

Castleton women roll past USM Huskies 43-28

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

SALEM, Massachusetts — Jade Desroches scored 14 points to lead the Castleton University Spartans to a season-opening

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

43-28 women's basketball win over the University of Southern Maine Huskies in the first game of the Salem State University Tip-Off Women's Basketball Classic Friday night.

While neither team shot particularly well from the field, Southern Maine was held to just 18.2 percent shooting from the floor (8-for-44). Castleton shot 30.6 percent (15-for-49).

Freshman Alex Srolowitz paced Southern Maine with seven points off the bench. Senior Megan Pelletier had six rebounds.

Men's Basketball

Duke 92, Siena 74

Guard Grayson Allen scored 26 points, picking up where he left off in April, as fifth-ranked Duke opened the season by ripping Siena 92-74 on Friday night at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

There was plenty of offense for the reigning national champions who are largely a rebuilt team from the roster that won it all last season.

But Allen, a guard who was one of Duke's stars in the national championship game victory against Wisconsin, racked up 20 points in the game's opening 18 minutes Friday. He had a highlight-worthy dunk in each half.

Duke used a 13-0 run midway through the first half to take a 26-15 lead that grew to 44-27 by halftime. The Blue

Devils cruised from there, improving coach Mike Krzyzewski's record to 34-2 in openers with the program.

Duke forward Amile Jefferson added 19 points and 12 rebounds, and freshman Brandon Ingram tacked on 15 points in his collegiate debut.

Guard Marquis Wright poured in 20 points for Siena, which made only 9 of 29 first-half shots from the field. Forward Javion Ogunyemi and guard Lavon Long each scored 15 points and forward Brett Bisping had 10.

Matt Jones and Jefferson were both in the starting lineup after nursing injuries sustained during recent exhibition games. Jones scored 10 points.

Indiana 88, Eastern Illinois 49

James Blackmon Jr. scored 17 points, and Yogi Ferrell added 13 as No. 15 Indiana had an easy time Friday night in an 88-49 season-opening victory over Eastern Illinois at Assembly Hall in Bloomington, Ind.

Blackmon and Ferrell, IU's two leading scorers a year ago, may have scored the most points but even more impressive was the play of Indiana's two new frontcourt players — freshman Thomas Bryant and fifth year senior transfer Max Bielfeldt.

Bryant had 11 points and nine rebounds while Bielfeldt, the transfer from Michigan, had 11 points and eight rebounds against an undersized and overmatched Eastern Illinois squad.

IU had a total of six players in score in double figures. Both Troy Williams and Robert Johnson added



DAVID BUTLER II | USA TODAY

Connecticut Huskies guard Rodney Purvis (right) drives the ball against Maine Black Bears guard Aaron Calixte in the first half at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion on Friday night. Connecticut won 100-56.

12 for Indiana.

A.J. Riley led Eastern Illinois (0-1) with 13 points while Trae Anderson added 12.

Indiana (1-0) dominated play inside and held a 51-17 advantage on the boards. The Hoosiers had a 21-5 edge on the offensive boards.

The Panthers picked up three of their five offensive rebounds in the final minute.

The Hoosiers also had a dominating 26-1 edge in second chance points.

The game got out of hand early and Indiana led 49-17

at the half. Indiana led by as many as 42 points in the second half.

Villanova 91, Fairleigh Dickinson 54

No. 11 Villanova had no trouble in its season opener, opening up a double-digit lead on Fairleigh Dickinson in the first five minutes and never looking back in a 91-54 victory.

Villanova led from the opening tip, scoring the first nine points of the game. It was 21-7 eight minutes in and 30-12 not long after that; by halftime, it

was 50-22 and the rout was on.

Daniel Ochefu, the Wildcats' senior center, had a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds as all five Villanova starters finished in double figures. Kris Jenkins had 14 points, Ryan Arcidiacono and Jalen Brunson had 12 apiece and Josh Hart had 10.

In every way, it was a complete domination by the Wildcats of the overmatched Knights.

As a team, 'Nova shot 45.6 percent (31 of 68) from the floor, while holding FDU to

26.7 percent (16 of 60). They had a 51-37 advantage on the glass and took 25 foul shots to FDU's 18.

Darien Anderson led Fairleigh Dickinson with 21 points on 8 of 16 shooting; no other player on his team scored more than seven.

Up next for Villanova (1-0) is another game at home against Nebraska on Nov. 17, part of the "Gavitt Games," pitting Big East teams against those from the Big Ten. FDU (0-1) returns home on Nov. 16 to host D-III FDU-Florham.



BOB DECHIARA | USA TODAY

Boston Bruins left wing Matt Beleskey (right) controls the puck while Colorado Avalanche defenseman Erik Johnson defends during the second period on Thursday night at TD Garden in Boston. Colorado won 3-2.

