

Maine faces Australia in SLWS semifinal

BANGOR — Maine District 3 champ Bronco-Hermon will battle Asia-Pacific in the Senior League World Series semifinals at 8 p.m. Thursday after the team from Melbourne, Australia, advanced with a 13-7 victory over Latin America Wednesday at Mansfield Stadium.

Bronco-Hermon, which features players from Hampden Academy and Hermon High School, won its first two tournament games to gain a berth in the semifinals. Semifinal winners will vie for the title at 2 p.m. Saturday in a game broadcast on ESPN.

U.S. Central champ Clear Ridge Little League of Chicago will play Thursday's first semifinal at 5 p.m. against U.S. Southeast of Dunfries, Virginia, a 9-1 winner over U.S. West of Wailuka, Hawaii, in Wednesday's late game..

Asia-Pacific cranked out 12 hits, including three extra-



base hits, in its win over Latin America. Jordan Barnett sparked the Melbourne stars with a triple, two singles and three RBIs. Jack Dunn chipped in with a triple and double with an RBI while Ciaran Palmer added two singles and drove in two runs.

Jai Lytteton came on to pitch the final 5 1/2 innings to earn the win after scattering seven hits and giving up a run.

Jeremy Ayala paced Latin America with two doubles, a single and three RBIs while Jorge Romero added two hits and an RBI.

In Wednesday's late game, Anthony Stehlin allowed just

a two hits and a run while not walking a batter and striking out six in 4 2/3 innings to help U.S. Southeast advance. Daniel Huppert came on to pitch the final 2 1/2 innings and allowed just a hit while striking out three.

Stehlin helped his own cause with two hits and two RBIs while Carson Arguin chipped in with a double, single and two RBIs. Devin Logsdon and Joseph Cofer each contributed two hits and an RBI.

Iokepa Supnet had a single and an RBI for U.S. West and Waylon Bacos doubled.

U.S. East 4, Canada 0

Matthew Goehrig pitched a five-hit shutout, racking up nine strikeouts with only one walk, to lead the U.S. East all-stars to a 4-0 consolation round victory over Canada in SLWS consolation round.

Goehrig also helped his

own cause with a single and an RBI as the team from Clifton, New Jersey, got its first win of the tournament.

Joseph Bradley sparked the offense with three singles and an RBI, Ryan Boccafogli singled twice and drove in a run and Joey Valentine added two hits.

Marcus Roflik posted two singles to lead the Canadian contingent from Regina, Saskatchewan. Kordell Yee chipped in with a double to support losing pitcher Jacob Lipp, who allowed six hits and three runs (two earned) with four strikeouts and two walks in four innings.

U.S. East scored all the runs it would need during a three-run third inning. Bradley ignited the rally with a one-out, line-drive single, Valentine walked and Goehrig roped a single to center to plate the first run.

Brandon Pena reached on a dropped fly ball that loaded

the bases, setting the stage for Boccafogli's two-run, ground-ball single.

New Jersey added an insurance run in the sixth on a single by Bradley that scored Michael Algieri, who had walked.

Europe-Africa 3, U.S. Southwest 2

Jordi Sanchez delivered Adria Foz (double) with a bunt single with nobody out in the fourth inning, giving Europe-Africa of Barcelona, Spain, the margin of victory in a Senior League World Series consolation contest.

Omar Hernandez singled twice with an RBI while Frank Hernandez provided a single and drove in a run for the winners. Alex Tome worked 5 1/2 innings of four-hit, one-run ball with four strikeouts and three walks to earn the win on the hill.

Pedro Rosell and Erice Asensio each pitched two-thirds of an inning in relief,

with Asensio earning the save.

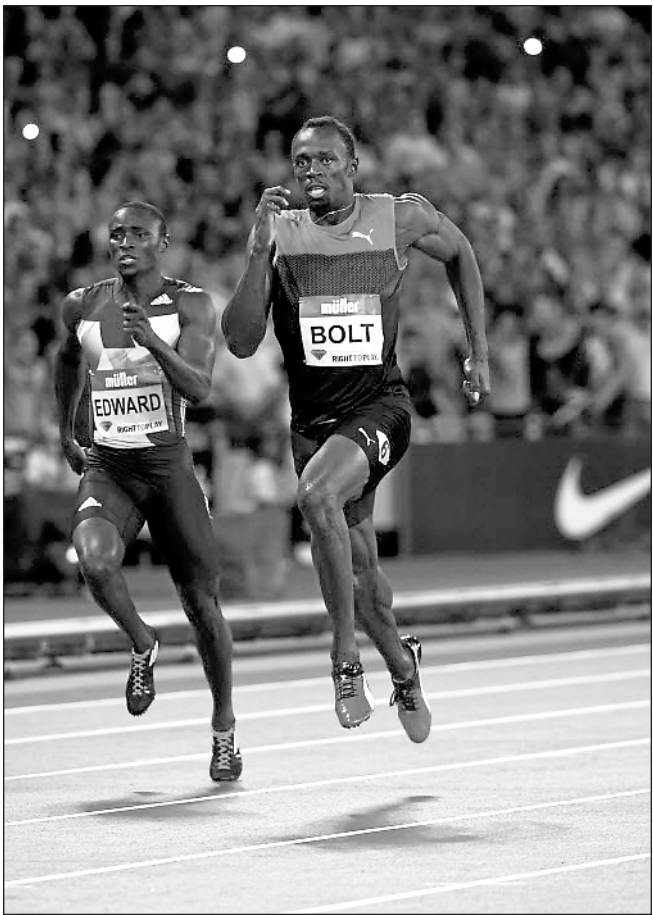
Isaac Velazquez sparked U.S. Southwest of San Antonio, Texas, with two singles and an RBI and Austin Vaughan rapped a run-scoring double. Starting pitcher Nick Foster gave up three hits and two runs (one earned) in three innings and suffered the loss.

