

Nationally ranked Lewiston paces North boys

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

Undefeated Lewiston High School not only enters postseason play as the top-ranked boys soccer team in Class A North, the Blue Devils also are getting some national love.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

The defending Eastern Maine Class A champions (14-0) are ranked 20th in the latest USA Today/NSCAA Super 25 poll, the only Maine team on the list and one of just three New England

teams named behind 12th-ranked La Salle Academy of Providence, Rhode Island, and No. 15 Brockton, Massachusetts.

Coach Mike McGraw's club has outscored its opposition this fall by a combined 100-7 while extending its regular-season winning streak to 39 matches over three seasons. The Blue Devils' closest calls were a season-opening 4-2 victory over Brewer on Sept. 5 and a 3-1 win over Class A newcomer Camden Hills of Rockport on Oct. 2.

Lewiston is coming off last Saturday's 5-1 win over second-seeded Hampden

Academy, one of four challengers in Class A North with at least 10 victories along with former Class B power Camden Hills, Bangor and Brunswick.

Boys soccer preliminaries in all divisions will be held Friday and Saturday, with quarterfinals set for next Wednesday.

Class B: Perennial power and defending regional champion Ellsworth (11-2-1) is the top seed despite dropping two of its final three regular-season matches to Hermon and Presque Isle.

Second-seeded Winslow (12-1-1) paces the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference

contingent in the division, while Presque Isle (7-4-3) used its 3-1 win at Ellsworth last Saturday as part of a 5-0-2 finish good for the No. 3 seed. Oceanside of Rockland-Thomaston (10-2-2) earned the No. 4 seed and final first-round bye.

Class C: Washington Academy of East Machias is undefeated and rarely scored upon through its 14 regular-season matches. Coach Chris Gardner's top-ranked Raiders have posted 10 shutouts this fall while outscoring its opposition 87-4.

Second-ranked Fort Kent (12-1-1) may hold out the best

hope in the division for Aroostook County fans, with the state finals for Classes C and D boys and girls soccer to be held in Presque Isle for the first time on Nov. 7.

Central of Corinth (13-1) and defending regional champion Orono (6-5-3) are next, having split a pair of one-goal decisions during the regular season. Orono edged Central 2-0 in last year's Eastern C final.

Class D: Six-time defending Eastern Maine champion Bangor Christian (13-1) is fully back in the mix once again, with coach Aaron Wilcox's Patriots ranked

second between Aroostook County rivals Fort Fairfield (13-0-1) and No. 3 Ashland (9-4-1).

Top-ranked Fort Fairfield, whose lone non-victory was a 2-2 tie at Ashland on Oct. 9, is seeking its first regional crown since winning the 1976 Eastern B title. Ashland won the Eastern D championship most recently in 2007.

Fourth-seeded Sheaf of Eastport (13-0-1) has been the class of the Downeast Athletic Conference so far this year. The Tigers' last title came in 1989 when Sheaf became the first Class D boys soccer state champion.

Pats Twitter posts photo of 'Butt Fumble' Achilles propels Maine soccer by Stony Brook

WIRE SERVICE REPORTS

FLORHAM PARK, New Jersey — The Patriots delivered the first salvo of the season, mocking the Jets with a "Throwback Thursday" photo of the infamous "Butt Fumble" on the team's official Twitter account with a caption that read: "This seems relevant #TBT."

PATRIOTS NOTEBOOK

Within two hours, however, they deleted the dig.

Asked what coach Bill Belichick may have done to the team's social media manager, former Patriots running back Stevan Ridley joked: "There's no telling, man. I wouldn't be surprised if he wasn't there."

The Jets (4-1) have remained relatively quiet during "Patriots Week," a departure from recent years, when head coach Rex Ryan would generate

his own headlines.

But New England (5-0) didn't pass up an opportunity to show up the Jets with a humbling reminder three days before they meet in Foxborough. It's been three years since former Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez ran head-first into the rear end of guard Brandon Moore. Sanchez's infamous face plant resulted in a fumble that was returned for a touchdown in a 49-19 Thanksgiving night debacle at MetLife Stadium. It was one of three turnovers in a 52-second span that led to 21 New England points.

The Patriots also tweeted a "Butt Fumble" photo hours before a Thursday night game against the Jets last October.

