

Boyington, Berry headline MMA boxing show

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

Bruce "Pretty Boy" Boyington and Brandon "The Cannon" Berry will headline the state's first MMA REPORT

combination mixed martial arts-boxing show, NEF XX, at the Androscoggin Bank Colisee in Lewiston on Saturday night.

Boyington, coming off a successful debut with the national-level World Series of Fighting promotion, will defend his NEF MMA lightweight title in a five-round battle against Jimmy Davidson.

The 36-year-old Boyington will be fighting for the second time in barely a month after improving his professional record to 11-8 with a split-decision win over Rodrigo Almeida on the undercard of WSOF 24 on Oct. 17 at the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut.

He will make the third defense of his NEF 155-pound belt against Davidson, a Sandwich, Massachusetts, product with a 7-1 record. Berry, a junior welterweight boxer from West Forks, will face Roberto Valenzuela, a 42-year-old native of Mexico with 141 professional bouts (72-69) to his credit.

Berry (9-1) will seek his second win of the year against a fighter named Valenzuela after scoring a second-round technical knockout of Engelberto Valenzuela in July at the Skowhegan Community Center.

That was Berry's first bout since he suffered a shoulder injury during a fight in November 2014 against Freddy Sanchez in Portland and was sidelined for eight months.

The Berry-Roberto Valenzuela bout will be one of four boxing matches at NEF XX to go with 21 mixed martial arts contests.

Other MMA matches will include two NEF amateur title fights, a featherweight (145-pound) clash between Aaron Lacey and Caleb Horner and a flyweight (125-pound) battle between champion Dustin Veinott and Ryan Burgess.

Also featured is a women's amateur match at 120 pounds between 1-1 Randi Beth Boyington, Bruce Boyington's wife, and Erin Lamonte (3-0).

The first fight is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Boetsch weighs in on Holm-Rousey

Lincolnton native and UFC veteran Tim "The Bar-



COURTESY OF ROB MORIN | FILE

Brandon Berry (right) battles Eric Palmer for the Northeast Junior Welterweight title on Oct. 11 in Lewiston. Berry won by unanimous decision and will fight in Lewiston again on Saturday against Roberto Valenzuela.

barian" Boetsch, now preparing for a Jan. 17, 2016, bout against Ed Herman as part of UFC Fight Night 81 in Boston, watched last Saturday night's UFC 193 main event in which Holly Holm knocked out champion Ronda Rousey in the second round of their women's ban-

weight title match.

He wasn't all that surprised with the outcome.

"I knew it was coming sooner or later," he said. "Holly can fight. She's a heck of a striker. If you stay in fighting long enough, somebody's going to come along who can beat you.

Ronda found out what that feels like, but I'm very happy for Holly. She seems like a really good person. She trains hard, she's very good at what she does and she proved that to the world the other night."

Boetsch just completed his second week of training

for the Herman fight at Marcus Davis' Team Irish MMA Fitness Academy in Brewer.

He will be the guest of honor at Saturday night's NEF XX show at the Androscoggin Bank Colisee in Lewiston and will be available for autographs from 6 to 7 p.m.

Cuban praises Goodell for Deflategate

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban has praised NFL commissioner Roger Goodell for his handling of Deflategate involving New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

The Mavericks were in Boston on Wednesday night, and reporters took the opportunity to ask the outspoken NBA owner about Goodell and his suspension of Brady.

"As an owner, it was obvious to me that it was up to Roger Goodell to take the heat and take responsibility," Cuban told reporters at TD Garden. "And he han-

dled it masterfully. The fact that it all got reversed and all that is irrelevant.

"The NFL always loses their court cases the first time. Always. And then they end up winning when it doesn't matter, but you can't — I don't know if Brady lied or not, who knows, with the whole phone thing and everything — but the reality is it's all about the good of the game and that's what Roger's responsible for and that's what the owners pay him so much money to do. And he's going to do to the best of his ability what he thinks he can, and I think that's what

he did. It's not about Brady, it's not about anything else. It's, 'How do you manage the golden goose?' That's what he's trying to do. I give him credit for taking all of the bullets."

The NFL originally suspended Brady for the first four games of the regular season for his alleged part of improperly inflated footballs during the AFC Championship game against the Indianapolis Colts in January.

Brady appealed his suspension to the NFL and Goodell upheld the suspension in July. However, Brady then appealed the

suspension in federal court, and U.S. District Court Judge Richard M. Berman overturned the suspension on Sept. 3, allowing Brady to play immediately.

