

# UMaine hopes to play with a lead, get first win

BY LARRY MAHONEY  
BDN STAFF

ORONO — If the University of Maine men's hockey team is going to finally dent the win column this season against the visiting University of Vermont this weekend, it would certainly help if the Black Bears could play with a lead.

The Black Bears, 0-8-3 overall, 0-4-0 in Hockey East and losers of eight straight, have been chasing deficits all season.

Maine has played 677 minutes and 14 seconds of hockey and has had a lead for just 44:36. And 36:56 of that came during the season opener when the Black Bears had three one-goal leads only to wind up with a 3-3 tie against Michigan State in the Ice Breaker Tournament at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland.

The only other time Maine was ahead was against the University of Massachusetts in an eventual 5-4 overtime loss in the Capital City Classic Tournament in Trenton, New Jersey.

Vermont comes into the Friday-Saturday series at 3-6-2 overall and 2-2-2 in Hockey East.

Maine has found itself trailing for 305:54, and it has

Men's College Hockey	
<b>MAINE vs. VERMONT</b>	
<b>Time, site:</b>	Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 4 p.m., Alford Arena, Orono
<b>Records:</b>	Maine 0-8-3 (0-4-0 Hockey East); Vermont 3-6-2 (2-2-2)
<b>Series, last meeting:</b>	Vermont leads 25-22-4
<b>Key players:</b>	<b>Maine</b> — C Will Merchant (4 goals, 0 assists), C Cam Brown (1 & 3), LW Blaine Byron (1 & 2), C Steven Swavely (0 & 1), D Dan Renouf (0 & 2), G Rob McGovern (0-6-2 record, 2.45 goals-against average, .922 save percentage), G Matt Morris (0-2-1, 3.15, .914); <b>Vermont</b> — LW Mario Puskarich (4 & 7), D Alex Privitera (2 & 5), C Jarrid Privitera (5 & 1), RW Anthony Petruzzelli (3 & 1), RW Brady Shaw (1 & 3), D Yvan Pattyn (0 & 2), G Mike Santaguida (3-6-2, 2.53, .912)
<b>Game notes:</b>	Vermont has won nine of the last 10 meetings including six wins in seven games last season. In addition to playing four regular season games, Vermont won the best-of-three first-round Hockey East series 2-1 thanks to a 3-2 overtime win in game three. Puskarich has been a thorn in the side of the Black Bears with six goals and two assists in eight career games. He was the first Catamount to earn Hockey East Rookie of the Year honors in 2013-14. He has 71 points in 74 career games. Vermont has allowed at least one power-play goal in its last six games. Maine and Vermont have each played six games against teams ranked in the top six in this week's USCHO poll. Maine has to solve its woeful goal scoring issues in order to earn points this weekend. The Black Bears are the lowest scoring team in the country. They have been shut out three times in their last four games. They are generating plenty of chances but aren't converting.

been locked in a tie for 326:34. Maine hasn't led in its last five games and trailed UMass Lowell 4-0 after the first period of last Sunday's 6-0 loss.

"Getting a lead would be really important," said Maine coach Red Gendron. "It would help the players relax a little bit."

"Getting that first goal would get our crowd up, and our team feeds off the crowd. [The crowd] is such a pivotal part of our home games. Getting a lead would also give us momentum and some confidence," junior left wing Blaine Byron said.

The Black Bears are the lowest scoring team in col-

lege hockey, averaging a meager one goal per game, and they have scored just twice in the first period while allowing eight.

They have scored the game's first goal just twice.

Junior defenseman Dan Renouf agreed that scoring the first goal would get the crowd into it and give the team some confidence, but he said regardless of whether they are leading or behind, "we have to start putting pucks in the net."

"We have to put together a full 60 minutes to get that first win," said freshman goalie Rob McGovern.

Gendron is frustrated but not discouraged.



BDN FILE  
The University of Maine's Blaine Byron (right) and the University of Vermont's Jake Fallon battle for control of the puck during their game last November at Alford Arena in Orono. The two teams meet again this weekend in Orono.

"I would be discouraged if we weren't playing well or weren't [competing] with teams," said Gendron. "I really, really believe in our kids. They've battled and worked hard in practice and

in games. But we have problems scoring goals."

"We had 38 shots [in the 6-0 loss to UMass Lowell], and their goalie made 22 Grade-A saves. You can't do much more than that. The

goals are going to come. Once we get one, we'll break out," said Byron.

"[Goals] will come," said senior goalie Matt Morris. "We need to stay positive and keep playing well."

