

Camden golfer tied for third at junior event

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — Fifteen-year-old Cole Anderson of Camden is in contention after two rounds of the American Junior Golf Association Coca-Cola Junior Championship being held at the Sugarloaf Golf Club.

The rising sophomore at Camden Hills Regional High School in Rockport shot a 6-over-par 78 during Wednesday's second round for a total of 152,

three strokes behind leader Nicklas Staub of Boynton Beach, Florida, in the boys division.

Staub, 13, shot a 2-over-par 74 on Wednesday after an opening-round 75 to enter Thursday's final round at 5-over 149.

Anderson, the reigning Maine Class A individual state champion from last fall and the recent winner of the New England junior championship, led the tournament after shooting a first-round 74.

He is tied for third with Christopher Francoeur of Amesbury, Massachusetts, also at 152 after

rounds of 78 and 74.

Another Mainer, Eric Dugas of Pittsfield, is tied for seventh after 36 holes with rounds of 77 and 78 for 155. The incoming senior at Maine Central Institute is tied with Mithran Denbow of Sandwich, Massachusetts (75-80-155).

Other Pine Tree State golfers to make the cut were Caleb Manuel of Topsham (76-83-159) and Austin Legge of Cape Elizabeth (87-78-165).

Maine golfers missing the two-day cut of 167 were Drew Powell of Bangor (90-84-174), Tom Higgins of South Portland (92-84-176),

Anthony Burnham of Scarborough (101-91-192) and Max Altnzauer of Cape Elizabeth (92-101-193).

Only the top 50 players in the field advance to the final round, which begins at 7 a.m. Thursday.

The AJGA Coca-Cola Junior Championship is a 54-hole stroke play event spanning four days with three rounds of competitive play. The tournament field is comprised of more than 130 male and female competitors ages 12-18, hailing from eight countries and 17 different states, including eight players from Maine, all in the boys field.

Dery wins Maine Senior Amateur

Ron Dery opened the 2016 Maine Senior Amateur Championship at his home course at Biddeford-Saco Country Club in the first group and went out victorious in the final group on the final day.

It was a tight contest through most of the back nine, but Dery finished in style with a birdie on each of the last two holes Wednesday to cap off sixth victory over runner-up Jim Quinn.

Tied for third in the tournament were Jim Mc-

Farlane, Gary Manoogian and Daniel Falcone.

Dery shot a two-day total of 1-under-par 141 with scores of 70 and 71 to capture his first solo Maine State Golf Association major. He previously won the 2014 Senior Four-Ball Championship with partner Randy Sawyer at Waterville Country Club.

With the win, Dery earned a berth on the Maine's 2016 Tri-State team that will battle top golfers from New Hampshire and Vermont later this summer at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club.

Day, Spieth face off at The Barclays

BY GREG LOGAN
NEWSDAY

The PGA Tour's version of postseason play begins Thursday in The Barclays at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, New York, the first of four events culminating with a \$10 million

PGA prize for the winner of the FedExCup.

Fears of a malaise in the post-Tiger Woods era have given way to the excitement of a five-man race at the top of the world rankings among Jason Day, Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth, Henrik Stenson and Rory McIlroy.

They're all here in the starting gate, with Johnson, Stenson and Day as the leading contenders for player of the year honors, Spieth hoping to get back on track and defend the FedExCup title he won a year ago and McIlroy trying to find his putting stroke to get back to the top

after a season in which his only win was in the Irish Open on the European Tour.

Day has three wins, including the prestigious Players Championship, but he understands Johnson has an edge for player of the year because his two wins include the U.S. Open.

Stenson has one PGA Tour win, but it was a record-breaking performance in the British Open.

Asked Wednesday what he must do to claim player of the year, Day said, "A couple more wins should do it, even with what Dustin has done. To have five wins, and especially two more in the playoffs, will obviously get it done. If Dustin beats me this year, he deserves it."

Johnson missed the cut at the PGA Championship at Baltusrol in his last event, but he's No. 1 in driving distance and ranks third in tee-to-green stats. That gives him

an advantage on the 7,468-yard Black Course, which by all accounts from the practice rounds is playing extremely difficult even though the greens have been soft.

"I'd love to win player of the year," Johnson said Wednesday. "I feel I'd be right there in consideration."

Stenson comes in with as much momentum as anyone following his British Open win, a seventh-place finish at the PGA and his silver medal at the Olympics. He called his first major championship "the crown of my career. It's like your stock goes up because you become a major champion. It does have a nice ring to it, I have to say."

