

Analysis

Continued from Page B4

off to a 2-0 start after a noteworthy 28-6 road win at Mat-tanawcook Academy of Lin-coln last Friday night.

While the third week-end in November may not produce the same state-fina-l matches as last fall, early results suggest some familiar names are poised to stake their claims on regional and state cham-pionships:

Class B North

Brunswick looks all the part of a team determined to return to the state final for the third straight year in its quest for a gold ball. The Dragons' deep rushing at-tack, passing potential and aggressive defense have over-whelmed Hampden Academy and Lawrence of Fairfield in its first two games. But 2015 regional finalist Brewer also has come out strong defen-sively while ground-and-poun-ders on offense have generated major yardage, particularly on first down. Skowhegan is another 2-0 team that has backed up its high aspirations with a po-tent offense attack featuring quarterback Garrett Mc-Sweeney, while 2-0 Messa-lonskee of Oakland's wing-T offense is in midseason form after a convincing win over Cony of Augusta. Some games to watch include Brunswick at Messalonskee and Skow-hegan at Brewer on Sept. 23, Brunswick at Skowhegan on Sept. 30, Brewer at Brun-swick on Oct. 7 and Messalons-kee at Brewer on Oct. 14.

Class C North

Winslow remains the gold standard in the division as the two-time defending state champ pursues a fifth con-secutive regional title. After overwhelming Belfast and John Bapst of Bangor by a combined 115-6, the Black Raiders may get tested at home this Saturday by 2-0 Mount Desert Island of Bar Harbor. The Trojans gave Winslow two of its tougher games last fall and in Croix Albee and Colby Lee have a ball-control rushing attack that will seek to keep the ball away from a Black Raiders' offense featuring halfback Nate St. Amand and fullback Kenny Rickard. If MDI doesn't provide that chal-lenge, Madison-Carrabec might in a Sept. 23 home game against the Black Raid-ers. And no one should dis-count the feel-good story gain-ing momentum in Hermon, where the Hawks will seek their third straight victory to open the season against Old Town on Friday night.

Class D North

MCI has rebuilt along the line of scrimmage to comple-ment a deep array of skill-position players that include Willie Moss, Eli Bussell, Adam Bertrand and quar-terback Josh Buker. A strong Week 2 win over Bucksport indicates the Huskies are determined to

get back to the state title game. Orono lacks MCI's depth but the Red Riots also have some high-quality se-nior leadership featuring quarterback Jackson Coutts and halfback Keenan Col-lett. Dexter boasts a strong senior class and a defense that has yielded only one touchdown in each of its first two games, and the Tig-ers turned some heads with their convincing win at Mat-tanawcook. There's also op-timism that Bucksport will be a postseason factor after a year out of the playoffs, with coach Joel Sankey's club visiting Dexter in an important matchup Satur-day.

Class A North

A big game Friday night matches 1-1 Portland against 2-0 Windham, the 2013 Class A state champion as well as a finalist in 2014. Those teams look to be the clear favorites in this division, with Windham having the chance to separate itself from the pack with a home-field win over the defending regional champs.

Class A South

Two-time defending state champion Thornton Acade-my has averaged 63.5 points in victories over Sanford (65-27) and Cheverus of Port-land (65-0). Bonny Eagle of Standish also is undefeated with wins over South Port-land and Scarborough, and anticipation continues to build for the regular-season finale when TA visits Bonny Eagle on Oct. 21.

Class B South

Marshwood may not be undefeated two weeks in, but neither should coach Alex Rostko's two-time de-fending state champions be dismissed in a division where Biddeford, Falmouth and Kennebunk all are off to 2-0 starts. Falmouth travels to historic Waterhouse Field on Friday night to face Bid-deford in a telling Week 3 encounter.

Class C South

A pretty good race is building up in this division, with defending champion Yarmouth, preseason favorite Wells and Cape Elizabeth all off to 2-0 starts. Three key matchups during the second half of the season may provide better evidence on how these playoffs will evolve with Yarmouth at Wells on Sept. 30, Yarmouth at Cape Elizabeth on Oct. 14 and Cape Elizabeth at Wells on Oct. 21.