There was no return fire Thursday from Florham Park. Todd Bowles said he was unaware of the tweet and wasn't the least bit bothered by it. "I have no reaction," he said.

"I'm not a Twitter guy."

Asked for his reaction to the tweet, Ridley said: "That doesn't surprise me. That's fine if they want to look back. I know Bill, I know that team, nobody's worried about what they're putting up on the Internet or the Twitter or Instagram.

"They're focused on the Jets, we're focused on the Patriots. It's going to be a fun ballgame to watch on Sunday. So I'm excited."

Patriots drop DL Thornton, Williams from roster

The New England Patriots released defensive lineman Khyri Thornton from the 53-man roster and offensive lineman Brennan Williams from the practice squad on Thursday.

Thornton was claimed off waivers from the Green Bay Packers on Sept. 6. He was released by New England on Sept. 15, signed again two days later with the practice

squad and was promoted to the 53-man roster on Oct. 1.

The 25-year-old Thornton spent the 2014 season on injured reserve.

Williams had signed with the Patriots' practice squad on Oct. 20. The 24-year-old was a third-round draft choice by the Houston Texans in 2013 but was on injured reserve during his rookie season. The Texans released him in July 2014 and he hooked on with the Jacksonville Jaguars this summer before being released.

Williams' father, Brent, played defensive end for the Patriots from 1986 through 1993.

GAME NOTES: Patriots LB Jamie Collins: Collins has played as well as any linebacker in the league through Week 6 and has 7.5 sacks and a PAT block in the past 10 games. ... Pats QB Tom Brady will set the franchise record with his 212th career start in this game.

NFL keen to see who watches Yahoo webcast

BY JESSICA TOONKEL AND LISA RICHWINE
REUTERS

The National Football League will be closely watching the audience for Yahoo Inc.'s global webcast of a game on Sunday as it considers whether to do more deals to live stream games, an NFL official told Reuters Thursday.

Yahoo will stream Sunday's game between the Buffalo Bills and Jacksonville Jaguars, the first time viewers around the world can watch an NFL game online for free. It kicks off in London at 2:30 p.m., or 9:30 a.m. EDT. The NFL will be taking a

close look at not just how many viewers watch the game, but also what kind of devices they use to watch it, the quality of the viewing experience and whether the game draws a larger share of millennial viewers and how they are using social media to talk about the game, said Vishal Shah, the NFL's vice president of digital media strategy.

It also will study viewership in various regions, he said. The game will take place in prime time in Asian markets.

"All distribution formats are on the table" for future games and other content where rights are available, he said.

"How we distribute live games can take a lot of shapes."

The NFL and Yahoo declined to comment on viewership goals.

Over the past few months, Yahoo dropped its asking price for advertisements during the game from \$200,000 to less than \$100,000, two media buyers familiar with the situation told Reuters. Yahoo is guaranteeing advertisers 3.5 million streams in the United States, the buyers said.

Yahoo declined to comment on ad costs.

"We are completely sold out on ads," Lisa Utzschneider, Yahoo's chief revenue officer, told Reuters in an inter-

view, adding that more than 30 brands had signed up to advertise, including Toyota Motor Corp, Microsoft Corp and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV. Dairy Queen ice cream is the pre-game sponsor and Toyota Motor Corp is the half-time sponsor.

While the opportunity to advertise during the game may be attractive to global brands, it is less so for U.S. brands because the game is early for West Coast viewers, and fans in the game's local markets will be able to view it on television on CBS affiliates, the sources, who wished to remain anonymous because the negotiations were confidential, told Reuters.

Football

Continued from Page B5

Big plays have been a forte for an Old Town club that averages 39.4 points per game, with versatile senior Andre Miller capable of creating instant offense catching or running the ball offensively, on defense or on special teams.

Miller leads a deep cast of skill-position players that also includes senior quarterback Jake Jarvis, junior halfback T.J. Crawford, senior fullback Dana Ouellette and senior wide receiver Pascal Cyr.

MDI, which gave Winslow its stiffest test of the year in Week 3 before dropping a 35-20 decision, relies more on a ball-control attack led by senior halfback Taner Bickford and sophomore fullback Croix Albee.

MDI, which has averaged 35.6 points per game, also has its own passing threat in sophomore quarterback Andrew Phelps, while junior Drew Rich has been a special-teams weapon with two punt returns for touchdowns.

