

# Lee's play-making ability a key component

BY MARK MURPHY  
BOSTON HERALD

Boston Celtics head coach Brad Stevens unveiled the worst-kept secret in **CELTICS NOTEBOOK** Wednesday night — his starting lineup.

Avery Bradley, Marcus Smart, Jae Crowder, David Lee and Tyler Zeller — the same five who started in Europe as well as the Celtics' last two preseason games — took the floor for Wednesday night's season opener, a 112-95 victory over Philadelphia.

The key for making this combination work, according to the Celts coach, may be Lee's play-making ability.

"We played pretty well in Europe with that group, and we put that in our back pocket as we were resting people," said Stevens. "I talked with those wings and guards that one of the greatest strengths they bring is cutting. They needed another facilitator on the court, and David is that facilitator."

Sixers coach Brett Brown had another view. The de-

fensive combination of Smart, Bradley and Crowder may actually be what ultimately gets the Celtics off to good starts.

"I think that's their DNA. You look at Avery Bradley, Marcus and Corey — those guys guard," said Brown a curious slip of the tongue, referring to Crowder by his father's name.

Corey Crowder, a veteran of international basketball who played briefly in the NBA, was with the Spurs for half a season in 1994. While was at one time an assistant with the Spurs, it was not that long ago.

"They jump you straight out of the gate," he said. "They set a tone, that's their reputation in this league, and now they're growing into becoming respectable shooters. That's a great combination in this league."

### Floor show

The Garden unveiled a new floor, which was only the third in the 69-year history of the Celtics, dating back to their earliest days at the Boston Arena, now known as Northeastern's Matthews Arena.

The first floor was replaced in 1995 with the opening of the new Garden. To commemorate Wednesday night's change, Rudy "Spider" Edwards, longtime member of the Garden crew who swept the floor during timeouts, gave a ceremonial sweep during a first-quarter timeout.

No worries. The parquet design is intact. Team officials simply decided it was time for a floor in better shape.

### No sign of Olynyk

Kelly Olynyk, serving a one-game suspension for his Game 4 flagrant-2 foul of Cleveland's Kevin Love last April, was not allowed to be in the building Wednesday night.

"I'm sure he's frustrated. He came in early and shot and he left," said Stevens.

### 'Golden' memories

Lee watched Tuesday night's Golden State win over the Pelicans from his new home, and did indeed feel left out when the ring ceremony got underway. He'll collect his ring when the Warriors visit on Dec. 11.



GREG M. COOPER | USA TODAY

Boston Celtics forward David Lee (42) drives past Philadelphia 76ers forward Nerlens Noel during the first half at TD Garden on Wednesday. The Celtics won 112-95.

## Maine tips UNH in shootout to earn win

ORONO — Noelle Leon Palmer's goal off Maine's fifth attempt in a penalty-kick shoot-

### COLLEGE ROUNDUP

out gave the No. 4 Black Bears a 2-1 victory over the No. 5 New Hampshire Wildcats in an America East women's soccer tourney quarterfinal Thursday night at Mahaney Diamond.

Maine advanced to a 2 p.m. Sunday semifinal against the No. 1 Harford Hawks in Hartford.

UNH scored a first-half goal and Maine equalized in the second half, but neither could convert in two 10-minute overtime periods, sending the game into the penalty-kick shootout where Maine goalkeeper Claudia Dube-Trempe stopped two New Hampshire shots to help give the Black Bears the win.

UNH's Brooke Murphy scored on its first kick, but Addie LaBonte equalized for the Bears. Dube-Trempe then stopped Kirsten O'Neil's attempt and Vivien Bell converted Maine's

second attempt for a 2-1 edge.

Dube-Trempe then stopped Caroline Murray's shot and Charlene Achille converted for the Bears. Nikki Sloan converted next for UNH and UNH goalie Mimi Borkan stopped Jenna Soucy's shot.

Kellie McGoldrick tied it for UNH, but Leon-Palmer then sent a shot up and over Borkan for the winning margin.

UNH scored a first-half goal 16:17 into the game when Sloan headed the ball inside the goal's right post from a free kick from Murphy. It was Sloan's first goal of the season.

The Black Bears equalized 18 minutes into the second half when Ashley Robinson headed home the ball for her third goal of the season. Robinson converted from eight yards out following an assist from Kate Evans.

Maine is now 10-7-1 overall and 5-3-1 in AE while UNH finished at 6-10-3 and 4-5.

## Bangor

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have an unbelievable attitude, and they've made the effort and commitment to practice hard and focus on each day and to use that day as an opportunity to get better."

