. and designated hitter David Ortiz — who were in the starting lineup for Tuesday night's All-Star Game.

"Those are my guys," Lester said Monday. "I grew up with those guys. I still keep in contact and keep a close eye on what's going on and check in and all that."

And while pitching to Ramirez, now the Red Sox

first baseman, in the 2010 All-Star Game wasn't a big deal to Lester — Ramirez hit a sixth-inning comebacker and was thrown out at first — the left-hander was excited about the possibility of facing Ortiz.

"It's always really weird facing guys you know really well or are good buddies with, but that would be fun," Lester said. "It would definitely make an All-Star memory for me — as long as he doesn't hit a home run off me or something like that. ... But if he did, that would be kind of cool too."

Though this is supposed to be Ortiz' final season, Lester isn't so sure.

"I'm not 100 percent sold right now, just based on his year," Lester said. "But I

think he will. He's really good about meaning what he says and I think he wants to be a dad and go home. We'll see next spring training what exactly he's doing. Nothing surprises me with David. He always pulls out the amazing at the right time. It's fun to watch, as always, with him."

"This guy's been in this game a long time. He's been the face of this game for a long time. And I'm sure that is a burden that not a lot of people can handle."

Lester was asked about his time with Betts, Bogaerts and Bradley.

"I didn't get to be around Mookie too much," Lester said. "Obviously the hype was there when I was there. But I've paid attention to

what he's been able to do the last two years. Obviously I saw what Xander was able to do in the (2013) World Series. It's a good group, and obviously I'm really happy for Jackie. He took a hell of a beating there for a couple of years and for him to put in the work and the time for him to get to where he's at right now, I'm sure, for him, is very rewarding. ... We all knew that defensively he's talented, but to see his strides on the offensive side is awesome."

ALL-STAR NOTES: Giancarlo Stanton flew across the country Sunday night with one goal in mind — win the Home Run Derby. The Miami Marlins right

fielder isn't a member of the National League All-Star team, but he was invited to swing for the fences in Monday night's featured preliminary to the Midsummer Classic. "Taking the flight out here just for this, I figured it's a waste if I don't bring this bad boy home," Stanton said after claiming the Derby crown. But Stanton didn't just win the Home Run Derby — he pounded it into submission. Stanton routed defending champion Todd Frazier of the Chicago White Sox, 20-13, in the championship round to finish with an event-record 61 homers over three rounds at Petco Park in the lead-up to Tuesday night's 87th All-Star Game.

Martindale golfer takes first-round lead

BY WIL KRAMLICH
SUN JOURNAL

YORK — It's good to be under par in a round of golf.

In the first round of the Maine Amateur Championship on Tuesday, just making par was good.

Martindale Country Club of Auburn member Joe Baker shot an early 2-under 68 and was the only player under par after day one of the three-day tournament at York Golf & Tennis Club.

Five other players played even par — Mike Doran, Gavin Dugas, Ashley Field, Ricky Jones and Luke Ruffing — and for the rest of the field par was just a pipe dream.

Baker was part of the fourth group out, which teed off at 7:30 a.m.

Taking advantage of cooler temperatures on a day in which the thermometer read into the 90s, Baker worked past a bogey on the first hole and shot three birdies on the front nine. He then played the back nine even (two birdies, two bogeys) to finish with the low round.

