

UConn men pound Black Bears 100-56

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

STORRS, Connecticut — Point guard Sterling Gibbs scored 20 points in his Connecticut debut and

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

A m i d a
Brimah dominated at both ends of the floor with 18 points and nine blocked shots as the No. 20 UConn Huskies opened their men's basketball season with a 100-56 rout over the University of Maine Black Bears Friday night at Gampel Pavilion.

UConn shot 53.8 percent from the floor in the second half before a sellout crowd of 10,167. Forward Shonn Miller, a graduate transfer from Cornell, scored 17 points and pulled down 10 rebounds in his debut for the Huskies. Brimah was 7-for-8 from the floor in 24 minutes of play.

After building a 12-point lead at halftime, UConn outscored Maine 29-4 over the first eight minutes of the second half to lead 71-34.

The Black Bears, led by forward Till Gloger's 17 points, missed 22 of their first 23 field-goal attempts in the second half. Gloger hit 6-of-13 field goals, but as a team Maine was held to a 19-for-63 effort (30.2 percent). Gloger also had six rebounds.

Forward Isaac Vann chipped in with 10 points for the Black Bears and guard Kevin Little had nine. Forward Ilija Stojiljkovic contributed five points, three steals and four rebounds.

The Huskies began the game scorching hot from the field, hitting 10 of their first 14 shots to build a 23-14 lead.

Gibbs, a graduate transfer from Seton Hall, led the Huskies with 11 points in the first half.

Gibbs scored seven consecutive UConn points midway through the half, showing his versatility with a basket off a turnover, stroking a 3-pointer, and exploding into the lane for a layup.

UConn led 42-30 at halftime after shooting 50 percent (15 of 30) and blocking eight shots. The Huskies finished with 15 blocks.

It was the 100th meeting between the two programs. UConn leads the series 84-16.

The Black Bears' next game is at 7 p.m. Thursday at LIU Brooklyn.

Plymouth State 77, Thomas 71

At Waterville, Curtis Arsenault scored 19 points and Jack Preston added to lead Plymouth State by Thomas in a mutual opener. Each player also had six rebounds to the Panthers a 35-32 edge.

The Panthers outscored the Terriers 46-39 in the second half.

Tyheem Simon paced Thomas with 16 points and Levi Barnes added 14. Mike Akanji and Carlos Gonzalez each chipped in with 10.

Women's Basketball

Castleton 43, USM 28

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



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.

shooting from the floor (8-for-44). Castleton shot 30.6 percent (15-for-49).

Freshman Alex Srolovitz 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 rip-

ping 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.



MARK L. BAER | USA TODAY

Boston Celtics forward Amir Johnson (left) shoots the ball against Atlanta Hawks forward Paul Millsap during the first half at TD Garden on Friday night. Boston won 106-93.

Olynyk, Thomas spark C's by Hawks

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON, Massachusetts — The Boston Celtics scored their best win of the young season by downing the **NBA** Atlanta Hawks 106-93 on Friday night.

Forward Kelly Olynyk hit two 3-pointers during a 21-9 run over the final 5:10 of the third quarter and guard Isaiah Thomas drained back-to-back 3-pointers to stave off an Atlanta charge as the Celtics evened their record at 4-4.

The Hawks (8-3) were playing without their coach — Mike Budenholzer leaving the team in Boston Friday morning because of a family emergency. Assistant coach Kenny Atkinson took over and while the players were clearly trying to win for their coach, there was clearly something missing from one of the Eastern Conference's best teams.

The Celtics built a 15-point lead two minutes into the fourth quarter before the Hawks led by backup guard Dennis Schroder and little-used center Mike Muscala, ran off 12 straight points to get to within three. They got no closer — but did cut a seven-point lead down to three with 3:03 remaining.

Boston then reeled off 10 points in 1:33, the last five by forward Jae Crowder, to ice the game. The Hawks were shut out for the final 3:03.

Thomas led the Celtics, who hammered the Hawks on the offensive glass and only committed 11 turnovers, with a game-high 23 points, 10 assists and five rebounds.

Forward Amir Johnson, playing his best game as a Celtic, had 19 points, eight boards and four assists, while Olynyk

came off the bench with 15 points and Crowder added 13 points and eight rebounds.

Forward Jared Sullinger had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The Celtics outrebounded the visitors 50-35, claiming a 17-5 advantage on the offensive glass, allowing them to win despite shooting 41 percent from the floor.

Atlanta's big three — forward Paul Millsap, center Al Horford and guard Jeff Teague, who came into the game averaging a combined 51.8 points, 19.9 rebounds and 14.2 assists, just weren't factors. They finished with 33 points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists.

Millsap led the Hawks with 14 points and eight rebounds, while Horford posted 13 points, six rebounds and eight assists. Teague's second-half time was limited after he suffered what looked like an ankle injury near the end of the first half.

Muscala, who had 10 points in four appearances before Friday, scored seven points and had an assist during the rally. Schroder scored the other five points. The game was tied at the half. Eight points by guard Kyle Korver in a 1:33 span helped the Hawks take a 60-59 lead with 5:23 left in the third quarter.

The Celtics then took over while the Hawks continued a sloppy evening that ended with 17 turnovers.

Pacers 107, Timberwolves 103

INDIANAPOLIS — Forward Paul George continued his torrid surge with 29 points and guard Monta Ellis added 24 as the Indiana Pacers built a big lead but had to hang on to win their third in a row, 107-103 over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Friday at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

Koizar sparks UMaine to win opener

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — Junior guard Sigi Koizar scored 22 points to lead the **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** 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.

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 Tumala 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 half-time 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 Tumala 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

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Maine will have some major holes to fill.

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 Stojiljkovic (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 long-time 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 midrange," 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.

Stojiljkovic, 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 Ban-

gor 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 DeLaitte, Brewer High pitcher and first baseman Matt Pushard and pitcher Cody

Lawryson 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.

Hockey

Continued from Page B5

"We got a bunch of chances. We kept things simple. We did a lot of things well," added Brown. "It was nice to get a goal at the end and to get it on the power play."

"I think it will give us a boost to take into Sunday," said Merchant.

Brown and Merchant both said it will be nice to finally play a home game.

Sophomore left wing Nolan Vesey missed the game because he was serv-

ing a one-game suspension for a spearing major he incurred at the end of last Saturday's 2-0 loss at Boston College.

He will be eligible to return on Sunday.