## Butler propels Husson by St. Joseph's

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

STANDISH — Trevon Butler turned in an impressive double-double with 24 points and 17 rebounds to power the Husson University Eagles to an 81-73 victory over the St. Joseph's College Monks on Thursday night.

Raheem Anderson chipped in with 19 points, four steals and four rebounds to help spark the Eagles of Bangor in their opener. Tyler Norris contributed with 18 points and six rebounds as the Eagles dominated the rebounding game, with a 45-22 advantage over the Monks.

The Monks battled to a 44-40 halftime lead, but the Eagles responded in the second half by outscoring the Monks 41-29.

Andrew Ruffen scored 13 points to pace St. Joe's, now 1-2. Marc Corey and Quinn Richardson-Newton each added 10 points while Ian Mileikis and Ben Malloy contributed nine apiece.

Richardson-Newton and Jerome Diggs each had six assists.

### UNE 78, UMF 62

At Farmington, Devin Thompson recorded 26 points and nine rebounds to lead the University of New England Nor'easters by the UMaine-Farmington Beavers.

UNE took an eight-point halftime lead and then outscored the Beavers by an eight-point margin again in the second half.

C.J. Autry chipped in with 11 points for UNE while Drew Coveney and Gavin Dibble each added 10. Coveney also notched six assists and 10 rebounds.

Sean Murphy paced UMF while 11 points while Anfernee Dent and Nick Hilton each put in 10. Eric Berry contributed with eight points and 10 rebounds.

### St. John's 61, Rutgers 59

Ron Mvouika sank two free throws with 1:20 left as St. John's rallied from a 16-point deficit to claim a 61-59 win over Rutgers on Thursday night at Carnesecca

Arena in New York.

Mvouika, a guard/forward, had 12 points and 10 rebounds and freshman center Yankuba Sima totaled 13 points, nine rebounds and six blocks for St. John's (3-0), which remains unbeaten in the Chris Mullin era.

Red Storm freshman guard Federico Mussini contributed 13 points and seven rebounds after averaging 18 points through the first two games.

Senior guard Bishop Daniels had 21 points, eight rebounds, and five steals for Rutgers (2-1), which hasn't won three straight games to start a season since 2008-09.

Scarlet Knights sophomore guard Mike Williams scored 13 points and sophomore forward D.J. Foreman totaled nine points and eight rebounds.

Daniels scored 10 of Rutgers' first 19 points as the Scarlet Knights took an early double-digit lead before reaching halftime with a 33-26 advantage.

Rutgers opened the second half on a 12-3 run to build its lead to 16, but St.

John's fought back to take the lead for good on Mvouika's free throws.

### Women's Basketball

#### St. Joseph's 79, Husson 61

At Standish, Morgan Cahill turned a strong shooting effort from the floor and four line, finishing with 28 points in leading St. Joseph's by the Eagles of Bangor.

Cahill hit 9 of 16 shots from the floor and 10 of 11 from the line to spark the Monks. She also had six rebounds and four steals.

Kelsi McNamara chipped in with 18 points and six assists for St. Joe's (2-1) while Emily Quirion added 11.

The Monks took a 38-36 halftime lead and pulled away in the third quarter when they outscored the Eagles 23-9.

Kenzie Worcester paced the Eagles (1-0) with 13 points and four assists while Chandler Guerrette contributed with 12 points, four assists and four rebounds. Victoria McIntyre chipped in with 10 points, nine rebounds and four assists.

## LIU Brooklyn holds off UMaine 84-79

BROOKLYN, New York — The LIU Brooklyn Blackbirds canned 10 of 12 free throws in the final 4 minutes.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

24 seconds to hold off the Maine Black Bears 84-79 in men's basketball action Thursday night.

Forward Jerome Frink hit 9 of 11 field goals and finished with 25 points to lead LIU. Guard Martin Hermansson chipped in with 23 points and guard Aakim Saintil added 12. Forward Nura Zanna grabbed 11 rebounds and Frink had nine to help the Blackbirds gain a 43-39 team advantage.

Guard Aaron Calixte sparked the Black Bears with 18 points and guard Kevin Little added 15. Forward Devine Eke contributed with 14 points and 12 rebounds while forward Issac Vann added 11 points.

Little also had five assists and swingman Garet Beal contributed nine points and three assists.

The Blackbirds improved to 2-0 while the Bears slipped to 0-2.

LIU built an eight-point lead with 5:26 left in the game, but the Bears responded with a 7-0 surge to cut it to 68-67 with 4:24 remaining. Little led the surge with five points and Eke added a dunk.