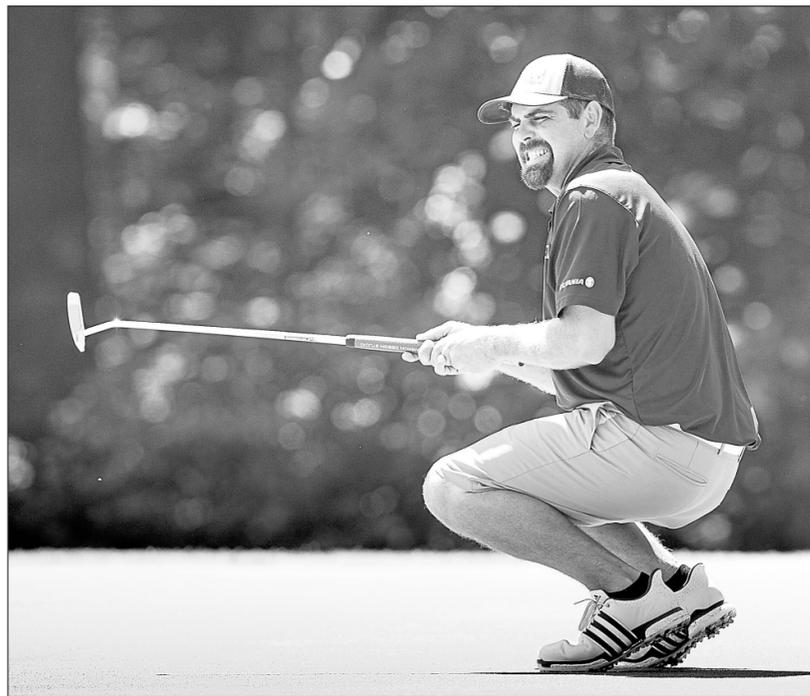
Fellow Martindale club member Andrew Slattery, who won the Amateur two years ago, said he wasn't surprised that Baker played so well.

"Joe's a good player. You just never know when he's going to come out and shoot a low round, and I'm glad he did it today," Slattery said. "I'm happy for him."

Slattery wasn't nearly as happy with his own opening round, which saw him finish with a 4-over 74.

"I didn't play well, at all," Slattery said. "I putted the ball well, but everything else wasn't good."

The former champ hit a bad tee shot off the second hole and ended up with a triple bogey. He hit another bogey on No. 10 and made par on the other 16 holes.



Martindale Country Club's Joe Baker reacts after narrowly missing a birdie putt on the 14th hole during the first round of the Maine Amateur Golf Tournament at York Golf and Tennis Club in York on Tuesday morning.

"I just hit one bad tee ball," Slattery said. "But other than that I didn't really make any other mistakes."

The course won the day against the 131-player field. But Slattery said it's not an "overly difficult" course.

First-round contender Doran agreed.

"It is scorable if you can get off the tee," Doran said. "If you can hit it any ways off the tee, you can lob wedges into a lot of these greens. And if you're hitting those well, you can have birdie putts."

Doran had the fortune of playing in the first group, thanks to a victory in the Mid-Am Championship last year. He said the fresh greens and cooler temperatures might have helped him some.

"It's good to not shoot yourself in the foot the first

day, but it certainly helps to get off to a good start," Doran said.

Many players did plenty of shooting themselves in the foot. The 16th hole was especially unforgiving. The par-4 hole features a green that runs off to the front, and many shots proved as much.

"I know a lot of people had some horror stories there today," Doran said of No. 16. "I got lucky walking away with four there. I probably didn't deserve it."

"It was a tough pin," added Matt Hutchins (72), who missed a 3-foot birdie putt on the hole and settled for par.

Hutchins, a younger player who recently moved to Falmouth from Massachusetts, played in one of the better groups. Also in the group was James Frost Jr., from Val Halla Golf Course in

Cumberland, who shot a 71.

"I had a really good group today, two really good guys," said Hutchins, who also played with Presque Isle Country Club's Ralph Michaud (75). "It's made it really enjoyable."

Slattery also played in a noteworthy group. The one-time champ got to play alongside 13-time champ Mark Plummer, who shot a 72.

"It's a lot of fun," Slattery said of playing with Plummer, who is 64. "I wasn't as nervous only because I've gotten to know Mark a lot over the past two, three, four years."

Defending champ John Hayes IV, playing alongside Doran, shot a 72.