Senior Dane Johnson rushed for 141 yards and scored three touchdowns in the win at Oxford Hills-Buckfield, while backfield mate Ben Crichton added 135 rushing yards, including scoring runs of 9 and 41 yards.

Johnson's performance pushed him over 1,000 rushing yards for the second straight season.


The win also vaulted the 2-6 Rams past Lewiston into fifth place in Class A North and set up a quarterfinal rematch with No. 4 Edward Little, this time at 7 p.m. Friday at Walton Field in Auburn.

"You work hard at football for 48 weeks to play for four weeks because it's a four-week playoff," said Mosca. "You work hard in the offseason, you work hard in the preseason and you work hard in the regular season to get to this point right here."

EL rallied from a 19-7 fourth-quarter deficit in its Week 1 meeting with Bangor, getting a touchdown pass from Matt Verrill with 46 seconds left for the three-point victory.

"You've got to respect what Edward Little's done," said Mosca. "Their game plan fits their personality really well. They throw the ball really well and they have some athletes they like to get the ball to in space."

A win against the 3-5 Red Eddies, who knocked off Lewiston 35-21 in their Battle of the Bridge last Friday, would put Bangor back where it has advanced each

BDN Football Forecast									
	Troy Gardner GUEST	Ernie Clark STAFF	Ryan McLaughlin STAFF	Joe McLaughlin STAFF	Larry Mahoney STAFF	Pete Warner STAFF	John Holyoke STAFF	Joe Cyr STAFF	Your Picks READER
Bangor at Edward Little	21-17	28-27	6-20	12-20	27-24	21-12	21-17	24-20	
Boothbay at Lisbon	7-28	8-20	7-14	10-22	12-14	6-20	8-15	13-27	
Cory at Mt. Blue	10-21	14-21	20-21	14-17	16-20	16-15	21-24	17-24	
Dexter at Orono	28-21	12-28	14-20	13-20	7-14	15-14	13-17	24-23	
Foxcroft Acad. at Madison/Carrabec	10-31	21-22	27-28	21-19	22-20	14-15	27-21	17-14	
Gray-New Gloucester at Cape Elizabeth	30-10	16-28	13-17	10-24	17-21	13-21	21-27	13-17	
Greely at Leavitt	10-14	18-35	6-24	7-21	13-14	14-20	12-21	21-24	
Houlton at Mount View	7-21	14-32	6-7	17-24	20-24	6-20	14-16	13-17	
Lawrence at Brewer	14-28	12-22	6-30	14-28	21-28	22-27	17-34	13-27	
Maranacook at Winthrop/Monmouth	21-14	12-14	24-28	17-14	16-19	14-13	8-21	17-21	
Oceanside at Mount Desert Island	10-21	15-30	16-17	21-24	21-27	21-24	16-24	17-24	
Old Orchard Beach at Dirigo	10-28	7-22	6-13	10-20	12-14	6-21	20-21	14-32	
Poland at Wells	10-35	8-21	7-17	12-24	26-31	14-26	8-14	14-24	
Sanford at Scarborough	10-21	14-27	14-21	14-13	32-34	7-21	14-28	21-24	
South Portland at Bonny Eagle	7-17	12-32	13-14	17-21	16-20	11-23	27-32	17-28	
Spruce Mountain at Fryeburg Acad.	10-13	24-16	21-20	21-20	20-13	27-23	20-21	28-32	
Westbrook at Biddeford	21-14	18-20	14-20	18-24	24-21	23-21	13-15	30-32	
Maine at Villanova	17-14	16-21	17-7	17-14	17-14	20-17	27-18	27-21	
SUNY Maritime at Husson	7-24	7-28	13-21	20-30	13-21	8-35	16-34	17-14	
Curry at Maine Maritime Academy	7-21	28-20	24-6	27-21	24-20	31-30	20-10	24-17	
LAST WEEK	15-5	16-4	16-4	16-4	16-4	15-5	13-7	14-6	
SEASON	123-37	130-30	125-35	123-37	123-37	121-39	113-47	106-54	
PERCENTAGE (*combined guests)	.769	.813	.781	.769	.769	.756	.706	.663	

The season is on the line statewide this week as Maine's high school football teams move into postseason mode.

Meanwhile, Ernie Clark continues to lead the way among staff prognosticators with only two weeks remaining in the 50th season of the BDN Football Forecast.

Clark went 16-4 last week and maintained his five-game advantage over Ryan McLaughlin, who also went 16-4 along with Joe McLaughlin and Larry

Mahoney, each of whom is seven games off the pace.

