

Cotton

Continued from Page B5

of it's gonna be a 15-round fight and at any time, any punch could knock you out so you can't relax, ever," Michigan State co-defensive coordinator Mike Tressel said. "You can't ever get bored at stopping the inside zone because that inside zone could pop big.

"But we've gone into a few games this year with that bloodbath mentality. We knew going against Iowa in the Big Ten Championship game it would be pound, pound for 60 minutes, and it ended up taking exactly 60 minutes. We went into Ohio State with Ezekiel Elliott understanding we had to stop the run every play, and there can't be a deep breath."

Michigan State has the seventh-best rushing defense in the nation, so it's not like it has no clue how to slow a running game — even some of the best.

The Hawkeyes only gained 52 yards in the conference title game and Elliott managed to pick up only 33 yards on 12 carries for the Buckeyes.

"We like stopping big-name dudes," defensive tackle Malik McDowell said.

In the Orange Bowl, while the matchup between unbeaten and top-ranked Clemson and No. 4 Oklahoma shapes up as a potential offensive shootout, what with two of the nation's top quarterbacks and a pair of 1,000-yard rushers as the featured attractions, defense has been one of the primary topics of conversation this week in Miami.

Oklahoma running back Samaje Perine fueled the talk by saying that the Tigers' defense was "bigger and faster" last year, when Clemson routed the Sooners 40-6 in the Russell Athletic Bowl.

"This year they have pretty good size, but last year's Clemson defense, they were a lot faster and a lot bigger," Perine said. "They're a good defense, but they have areas where we can expose. We're going to make sure we expose it."

Clemson's defense has indeed slipped a bit statistically after leading the nation in 2014, but the Tigers still rank among the national leaders in several categories.

"It's going to be a different game than it was last year," Ben Boulware said. "But we play to Clemson standards. If we do that, we'll win."

Perine had 134 yards on 23 carries against Clemson last year, but most of those yards came in the fourth quarter with the game well in hand and the Tigers substituting freely on defense.

It also was a breakout game for the then-sophomore linebacker, who had six tackles, a forced fumble and a 47-yard interception return for a touchdown. But Boulware doesn't believe revenge will be a factor for the Sooners.

"There's too much at stake to worry about things like that," he said.

Hockey

Continued from Page B5

little. But they shouldn't have," said Maine junior center Cam Brown. "They're a good offensive team, they got some chances and they capitalized."

Correale scored his eighth power play goal of the season and 13th overall by redirecting Matias Cleland's shot from the point behind Morris.

UNH outshot UNH 11-6 in the first period and finished with a 39-21 edge.

Gaudreault converted a Kyle Smith rebound early in the middle period and McNicholas scored from a tight angle at the bottom of the right circle.

That ended the night for Morris, who finished with 11 saves on 16 shots.

He was replaced by sophomore Sean Romeo, who made his first appearance since Oct. 20 when he played the third period of a 4-0 loss to Quinnipiac.

Smith knocked in a pass from Gaudreault that deflected to him off Romeo.

Jason Salvaggio capped the scoring with a power-play goal in the third period.

Gaudreault had two assists to go with his goal. Salvaggio, McNicholas, Vela, Nazarian and Smith all had a goal and an assist.

Romeo wound up with 21 saves on 23 shots.

Maine will entertain ECAC team Colgate University on Jan. 8-9 in Orono.

Smith propels Ponies past Lynx 85-75

DOVER-FOXCROFT — Hunter Smith led four players in double-digit scoring with 25 points to lead the Foxcroft Academy Ponies to an 85-75 high school boys basketball victory over the Mattanawcook Academy Lynx Wednesday night.

Smith added 13 rebounds and four assists.

Jeremy Richard tallied 16 points while Drew Dankert contributed 14 for the Ponies. Dylan Harmon-Weeks had 11 points and seven rebounds.

For the Lynx, Logan Thompson netted 23 points and Carter Ward had 16. Gunnar Maxwell chipped in 13 points.

FA: Pleninger, J. Richard 6-4-16, Hy. Smith 3-2-8, Reed, Harmon-Weeks 3-5-11, Fortier 3-0-6, Dankert 5-0-14, Hu. Smith 12-0-25, R. Richard 2-0-5

MA: Brown 3-2-9, Thompson 7-3-23, Ritchie, Ward 6-1-16, Hanscom 3-0-8, Maxwell 6-0-13, Dorn, Libby 3-0-6

FA: 19 40 57 85

MA: 19 35 59 75

3-pt. goals: Dankert 4, Hunter Smith, Richards, Bruner, Thompson 6, Ward 3, Hanscom 2, Maxwell

Washington Acad. 71, Central 61

At East Machias, Washington Academy outscored Central 21-10 in the fourth quarter to erase a one-point deficit en route to the win.

