



LARRY MAHONEY | BDN

Univeristy of Maine running backs Nigel Beckford (left) and Josh Mack, hope to give the Black Bears' ground game a boost this season.

UMaine

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limited [my playing time] but I felt I made use of my reps," he said.

Beckford, a 5-foot-9, 188-pound native of Bridgeport, Connecticut, is an evasive back whose quick feet and low center of gravity enable him to knife through small seams and turn minimal gains into productive yardage.

"His side-to-side cuts were pretty impressive — just the explosiveness of them," said Harasymiak. "It was good to see. You could tell his legs were fresh. He's got that cut and that burst than can really help you."

Beckford said it was a positive scrimmage.

"The offense executed. We put some drives together and scored a lot of points," he said. "I'm looking for a great year."

He enjoys the new offense employed by Harasymiak and offensive coordinator Liam Coen.

"It's different, but it's fun for all the players," said Beckford.

His goal for this season is simple.

"I just want to win," he said.

Mack, a 6-1, 190-pounder from Rochester, New York, said he was pleased with his progress from the first scrimmage to Sunday's second one.

"I was a little shaky in the first scrimmage. But it felt

good today. It's a big jump from high school to Division I. The guys are a lot faster and a lot bigger," he said. "I was one of the biggest guys out there in high school. It was a walk in the park. It's not like that here."

He said the first couple of practices were "rough," but he called his dad, who also was a football player, and his father's encouragement proved to be beneficial.

"I'm more comfortable now. I'm progressing big time. My positional coaches and the offensive coordinator have helped me," said Mack, the 2015 Rochester Co-Player of the Year.

"I've been very happy with Josh," said Harasymiak. "It's a huge jump for him. He is a combination of Nigel and Zaire. Zaire is more of a power back."

"When he's out there for the first time [in a game], his eyes are probably going to open up. The speed is going to be a little different. We're going to have to make sure we take care of him," Harasymiak added.

Mack knows how important the running game will be this season.

"If you can establish the running game, it'll open up the whole offense," said Mack. "It'll be hard to stop our offense because we've got a lot of playmakers and they have a lot of speed."

Maine opens its season on Thursday, Sept. 1 at the University of Connecticut.

a similar developmental mode and already scheduled junior varsity games against Campbell Conference rivals.

"We hope this is just a temporary thing," said Crocker, "and that we'll be able to safely build it back up through that club schedule where we're going to be dealing with teams that we feel are more at our level and that may be in a similar situation to us.

"That made more sense to us than to knowingly put our kids in a situation where they could get hurt for no good reason," he said.

The decision by Boothbay, along with a similar route taken after last season by Telstar, suddenly leaves Class D South with just eight football schools.

Those teams — three-time defending Class D state champion Oak Hill of Wales, Medomak Valley of Waldoboro, Winthrop-Monmouth, Lisbon, Dirigo of Dixfield, Maranacook of Readfield, Old Orchard Beach and Traip Academy of Kittery — will play a seven-game regular season over eight weeks with one bye week each, according to Campbell Conference secretary-treasurer Peter Brown.

That will be followed by a three-week, six-team regional playoff tournament, with the top two seeds drawing first-round byes.

Medomak Valley, a second-year varsity program, is ineligible for postseason play until 2017, when it plans to move up to Class C by enrollment.

As for Boothbay's football program, the Seahawks hope to rejoin the varsity ranks as soon as they can re-establish some experienced depth.

"It's unfortunate all the way around, but we've got some club games scheduled already and we're hoping that through that we can build some success," said Welch. "Our older kids will have a varsity-like experience, they'll still play football for Boothbay Region High School, and then this also lets our younger players develop at an appropriate level against appropriately matched teams."

"That's the course for this year, and in the springtime we'll re-evaluate and look at our numbers again," he said. "Our goal is to eventually be back to a varsity-level program, but we'll just have to wait and see how things play out."

BY LARRY MAHONEY
BDN STAFF

ORONO — First-year University of Maine football coach Joe Harasymiak said his offense showed noteworthy improvement from the first scrimmage to Sunday's second scrimmage as the Black Bears prepare for their Sept. 1 opener at the University of Connecticut.

"I thought the explosiveness of our offense came out today," said Harasymiak, whose team's first scrimmage was on Aug. 13. "The backs played well, the offensive line had a good day. They had an attitude to them. "The defense responded

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at times. It was just the big plays they gave up, and we'll get that straightened out," he added.

"Overall, it was nice to see the offense come together. It was probably their best day so far," he said.

"We had a lot of energy," said senior quarterback Dan Collins, who tossed three touchdown passes and will be the starter in the season opener. "We played really fast."

"I was real happy. We still made mistakes. We still have work to do. We have some finetuning to do. But we'll get better from watching the tape," he said.



Harasymiak

Price pitches Red Sox to win over Rays

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida — Red Sox starter David Price threw eight innings of shutout baseball, getting his first win as a visitor at Tropicana Field and leading Boston to a 6-2 win against his old team, the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday night.

