

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 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-

tanweight 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.

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

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 Brionna 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.

Eriksson records hat trick in win over Wild

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON — Loui Eriksson has arguably been the Boston Bruins' most consistent player in the team's inconsistent start.

NHL

Thursday night, the veteran right winger, acquired in the unpopular deal that sent Tyler Seguin to Dallas, came through with his third career hat trick — his first since Dec. 31, 2009 as a member of the Stars — to lead Boston to a 4-2 victory over the Minnesota Wild.

"He's not the same player as Tyler is, and the comparisons are not right," coach Claude Julien said. "We shouldn't be comparing those two players. They're two different players."

Eriksson worked a nifty give-and-go with center David Krejci 4:14 into the third to bring the hats down from the stands — the goal his team-leading ninth of the season. Krejci also assisted on the first goal.

"It's definitely nice to get that ... it's been a while since I had one so it was definitely nice to get the hat trick and, of course, to win the game," said Eriksson, in his third season as a Bruin. "That's the most important thing so it was definitely nice."

He has 17 points in 18 games this season.

"I'm feeling good and I feel like something always happens when I'm standing in



GREG M. COOPER | USA TODAY

Minnesota Wild left wing Jason Zucker (right) is defended by Boston Bruins center Patrice Bergeron during the third period at TD Garden on Thursday night. The Boston Bruins won 4-2.

front," Eriksson said. "I have to keep doing that and keep battling in front and try to get those goals in front."

The win evened Boston's record at 2-2 on its current five-game homestand and raised the Bruins' home record to 3-6-1 — just 9-8-1 overall. It was also only the second win in nine home games for the Bruins against the Wild.

Left winger Brad Marchand scored the Bruins' first goal.

Backup goaltender Jonas Gustavsson, making his first home start with the Bruins, stopped 24 shots to raise his record to 4-1.

"It's always a little special when you play your first game," he said. "But actually when you're in there, out there playing, you're so focused about what you're

doing and you're not really thinking about it. It's more before the game, but when you're out there you just play."

Minnesota goaltender Devan Dubnyk, who came in 0-4 with a 5.56 goals-against average and .854 save percentage against the Bruins, made 33 saves in the loss.

Minnesota (10-5-3) finished a four-game road trip with a 1-2-1 record and three straight losses.

"We're not playing 60 minutes and that's the result," said Wild center Mikko Koivu.

"Chasing. Chasing, that's for sure," said Wild coach Mike Yeo. "Makes it tough. Makes it tough because you obviously — you squeeze the stick a little bit more, you force things a little bit more,

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.

you use certain guys a little bit more. So we've got to find a way to rectify this. It's one thing if it's one game but it's continuous; it's game after game. It becomes a problem."

Left winger Jason Zucker (on a rebound of a Koivu shot) and center Jordan Schroeder (tip-in of a shot by defenseman Ryan Suter) scored for the Wild, but Zucker was injured by a slash to the back of his left leg by Boston left winger Matt Beleskey in the closing seconds. He had to be helped off the ice, dragging the leg behind him.

There was no update on Zucker after the game, but Beleskey said, "I did slash him but it wasn't ... didn't try to break his leg and I don't think it did either, so hopefully he's OK."

Minnesota right winger Tomas Vanek, who came into the game with 30 goals and 63 points in 57 games against Boston, was kept off the score sheet and was in the penalty box when the Bruins scored a power play goal for the 10 time in the last 11 games.

Bruins rookie left winger Frank Vatrano left the game in the second period with an apparent shoulder injury. He was slammed hard into the end boards by Minnesota defenseman Nate Prosser, stayed down for a few seconds as the play went the other way, then got up and slowly skated to the bench, holding his hand up by his chest. He went directly down the runway to the locker room.

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

Continued from Page B5

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-

Romo. Cassel and Weeden passed for fewer than 200 yards in three of those contests. They have failed to score a touchdown in three of the seven games and have averaged 17 points per game in Romo's absence.

Romo admits it was tough watching the Cowboys struggle without him. He felt helpless because he couldn't be out there with them.

But he said he was also inspired by the fight they showed and the way they continued to compete every week.

Those are things he believes the team can build on his return with some improved play, getting a win and getting on a roll. Romo said the season can get turned around quickly, starting with a win on Sunday.

"I don't think that anyone in this locker room thinks by any means that the season is over," Romo said. "I have conveyed that message to them. I think our coach has. You can tell by the way they play. I just think our team has given 100 percent effort and commitment. That is exciting to see. That is how you can turn it around."