Stefan Milivojevic led the way with 28 points and 10 rebounds.

Sean Seavey added 13 points and eight rebounds for the 6-1 Raiders while Cameron Varney dished out eight assists.

For Central of Corinth (3-4), Kyle Ham scored 18 points and Caleb Shaw chipped in 15.

Central: Speed 5-1-11, Shaw 7-1-15, Poulin 0-2-2, Prescott 3-2-9, Gray 1-0-2, Ham 7-4-18, Macomber 1-2-4, Mailman

WA: Varney 1-1-4, Seavey 5-2-13, Case 4-2-12, Jarrett 4-0-8, Milivojevic 13-0-28, Stojanovic 3-0-6, Lin, Roberts, Renshaw

WA 12 30 50 71

Cen. 11 29 51 61

So. Aroostook 80, Hodgdon 75

At Dyer Brook, Jackson Mathers led all scorers with 36 points, with 33 coming in

the 2nd half, to lead Southern Aroostook to the win.

Nolan Altavater added 27 points and Tyler Batchelder chipped in with 14 for the 5-2 Warriors.

Hodgdon was led by Daden Palmer with 24 points and Jimmy Buzzell contributed 22 for the 5-3 Hawks.

SACS: Mathers 10-12-36, Altavater 9-9-27, Batchelder 6-2-14, Siltz 2-0-2, Robinson 0-1-1, Lillis, Morales

Hodgdon: Palmer 8-3-24, J. Buzzell 7-6-22, Merritt 3-2-11, Brown 2-0-5, Ramsey 3-0-6, D. Buzzell 2-0-5, Woods 0-2-2, Foster

3-pt. goals: Mathers 4, Palmer 5, J. Buzzell 2, Brown, Merritt 3, D. Buzzell

Old Town 63, John Baptist 31

At Old Town, senior forward Andre Miller recorded 13 points, eight rebounds, four assists and three steals to propel the Coyotes to the win.

Ryan Hoogterp and Chad Bartlett contributed 12 and 11 points, respectively.

For John Baptist, Nate Smith scored nine points.

Old Town improves to 6-1 while the Crusaders fall to 3-4.

Easton 53, Madawaska 19

At Easton, Logan Halverson poured in 20 points to help the Bears roll by the Owls.

Jordan Doody chipped in with 10 points for Easton.

Matthew Cyr and Craig Gendreau each scored six points for the Owls.

Caribou 60, MDI 57

At Caribou, Donovan Savage scored 10 of his game-high 30 points in the fourth quarter as the Vikings came from behind for a hard-fought victory over the MDI Trojans.

Andre Rossignol had 14 and Nick Allen added 10 for Caribou, now 2-3. For MDI, 5-2, Riley Swanson had 16, and Russell Kropff had 11.

Mount View 55, Nokomis 45

At Thordniike, Joey Danna scored 14 points to pace Mt. View to victory.

Zach Hartsgrove led Nokomis with 18 points and Josh Smedstad chipped in 15.

Nokomis 13 24 33 45

Mt. View 11 25 41 55

Schenck 59, Penquis 51

At Milo, Justin Thompson recorded 22 points and 14 rebounds to lead Schenck past Penquis Valley.

Travis Thompson chipped in with 11 points as the Wol-



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

Brewer's Matthew Pushard (center) looks to go up past Bangor's Phillip Slick (second from left) in Brewer on Wednesday. Brewer won 54-43.

verines improved to 6-1.

Charles Artus had 20 points and nine rebounds to lead the Patriots while Devon Cuthbertson had 18 points. Penquis falls to 1-7.

Schenck: Dionne, King 3-2-8, McDunnah 3-2-8, Jergiewich 1-0-2, J. Thompson 8-4-22, Smith 0-2-2, Green 2-0-6, Pelletier, T. Thompson 5-0-11

Penquis: Valvo 2-0-5, Artus 8-3-20, Preble 1-0-2, Beckett 1-0-2, Blanchard 1-0-2, Je. Martin, Jo. Martin 1-0-2, Cuthbertson 9-0-18

Schenck 14 35 47 59

Penquis 15 27 36 51

3-pt. goals: J. Thompson 2, Green 2, T. Thompson, Valvo, Artus

JV: Schenck 43-32

Girls Basketball

Central 40, Washington Acad. 31

At East Machias, Sydney Allen tallied 16 points to lead Central past Washington Academy.

