



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

Bangor's Jeff Lewis (right) tackles Brewer's Ray Wood during their exhibition football game Friday night at Cameron Stadium in Bangor.

Brewer

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ize the energy and the amount of effort we have to put forward in a real game against people in opposite-colored jerseys," said Davis. "It's different in a game like this than just hitting ourselves in practice. We have to come out fired up to show teams that we're here to play."

Junior fullback Trey Wood also was effective on the ground for Brewer, which rushed for more than 200 yards behind the line play of Tyler Bean, Austin Lufkin, Alex Brooks, Jordan Wood, Zach Caron and tight ends Friel and Erick Seekins.

"Coming off Lawrence we had no letdowns, we took the next step," said Caron.

Class A Bangor had just one rush of more than six yards while the starters were in the contest, that run almost went the distance as Johnson broke free up the middle on the final play of the first quarter — only to have a touchdown-saving shoestring tackle by Hunter Umel prevent the touchdown on what went as a 17-yard gain.

Bangor averted a shut-out when backup quarterback Gary Farnham connected with Ben Burt on a 43-yard touchdown pass with 1:30 left in the game. Luke Tuell added the two-



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Brewer's Jack Corey (left) tackles Bangor's Dane Johnson during their exhibition football game Friday at Cameron Stadium in Bangor.

point conversion rush.

But it was small solace for the Rams, who open their regular season at home against Edward Little of Auburn next Friday night.

"We have to use this as a teaching tool. We have to get

better," said first-year Bangor head coach Al Mosca. "We have to get better with coaching, we have to get better playing. Brewer's a very good football team, but we just have to get better in all three facets of the game."

Mariners fire GM Zduriencik

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

SEATTLE — General manager Jack Zduriencik was fired by the Seattle Mariners on Friday in the midst of a disappointing 59-69 season for a team many experts pegged as a contender entering the year.

Jeff Kingston, who has been the Mariners' assistant general manager since 2009, will handle the GM responsibilities for the remainder of the 2015 regular season.

"We have reached the point when change of leadership of our baseball operations is needed for the Seattle Mariners to reach our goal of winning championships," Mariners president and chief operating officer Kevin Mather said in a statement. "We are very disappointed with the results this season, and are not satisfied with the current operation. The search for a permanent general manager will begin immediately, and while there is no deadline, we expect to have a new GM in place as soon as practical."

"We have great respect for Jack and his work ethic. He was an excellent representative of the Mariners both within the game of baseball and in the community. On behalf of the entire

organization, I wish him and (his wife) Debbie all the best, and thank him for all his efforts."

Seattle has "quietly" reached out to potential candidates including former Rockies GM Dan O'Dowd, according to FOX Sports' Ken Rosenthal.

Zduriencik, 64, was in his seventh season as head of the Mariners' baseball operations after being named to the position on Oct. 22, 2008. Prior to joining the Mariners, the 32-year veteran of Major League Baseball spent nine seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers' organization, including the final year there as vice president/special assistant to the general manager for player personnel.

The Mariners have not reached the postseason since 2001 and entered this season with only the 24th highest payroll in baseball according to CBSSports.com. But expectations were high with the signing of outfielder Nelson Cruz following an 87-75 record in 2014 that saw the Mariners vying for a playoff spot to the final day of the regular season.

Verlander's return to form comforting to Tigers

DETROIT — Justin Verlander's near no-hitter not

only gave the Detroit Tigers a tension-packed thrill ride for a night. It provided real hope for the future.

Verlander came up just shy in his bid for a third career no-hitter Wednesday when Los Angeles Angels' Chris Iannetta lined a double that bounced off the left-field foul line. The rest of Verlander's outing showed what he can do when healthy.

For much of the last two-plus seasons, Verlander looked like nothing more than a mediocre pitcher, belying his gargantuan long-term contract. Suddenly, he's got the look of an ace again, even if he can't dial up his fastball quite as high on the radar gun.