Europe-Africa grabbed a 2-0 lead in the third inning on a single by Adrian Hernandez, a walk and Omar Hernandez's bunt single. Frank Hernandez plated the second run with a groundout.

Trailing 3-0, U.S. Southwest scored single runs in the sixth and seventh.

In the sixth, Derek Klosowski reached on a fielder's choice and rode home on Vaughan's double to left.

In the seventh, Jalen Battles walked and moved up on Clay Kotzur's one-out infield single. Velazquez singled to cut the deficit to 3-2.



KIRBY LEE | USA TODAY SPORTS

Usain Bolt (right) wins the 200m in 19.89 in the London Anniversary Games during an IAAF Diamond League meet at Olympic Stadium in July.

Olympics

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Several other strong track and field countries, particularly endurance powerhouse Kenya, will be on duty in Rio on the back of a huge number of doping positives and with their anti-doping controls routinely criticized as inadequate.

And as if dealing with the daily wave of doping discussions was not enough of a challenge for the IAAF and IOC, another controversy will raise its head again in Rio if, as expected, South Africa's Caster Semenya lives up to her tag as probably the hottest favorite on the track in the women's 800 meters.

Since her teenage triumph in the 2009 world championships, Semenya has had a troubled time. She was initially withdrawn from competition while she underwent gender tests and scientists argued over whether she should be allowed to compete because of an inflated testosterone level.

She is now back running impressive times but still at

the center of debate about her eligibility.

In the men's 800 meters David Rudisha is battling for his best form and if he were to retain the title it would be a hugely popular triumph for the Kenyan.

IAAF President Seb Coe said he thought Rudisha's world record victory was the highlight of the 2012 Games and the Briton, former 800 world record holder and twice Olympic 1,500 champion, would dearly love his focus in Rio to be on such uplifting performances.

That, however, is highly unlikely to be the case.

The men's marathon will bring the athletics program to a close on Aug. 21 but that will almost certainly not be the final curtain.

If previous championships are anything to go by, retrospective doping disqualifications from the throwing events will start almost immediately while further doping offenses could be drip fed to an already totally disillusioned public up to and beyond 2024.

The question for track and field is will anyone be around then to notice? (Editing by Toby Davis)

Bates

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just get the most out of that rep," he added.

Bates is listed second on the Colts' depth chart at strong-side linebacker behind Erik Walden, a ninth-year player out of Middle Tennessee State.

Bates is in the midst of a considerable transition as he attempts to make the jump to playing on Sundays.

For starters, he spent almost his entire career at the University of Maine playing defensive end. That meant developing a knack for shedding opposing linemen and tracking down the quarterback or the ballcarrier.

Bates did so successfully, claiming All-Colonial Athletic Association first-team honors after posting 57 tackles, including 7 1/2 sacks. He was third in the conference with 14 1/2 tackles for a loss of yardage.

In going from playing with his hand on the ground to standing up and having different responsibilities, Bates is trying to focus on doing all the little things that will add up to success at linebacker.

"I'm a little undersized, so I've got to really hone in on using my discipline and using discipline with my technique and playing with great leverage and playing behind my hands and taking that with every single rep," Bates told Colts.com's Andrew Walker on Monday.

The unassuming Bates has earned his NFL opportunity through hard work and persistence, so he is willing to do whatever it takes to modify his play if it will help him get on the field.

With Indianapolis, Bates also has the luxury of learning the ropes from Mathis. He and the 14-year NFL veteran share some common background, as both are smaller players who came

Massachusetts teams vie for Cal Ripken title

SKOWHEGAN — Massachusetts teams Freetown-Lakeview and Marlboro will vie for the Cal Ripken New England regional title for baseball players 11-12.

ALL-STAR TOURNEMENTS
Thursday after posting semifinal victories Wednesday.

Freetown-Lakeview edged Chelmsford, Mass., 4-3 and Marlboro beat tourney host Skowhegan 11-4.

The winners will meet in the title game at 5 p.m.

Cole Taylor sparked Freetown-Lakeview with a home run while Alex DiGiammo chipped in with two singles. Curt Heath and Carter Bailey each added a single to back up winning pitcher Connor Johnson.

Jake Faulkenham sparked Chelmsford with a double and single while Caleb Stuart and Scott Brown each added a double.