Plummer

Sale says Gwynn's cancer death made him quit tobacco

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Chicago White Sox star lefthander Chris Sale was so moved by the passing of Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn that he quit chewing tobacco the day he died of salivary gland cancer in June 2014.

MLB NOTEBOOK
Sale, the American League's starting pitcher for Tuesday night's MLB All-Star Game at Petco Park in San Diego, credited the San Diego Padres legend, nicknamed "Mr. Padre," with helping him reverse a seven-year-old habit.

"He actually made a very big impact in my life. I chewed tobacco from 2007 until the day he passed away," Sale told reporters during Monday's All-Star media day in San Diego (via ESPN.com).

Gwynn spent his entire 20-year career in San Diego, winning eight National League batting titles and earning 15 All-Star selections.

He had a lifetime .338 batting average and 3,141 career hits. Gwynn was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007 before his death seven years later at age 54.

"He was a larger-than-life person," Sale said. "He was an inspiration to the game for many, many people for a lot of different reasons. But I quit that day, and I haven't touched it since."

"In a sense, I owe him a huge thank you for not only myself but for my family, and, you know, hopefully I can maybe sway somebody in the right direction as well like he did for me."

Sale, 27, is 14-3 with a 3.38 ERA and 123 strikeouts in 18 starts with the White Sox this season.

Red Sox closer has knee surgery

Boston Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel underwent a successful left knee arthroscopy and partial medial meniscectomy surgery on Monday afternoon.

The procedure was performed by head team orthopedist Dr. Peter Asnis at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Kimbrel is expected to miss three to six weeks while recovering.

Kimbrel, acquired in an offseason trade with San Diego, sustained the injury while catching fly balls in the outfield during batting practice before last Friday's game against Houston.

The 28-year-old righthander was placed on the 15-day disabled list Saturday with a left knee medial meniscus tear.

Kimbrel, named an All-Star for the fifth time in his career, is 1-3 with a 3.55 ERA and 17 saves in 34 appearances this season.

Toronto's Aaron Sanchez (9-1, 2.97 ERA) replaced Kimbrel on the American League All-Star roster for Tuesday night's Midsummer Classic in San Diego.

Braves lose C Flowers to broken hand

Atlanta Braves catcher Tyler Flowers will be sidelined for at least four weeks with a broken hand.

Flowers originally was injured on July 1 when he was struck on the left hand by a pitch from Miami's A.J. Ramos.

Strong start propels Bangor East by Hermon

HERMON — Bangor East scored eight runs in the second inning to jump out to an early lead en route to a 16-5 victory over Hermon Tuesday in a District 3 Little League baseball all-star game for ages 11-12.

ALL-STAR TOURNEYS
Quinn McCaffrey highlighted the inning with a two-run triple.

Bangor East ousted Hermon in the double-elimination tournament will take on Brewer/Orrington at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Orrington in a losers bracket contest for the right to face unbeaten Houlton (4-0) in the championship round at a time and site to be determined.

Keegan Cyr sparked Bangor East with two singles and a solo home run. Aiden Giles contributed with a three-run homer and double while Andrew Brook added a two-run homer. Brook also picked up the pitching win after pitching three innings and striking out six.

Wyatt Gogan paced Hermon with a triple and two RBIs. Brayden Moses and Tyler Rand each added a single.

Bangor East 185 2 — 16 Hermon 000 5 — 5
Brook, Emerson (4) and Cyr; Gogan, Scripture (2), Taylor (4) and Gage

D3 Baseball, ages 9-10 Old Town, Brewer record victories

At Brewer, Old Town rallied for five runs in the fifth inning to beat Bangor East 10-5 and Brewer rallied for four runs in its fifth inning to defeat Bronco LL of Hampden in District 3 tourney games for ages 9-10.

Brendan Mahaney paced Old town with a double, single and two runs. Matt Brown chipped in with a double and Carson Ellis had a single while each player drove in a run. Mahaney was also the winning pitcher.

