

Fahey ends strong run as Rams coach

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — Retiring Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz has little on Jeff Fahey when it comes to going out on top.

Fahey, who has led the Bangor High School baseball team to Class A state championships in each of the last three seasons, has announced his resignation after 16 years as the Rams' head coach.

"I've been thinking about it for a while, but I didn't move toward it until a month ago," said the 51-year-old Fahey, who told his players of the decision Wednesday. "After we won in June, I took the summer to think about it. I struggled with it, but after coaching for 30 years [overall], I just felt this was a good time to go."

Fahey, who as a high school junior played center field on Bangor's 1982 state championship baseball team coached by his legendary predecessor, Bob Kelley, compiled a 246-50 record as head coach, winning four state titles overall as well as a fifth regional crown.

"Jeff is incredibly knowledgeable of the game and has had high expectations," said Bangor Superintendent of Schools Betsy Webb, who announced Fahey's resignation to the city's school committee on Wednesday evening. "His athletes were great students and wonderful citizens, and they brought that onto the baseball diamond as well.

"I certainly want to thank him for all of his years as a coach and the lessons he

taught his players that go not only throughout the season but throughout life," she said.

After graduating from the University of Maine and spending one year teaching and coaching in Hermon, Fahey returned to his alma mater as a physical education teacher and began coaching baseball under Kelley — who led the Rams to eight state championships and 15 regional crowns during his 32-year tenure.

Fahey spent 12 years on Kelley's coaching staff — a run highlighted by four consecutive Class A state championships from 1994 through 1997. When his mentor retired in 2000, Fahey took the helm, and his teams went on to average 15.4 victories per season.

"Coach Fahey followed a tremendously tough act in coach Kelley and did everything we asked him to do," said Bangor athletic administrator Steve Vanidestine. "His kids played hard for him, he was very positive, and his kids knew he said what he meant and meant what he said, and we had a lot of success over all these years because of it.

"Jeff did an outstanding job, and we're going to miss him. It will be very difficult to replace him," he added.

Fahey reached 200 career victories with a 5-4 win against Brewer on May 20, 2014.

Fahey won his first state championship as Bangor's head coach in 2006, followed by a second-straight regional crown a year later.

Fahey concluded his head coaching tenure with an .831 winning percentage, includ-

ing .917 (55-5) over his last three seasons — with the Rams' 12 consecutive post-season victories during that span producing three-consecutive state titles.

Fahey's final game in the dugout came last June when Bangor defeated Falmouth 5-0 in the 2016 Class A state final at Saint Joseph's College in Standish behind the three-hit pitching of left-hander Trevor DeLaité, now at UMaine.

"My biggest concern when I took the job was that the program — which was really one of the tops in the state — would decline, and I don't think that's happened," Fahey said. "Probably that's what I'm most proud of now, that it's at the point now where it was when I took it over. I don't think as a coach you can ask for anymore than that."

Part of Fahey's success stems from the stability within his coaching staff from the likes of current or former assistants Rob Gould, John Tennett, Fred Lower and Dave Morris — each one a product of the Bangor baseball program.

"I've been very fortunate to have very dedicated assistant coaches," said Fahey, "and the fact they're all Bangor guys helps, too."

Fahey said his coaching philosophies also were influenced by those who coached him in Bangor high school — particularly Kelley and former baseball assistants John Stubbs and Neil Waterman and former football coach Gabby Price, now the head coach at nearby



BDN FILE

Bangor head coach Jeff Fahey (right) hugs senior captain, Jordan Derrah, after the conclusion to the Class A baseball state championship against the South Portland Red Riots in Augusta in June 2015. Bangor won 5-4.

Husson University.

"Bob Kelley was very professional, he never used a curse word, he had high expectations and he was kind of the silent leader while John and Neil did a lot of the coaching," said Fahey. "But when it came down to strategy and calling a game, it was all Bob Kelley, and we all knew that as players.

"With Gabby, he was the ultimate motivator. He treated the 75th kid on the football team no different than the first one, and part

of his success was that he got all of his kids to play as hard as they could because he made everyone feel equal," he said.

While graduation losses from Fahey's 2016 state championship team include DeLaité, the state's reigning Mr. Baseball, and fellow four-year starter Kyle Stevenson, the Rams should be among the favorites in Class A North next spring with a pitching staff that features UMaine-bound senior Peter Kemble and classmate Nick Cowperthwaite and a top

catcher in senior Derek Fournier.

"I just felt like this was the right time to get done as far as the next coach is going to be left with a good solid team and a chance to repeat again with five returning starters and a good bunch of younger kids," said Fahey, who works as a registered Maine guide and will remain as chair of the physical education department at Bangor High School.

"I would rather leave it that way than with the cupboard bare," he said.

Guptill rallies J-B Royals by HCA

CHARLESTON — Josef Guptill scored two second-half goals to lead the Jonesport-Beals Royals to a hard fought come-from-behind win over Highview Christian Academy, 2-1 in high school boys soccer action Wednesday.