The NFL is now appealing Berman's ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Cuban doesn't think Goodell has too much power over the players.

"He's got 32 bosses," Cuban said. "It's hard to have too much power when you have 32 bosses. Trust me. I mean, I don't know the NFL and I'm just guessing, but he ain't doing (expletive) without getting feedback from all the owners."

Strong second half propels UMF by Bates

FARMINGTON — The University of Maine-Farmington Beavers rallied from a six-point halftime deficit to beat the Bates College Bobcats 61-53 in women's basketball action Friday night.

The win snapped UMF's 10-game losing streak to Bates.

UMF outscored Bates 23-14 in the third quarter and 21-16 in the fourth to secure the win.

Meghan Smith sparked UMF (1-2) with 19 points and nine rebounds while Cheyenne Malloy chipped in with 12 points, four rebounds and three steals. Kennadi Grover added 10 points.

Nina Davenport paced Bates of Lewiston (0-1) with 15 points and Madeline Foote added 12. Allie Coppola contributed six points and eight rebounds.

Colby 84, Wesley 48

At Bridgewater, Massachusetts, Colby used a balanced scoring attack to roll by Wesley in the Bridgewater State Tourney.

Carylanne Wolfington and Emily Davis each scored 13 points to lead Colby while Haley Driscoll added 12 and Desi Smith put in 11. Davis also had eight rebounds and Wolfington had six.

Monshea Newsome-Murray paced Wesley with 15 points and Brianna Johnson added 14.

Men's Basketball

Duquesne 78, Penn State 52
Guard Derrick Colter equaled his career-high with

26 points to lead Duquesne to a 78-52 victory over Penn State on Friday night in Pittsburgh.

Colter made 6 of 9 shots from 3-point range and the Dukes (3-0) were 17 of 34 from behind the arc.

Duquesne came out in the second half and increased an 11-point halftime lead to 65-37. Guard Micah Mason finished with 14 points and seven assists and guard Jeremiah Jones scored 11 points.

Forward Brandon Taylor led Penn State (2-1) with 14 points. Forward Payton Banks had 12 points and a team-leading six rebounds. Guard Shep Garner also had 12 points for the Nittany Lions.

Penn State shot just 29.7 percent from the field (19 of 64), 23.8 percent on 3-pointers (5 of 21) and 52.9 percent from the free throw line (9 of 17).

Georgia 63, Murray State 52

Georgia guard Kenny Gaines went off for 35 points, highlighted by three straight 3-pointers late in the second half, helping the Bulldogs hold off Murray State 63-52 Friday in a low-scoring grinder at Stegeman Coliseum in Athens, Georgia.

Georgia led for the majority of the game, but didn't put the Racers away until late in the second half. Murray State took a 47-46 lead on a pair of Wayne Langston free throws with 5:34 left in the game. But Gaines answered with three straight 3-pointers, the third putting the Bulldogs up 57-50 with 1:35 to play.

Bradley propels Celtics past Nets 120-95

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON — Avery Bradley reached double figures for the fourth straight game, finishing with a game-high 21 points off the bench to power the Boston Celtics to a 120-95 rout of the Brooklyn Nets on Friday night at TD Garden.

The guard has scored 18 or more points in each of his last three games, averaging 20 points during that span. Bradley now has five outings with 18 points or more in November.

Boston forward Jae Crowder scored 19 points and guard Isaiah Thomas contributed 18 points and nine assists. Forward Evan Turner totaled 12 points and forward David Lee added 11 for the Celtics (7-5), who shot 58.6 percent from the field (51 of 87).

Brooklyn forward Thaddeus Young registered a double-double with 14 points and 10 assists and center Brook Lopez kicked in 14 points and seven points.

Nets guard Jarrett Jack turned the ball over seven times and scored 11 points, forward Rondae Hollis Jefferson had 13 points and 11 boards and guard Shane Larkin added 10 points off the bench.

The Nets (2-11) have dropped four of six since opening the season with a seven-game skid.

Boston enjoyed its best sec-



DAVID BUTLER | II-USA TODAY

Boston Celtics guard Evan Turner (left) drives the ball against Brooklyn Nets center Andrea Bargnani during the second half at TD Garden on Friday night. The Celtics defeated the Nets 120-95.

ond quarter of the season, scoring 43 points to take a 66-42 halftime lead. The Celtics eclipsed a 32-point performance in the second quarter against Washington on Nov. 6.