Libby Cook added 11 points for the winners of Corinth.

Caitlyn Lyons led the way for the Raiders with 16 points.

Central: Cook 5-1-11, Townsend, Smith, Allen 4-5-16, Campbell 2-2-6, Pinkham 1-1-3, Byers, Speed, E. Smith 1-2-4

WA: Steeves 2-2-7, Day, Atcherson 1-1-3, Hodgdon 1-0-2, Richardson 0-1-1, Mitchell 0-2-2, Lyons 5-6-16, Veal

Central 5 23 33 40

WA 11 18 24 31

Gardiner 55, Nokomis 49

At Newport, the Tigers surged to a 12-point lead at halftime and then held off the

Warriors to record the win.

Mary Toman paced Gardiner with 14 points, Lauren Chadwick added 13 and Leah Weymouth put in 11.

Chelsea Crockett scored a game-high 17 points for Nokomis while Olivia Brown and Gabby Lord each put in eight.

Nokomis 8 17 32 49

Gardiner 9 29 42 55

Houlton 52, Hermon 31

At Hermon, the Shiretowners surged to a seven-point lead at halftime and then outscored the Hawks 15-4 in the third quarter en route to the victory.

Kolleen Bouchard paced Houlton with 24 points and eight rebounds. Aspen Flewelling chipped in with 11 points and five rebounds.

Houlton is now 7-1 and Hermon slipped to 2-5.

Piscataquis 53, Lee 23

At Guilford, Jordynne Littlefield and Haylee Patterson each scored 14 points to lead Piscataquis to their fifth win. Brooke Trafton chipped in with eight points.

For Lee Academy, Kaylie Chandler netted 12 points and Dianna Nicholas had eight.

LA: Smith, Cowan, 1-0-2, N. Chandler, K. Chandler 4-4-12, Gadue, Fullerton, Nicholas 3-2-8, Crise 0-1-1

PCHS: Speed 2-0-5, Deane, Littlefield 6-1-14, Adkins 2-0-5, 6-2-14, Harris Hunt 2-1-5, Lemieux, Hill, Trafton 4-0-8, Kujawski, Beckwith

Lee 2 7 12 23

PCHS 13 32 46 53

Mattanawcook Acad. 46, Foxcroft Acad. 45

Husson defeats UMass Boston Kids

Continued from Page B5

BOSTON, Massachusetts — Darla Morales hit a 3-pointer to give Husson a three-point lead with 3

minutes, 35

seconds remaining in the game and the Eagles held off UMass Boston for an 82-77 women's basketball victory Wednesday.

Chandler Guerrette helped seal the win for the Eagles (5-1) by sinking four free throws with seven seconds left after she stole the ball and was foul. The UMass Boston bench was also called for a technical foul on the play.

Guerrette finished with 21 points, including an 8-for-10 effort from the line, to lead the Eagles. Kenzie Worcester chipped in with 17 points, seven assists and two steals while Rebecca Young, Victoria McIntyre and Dena Johnson each chipped in with eight points.

Olivia Murphy paced UMass Boston (6-4) with 22 points and Grace Geary added 20.

UMFK 94, Villa Maria 53

At Fort Kent, the UMaine-Fort Kent Bengals jumped

out to a 20-point lead midway through the second quarter and rolled to the victory.

Ramonalyn Inocencio led the Bengals with 19 points and 13 assists while Ericka Saucier chipped in with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Sam Carapellucci scored 19, Ifeoma Okaro had 15 and Kayla Richards had 10 assists. Danielle Carrillo had 18 points and hit all 4 3-pointers she took.

Villa Maria of Buffalo, N.Y., was led by Jayvonna Kincannon's 23 points and 7 rebounds and Magan Campbell's 18 points.

Men's Basketball

Bowdoin 86, St. Joseph's 66

At Brunswick, the Polar Bears snapped a 35-35 halftime tie by outscoring the Monks 51-31 in the second half to record the victory.

Jack Simonds paced Bowdoin (6-3) with 20 points, four rebounds and four assists. Lucas Hausman chipped in with 17 points while Matt Palecki and Liam Farley each added 11. Palecki and Farley also had

six rebounds each.

Andrew Ruffen scored 15 points to lead the Monks of Standish. John Crawley chipped in with 14 points and Quinn Richardson-Newton added 13.