The two most likely play-off scenarios to emerge from this showdown — provided 7-0 Winslow also defeats 1-6 Waterville on Saturday — are that an Old Town victory would leave the Coyotes tied with Winslow for first with MDI third in Class C North while an MDI win would leave Winslow first, MDI second and Old Town third.

In the first case, since Winslow and Old Town did not meet during the regular season and have identical schedules, a coin toss would

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Bangor at Oxford Hills/Buckfield	6-12	21-14	16-14	17-14	21-20	14-12	14-21	14-13	
Belfast at Oceanside	18-21	19-21	24-23	20-18	16-14	17-13	20-14	21-22	
Boothbay at Winthrop	0-20	6-18	7-20	8-24	14-20	6-30	21-24	13-27	
Brewer at Hampden Acad.	48-17	28-12	28-6	30-10	20-12	28-7	27-12	42-13	
Dexter at Ellsworth/Sumner	16-22	22-14	13-20	17-14	18-14	20-14	16-8	21-13	
Dirigo at Maranacook	20-21	21-14	14-13	21-18	15-14	27-20	24-15	24-27	
Foxcroft Acad. at John Bapst	24-12	24-6	24-21	24-8	18-12	26-12	21-7	32-14	
Houlton at Stearns	22-18	22-8	7-6	14-10	16-14	15-14	8-12	22-14	
Lawrence at Messalonskee	17-30	20-21	27-21	8-21	21-24	14-20	16-14	12-13	
Madison/Carrabec at Hermon	42-18	28-6	7-6	20-7	14-6	26-6	21-12	13-7	
Mattawanacook Acad. at Orono	23-28	24-20	24-23	21-12	22-16	20-21	21-17	14-17	
Maine Central Institute at Bucksport	41-6	30-6	35-21	30-14	23-20	28-14	24-17	42-24	
Mount Desert Island at Old Town	21-40	28-27	27-28	18-21	30-28	27-25	13-20	22-27	
Mt. Blue at Skowhegan	18-23	14-22	21-20	17-24	25-26	14-15	23-24	16-22	
Nokomis at Brunswick	12-48	6-30	6-28	12-24	12-20	12-29	12-34	8-35	
Washington Acad. at Mount View	12-24	12-28	14-16	13-26	19-27	13-14	12-14	16-32	
Winslow at Waterville	43-10	30-6	21-6	30-10	16-6	31-7	27-17	35-14	
Stony Brook at Maine	21-27	20-17	21-14	21-24	14-17	14-17	17-14	21-24	
Husson at Gallaudet	43-13	31-14	27-21	27-12	24-14	25-12	27-21	17-13	
Maine Maritime Acad. at Endicott	18-35	34-35	14-21	21-31	24-27	34-35	34-20	24-21	
LAST WEEK	14-6	15-5	15-5	16-4	17-3	14-6	16-4	14-6	
SEASON	108-32	114-26	109-31	107-33	107-33	106-34	100-40	92-48	
PERCENTAGE (*combined guests)	.771	.814	.779	.764	.764	.757	.714	.657	

BDN Football Forecast



White

BDN staff members have only three more weeks to make up at least a five-game deficit against journalistic peer Ernie Clark, who continues to hold the top spot in the 50th BDN Football Forecast.

Clark's 15-5 mark enabled him to maintain a five-game bulge over Ryan McLaughlin (15-5), while Larry Mahoney's week-best 17-3

and Joe McLaughlin's 16-4 pulled them within seven games.

Guest Jeff Thurlow of Eddington, had a solid 14-6 week.

This week's guest is John White, a manager and FedEx Ground driver for White Family Freight of Linneus.

White, a lifelong Houlton resident, is the senior member of the Houlton Town

Council, entering his sixth year of service to the town. He is a diehard fan of the New England Patriots and Florida Gators.

White is a former basketball statistician for WHOU radio, where he also operated the board during Red Sox broadcasts. He resides with his wife Danielle and their children Macenzie, Troy, Devynn and Gavin.

determine first and second places though both teams would earn a first-round bye. MDI would host a quar-

terfinal game. In the second case, Winslow and MDI would finish first and second, respective-

ly, and receive first-round byes next weekend while third-place Old Town would host a quarterfinal.