Boston (70-54) moved into a first-place tie with idle Toronto atop the American League East standings, while the Rays (52-71) cooled off after winning six of seven. Evan Longoria spoiled the shutout with a two-run home run, his 29th this season, off reliever Matt Barnes in the ninth inning. The Rays had more hits in the ninth (three) than in eight innings against Price.

Price (12-8) took a one-hitter into the eighth inning, then got a huge save from left fielder Andrew Benintendi, who made a leaping grab over the wall in the corner to rob Steven Souza of what would have been a two-run home run. The former Rays ace was 0-3 in three previous starts against Tampa Bay at the Trop, but pitched a gem Monday.

Two of Boston's first three runs came on sacrifice flies, with Benintendi getting one in the fourth and



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Tampa Bay Rays second baseman Logan Forsythe (bottom) is caught stealing second by Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia in the fourth inning on Monday, at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Hanley Ramirez adding another in the seventh. The eighth inning was the Rays' only real threat, with Beckham leading off the inning with Tampa Bay's second hit and Souza following with Benintendi's gem.

The Red Sox pulled away in the ninth, with Dustin Pedroia reaching base on a throwing error by reliever Danny Farquhar, who then served up a two-run home run to Xander Bogaerts, his 15th of the season, for a 5-0 lead. Sandy Leon brought in another run with an RBI groundout to score Mookie Betts, who had singled.

Price, seeking his first

He was pleased with the running backs and said the offensive line "really opened some holes."

"Max Andrews and Josh Ingalls really stepped up," added Collins.

Holden's Andrews, a senior who played at Bangor's John Bapst High School, had been a tight end but was moved to tackle this season, and he also has taken snaps at center.

He was the center on Sunday after junior Dan Burrows suffered an ankle injury.

Ingalls, a senior from Wells, is a tackle.

Starting tackle Jamil Demby has been sidelined by a strained knee ligament and will miss at least another two weeks.

Harasymiak said he didn't think the injuries suf-

fered by Burrows or running back Zaire Williams (knee) were serious.

"[Williams] banged up his knee a little bit. He made a nice cut on a screen play and landed on it when he was tackled," said Harasymiak, who pulled Williams after he got hurt. "We wanted to error on the side of caution. We know what he can do."

As far as Burrows, Harasymiak said "someone rolled up on Danny's ankle. But I don't think it's anything to worry about."

Harasymiak said another plus was the kicking game.

"I thought we kicked pretty well. Derek Deoul's first punt was a good one," said Harasymiak. "And I think we made all of our [placement kicks] but one."

on a walk and Sandy Leon following with a single. Chris Young, activated from the disabled list and playing for the first time in two months, came through with an RBI double down the left-field line to score Ramirez for a 1-0 lead.

After another walk to load the bases, Benintendi hit a sacrifice fly to score Leon for a 2-0 lead.

Snell loaded the bases again with another walk, but reliever Erasmo Ramirez came in with two runners on and got a groundout to third from Bogaerts to end the inning. Snell followed with a scoreless fifth.

The Rays came in as winners of six of their last seven. The Red Sox had won eight of 10, including a four-game weekend split with the Detroit Tigers.

NOTES: The Red Sox activated OF Chris Young from the 15-day disabled list after missing 51 games since June 24 with a hamstring strain. Young returned to the lineup on Monday, batting seventh and playing left field. He was hitting .277 with six home runs and 15 RBIs before the injury and had batted .310 since May 10 after a slow start. To make room for Young, the Red Sox optioned LHP Henry Owens to Triple-A Pawtucket.

Football

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nocket is smaller at 181 students but is listed in the Maine Principals' Association football bulletin as a cooperative entry with Schenck of East Millinocket, and their combined enrollment is 315.

Another possible challenge for the Boothbay program is competition from often lucrative summer job opportunities for local high school-age students in the tourism industry or lobstering.

"Our students here are a significant part of our summer work force," said Welch. "They have outstanding opportunities to make some really good money over the summertime to help them throughout the year, and they serve a valuable purpose for the businesses who need those students to work."

"My daughter works two jobs during the summertime," he added.

Boothbay head coach Bryan Dionne and his staff joined a growing number of high school football programs statewide in opting for single practice sessions at the outset of August workouts instead of the traditional double sessions, but that didn't help alter the makeup of the youthful roster.

"Here and in a lot of communities when the kids do have to work and the community needs them to work, double sessions just wasn't something we could do," said Welch.

Boothbay had hoped to add to its roster through a cooperative team arrangement with Wiscasset, which does not have its own high school football program.

But after being encouraged by early interest from students at the neighboring high school, no players from Wiscasset turned out for Boothbay's summer program or for the start of preseason practices last Monday.