Spieth, 23, found that out at an early age when he won the Masters and U.S. Open last year. But since losing a five-stroke lead in the final round of this year's Masters, he has struggled with his

driving accuracy (128th) and hitting greens in regulation (164th), and lately his putting has been off.

"I struck the ball nicely at the last two majors, my last two events," Spieth said. "I just really didn't have my putter. So I put a lot of work into that and into my ball-striking. I have the potential to play my best golf of the year in these next (few) weeks, so I may as well grind and do what I can to make that a reality."

Just two years ago, McIlroy was a dominant player, but he missed cuts at the U.S. Open and PGA thanks largely to poor putting that led him to change putters. He's anxious to get back in the hunt for world No. 1.

"If you look in the world rankings, I'm in my position (fifth) for a reason," McIlroy said. "For me right now, it's just about improvement and trying to improve my putting."



BOB DECHIARA | USA TODAY SPORTS
New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick watches the action during the first half against the New Orleans Saints recently at Gillette Stadium.

Pats-Panthers preseason game no dress rehearsal

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — When he actually speaks, Bill Belichick sure can have a way with words.

Take what he said Monday when asked about Friday's matchup between the Patriots and Panthers at Carolina (7:30 p.m. ET) and whether the third preseason game truly is a "dress rehearsal" for the regular season.

"I don't know what that means," he told Boston radio station WEEI. "In terms of playing time it might be a little different, but in terms of game-planning and strategy, what we see in the regular season compared to what we see in the third preseason game I don't even think you're in the same universe."

"I don't see any comparison at all. It's too far away, I don't see how you could compare them, from that standpoint."

Care to chime in, Ron Rivera?

"I love what coach Belichick said," Rivera, the Panthers head coach, said after Wednesday's practice. "It's a complete world apart. The one thing you can't do is emulate the atmosphere, the intensity level, and quite honestly, even

though you do game plan, you don't game plan everything."

This is the third straight year the Panthers and Patriots have met during the third week of the preseason.

In each of the past two seasons, Rivera has kept his starters in through one series of the third quarter, and that's the plan again for Friday. Who the defense will face at quarterback is less clear.

Tom Brady, who is set to serve a suspension during the first four games of the regular season, hasn't even been in the stadium for the Patriots' first two exhibitions. He was attending a family member's memorial service for the first and was sent home before the second after cutting his thumb with a pair of scissors.

But to Rivera, the Brady or Jimmy Garoppolo question doesn't matter much.

"Whether (Brady) plays or not I think is inconsequential in terms of this game," Rivera said. "This is, to a degree, the dress rehearsal, but for the most part, we're going to go out and do what we do. We've looked at what they've done in the preseason and that's what we're game planning against."

Patriots

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price rank as follows: Bears (\$377), Packers (\$372), Steelers (\$339), Giants (\$321), Vikings (\$315), Cowboys (\$303), Rams (\$284), Eagles (\$247), Redskins (\$238) and 49ers (\$238). In the case of San Francisco, which went 5-11 last season, that represents a 40 percent decline from 2014, its first at brand-new Levi's Stadium.

The Jaguars were at the bottom in average secondary-market ticket price at \$141, followed by the Chiefs (\$143), Browns (\$145), Colts (\$152) and Lions (\$154). The Chargers were next at \$157, for a 26 percent decrease from 2015 that was by far the league's largest, possibly reflecting not only San Diego fans' dissatisfaction with a 4-12 season but an expectation that the team will soon move to Los Angeles.

If Dallas Cowboys fans are disappointed to see their beloved squad rank just ninth in highest ticket price, they'll be happy to know



BRIAN FLUHARTY | USA TODAY SPORTS
New England Patriots quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (right) and center Bryan Stork walk off the field after a preseason NFL game recently at Gillette Stadium.

that Dallas checked in as the most coveted road draw, at an average of \$363 for its games away from AT&T Stadium. The next five most-attractive visiting teams were the Packers (\$349), Patriots (\$300), Bears (\$280), Se-

ahawks (\$277) and Panthers (\$274).

Tom Brady's four game-suspension to start the season has had a clear impact on ticket prices at Gillette Stadium. New England's first three home

games —featuring the novice quarterback stylings of Jimmy Garoppolo — are going at an average price of \$384.44, while the final five rise to a whopping cost of \$509.71, a 32 percent mark-up.

Football

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for the playoffs," said Maine Principals' Association Assistant Executive Director Mike Burnham. "We set parameters around tiebreakers so that everybody's playing by the same rules, but they set their schedules and playoff qualification."

With 2016 being the second half of the Maine Principals' Association's current biennial classification cycle for all sports, Burnham anticipates the regular-season differential between Class D North and South football will be a one-year aberration.

