

# Bryant’s swan song to light up All-Star Weekend

BY JAHMAL CORNER  
REUTERS

Kobe Bryant has spent a career tormenting the Toronto fan base and now he is set to entertain it as the NBA’s All-Star Weekend descends on Canada for the first time and welcomes Bryant for his swan song.

Set to play in his 18th and final All-Star Game on Sunday, a kinder and gentler Bryant will continue a farewell tour that will conclude his legendary 20-season tenure in the league.

The Toronto faithful harbor memories of Bryant registering 81 points against the Raptors in Los Angeles 10 years ago, but in this exhibition of stars they will cheer him on to rediscover old magic and perhaps claim a record fifth All-Star MVP award.

In what will be the first All-Star Game played outside the United States, the 37-year-old Bryant — a five-time NBA champion with the Los Angeles Lakers — will have many challengers for the spotlight.

Golden State shooting artist Stephen Curry has emerged

as the game’s new leading man, and he arrives with team mates Klay Thompson and Draymond Green from a Warriors squad currently setting a record winning pace in the league.

Curry and Thompson will also renew their rivalry in the Three-Point Shooting contest on Saturday night after Curry prevailed in last year’s final.

The Slam Dunk Contest, Skills Challenge and Rising Stars Challenge, featuring top rookies and second-year players, will also set the table for Sunday’s main event.

Oklahoma City Thunder standouts Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook are two headliners and former MVPs of the game who will bolster a Western Conference side that has won four of the last five matchups.

LeBron James will be looking to reverse the fortunes for the Eastern Conference alongside Carmelo Anthony and his former Miami Heat teammates Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

Bosh spent his first seven seasons in Toronto, while current Raptors guards DeMar

DeRozan and Kyle Lowry will be hometown favorites.

As much as this weekend will provide a stage for the NBA’s most exciting players, it will also be a showcase of Toronto which has evolved into a respected NBA market since the Raptors were introduced in the 1995-96 campaign.

Former high-flyer Vince Carter helped give the Raptors franchise credibility when he mesmerized the All-Star Weekend dunk contest in 2000.

But the days of Carter being the lone flag bearer in Toronto are long gone.

The Raptors now have emerging talent, a raucous home crowd and back-to-back playoff appearances, and are currently second in the Eastern Conference and poised for a second-half run. But first they will play host to a week-end of entertainment.

“It will mean a lot to be able to go out there and represent the home team,” said DeRozan. “That’s what it’s all about: being on the highest level, being able to have people recognize Toronto for its sport ... it’s something the city deserves.”

## UM looking forward to Notre Dame

BY LARRY MAHONEY  
BDN STAFF

ORONO — To say a city 508 miles from your hometown is in your backyard would certainly be a stretch but not when you’re attending school 1,630 miles away.

For the four Minnesota natives on the University of Maine men’s hockey team, this weekend’s trip to the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, represents the only time they will play in the midwest this season, unless they have to return to play Notre Dame in the Hockey East playoffs.

Notre Dame, the nation’s No. 8 team in both major polls, is 16-5-7 overall and 12-2-2 in Hockey East, and UMaine is 7-17-6 and 4-10-2. Game times are 6:35 p.m. Friday and 7:05 p.m. Saturday.

Senior left wing Will Merchant and defensemen Eric Schurhamer, Keith Muehlbauer and Sam Becker are all from the Minneapolis area and are looking forward to the series. It will still require friends and family to make a seven and a half hour drive to watch them play, but that is still a much shorter drive than the others on their schedule.

“At least my parents won’t need to fly,” said Schurhamer, who will have “nine or so people” at Friday’s game and 13 on Saturday.

“There will be a good crowd of Schurhamers,” said the junior. “Any time you get your family to your games, it’s always special. “But you’ve got to stay focused. Getting four points is still the biggest thing,” he added.

“It’ll be nice to have family there. I haven’t seen them since Christmas,” said freshman Muehlbauer, whose parents and grandparents will be among his family at the game.

Merchant said in addition to his parents, he has relatives in Iowa who will come to the series.