In the second game, Adam Cronin notched the win on the mound for Marlboro and Aus-

tin Hunt contributed with a home run. Andrew DeFronzo added a double and Cam Ginnetti had a single.

Simon Lewis and Quincey McCray each cranked a home run for Skowhegan and Hunt-er McEwen had a double.

The regional's all-tourney team was also announced Wednesday: Andy Valley; Eli Soehren, Orion Tripp; Chelmsford: Jack Blaine, Scott Brown, Carter Colucci, Jake Faulkenham; Freetown-Lakeville: Brendan Flanagan, Connor Johnson, Marcus Krusiak, Maddox Rosyski, Cole Taylor; Marlboro: Marcus Chrisafideis, Adam Cronin, Braden Deckers, Cam Ginnetti, Austin Hunt, Jason Knollenberg; Oxford, Connecticut: Justin Black, Ryan Brimacombe, Julian Papst; Pepperell, Massachusetts: Mike Archambault, Colby Gouldrup, Rocco Lamonica;

Skowhegan: Hunter McEwen, Simon Lewis, Collin LePage, Kyle LePage, Quincey McCray, Ben Morgan; and Stratham, New Hampshire: Elliot Dresser, Bradley Richards.

"Very smart and instinctive player," Mathis said of Bates. "He's kind of one of my favorite rookies right now, so I'm a big fan. He does what he needs to do to get better each and every day."

NFL teams have made the transition this week to practicing in full pads. Bates hopes to pass his first significant test on Sunday when the Colts take on the Green Bay Packers in the Pro Football Hall of Fame Game at Canton, Ohio.

He may even encounter a familiar face on the other side of the line of scrimmage. Former UMaine teammate Justin Perillo is a third-year tight end for the Packers.

"I'm really just taking it one day at a time," Bates told The Herald Bulletin. "But when that time comes to play that game and strap it up and actually be able to hit, get the violence back into the game, it's going to be great."

Husson women's soccer gains Maine talent

the last five seasons working with the men's program at Florida State University.



Mathews

He takes over for Jill Cristan, who resigned last month after two seasons. "[Eddie] has lofty aspirations for our program and is eager to begin his coaching duties," Roussel said in a news release. "We all see many exciting days ahead for the women's tennis program at Thomas College."

GNAC selects St. Joe's AD as top executive

St. Joseph's athletic director Brian Curtin has been named the 2016 Great North-east Athletic Conference Executive of the Year, the league office announced Tuesday morning.

The leader of the St. Joe's athletics department since May 2006, Curtin currently serves as the chair of the

GNAC Executive Committee, working with GNAC Commissioner Joe Walsh.

During the 2015-16 academic year, Curtin also worked closely with St. Joseph's President Dr. James Dlugos — the chair of the GNAC Presidents' Council — to review and restructure the conference's bylaws. Under Curtin's guidance, a working group was formed to evaluate certain conference procedures and configuration.

In the classroom at St. Joseph's, the Monks increased their number of GNAC Academic All-Conference honorees (89) for the fourth consecutive year. On the field, nine of SJC's 10 record-bearing teams advanced to the GNAC Tournament, with the Monks women's basketball program capturing its second conference championship in three years. The department's baseball and field hockey programs made GNAC title-game appearances last year, while its staff also hosted the 2015 GNAC men's and women's cross country championships.

Mariners rally by Red Sox in eighth

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

SEATTLE — Robinson Cano's three-run, eighth-inning home run completed Seattle's comeback from a four-run deficit as the Mariners rallied to beat the Boston Red Sox 5-4 Tuesday night.

With one out, Cano hit a 1-2 pitch from new Boston reliever Fernando Abad into the right field seats.

Red Sox starter David Price dominated the Mariners for seven scoreless innings before losing his grip in the eighth. He gave up four consecutive hits to open the inning before the Red Sox turned to their bullpen.

Four of Seattle's five runs in the eighth were charged to Price, who allowed seven hits over seven-plus innings and did not factor into the decision.

Abad, who was acquired in a deadline trade with the Minnesota Twins on Sunday, made his Red Sox debut and gave up a three-run homer to the first batter he faced. Abad (1-5) was added to the roster after Monday night's win.

Mike Zunino led off the eighth with a home run, pulling Seattle (53-52) within 4-1. Guillermo Heredia added an RBI single, his first major league hit, as Boston's lead shrunk to 4-2 before Cano's 24th home run of the season completed the comeback.

Tokyo

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the sea, instead of on artificial waves, likely in the Prefecture of Chiba. Skateboarding, with two street and two park events involving 40 competitors each (20 male, 20 female), will be in Tokyo.

"This is a game-changing moment for surfing," said international federation president Fernando Aguerre.

"We are already seeing increased popularity of the sport across the world and

the Olympic Games will provide an incredible platform to further showcase surfing."

Karate could use the Nippon budokan — home of Japanese martial arts — and will have two events (one men's and one women's) for kata and three weight classes for kumite.

Sports climbing, also in urban Tokyo, will feature men's and women's competitions for bouldering, lead and speed combined with a total of 474 athletes to compete in the five sports.

Venues are to be finalized by the end of the year, Mori said.