Class D South

While Oak Hill is the three-time state champion and off to a 2-0 start again this fall, this may be one of the deeper divisions in the state. Winthrop-Monmouth is seen as the top threat to the Raiders' dominance, and even more so after opening the year with quality wins over Lisbon and Traip Academy of Kittery. Lisbon, Di-rigo of Dixfield, Traip and Old Orchard Beach also figure into the competitive mix.

Recruits

Continued from Page B4

"She will fit right in and they'll develop her into a Division I player," said Em-erson. "She's really fast and she's a hard worker. She has good stick skills and she knows the game which will be very useful as well."

Emerson, like Veazie did with Webber, tutored Sulin-ski on what it would take for her to get the opportunity to play at Maine.

"She has given me a real good idea what it's going to be like at Maine," said Sulinski, who is also on the track team at Old Town.

HBO

Continued from Page B4

show's filming has not been much of a distraction.

"It's kind of [just] another day," Fuller said. "They've done a great job working around our schedule."

While Gumbel is on an- other assignment, veteran reporter Soledad O'Brien has been in town working on the story.

"It's been great for our community," Fuller said. "It's bigger than just soc- cer."

Fuller said the episode

featuring the team and the community is scheduled to air later in September, al- though he wasn't sure of the exact date.

Coach Mike McGraw's team has won its first three games heading into Tues- day's matchup with 2-1 Ed-ward Little, which began the day's play atop the Class A North Heal Point standings.

Fuller also went on to say he's happy how his school's other athletic programs have embraced the diverse community in the city.

Tuesday's game was scheduled to start at 7 p.m. at Lewiston High.



Bangor's Carson Atherley (center) tries to move the ball around Brewer's CJ Horr during their soccer game on Sept. 7 in Bangor. Atherley will play soccer for Brown University next season.

ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

Atherley heading to Ivy League

Bangor High standout to play soccer at Brown University

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — Carson Atherley's passion for soccer was by no means im- mediate, even in a household where his father is a longtime col- lege coach.

Since changing athletic allegiances at age 10, he has developed into one of the state's top midfielders — a status that will enable Atherley to play collegiately beginning next year at Brown University in Provi- dence, Rhode Island.

"Soccer used to be my least favorite sport growing up," Atherley said Monday after returning from a weekend on the Ivy League campus with six other recruits who have verbally committed to play for the Bears in 2017.

"I actually played tackle football for a few years be- fore I started playing soccer at age 10, and when I was 12, I started playing club soccer and getting into it more competitively, and it really took off for me from there."

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

The 5-foot-11, 160-pound Atherley, who was contact- ed by several other NCAA Division I soccer programs in the Northeast as well as Division II and III colleges, said the NCAA official visit to the Brown campus solidi- fied feelings he has held about the school since ear- lier in the recruiting process.

"They were the first school to reach out to me about playing soccer there," he said. "Obviously I want to go to a school that wants me to play for them, and when I had a chance to visit, the people there were genuine and down to earth and kind. "Obviously they have a fantastic soccer program and academically it's a world-class school, so all the puzzle pieces seemed to fit," he added.

Atherley plans to major in business and economics through the university's Business, Economics and Organizations Concentra- tion.

"I think the whole Ivy League experience really sets me up for success in the future," he said.

Brown is coached by Pat Laughlin, a 1992 graduate of

the University of Maine who played soccer for the Black Bears and captained the team as a senior.

Atherley's father, Scott Atherley, was an assistant coach for those teams who became the men's soccer head coach at UMaine for seven seasons beginning in 1993. He is amidst a 17-year stint as the women's soccer head coach.

Laughlin returned to his alma mater in 2007 as head coach of the UMaine men's soccer team until the pro- gram was suspended in April 2009. He is in his sev- enth year at Brown, which is 59-30-21 overall with three NCAA tournament appear- ances during his tenure.

"I was actually intro- duced to coach Laughlin when I was 8 years old and still playing tackle football," said Carson Atherley. "Iron- ically, it was eight years later he started recruiting me to play soccer at Brown University."