Aaron Garcia opened the scoring in the first half with 4:30 left off of a pass from Josiah Jurczak for the 0-6-2 Knights.

For the 4-4 Royals, goalie Austin Grant stopped five of eight shots while Highview keeper TJ Sheldon had 11 saves on 18 shots.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

John Bapst 6, Old Town 0

At UMaine in Orono, John Bapst moved to 8-1 on the season as Alvaro Valls, Darren Hanscom and Paul Branch each scored two goals to propel the Crusaders to victory.

Branch contributed three assists for John Bapst while Valls and Alex Mooney also added assists.

Ellsworth 2, Presque Isle 1

At Ellsworth, the Eagles came out on top with Jack Lee and Bradley Smith each scoring and Trent Mahon had an assist.

Kyler Caron scored the lone goal for Presque Isle.

Woodland 1, Shead 0

At Eastport, Drew Hayward scored the lone goal of the game at the 15:29 mark in the second half to lift Woodland over Shead.

Woodland goalkeeper Alex Morrison stopped all 10 shots he faced. Isaac Curtis made 18 save on 19 shots for Shead. The Dragons improve to 9-0 while the Tigers fall to 3-5-1.

Girls Soccer

Piscataquis 3, Dexter 1

At Guilford, Piscataquis junior Erin Speed recorded her first hat trick of the year, with all three goals being scored in the second half and assisted by Lexi Harris.

Dexter Sophomore Hannah Dorman scored the lone goal for the 2-6 Tigers.

PCHS (4-3-1) goalie Alivia Hunt had 23 saves on 24 shots while Dexter's Reagan Patterson had 13 saves on 16 shots.

Penquis 2, Greenville 1

At Greenville, Chloe Wyman scored the winning goal to pace Penquis Valley to the win.

Cymeria Robshaw connected on a PK to open the scoring for the Patriots. The Lakers tied it in the second half when Jessica Pomerleau scored off a Delanie Boone assist.

Keeper Jordan Durant had 11 saves on 14 shots for 6-0-1 Penquis. Halle Pelletier had 12 saves on 14 shots for 2-5 Greenville.

Field Hockey

Nokomis 5, Morse 0

At Newport, Olivia Brown and Allysah Greene each had two goals to propel Nokomis to the win over Morse.

Jamie Skinner chipped in one goal. Lauren Burke added two assists while Allysah Greene and Maci Leali had one apiece.

Tuesday's games

Boys Soccer

PVHS 3, Searsport 2

At Searsport on Tuesday, Brady Harding's goal from a Zack Doore assist with just 5:25 remaining in the game proved to be the game-winner for the Penobscot Valley Howlers.

It was their first lead of the day. Searsport led 1-0 at halftime, courtesy of Barrett Grant goal.

PVHS' Brad McKechnie responded in the second half by heading in a Reece Carter chip to knot it up. Liam MacMillan headed in a Connor Kneeland cross to temporarily regain the lead, but McKechnie answered right back 90 seconds later unassisted. Jaeden Folster saved 12 of 29 shots for PVHS (4-2-2) while Ben Powell stopped 11 of 15 for the 6-2 Vikings.

Girls Soccer

John Bapst 3, MDI 2

At Bar Harbor, Grace Phillipon registered two goals to help lead John

Bapst past the MDI Trojans.

The Crusaders took a 3-1 halftime lead behind Phillipon's two goals, one assisted by Tia Zephir, and Anna Zmisowski's goal scored off a direct kick.

MDI's Natalie Klaver put the Trojans on the board with a one touch volley taken from a corner kick by Ally Bender to close the first half. Bender provided the second goal for MDI when she converted on a penalty kick in the second half.

MDI's Cassia Barnes made 11 saves on 15 shots while John Bapst's goalie Kayla Massey stopped 13 of 16 shots.

JV: MDI 2-1

Bangor 6, Brunswick 2

At Brunswick on Tuesday, Libby Spekhardt had a hat trick to lead Bangor to the win over the host Dragons.

Megan Connor contributed two goals and Lucy Clein chipped in one while Eliza Jansujwicz had an assist for the Rams.

For Brunswick, Emily Larachelle scored two goals, both assisted by Kira Walpole.

Field Hockey

MCI 7, Waterville 0

At Waterville, the Huskies scored less than two minutes into the game for the only goal they would need en route to the victory over the Purple Panthers.

Addi Williams, Victoria Friend, and Madisyn Hartley each scored twice and recorded an assist for MCI. April McAlpine also scored.

MCI goalies Elspeth Taylor and Ashley Souliere combined for 3 saves. Waterville's Coby Dangler made 15 saves. MCI is 8-2 and Waterville is 1-8-1.

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.

Men's soccer

UM-Farmington 1, USM 0

At Farmington, Justin Pierce scored his first goal of the season in the 84th minute to snap a scoreless deadlock and deliver the Huskies to victory over the Beavers at Leib Field.

Simon Hulbert made two saves for the University of Southern Maine of Gorham (1-5-3).

Ronie Morales came up with two saves for UMaine-Farmington (2-6).