“This is the closest we get to home,” said Merchant,

**Men’s college hockey**  
**MAINE vs. No. 8 NOTRE DAME**  
**Time, site:** Friday, 6:35, Saturday, 7:05 p.m., Compton Family Ice Arena, South Bend, Indiana  
**Records:** Maine 7-17-6 (4-10-2 Hockey East); Notre Dame 16-5-7 (12-2-2)  
**Series, last meeting:** Notre Dame leads 6-2-1, Notre Dame 5-1 on Feb. 7, 2015  
**Key players:** **Maine** — RW Blaine Byron (8 goals, 13 assists), LW Will Merchant (10 & 7), C Cam Brown (5 & 11), C Steven Swavely (8 & 6), D Dan Renouf (5 & 8), D Rob Michel (0 & 7), G Matt Morris (6-7-3, 3.07 goals-against average, .913 save percentage); **Notre Dame** — RW Anders Bjork (10 & 17), C Jake Evans (6 & 21), D Jordan Gross (8 & 18), LW Thomas DiPauli (10 & 15), D Bobby Nardella (4 & 17), RW Mario Lucia (9 & 10), G Cal Petersen (16-5-7, 2.13, .929)  
**Game notes:** The Fighting Irish of coach Jeff Jackson are 11-1-3 over their last 15 games. Bjork, Evans and Gross are all sophomores. Gross is averaging 0.93 points per game which is third best among the nation’s defensemen. Notre Dame is in the top 20 in every major category. The Irish are 11th in offense (3.32 goals per game) and tied for 14th in defense (2.25 goals allowed). Maine continues to have trouble putting the puck in the net, averaging 1.93 goals per game which is 58th among 60 teams. Notre Dame has held opponents to two goals or less 12 times in the last 15 games. The Irish will be physical and Maine will have to match their physicality. Notre Dame is also good in transition so Maine has to avoid turning the puck over.

who added that Notre Dame’s Compton Family Ice Arena is “one of the nicest places I’ve ever played in.”

Becker, who also is a freshman, said his family won’t be able to make it, but there will be some familiarity for him and the other three because “Notre Dame has a pretty good Minnesota connection.”

The Fighting Irish have seven Minnesota natives on their roster.

“I know quite a few guys on their team,” said Becker.

The Minnesota natives aren’t the only ones who will be considerably closer to home. Right wing Brady Campbell’s family and friends in his hometown of Blenheim, Ontario, are 445 miles from South Bend.

“It’s always fun to play in front of people who have supported you all the way throughout your career,” said Campbell.

## Presque Isle rallies past OT/Orono

ORONO — Denny Young scored the game-winner on Jake Stevens’ assist with 46 seconds remaining in the third period to lift the Presque Isle Wild-

### HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

cats over the Old Town/Orono Black Bears 7-6 in high school hockey action Thursday night at Alford Arena.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 3-1 first-period lead with Bailey York scoring the first goal with Thomas Patenaude and Jaren Winger getting assists. Old Town’s Chris Hoxie tied it on assists by Ben Rahall Allen and Jacob Dubay.

Cooper Madore and York each scored for the Wildcats to end the period with Jake Stevens assisting both goals.

Madore scored in the second with Patenaude assisting and Young also scored on a Madore assist for PI to take a 5-1 lead.

In the third period, Old Town/Orono scored five unanswered goals with Dubay scoring and Hoxie adding a goal and two assists. Lance Roy, Nick Bouton and Lucas Shorrette each chipped in a goal to take a 6-5 lead with 4:40 remaining in the game.

PI’s Stevens scored a power-play goal on a Patenaude assist to tie the game with 1:14 remaining.

PI goalie Jillian Flynn faced 43 shots while Chase Albert and Kohl Parker faced 34 shots for the Black Bears.

### Unified Basketball

**Orono 51, Brewer 31**

At Orono, the Red Riots

scored the first two points of the game and never looked back en route to the win. With strong defense and great shooting, the Riots split the season matchup with Brewer 1-1, who is also a first year team in Unified Basketball.

Orono was led by Jacob Long with 12 points. Taylor Lane and Dylan Farnham had six points and Ryan Fandel chipped in five.

The Witches were led by Jacob Gray with seven points while Aaron Adams, Kyle Grant and Clancey Brazier added six points apiece.

### Boys Basketball

**South Portland 62,**

**Sanford 44**

At the Portland Expo, No. 4 South Portland rolled to 21-point lead at halftime en route to the victory over No. 5 Sanford in a Class AA South quarterfinal.

Jack Fiorini scored 21 points to lead the Red Riots, now 10-9. Jordin Jackson chipped in with 12 points.

Tye Laviolette paced Sanford (6-13) with 19 points and Ethan Belanger added 10.

**Sanford 8 17 30 44**

**South Portland 15 38 48 62**

### Girls Basketball

**Bonny Eagle 41, Thornton 37**

At the Portland Expo Wednesday night, Emery MacKenzie scored five of Bonny Eagle’s seven points in overtime to beat Thornton Academy in a Class AA South quarterfinal.

MacKenzie finished with 19 points to lead No. 5 Bonny Eagle of Standish, now 9-10. Emery Cassidy chipped in



AMBER WATERMAN

After a scuffle with Oxford’s Cole Verrier, Bangor’s Logan Alley looks for a teammate to pass the ball to before falling out of bounds. Oxford Hills won 71-47.

with eight points and Mia Ferrante added six. Bonny Eagle rallied after trailing 9-2 at the end of the first quarter.

Ashley Howe scored 12 points to lead No. 4 Thornton of Saco, which finished at 12-7. Alexandra Hart added nine points and Cassidy Cochrane added eight.

### South Portland 49, Scarborough 41

At the Portland Expo

Wednesday night, No. 3 South Portland battled to a six-point halftime lead and held off No. 6 Scarborough in Class A South quarterfinal action.