"I knew he still had it in him," manager Brad Ausmus said. "I knew his stuff was plenty good enough. He's not 98 to 100 (miles per hour) but he still tops out at 97, which is pretty darn good, and I knew he had four pitches that he could use. I knew it was there and it was nice to see it."

Until recently, it seemed that Verlander might never regain the form he displayed during 2011, when he captured the American League's Most Valuable Player award. He was 17-8 with a 2.64 ERA the following season but was just 13-12 with a 3.64 ERA in 2013.

Bubba Watson takes one-shot 36-hole lead at The Barclays

REUTERS

EDISON, New Jersey — Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson rolled in a 12-foot birdie putt at the last to claim a one-stroke lead after 36 holes of The Barclays on Friday, the opening event of the FedExCup playoffs.

Watson snapped a five-way tie for the lead with the birdie that gave him a two-under-par 68 at Plainfield Country Club for a seven-under 133 total.

Missing the cut and relinquishing his world number one ranking was Masters and U.S. Open champion Jordan Spieth, who posted a three-over 73 for seven-over 147, five shots from the cut which was set at two over par.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy will regain the top spot in the new rankings from Spieth, who claimed the number one berth after finishing runner-up at the PGA Championship two weeks ago.

"It is what it is," said Spieth, whose disappointing round included a one-shot penalty at the 12th for stepping on his ball in a hazard.

Tied for second at The Barclays were British Open champion Zach Johnson (65), Sweden's Henrik Stenson (66) and Americans Jason Dufner (68) and rookie Tony Finau (69) on a warm, sunny day on the Donald Ross designed layout.

Watson, one of four players who shared the first-round lead, balanced a birdie with a bogey on the front nine but added a trio of birdies on the homeward side and bounced back from a bogey at the 17th with his birdie at 18 for the outright lead.

American Jason Bohn was a further shot back after firing a six-under-par 64 for five-under 135, a total shared with Camilo Villegas of Colombia (70).



ERIC SUCAR | USA TODAY SPORTS

Bubba Watson lines up a putt at the 7th green during the second round of The Barclays at Plainfield Country Club on Friday.

Strong finish puts Tseng one ahead in Alabama

Taiwan's Yani Tseng produced a stunning eagle-birdie finish to seize a one-stroke lead in the weather-disrupted second round of the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic in Prattville, Alabama, on Friday.

The former world number one covered her final six holes in five under par to shoot a flawless eight-under 64 on the Senator Course at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

Tseng eagled her 17th hole, the par-five eighth, then had to wait out a 96-minute weather delay due to the threat of lightning in the area before returning to the course to pocket her sixth birdie of the round for a 10-under total of 134.

That left her a stroke in front of American Austin Ernst, who had carded a 65 earlier in the day in pursuit of her second victory on the LPGA Tour.

Ernst's playing partner, American world number eight Lexi Thompson, was a further stroke back at eight under after carding a bogey-free 67 that included four

birdies in her first eight holes.

"We both had a string of birdies there on the front nine," Ernst told reporters after she and Thompson had spurred each other on to make a combined 13 birdies and an eagle during the second round.

"She was hitting it well. Definitely when you see putts going in with other people, too, I think it just kind of gives you a little bit more confidence that you can just take it deep."

Thompson is relishing being back on the Senator Course where she claimed her first LPGA win in 2011 before finishing runner-up at the venue the following year.

"It helps knowing the golf course really well," said the 20-year-old, who is already a five-times winner on the circuit. "I always love coming to Alabama and playing this golf course"

"It's probably in the best shape I've seen it, especially the greens are rolling really well," said Thompson, who won her first major title at the 2014 Kraft Nabisco Championship.

Meyer

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"You really don't see any glaring weaknesses," Big Ten Network analyst Howard Griffith said of the Buckeyes. "I think what will be interesting, and it will be more of the meeting-room aspect of thing, is how do these guys handle being the front-runners?"