ORONO — Charlene Achilles scored two second-half goals to lift the Maine Black Bears

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

to a 2-0 women's soccer victory over the Stony Brook Seawolves in an America East game Thursday night at Mahaney Diamond.

Achilles' goal occurred at 68:20 and was set up by Hannah Lipinski and the second was unassisted at 81:24.

Stony Brook outshot Maine 16-7 with Maine's Claudia Dube-Trempe earning the shutout with eight saves. Emily Doherty finished with three saves for the Seawolves, who had a 4-3 edge in corner kicks.

Maine improved to 9-6-1 overall and 4-2-1 in America East while Stony Brook slipped to 6-8-3 and 3-3-1, respectively.

Field Hockey USM 4, Bates 3

At Gorham, Jennifer Pou-

lin's goal off a sudden-death penalty shootout lifted the University of Southern Maine to its first victory over Bates since 2003.

With the score at 1-1 after the initial round of strokes, both teams went into the sudden victory round. They both misfired on their first attempts before Poulin was able to beat Bates senior Katie Knox to her right side. Bates' freshman Adah Lindquist took her attempt, but Husky junior goalkeeper Amanda Kasbohm closed down the space forcing Lindquist wide left.

Dorina Sirois and Poulin each scored first-half goals for USM, but Bates took a 3-2 lead on second-half goals by Shannon Beaton, Lindquist and Mackenzie Winslow before Tayla Smedberg equalized for USM at the 70th minute to send the game into overtime.

Knox made four saves for Bates (6-7) and Kasbohm finished with 19 for USM (7-11).

Sports A.M.

Bruins' Rinaldo avoids suspension

Boston Bruins forward Zac Rinaldo avoided a suspension from the NHL after his hit on Philadelphia Flyers forward Sean Couturier during Wednesday night's game.



Rinaldo

Rinaldo was ejected from Boston's overtime loss to the Flyers and received a five-minute major penalty when he charged Couturier along the boards at the end of the first period. The league said Thursday after reviewing the play that it supported the game officials' decision but decided against further disciplinary action.

Couturier suffered an upper body injury and did not return to play in the final two periods. The Bruins also announced Thursday that defenseman Tommy Cross was assigned to Providence of the American Hockey League.

Titans QB Mariota sits with knee injury

Tennessee Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota missed practice Thursday for the second consecutive day due to a knee injury and could be in jeopardy of missing Sunday's game against the Atlanta Falcons.

Back up quarterback Zach Mettenberger is being prepared to start in case Mariota can't play.

Mariota suffered a sprained MCL in his left knee during last Sunday's game against the Miami Dolphins.

Tennessee coach Ken Whisenhunt was non-committal on whether or not he would start Mariota, and said he doesn't have a firm rule about whether a player who didn't practice all week can start a game.

Harvin not with Bills

Buffalo Bills wide receiver Percy Harvin is not with the team in London but has been the most discussed player on

the team this week.

Harvin did not travel with the team for Sunday's contest against Jacksonville because of what coach Rex Ryan described as a personal issue. He still wasn't around Thursday, when the Buffalo News reported Harvin might contemplate retirement because he's frustrated by hip and knee injuries.

ESPN reported hours later, citing a source, that Harvin's frustration over injuries was accurate but refuted reports he is weighing retirement.

Cavs' Thompson inks \$82M deal

Tristan Thompson and the Cleveland Cavaliers ended an impasse with a signed five-year contract on Thursday. The deal is worth \$82 million and is fully guaranteed.

No player or team options are included in the contract, which appears to be a massive victory for Thompson.

Thompson and the Cavaliers had not been able to end a standoff that started on the first day of free agency in July when it was reported that the sides were close to an agreement.

The 24-year-old sought a max contract of five years at \$94 million or three years at \$53 million, but the Cavs previously would not offer more than \$80 million.

Cavs superstar LeBron James urged the team to resign Thompson throughout the summer and into the pre-season, saying the situation was a distraction to the team.

NFL, Jaguars extend London commitment

The NFL extended its agreement to play two games per year at Wembley Stadium through the 2020 season, the league announced Thursday.

The Jacksonville Jaguars will be involved in one of the games each year. The NFL has an option to extend the deal another five years.

Last month, the league announced a separate 10-year deal to play two games per year at the new home of English Premier League's Tottenham Hotspur franchise, which is scheduled to open in the summer of 2018.

— FROM WIRE REPORTS