Russell goal lifts Husson by Saint Joseph's

STANDISH — Junior forward Lauren Russell scored 3:05 into overtime on Wednesday afternoon to lift Husson University of Bangor to a 1-0 field hockey victory over Saint Joseph's College at Mercy Field.

With the teams playing 7 vs. 7 in OT, Russell picked up the ball near midfield, dribbled through a handful of defenders and fired two shots on goal. The Monks' Megan Baker stopped the first, but Russell lifted the rebound into the cage.

Kaitlin Dolloff made eight

saves to earn her first shut-out of the season for the 3-3 Eagles.

Baker finished with six saves for 3-3 Saint Joseph's.

UNE 4, Gordon College 0

At Wenham, Massachusetts, Nicole Matarozzo scored a goal in each half to help the University of New England on its way to a Commonwealth Coast Conference triumph over Gordon College at the Brigham Athletic Complex.

The Nor'easters won for the sixth consecutive outing, improving to 8-1 overall and 4-0 in league action. Big Blue, which remained just

outside of the latest National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Top 20 Poll (the second team also receiving votes), has now topped the Fighting Scots (3-6, 0-4 CCC) in five straight meetings.

After the senior forward put UNE on the board in the 15th minute, Becky Zakorchemny knocked in a cross from Hannah Buckley in the 24th minute to make it 2-0.

Things stayed that way until the 52nd minute when Matarozzo converted her team-leading eighth marker off a pass from Abbey Rouillard and Brooke Marshall

finished the scoring with a blast in the 55th minute — with an assist going to Marge Gardiner.

Yankees finally solve Ortiz in delaying title

BY LARRY FLEISHER
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

NEW YORK — Two on, David Ortiz at the plate in the late innings with a chance for a big hit.

It is a scenario the many New York Yankees pitchers have faced since Ortiz joined the Boston Red Sox in 2003 and a scenario that often ends negatively.

On Tuesday night, it ended up working out for the Yankees.

Pitchers Luis Cessa, Blake Parker and Tyler Clippard each retired the slugger with two runners on — Clippard to end the game — and the Yankees prevented the Red Sox from clinching the AL East title with a 6-4 victory.

"What are the chances that he's coming up in this situation," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "It's just kind of the way fate had it tonight."

Parker said: "He's the guy that gets you on your toes. You see him come out on deck and you know he's out there."

Rookie Tyler Austin hit the tiebreaking home run with none out in the seventh off David Price (17-9) but it was the pitches to Ortiz which enabled the Yankees to regain the lead after squandering a 4-2 edge. Those pitches and the home run allowed the Yankees to stay mathematically alive in the wild card race.

Entering Wednesday night's game, New York (81-76) is four games behind Baltimore with five games remaining after winning for the fifth time in its last 15 games.

"They threw the ball well and made big pitches when they needed to," Austin said of the Ortiz at-bats.

Ortiz finished 0-for-5 in the opener of his final road series and stranded seven runners. He went 0-for-5 for the third time this season (also May 18 at Kansas City and July 31 at Los Angeles) and was hitless in at least five at-bats against the Yankees for the first time since April 11, 2015, the day after Boston had a 19-inning win.

Ortiz's comments were as quiet as his bat. He did not field any questions and before exiting the clubhouse

said: "That ain't fun. They got me out, just put it down like that. They tricked me tonight. Too much talking between the pitcher and catcher. I'll trick them tomorrow."

Cessa retired Ortiz on a harmless fly out to end the first and a quiet pop-up for the first out of the fourth with a runner on second in a 2-0 game. Ortiz came up a third time with two on in the sixth after the Red Sox cut the lead to 3-1 on Dustin Pedroia's RBI single.

Ortiz reached a full count but struck out swinging on a breaking ball to end the seven-pitch at-bat.

An inning later, the Red Sox had tied the game on Aaron Hill's pinch hit home run and Pedroia's second run-scoring single when Ortiz came up with two on. This time it was against Parker and on the fifth pitch, he hit a curveball into a routine ground ball to third.

"I threw him a lot of junk," Parker said. "I faced him the other night at Boston and I challenged him with fastballs. One of the biggest things is to not stay in patterns with him."

Moments later, Austin drove an 0-2 pitch into the right field seats, putting Parker (1-0) in position for the win. Parker's win was secured when Clippard fanned the 40-year-old on an off-speed pitch to end a six-pitch encounter.

"Oh, certainly, I think every time David steps to the plate there's the potential for something big," Boston manager John Farrell said. "Particularly in this ballpark with the short right field porch. The table was set in those two innings, the sixth and the ninth, and I think we always view David in that way that something big is going to happen. Tonight, it didn't happen."

The way the Yankees successfully pitched to Ortiz and Austin's fourth career home run prevented the Red Sox from clinching their eighth division title. The Red Sox (92-65) needed a win or Toronto loss to secure the division but while Price was allowing home runs to Gary Sanchez, Didi Gregorius and Austin, the Blue Jays defeated the Orioles.