LIU answered with a layup from Zanna with 3:10 left and two free throws by Frink to up its lead to 72-67 with 2:54 left.

Eke tapped in a rebound to cut it back to three but Hermansson hit a layup with 1:59 left to restore the five-point lead.

The Black Bears then committed two costly turnovers and missed two field goals over the next minute and a Frink dunk gave LIU a 76-69 lead with 47 seconds remaining.

The Blackbirds hit 6 of 6 free throws in the last 22 seconds to seal the win while a last-second 3-pointer by Calixte accounted for the final margin.

LIU outscored the Bears 45-38 in the second half after Maine had taken a 41-39 halftime lead behind eight points each from Little and Till Gloger.

## Some seek to re-work NFL concussion settlement

BY NATALIE POMPILIO  
REUTE

PHILADELPHIA — Lawyers representing some former NFL players urged a federal appeals court on Thursday to scrap the league's \$1 billion concussion settlement because it does not cover potential victims of a degenerative brain disease linked to repeated blows to the head.

The deal should include future payments for chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a disease found in a growing number of players after their deaths, the lawyers told the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.

The settlement unfairly favors currently injured retirees and ignores a potential 19,000 players who have yet to be diagnosed with neurological diseases, critics of the deal claim.

About 5,000 players are part of a class-action lawsuit that contends the National Football League was deceptive in hiding the dangers of concussive brain injuries.

The current deal, approved by April by Federal District Court Judge Anita Brody, provides payments of up to \$5 million for former players diagnosed with certain neurological disorders. It also provides medical monitoring and concussion education.

About 99 percent of the class members accepted the deal, meaning they have not opted out. If approved in its current form, the settlement could cost the NFL \$1 billion.

The small number of dissenters say it is a mistake to not include CTE and its symptoms, which include suicidal thoughts.

Autopsies found that some former NFL players

who have committed suicide, including Junior Seau in 2012 and Adrian Robinson in 2015, had contracted CTE.

While CTE is currently definitively diagnosed after death, some scientists believe that within five to 10 years, better methods will be developed to identify it more readily.

Attorney Steven Molo, a lawyer for the objecting players, called CTE the "soundpiece" of the original complaint.

"A settlement like this, where there is this future claims issue, should account for the evolution of science," said Molo. "We should at least be able to account for that, and here, this settlement doesn't."

Samuel Issacharoff, a lawyer for the settling players, argued that the settlement was fair in light of what was known about how playing

football affects players' long-term health.

"This happens in every car accident case," he said. "I'm injured today. It may turn out my back will deteriorate in five years, but I have to accept a settlement today or not."

"These settlements are not kept open on the grounds there may be better MRIs in five years that can detect some kind of latent condition that right now hasn't manifested itself."

Paul Clement, a prominent Washington, D.C. lawyer representing the NFL, also argued in favor of the accord, which he called "fair, reasonable and more than adequate."

Clement said the settlement offered "good value," noting that out of the entire group of plaintiffs, "less than 1 percent is objecting, less than 1 percent is opting out."

## Peyton

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rushing leader, finished with the Arizona Cardinals. Jerry Rice left San Francisco and played for Oakland and Seattle before his career finally ended in a Denver training camp. Brett Favre, a lock to be voted into the Hall of Fame in February, was wearing Minnesota purple when he threw the final pass of his career — and it was intercepted.

In other words, what

Manning has done, and how his career is ending, are not unique. We hear much talk about legends, about how players and their teams fit together, about how these are real people in those uniforms, but the fact is that the constant in the game is the uniforms, not the people.

There is, however, something unique about Manning and his career, and that does deserve to be celebrated.

In this age of Twitter and TMZ, of police blotters and drug tests, of constant chatter about the bad actors in sports, it is worth pointing

out that there has never been a whiff of scandal connected to Manning's name. No arrests, no incidents, not even major contract disputes.

His preparation, his work ethic, his single-minded devotion to the game (despite all the endorsements he does), his unquestioned character, his — this is a much overused word, but it fits here — class, stand in sharp contrast with some of the NFL's characters we hear about all too often.

No question Manning deserved a better ending than the one that appears to await

him. And it's especially cruel that he seems likely to miss a matchup with Brady on Thanksgiving weekend. But for all the talk and attention generated by fantasy sports, let this bring us back to reality.

This is normal. This is reality.

Ira Miller is an award-winning sportswriter who has covered the NFL for more than four decades and is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Selection Committee. He is a national columnist for The Sports Xchange.

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