Atherley is a four-year starter at Bangor who has helped the Rams advance to the Class A North semifinals each of the last three sea- sons and compile an overall

record of 35-12-4 entering Tuesday's match at Hamp- den Academy.

He has excelled with the Seacoast United Mariners, a Topsham-based club team that in 2015 advanced to the National Premier Leagues championship tournament. That team is coached by his father, along with Martyn Keen and Steve Twombly.

"This has really been Car- son's journey, he's been the guy driving the train," said Scott Atherley, "and from my perspective, when you looked at all the things he was looking for in a poten- tial [college] experience, at the end of the day, it was a pretty easy decision. When you consider the opportu- nity he has, it's pretty hard to find a better one out there."

Carson Atherley sees his role on the field at the Divi- sion I level as more facilita- tor than finisher.

"I'm more of a holding midfielder, more of a defen- sive-minded midfielder," he said. "My job is basically to connect passes, to move the ball around the field and to not lose it. I'm not the guy who scores, I'm the guy who sets it up."

Fowler, Holmes, Kuchar on Ryder Cup team

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

U.S. Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III selected Rickie Fowler, J.B. Holmes and Matt Kuchar for three of his four picks to face Europe at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota.

Love announced the picks Monday, and a final pick will be made after the Tour Championship on Sept. 25 to finalize the 12-man U.S. team for the Sept. 30-Oct. 2 showdown.

The U.S. has lost eight of the last 10 Ryder Cups and three in a row to the Europeans.

The captain's picks will join Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth, Phil Mickelson, Pat- rick Reed, Jimmy Walker, rookie Brooks Koepka, Brandt Snedeker and Zach Johnson, all who qualified in the final standings for the Americans.

Love, who also was the U.S. captain in a losing ef- fort in 2012, said he consult- ed with vice captains Steve Stricker, Tom Lehman, Jim Furyk and Tiger Woods.

"There were questions as late as last night," Love said Monday morning. "We went through a lot of scenarios. We talked about a lot of great players. It was a very, very tough decision. We kept coming back to three for now."

"These three guys were really who we all wanted. We're really confident in them. ... This is a tough decision; there were many great choices. I know this is the 11 we want today. We have an- other tough decision coming up in two weeks."

Bubba Watson, ranked No. 7 in the world, is the odd man out for man but could be a final pick after the Tour Championship.

Love will make his fourth

captain's pick during halftime of a Sunday night game be- tween the Chicago Bears and Dallas Cowboys on Sept. 25.

"These three guys were really who we all wanted. We're really confident in them."

DAVIS LOVE III

Holmes, No. 21 in the world, and Kuchar (No. 17) finished in a tie for fourth in the BMW Championship in Carmel, Ind., on Sunday. Fowler, ninth in the world, was 59th in the BMW and

knocked out of the top 30 in the FedEx Cup standings.

Holmes, 34, was two spots away from qualifying for the team automatically. His only other Ryder Cup ap- pearance was in 2008, the last time the U.S won.

Fowler, 27, received a pick despite just one top 10 finish in his last seven events. He was a member of the 2010 and 2014 teams.

"He's so excited to be on the team again," Love said of Fowler. "We found no weaknesses in his game. He's such a great teammate. He's really confident on the big stage. ... He plays well all over the world; he travels

well. He brings a lot of intan- gibles to our team."

Kuchar, 38, was an Olymp- ic bronze medalist at the Rio Games. He will play in his fourth straight Ryder Cup.

European captain Darren Clarke finalized his team Aug. 30 with wild-card picks Lee Westwood, Martin Kaymer and Thomas Piet- ers. The three joined the nine who qualified for the team on points: Rory McIl- roy, Danny Willett, Henrik Stenson, Justin Rose, Sergio Garcia, Andy Sullivan, Chris Wood, Matthew Fitz- patrick and Rafa Cabrera Bello.



FALL SPECIAL

4 Rounds (18 Holes)

for only \$99.00

Carts Available

442 Sunset Rd, Deer Isle, ME
(207) 348-2379 • islandcountryclub.net