"Our coach put a lot of work and a lot of time into it," said Welch. "He went over there and took some of the boys with him, but I understand it's hard for kids to pick up a new sport and travel to a new school, so unfortunately we didn't get any kids from there."

Crocker is building a schedule for the 2016 season with games against other schools in

Husson

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ways been a running back since his days in Pop Warner football.

"But when I get out into the open field, I like to take it to the house," said Smith who has scored 33 touchdowns to date.

He credits a lot of his success to the offensive line and his coaches.

"I've been lucky to have great offensive lines the past two years, a great offensive

line coach [Nat Clark] and a great running backs coach in Coach Q [Nate Quirion]. That has helped me a lot and made my job a lot easier," said Smith.

Smith said he feels stronger and quicker this season and he doesn't concern himself with stats. His goal this season is to lead the Eagles to their second NCAA Division III Tournament berth in three years.

His mother, Shishony Brandon, is a major influence in his life.

"She watches every game [on the internet] and she

Olympics

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and dumped on this city's reputation. U.S. Swimming should punish him for his embarrassing behavior.

— Winner: 41-year-old gymnast Oksana Chusovitina of Uzbekistan, who competed in her seventh (yes, seventh) Olympics. Oldest female Olympic gymnast in history. Her first Olympics was Barcelona in 1992, five years before Simone Biles was born.

— Loser: Hope Solo. The U.S. goalkeeper should send Lochte a Thank You note, because before his saga, Solo was the Ugliest American at these Games. Calling the Swedes "a bunch of cowards" was unsportsmanlike and unacceptable from a veteran who should know better.

— Winner: Simone Biles. She stands only 4-foot-8, but she shouldered a ton of pressure, entering these Games as the anointed best gymnast of all time. She delivered with four golds and a sparkling personality to match.

— Loser: Egyptian judoka Islam El Shehaby was sent home from the Rio Olympics after refusing to shake the hand of Israeli Or Sasson after their match. "His behavior at the end of the competi-

tion was contrary to the rules of fair play and against the spirit of friendship embodied in the Olympic Values," the International Olympic Committee said.

— Winner: Usain Bolt. Nine Olympic races in Beijing, London and Rio. Nine gold medals. Simply. The. Best.

— Loser(s): Top male golfers such as Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy, who chose to skip their sport's return to the Olympics after 112 years.

— Winner: Kiribati's dancing weightlifter David Katoatua, who raises awareness for climate change and the coastal erosion of his Pacific island nation with his wiggling hips.

— Loser: Patrick Hickey, an IOC member from Ireland, who was arrested for ticket scalping.

— Winner: Tennis player Monica Puig of Miami, who won the first gold in any sport for her native Puerto Rico.

— Loser: Whoever was in charge of keeping the diving pool water blue.

— Winner(s): Simone Manuel and Ashleigh Johnson, who proved that black women can not only swim and play water polo, they can win gold medals in those sports — a first for both.

— Loser: The Russian Olympic Committee, which overlooked widespread sys-

temic doping in track and field and other sports, resulting in the banning of many top Russian Olympians from these Games.

— Winner: Swimmer Katie Ledecky. Won four golds, easily, and holds world records in the 400-, 800- and 1,500-meter freestyle.

Loser(s): Two Mongolian wrestling coaches, Tserenbaatar Tsogtbayar and Byambarenchin Bayaraa, stripped their clothes off Sunday in protest after their athlete, Ganzorigiin Mandakhnaran, lost the bronze medal match to Uzbekistan's Ikhtiyor Navruzov when judges awarded a penalty point after the conclusion of the match.

— Winner(s): 5,000-meter runners Abbey D'Agostino (USA) and Nikki Hamblin (New Zealand), whose sportsmanship is a lesson to all (they helped each other up and finished the race together).

— Loser(s): Some overzealous Brazilian fans, who booed non-Brazilians when they were competing against Brazilians. While this is common practice in soccer, it is not the Olympic way, and several foreign athletes were offended.

— Winner: Neymar. The pride and pressure of his nation on his back, the soccer star delivered the gold-medal-winning penalty kick over Germany. The perfect ending.

Easton, Ashland boys battle to tie

EASTON — Alex Kaiser's goal with 1:16 left in regulation helped

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Ashland gain a tie with the host Easton Bears, 1-1 in schoolboy soccer action Monday.

Easton had taken a 1-0 lead with 6:26 left in the first half when Jordan Doody scored.

Neither team scored in the two overtime periods.

Jake Flewelling made six saves for Easton (1-0-1) while Steven Bellanceau also had six for Ashland (0-0-1).

Girls Soccer

Ashland 10, Easton 0

At Easton, Mackenzie Carter and Morgan Doughty each scored four goals to help the Hornets open their season with a victory.

Cassidy Pelletier and Kassandra Nelson each added a goal for Ashland while goalkeeper Megan Cote earned her first shutout with three saves on seven shots.

Delaney Leach finished with 13 saves on 31 shots for Easton, now 0-2.