Duchene rallies Colorado by Bruins

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON — Matt Duchene's offense returned much sooner than expected.

NHL

After totaling one goal and two points over 10 games last month, the Colorado Avalanche center has erupted for six goals and nine points through six games in November.

"I didn't think it would be like this, but I'll take it for sure," Duchene said after his go-ahead wrist injury midway through the third period helped the Avalanche erase a two-goal deficit and earn a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night at TD Garden. "I think the puck's just bouncing a little bit. I'm just trying to put as many on net as I can. You know, early in the season for me it wasn't bouncing at all, and I knew if I just stuck with it, stay positive and didn't grip the stick too much, eventually they'd start (to) go in."

Duchene finished off a pass from center Mikhail Grigorenko at 6:39 of the final period after center Ben Street forced a costly turnover from Bruins defenseman Kevin Miller.

Colorado (6-9-1) has now won eight consecutive games in Boston.

"It's not easy to be down 2-0, but I thought we played a really good game for 54 minutes," Colorado coach Patrick Roy said. "It was a solid team effort tonight."

Swedish center Carl Soderberg, playing his first game back in Boston since leaving the team in free agency last June, and defenseman Francois Beauchemin also scored goals for Colorado, which is now 2-6-1 in one-

goal games this season.

Goalie Reto Berra, who started in place of Semyon Varlamov after the Avalanche's top netminder tweaked a groin injury during practice at nearby Boston University, made 25 saves.

Colorado defenseman Erik Johnson recorded his 200th NHL point on a second-period assist while veteran right winger Jerome Iginla, who also spent time with the Bruins, tallied an assist on Soderberg's goal to move him into 37th place on the NHL's all-time points list.

Defenseman Zdeno Chara and center Ryan Spooner each netted a goal for the Bruins (7-7-1), who opened their season-long five-game homestand with a loss.

Boston goalie Tuukka Rask, who had 27 saves, has given up 27 goals in seven games at home this season.

Chara kicked off a busy opening period with his second goal of the year on a blue-line slap shot in front of the left point, putting the Bruins ahead 1-0 just over a minute in.

Roy challenged the call after Berra was consumed by the scrum in front of the net, but the goal was upheld.

Boston capitalized on an early hooking penalty as Spooner went top shelf to double the lead 5:51 into the first, giving the Bruins their eighth straight game with a power-play goal.

"The first six to 10 minutes, we seemed to be handling the momentum of the game in our favor," Bruins coach Claude Julien said, "but then once it got the other way instead of grinding it out — some nights you have to do that — give them credit."

Koizar sparks UMaine to win opener

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — Junior guard Sigi Koizar scored 22 points to lead the University of Maine Black Bears to a 64-53 women's basketball victory over the Harvard University Crimson in a mutual opener Friday night at Lavietes Pavilion.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Bears to a 64-53 women's basketball victory over the Harvard University Crimson in a mutual opener Friday night at Lavietes Pavilion.

Koizar also contributed with three assists, two steals and three rebounds while the Bears received 12 points each from senior guard Chantel Charles and senior forward Mikaela Gustafsson.

The Bears turned in a 24-for-53 shooting effort (45.3 percent) from the floor while holding the Crimson to 20-for-50 (40 percent).

Gustafsson and senior forward Liz Wood each grabbed six rebounds to help Maine gain a 34-29 advantage over Harvard. Charles also had five rebounds while Wood contributed seven assists and four steals.

Senior guard Shilpa Tum-mala sparked Harvard with 17 points and senior forward AnnMarie Healy added 10.

The Bears took an 11-10 lead

at the end of the first quarter and then outscored Harvard 20-12 in the second quarter to take a 31-22 halftime lead.

Koizar sparked a 12-3 Maine scoring surge in the quarter's last 4:47 when she sank two free throws, nailed a 3-pointer and scored off a layup. Senior guard Lauren Bodine started the surge with a 3-pointer, and Gustafsson ended it with a layup.

The Bears rattled off seven unanswered points to start the third quarter when Charles and Gustafsson each made a layup and Koizar nailed another 3-pointer

for a 38-22 lead with 6:20 left in the quarter.

Harvard managed to close the gap to 12 at the end of the third and whittled Maine's lead down to 48-41 with 7:57 left in the game when Tum-mala hit a 3-pointer.

Maine answered with a layup by senior guard Sophie Weckstrom and another Koizar 3-pointer to up its lead to 53-41 with 6:30 left. Harvard could get no closer than eight for the rest of the way.

The Bears stay on the road for a 1 p.m. Sunday contest against Boston College.

UM women's basketball lands 6 players

ORONO — With eight seniors graduating next spring, the University of Maine women's basketball will have some major holes to fill.

COLLEGE REPORT

Coach Richard Barron and his staff on Friday announced the signing of six players to National Letters of Intent.