Ellis Spaulding singled twice to lead Bangor East and Jason Libby added a run and a double.

For Brewer, Grady Vanidestine picked up the win on the mound and helped his cause with a double, single and two runs. Kadien Morin contributed with two doubles, a single and three runs while Cale Long added two singles and two runs.

Garrett McLeod sparked Bronco with a single, double and two runs while Andrew Lyons and J.J. Wolfington each added two singles and a run.

Bangor East 100 310 — 5 Old Town 401 05x — 10
Clay and Clesson; Mahaney and Lizzotte
Bronco 005 141 — 11 Brewer 026 04x — 12
McLeod and Peckham; Vanidestine and Mason

D1 Baseball, Jr. League Acadia 6, Bucksport 5

At Bucksport on Monday, Brett Duley recorded a single and double and scored two runs to lead Acadia to victory.

Sam Mitchell added three singles and run for Acadia while Logan Beckwith and

Sam Kelinsky each singled.

Logan Stanley led Bucksport with a pair of singles and scored. Cam Grindle, Ty Giberson, and Issac Moore all chimed in to provide some offense for Bucksport.
Acadia 101 022 0 — 6 Bucksport 102 000 2 — 5
Moore, Trisch (6), Giberson (7), and Stanley; Mitchell, Keblinsky (3), Isaacs (4), and Merchant

How to report all-star games to the BDN

All-star youth baseball and softball games can be reported to the Bangor Daily News via email to: bdnsports@bangordailynews.com.

Coaches are required to list information for both teams, with first and last names of players. Info should include key highlights and stats for leading hitters and pitchers.

Linescores may also be included.

The game result should be emailed as soon as possible on the day it is played.

The host team is responsible for reporting games.

Kemble leads Coffee News past Skowhegan

BANGOR — Righthander Peter Kemble allowed just five hits in 8 1/3 innings to help the Coffee News Comrades beat Post 16 of Skowhegan 7-0 in American Legion baseball action Tuesday night at Mansfield Stadium.

LEGION BASEBALL
Bangor improved to 13-2 and Skowhegan slipped to 9-6.

Brian Pierce came on to record the last two outs of the ninth to earn a save for the Comrades.

Derek Fournier sparked the Bangor offense with a bases-loaded triple to deep left-center field in the fourth inning. Kemble led off the inning with a single, Sam Huston walked and Andrew Hillier reached on an error.

Hillier chipped in with a two-run single in the eighth inning and Fournier added an RBI single. Kyle Stevenson led off the inning with a walk and Kemble and Huston followed with singles.

Cody Lawyerson led Skowhegan with three singles.

Brewer 6, Motor City 3

At Hedderic Field in Brewer on Tuesday night, Jack Corey scattered four hits over six innings while striking out four to help Brewer beat Motor City.

Greg Warmuth sparked Brewer (7-7) with two singles, two RBIs and a run. Logan

Rogerson chipped in with an RBI single and two runs while Zach Dyer and Matt Pushard each notched a double.

Austin Sheehan recorded two singles, two RBIs and a run for Motor City (2-12) while Parker Walker added an RBI single.

Motor City 010 020 0 — 3 51 Brewer 050 010 x — 6 10 2

Monteith, Perfitt (4) and Young; Corey, Moore (6) and Maxsimic

How to report Legion games

American Legion baseball games should be reported to the BDN website at this link: <http://bangordailynews.com/sports/scores/>

Click on your game, add the information and hit submit. Do not hit submit until you have added all of your information.

We ask coaches to list each team's record and the first and last names of players mentioned for each team. Also, key highlights to the game.

We ask for the repeat hitters, including whether the hits were doubles, triples, home runs, etc. We also ask for the score by innings (line score) for each team, along with total hits and errors. Please list each pitcher, and include the inning in which the relievers entered the game, and a notable number of strikeouts and walks, along with the catchers.

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