"This being a classification year and all the variables out there whether it's with cooperative teams or declining enrollments, the whole landscape of football is going to look different in a year anyways," he said.

Class D North will have 10 schools this season compared with 12 last year because of Camden Hills' decision midway through its 2015 schedule to drop to the club level and the shift of Medomak Valley of Waldoboro to Class D South in an effort to provide an even number of teams in both the North and South divisions for scheduling purposes.

As a result of those changes and with just nine schools eligible for postseason play — Ellsworth-Summer is a Class B program by enrollment but playing in Class D during its developmental phase — Class D North officials voted during the off-season to adopt a nine-game regular season with each of the 10 teams playing every other team in the league once.

That also prompted a switch from the LTC's recent three-week, six-team regional playoff format to a two-week, four-team format. One reason for that change, said LTC secretary-treasurer Mike Archer, athletic administrator at Orono High School, was that coaches of teams that finished first and second in the regular-season standings did not like having first-round byes.

"The teams that got the byes found that they didn't like having that week off at the end of the season, they wanted to keep going," said Archer. "Football's a rhythmic sport, you play once a week, and coaches are a creature of habit and so are kids."

Another reason was the chance to avoid needing a coin toss to determine home-field advantage during the playoffs. That was the case in Class C North last fall when

Winslow and Old Town both reached the regional championship game undefeated, but because they didn't meet earlier in the season, a coin toss was required to determine the host of their championship game.

Old Town won the coin toss, but Winslow traveled to Victory Field and won the game en route to its second straight state championship.

"It's been so long since the LTC has had 10 teams and had an opportunity to play each other one time each and settle those things on the field," said Archer. "If you want to make the playoffs, win enough games to do it, and this way you've got a chance to beat everybody else head to head."

Under its new schedule, Class D North will be the only division statewide to play nine regular-season games.

Class D South ended the 2015 season with 10 schools, but Telstar of Bethel dropped to club status during the offseason and Boothbay announced late last week that it would drop to the club level, leaving the division with just eight teams in 2016. Only seven schools are eligible for postseason play — Medomak Valley is a Class C school by enrollment in its second and

final year of developmental play.

Campbell Conference officials already had agreed on a seven-game regular-season schedule with byes included based on Telstar's departure, then re-adjusted the master schedule after Boothbay departed the varsity ranks.

Class D South schools — Dirigo of Dixfield, Lisbon, Oak Hill of Wales, Maranacook of Readfield, Old Orchard Beach, Medomak Valley, Traip Academy of Kittery and Winthrop-Monmouth — now will play a seven-game regular season spread over eight weekends.

Each team will have one bye week, with two teams drawing byes during Weeks 1, 2, 3 and 8 and full four-game schedules in Weeks 4-7.

At least some of the teams have used their bye weeks to schedule exhibition games against club-level programs such as Telstar, Camden Hills and Sacopec Valley of South Hiram in an effort to support those programs as they attempt to build back to varsity status.

Class D South will conduct a six-team, three-week regional playoff format with the top two teams awarded first-round byes.

Last fall, Class D South used an eight-team regional playoff format.

Hockey

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player by a year," said Jones. "He has a good compete level, he has great hands and good vision. And he can put points on the board."

"He has potential to be a real good player in the future for Maine," added Jones who noted that Roy is a very good student.

"Academics have always been a high priority in my family. I have never taken school lightly and I don't plan on changing," said Roy, a native of Lakeville, Massachusetts.

Jones added that he will benefit from spending at

least two more years preparing for Maine.

"I'm going to work on my explosiveness and I want to continue to strengthen my defensive game," said Roy. "I want to be a complete 200-foot player."

Roy said he received some positive input about Maine from former Black Bear Scott Parmentier, who played in Orono in 1994-98.

Roy works out occasionally with Parmentier.

"I actually didn't know much about Maine until I started working out with Scott," said Roy.

Roy's coming to Maine will be dependent upon his being accepted into the school and meeting NCAA eligibility requirements.

Red Sox

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Ortiz. Another run scored when Betts hit a chopper just over first baseman Brad Miller, and right fielder Souza tried to throw out Ortiz at third, only to see the throw sail into the dugout, allowing Ortiz to score for a 2-0 lead.

The Rays got one run back in the fifth against Buchholz.

Corey Dickerson singled, giving him two of the Rays' four hits at that point. He advanced on a passed ball and scored on a two-out double from Kiermaier to cut the lead to 2-1. Buchholz got Evan Longoria to strike out looking to end the inning with the tying run in scoring position.

"Buchholz has always had some success against us, and he looked like he was executing at a very high level tonight as well," Archer said.