Lee infused life into the offense from the outset, scoring all 11 of his points on 5-of-5 shooting from the floor in the first 5:35 of the second quarter to help Boston build a double-digit lead.

Thomas made four straight 3-pointers to help extend the Celtics' lead to 24.

Brooklyn trailed by as many as 30 points in the second half. The Nets' biggest lead was four in the first quarter and they were last tied at 15 before the Celtics used an 8-4 run to end the quarter up 23-19.

NOTES: Boston coach

Brad Stevens downplayed the notion that was added significance to Friday's game due to the Celtics' possession of the struggling Nets' first-round draft pick this season. "It doesn't factor into the coaches' (and) players' (mindset)," Stevens said. "You just have to focus on who you're playing against and try to play well." ... Celtics G Avery Bradley was averaging 20.2 points on 55.4 percent shooting and was 13-for-26 from 3-point range in his last five games against Brooklyn entering Friday. ... Boston ranked first in the league in points off turnovers entering the game with 23.6. ... Brooklyn is nearing the end of a season-opening stretch in which it has played 11 of 16 games on the road. ... The Nets and Celtics conclude

their home-and-home set on Sunday night at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hornets 113, 76ers 88

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Center Al Jefferson had his third double-double of the season with 26 points and 10 rebounds, and the Charlotte Hornets rolled to an easy 113-88 victory over the winless Philadelphia 76ers Friday night.

Jefferson scored 14 of his points in the first quarter as the Hornets jumped on the Sixers quickly and never trailed. He had 18 by halftime, then sat and watched much of the second half with the Hornets comfortably ahead.

The Hornets (7-6) led by as many as 26. They won their second straight and improved to 5-1 at Time Warner Cable Arena. It's the first time this season they have been over .500.

Guard Kemba Walker added 20 points for the Hornets. Guard Nicolas Batum scored 14, guard Jeremy Lamb scored 13, and forward Marvin Williams had 11 points and nine rebounds.

The hapless Sixers (0-13) actually whittled the margin down to 11 once late in the third quarter.

Forward Nerlens Noel led the Sixers with 16 points and nine rebounds. The Sixers also got 15 points from guard Nik Stauskas, 12 points from forward Jerami Grant, and 10 points from center Jahlil Okafor.

MCI later moved from its 30 inside Oak Hill territory with less than 5 minutes left, but Vigue was stripped of the ball by Buteau on a first-down run and the Raiders' Austin Goucher recovered at the OH 41 to end the drive.

MCI got the ball back four plays later after Therrien fumbled and lost a yard on fourth-and-1 from midfield, but the Huskies couldn't capitalize as Vigue's second-down pass to the left flat was intercepted by Buteau.

Two plays later, Therrien dashed 48 yards for his fourth rushing touchdown of the night with 1:16 to play.

Football

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play, 68-yard touchdown drive to regain the lead at 12-7 on a 1-yard keeper by Therrien with 7:04 left in the second quarter.

Connor Nilsson then drilled an onside kick off an MCI player, and teammate Matt Clifford recovered the loose ball at the Oak Hill 45. Therrien completed passes of 14, 26 and 11 yards before scoring on a 5-yard run to make it 18-7 with 5:54 before intermission.

Moss rushed for 90 yards

on 19 first-half carries, but Oak Hill had a 277-128 advantage in total yardage at the break.

Oak Hill drove from its 32 to the MCI 14 with its first possession of the second half, thanks in large part to a 36-yard pass from Therrien to Nilsson. But the drive stalled as MCI's Josh Buker knocked down a fourth-down pass intended for Nilsson inside the 5.

MCI marched 63 yards in 10 plays to regain the lead at 21-18, with Eli Bussell scoring from the 1 with 1:23 left in the third quarter.

But Therrien, who had thrown six straight incom-

pletions, used his legs to regain the lead for Oak Hill, capping a string of five straight runs with a 16-yard touchdown dash on the final play of the period.

Therrien then passed to Matt Strout for the two-point conversion that gave the Raiders a 26-21 lead entering the final period.

A 40-yard punt by Oak Hill's Levi Buteau was downed by teammate Colby Spencer at the MCI 1, and that led to a safety on the next play as the Huskies fumbled the snap and was downed in the end zone to extend the Raiders' lead to 28-21 with 9:36 left.