Guest John White of Houlton posted a strong 15-5 card to continue what has been an impressive combined effort by the guest lineup.

This week's guest is Troy Gardner, who has worked as a Maine law enforcement officer for 26 years.

Gardner grew up in Aroostook County and graduated from the former Allagash Consolidated High School, where he played

four years of basketball. He played three years at the University of Maine-Fort Kent, where he earned an associates degree in criminal justice (1989) and a B.S. in social sciences (1992).

Gardner lives with his family in the Greater Bangor area. He encourages parents to get their children involved in athletics to teach them about the advantages of staying healthy as well as lifelong lessons learned through group interactions.

of its two seasons in the current Class A under the resurrected four-class statewide format — the regional semifinals.

"There's something spe-

cial about playing football in Maine at this time of year," said Mosca. "The ground's muddy, it's cold out, the leaves are falling off the trees, it gets dark so

early. It's a different animal.

"But you know if you're playing now, you did something right during the regular season."

## Hockey

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mance through its first four games but was displeased by a lack of effort in its 4-0 loss to Quinnipiac in its last game 10 days ago.

They have since lost an exhibition game to the University of New Brunswick 5-1 last Friday night.

"We established our identity in our first four games," said junior right wing Blaine Byron. "We're going to play hard, in-your-face hockey."

"We're definitely going in the right direction. But we haven't been getting timely goals. We've created scoring chances, but they haven't been going in. Once we get a couple of goals, things will start opening up for us. We have to get a lot of shots, create traffic and get those dirty goals," he added.

"Five goals in five games isn't going to make it," said Gendron. "We have to improve offensively while con-

tinuing to play well defensively. It's rather simple.

"The guys are getting better all the time. But what it comes down to is making exactly the right play at exactly the right time more consistently. There are moments in the game when making the right play and executing it with precision impacts the scoreboard," said Gendron.

"We have to stay positive," said junior alternate captain Cam Brown. "Obviously, in the games against Quinnipiac and New Brunswick, we weren't where we needed to be. But we have to build off what we'd done well in the previous four games."

One of those positives has been goaltending.

Freshman Rob McGovern posted a 0.93 goals-against average and a 0.973 save percentage in ties with North Dakota and Union but suffered an undisclosed injury against Union and missed the last two games. He has returned to practice and could get Friday's start.

Matt Morris and Sean Romeo also have played well.

## Schools

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ing off a strong regular season, but the Trojans must clean up the turnovers that hurt them in last Friday night's 31-8 loss at unbeaten and top-ranked Old Town. Oceanside has won four of its last six games, including a must-win 48-10 victory over Belfast last week, but one of the losses was a 42-13 decision at MDI just two weeks ago.

**No. 5 Foxcroft Academy (4-4) vs. No. 4 Madison-Carrabec (4-4), 1 p.m. Saturday at Madison:** Madison is hosting a playoff game for the first time in 20 years and is 3-1 at home this fall behind quarterback Chase Malloy and 1,000-yard rusher Nick Morales. Foxcroft has fully regrouped after a preseason injury that sidelined two-way star Hunter Smith for the year. The Ponies have won three of their last four games, averaging nearly 40 points per game during that span. Madison-Carrabec was a 33-12 winner when the teams meet in Week 2.



BDN FILE

Brewer High football coach Nick Arthers goes over a pre-season practice in August. Arthers has directed the Witches to a 7-1 record and a Class B North quarterfinal against Lawrence at 7 p.m. Friday at Doyle Field in Brewer.

### Class D

**No. 6 Houlton Shiretowners (4-4) vs. No. 3 Mount View Mustangs (6-2), 1 p.m. Saturday at Thorndike:** Houlton used a season-ending two-game winning streak to secure the final LTC Class D North playoff berth by tiebreaker in just its second season of varsity play since being restored. A Mount View team earned its highest postseason seeding in program history, anchored by a

big, physical line and a stable of running backs led by 1,000 yard rusher Tyler Ripley. Houlton and Mount View did not meet during the regular season.

**No. 5 Dexter Tigers (3-5) at No. 4 Orono Red Riots (4-4), 7 p.m. Friday:** Both teams hope to reverse some late-season momentum that has worked against them. Orono has dropped its last two games, including a 30-26 decision to No. 2 Mattanawcook Academy of Lincoln

last week when the Lynx used a successful outside kick to help complete a late comeback. Dexter has dropped three in a row since a three-game winning streak that began with a 48-22 win over Orono in Week 3. The Red Riots should look like a different team in the rematch, since quarterback Jackson Coutts and running backs Keenan Collett and Matt Fowler all were sidelined with injuries in the first meeting.