"This class will ensure Maine's continued success for the next four years," Barron said in a news release.

"I believe that this current signing class is even more talented [than the senior group], and they will have the added benefit of coming into an established culture laid down by this year's seniors," he added.

The signees include 5-foot-8 guard Julie Brosseau of Repentigny, Quebec; Anita Kelava (6-foot-3 forward) of Zagreb, Croatia; Laia Sole (6-foot-2 forward) of Iguadala, Spain; Tihana Stojavljevic (6-foot-2 forward) of Zagreb, Croatia; Sierra Tapley (5-foot-8 guard) of Bar Harbor; and Fanny Wadling (6-foot-1 forward) of Nacka, Sweden.

Brosseau is rated as the No. 4 player in Canada's Class of 2016 by Crown Scout Magazine. Her Nomades de Montmorency team has won three straight national titles, and she is averaging 17 points and six rebounds thus far this season.

"She is one of the best shooters I have ever seen and brings great athleticism, strength and creativity," Barron said.

Kelava, a four-star recruit according to Blue Star Europe, has been a longtime member of Croatia's age-group national team. Last season, she led the nation in rebounds (8.8 rpg) and scored 8.3 ppg.

"Anita is a long and athletic versatile forward who has shooting range beyond the arc and is excellent in the mid-range," Barron said. "She is a great rebounder and committed defender."

Sole, a Blue Star Europe four-star recruit, has played for the Sarria and Alameda club team and the national team. She is averaging 13.4 points and 6.8 rebounds for Segle XXI.

Stojavljevic, a three-star recruit, helped Croatia's U18 team finish ninth at the Division A FIBA European Championships. She averaged 6.8 points, 6.3 rebounds and 1.2 blocked shots.

Tapley averaged 16.3 points, 4.0 assists and 3.5 steals while leading Mount Desert Island to an undefeated regular season last winter. She was named the Big East Player of the Year and was selected to the Bangor Daily News All-Maine Third Team.

"Sierra is a smart and hard working lead guard with very good ball handling skills and a very good feel for the game," Barron said. "She has impressed us for many years with her work ethic and intensity in practice as well as games."

Wadling, a three-star recruit who plays at BG Lulea, led her team in scoring (9.6 ppg) and steals (2.4) and averaged 5.4 rebounds at the U18 European Championships.

"Fanny is a highly skilled and very smart player with an excellent feel for the game," Barron said. "She reminds me of a left handed version of Magic Johnson, a tall, strong point/forward with excellent court vision and scoring ability."

Barron said UMaine, which already has brought in transfer Tanesha Sutton from Duquesne, plans to add one more player during the late signing period.

UMaine baseball signs 6

The UMaine baseball program has announced its list of National Letter of Intent signees for the 2016-2017 season.

The group includes three Mainers — Bangor High School pitcher Trevor DeLaite, Brewer High pitcher and first baseman Matt Pushard and pitcher Cody Laweryson of Valley

High in Bingham.

Coach Steve Trimper and his staff also secured three other players from New England.

The efforts of assistant coaches Nick Derba and Conor Burke "in identifying quality student athletes surely paid off as we feel the incoming players will have an immediate impact and add to the talented group we currently have at UMaine," Trimper said.

Joining the Maine trio is a group of three right-handed pitchers in Ryan Worthington of Avon Old Farms High School in Connecticut, Sam McCarthy of Nashua (New Hampshire) North High School and Matt Geoffrion Algonquin (Massachusetts) High School.

Worthington, a 6-foot-4, 200-pound, multiple-time all-star, is the son of Norm Worthington, the No. 1 pitcher on Eastern Connecticut State's 1990 Division III national championship team.

McCarthy (6-foot-3, 215 pounds) was ranked the top pitcher in New Hampshire by Perfect Game and the No. 8 player in New England by Prep Baseball Report.

Geoffrion (6-foot-3, 200 pounds) was a four-year varsity starting pitcher and a three-year letter winner for basketball.

MLB

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"I think it's great for baseball that so many new teams are having success," Astros GM Jeff Luhnow said. "Houston is a great sports town and I saw how excited our fans

were to see us be in a pennant race and play in the postseason. It reenergizes the fans. It was great to see and a lot of fun to be part of. Every team — and especially their fans — should have a chance to experience what we did.

"The last thing you want is for a franchise to lose for so long that they risk having

a generation of fans become disengaged. It's important that everyone has an opportunity to be competitive."

Most executives credit the leveling of the playing field to changes Selig and Manfred, who was then MLB's chief labor negotiator, were able to make to the collective bargaining agree-

ment through negotiations with the Major League Baseball Players Association.

Changes to the luxury tax system following the 2011 season implemented bigger penalties to teams that went over the threshold. At the same time, restraints were added to cut down on spending in the amateur draft.