UMFK 69, Villa Maria 66

At Fort Kent, the UMaine-Fort Kent Bengals battled back from a six-point deficit with five minutes left in the game to beat Villa Maria of Buffalo, N.Y.

Joe McCloskey had 32 points and 8 rebounds to lead UMFK.

Villa Maria was led by Dominic Douglas's 17 points. DeAndre Higgins 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Colby 85, Mount Union 81

At Daytona Beach, Florida, on Tuesday night, Colby seized the opportunity to beat a team in the top 20 with a tough victory over 16th-ranked University of Mount Union on Tuesday at the Land of Magic Classic.

The Mules (8-1) trailed by seven at halftime, but scored 57 points in the second half to earn their eighth straight victory.

The Rams clung to a 30-26 halftime lead after having twice led by as many as eight points.

Bangor jumped out to a 14-6 lead less than six minutes into the contest. A George Payne free throw opened an 8-0 surge that included Dorman's 18-footer, a Smith 3-pointer and Slick's steal and lay-in at the 2:18 mark.

However, Brewer broke a scoring drought of almost five minutes on a conventional three-point play by Smith at the 1:10 mark and his drive to the hoop in the final minute made it a three-point game after one period.

Brewer

Continued from Page B5

That basket, which came during what would be a game-changing 11-0 burst, gave the Witches a 43-40 advantage.

Pushard continued the run with a free throw, then fed Smith for a 3-pointer with an inside-out pass. Rogerson finished off the rally with a 7-foot floater from the baseline that gave Brewer a 49-40 lead with 4:33 to play.

"I think we just needed to withstand their (first-half

run)," Blood said. "(Justin) Smith got some better looks in the first half and their role players hit two or three 3's — which they didn't hit in the second half."

Bangor, which had generated some good looks with its active hands and transition game in the first half, struggled after intermission. The Rams made 10 of their 19 turnovers in the last 16 minutes and wound up shooting only 6-for-23 (26 percent) in the half.

In fact, Bangor scored just five points over the final 10 minutes, 22 seconds of action.

Kids

Continued from Page B5

bring them to either of the two police departments for free rewards, including a Kids 'n' Kops T-shirt, tickets to UMaine games and other prizes.

"We want to be proactive in promoting quality goals for healthy living to young people, many of whom we hope will be future UMaine Black Bears," UMaine Police Chief Roland LaCroix said in a prepared statement. "It's important that youths know that police officers can be helpful resources and UMaine student-athletes are role models they can look up to."

Former UMaine basketball player and head coach Skip Chappelle and UMaine alumnus Irv Marsters, the owner of Bangor Letter Shop, were among the community members who spearheaded the Kops 'n' Kids initiative.

The goal of the program is to foster positive interactions between police officers and young people and to reinforce important messages about health and well-being.

"My thought was to continue the positive rapport

that our youngsters have with our police officers," Chappelle said. "If we can take their heroes, our high-profile Division I athletes and our police officers in Bangor and at the University of Maine, we will have two outstanding messengers."

This program is similar to an initiative called Kids & Kops that Chappelle spearheaded as part of an anti-drug campaign at UMaine from 1986-88.

Those trading cards also featured UMaine student-athletes, several of whom went on to professional sports careers. They included former NHL standouts Eric Weinrich and Jack Capuano, who is now the coach of the New York Islanders.

Other former notables include Matt Rossignol, Jim Boylen, Jeff Plympton, Dan Kane, Bobby Wilder, Lynn Hearty Coutts, Michelle Duprey, Coco Barry and Tina Ouellette.

"We believe in the long-term value of a program that brings together the youth of our community and the police," Chappelle said.

"We'd like to emphasize to the kids that they share the message at home and start a conversation at home with a mother, father or another adult, or at school," he added.

UMaine

Continued from Page B5

cats called timeout, an exuberant UMaine bench emptied to greet Lawton, who had fallen to the floor.

"That shows how together our team is," said senior forward Till Gloger. "Everyone is bought in. [Whether] somebody plays or not, everybody believes, and I think we really grew as a team, which maybe wasn't

the case over the last years since I'm here."

Lawton had sat out six games after being suspended for failing to meet team standards.

As they prepare for Saturday's 2 p.m. nonconference finale against Brown in Bangor, the Black Bears must take their restored collective self-confidence and put it into practice moving forward.

"That's the next step for this program. We've proven we're capable, now we've got to respond," Walsh said.