"They're going to be expected to win every game and not by just a point. I think the mental aspect for young people is being able to stay hungry and being able to stay consistent. That's where Urban's biggest challenge will be."

And it appears Meyer has

already imparted some of that to his players.

"He's had a chance to win back-to-back and he knows that it's hard to win back-to-back, so he's been grinding us — constantly telling us to just stay focused and stay on the grind," Ohio State senior defensive lineman Aldophus Washington said.

Meyer admits that he and his coaching staff watch for signs his players are letting up.

"The indicators that you look for first are academics. In academics, we had the highest graduation rate in the history of Ohio State football," Meyer said. " ... Second thing is the weight room. I have the best strength coach in America. ... And then the social element, that's obvi-

ously the one that you keep one eye open.

" ... All we can do is watch the indicators, watch it closely, and then dive into it with a sledgehammer if we start to see something that's disrupting the team."

Even then there are bound to be slip-ups.

The first one popped up when the school announced All-American Joey Bosa, H-back Jalin Marshall, senior receiver Corey Smith and junior H-back Dontre Wilson were suspended for the season opener against Virginia Tech on Labor Day for "violating department of athletics policy."

It's a major hurdle for the Buckeyes to overcome, but the players seem prepared to handle the challenge.

Sotomayor propels Easton by Wisdom

EASTON — Drew Sotomayor scored twice to help the Easton Bears blank the Wisdom Pioneers 4-0 in high school boys soccer action Friday.

Sotomayor put Easton on the board by scoring off an assist from Jake Flewelling with 8:51 left in the first half. Noah Hanscomb closed out the first half with a goal off a Sotomayor assist with 1:26 left.

Logan Halvorson converted a penalty kick with 14:57 left in the game. Sotomayor added his second goal with 2:02 left.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Easton's Jake Flewelling earned the shutout with 7 saves. Chance Gervais made 13 saves for Wisdom of St. Agatha.

Easton moves to 2-2 while Wisdom falls to 0-4.

Fort Kent 2, Presque Isle 2

At Presque Isle Thursday night, Fort Kent jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but Presque Isle battled back to tie it and that's the way stayed through two overtime periods.

Brandon Theriault scored Fort Kent's first goal and set up the second one scored by Micah Charette.

Jerin Winger put Presque Isle on the board via an as-

sist from Randon Mortland and the Wildcats tied it on Josiah Morse's goal.

Presque Isle, playing its opener, outshot Fort Kent 14-11. The Warriors are now 2-0-1.

How to report games

The BDN welcomes high school coaches, managers and athletic directors to report their high school games and events.

We require schools to report their games to our website instead of calling or faxing us.

Doing so is the best way to guarantee that the game will appear on the BDN website and in the newspaper.

Garoppolo rallies Patriots by Panthers

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — Second-string quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo directed another fourth-quarter comeback as the New England Patriots edged the Carolina Panthers 17-16 in NFL preseason action Friday night.

Garoppolo finished by connecting on 13 of 17 passes for 126 yards and a touchdown. The Pats took the 17-16 lead with 6:14 left in the

fourth quarter when Stephen Gostkowski converted a 53-yard field goal.

The Pats cut the Panthers lead to 16-14 with 10:11 left in the fourth quarter when Garoppolo hit running back Dion Lewis with a 9-yard TD pass. Lewis lined up on the outside as a wide receiver.

A 40-yard pass from Garoppolo to Aaron Dobson put New England in the red zone.

Tom Brady directed the Pats to a second-quarter touchdown drive with 50

seconds left in the first half.

Brady connected on passes to Scott Chandler, Chris Harper and Danny Amendola to keep the Patriots drive going. He finished it off with a pretty 18-yard pass to Chandler on a fade route for the TD.

The Patriots play their final preseason game when they host the New York Giants on Thursday. They then open the season on Thursday night, Sept. 10 against the Steelers in Pittsburgh.