Madeline Hasson paced South Portland (16-3) with 14 points while Sarah Boles added 12 and Lydia Henderson put in nine.

Sophie Glidden poured in 22 points to lead Scarborough (7-12).

## Koizar powers UMaine past UMass Lowell

BY PETE WARNER  
BDN STAFF

Sigi Koizar poured in a career-high 32 points on Thursday night, spearheading the University of Maine to a 73-46

### WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

A s t women’s basketball victory over UMass Lowell at Costello Athletic Center in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Koizar, a junior guard from Austria, made 13 of 20 shots, going 4-for-7 from the 3-point arc, to help the Black Bears post their eighth consecutive victory. She also

led the team with five rebounds, five assists and a steal.

The 32 points surpassed her previous high of 30, which she achieved in a 69-65 win at Missouri State on Nov. 28, 2015.

Coach Richard Barron’s team (20-7, 10-1) reached 20 wins to set up Sunday’s 1 p.m. showdown against first-place and three-time defending conference champion Albany at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor.

Sophie Weckstrom netted 11 points and Mikaela Gustafsson scored 10, while Bella Swan added eight points and four rebounds.

They came up with two steals apiece. Liz Wood contributed three assists and three steals.

Nicole Hayner led UMass Lowell (4-20, 1-11 AE) with 15 points and Kayla Gibbs just missed a double-double with 14 points and nine rebounds. The River Hawks were plagued by 29 turnovers, which led to 28 points by the Black Bears.

UMaine pulled out to an 11-0 lead behind the play of Koizar, who made a layup and a 3-pointer to give the visitors a lead that they would never relinquish.

Swan’s layup, two Gustafsson free throws and a jumper

by Gustafsson put the Black Bears on top 11-0 with 5:27 left in the first quarter.

UMass Lowell responded and eventually chopped the deficit to 15-14 on a 3-pointer by Asia Mitchell-Owens at 9:41 of the second quarter, but Koizar helped UMaine build its advantage back up.

Koizar scored 13 straight points for UMaine during a span of 4 minutes, 37 seconds to make it a 28-20 game and the Bears led 35-24 at halftime.

Swan later accounted for six points early in the third quarter as UMaine extended the lead to 16 points and pulled away.

## Girls

*Continued from Page B4*

Houlton has Kolleen Bouchard, and they can each take a game over by themselves,” added Hudson.

“It would not surprise me if a couple higher seeds got upset early in the tournament,” said Houlton coach Shawn Graham, whose Shiretowners are the defending state Class C titlist but have returned to Class B.

“Every game could go either way,” said Brent Barker, coach of the 17-1 MDI Trojans.

Top seed Houlton, 17-1, has four players averaging in double figures led by Bouchard’s 20.6 points, Natalie Hill’s 11.9, Aspen Flewelling’s 11.8 and Rylee Warman’s 10. Bouchard also is averaging nine rebounds and four blocked shots.

“I can’t say enough about Flewelling. She is as good a 3-point shooter as I’ve had,” Graham said.

Shaw, a 1,000-point scorer, has averaged 19 points and 12 rebounds, and senior Keely McConomy has been good for nine points and eight rebounds. Guards Mariah Hamor, Abbe Miller and Maya Watras have been key contributors, and the Trojans have played excellent defense.

Sophomore Emily Wheaton (15 ppg) has led 15-3 Presque Isle, and 3-point specialist Emily Lagerstrom has scored nine per game. Top-notch defender Olivia Hudson has been scoring lately to help the Wildcats.

Heather Kervin has averaged 16 points per game for 15-3 Winslow, and Delaney Wood has been an important shutdown defender and leader while also averaging seven points per game. The running Raiders of coach Lindsey Withee also have featured freshmen Weslee Littlefield and Paige Trask and sophomore Sarah Guimond.

Young and athletic John Bapst of Bangor and surging Hermon are dangerous lower seeds.

**In Class C**, 17-1 Fort Fairfield and 14-4 Dexter are the top two seeds, but Fort Fairfield coach Larry Gardner and Dexter’s Jody Grant feel the tourney is wide open.

“Several teams could win it,” said Grant.

Taylor Churchill has averaged 16 points per game for Fort Fairfield, and point guard Chelsey Pelkey has averaged 10 points and seven assists and has had a number of triple-doubles. Kayla Giberson and Teresa Maynard also have been standouts. All four are seniors.

“All the kids have played pretty well,” said Gardner. Six-foot-one center Megan Peach (15 ppg, 11 rpg) and 5-10 forward Katie Batron (10 ppg, 8 rpg) have given the Tigers a nice one-two punch, and Abby Webber and Cidney Pratt have provided quality guard play.

“We’ve played a tough schedule, so we’re battle-tested,” Grant said.

The 15-2 Narraguagus Knights of Harrington have been led by 1,000-point scorer Kelli Kennedy (23 ppg, 12 rpg), Emily Reynolds (7 ppg, 8 rpg) and Madison Leighton (8 ppg, 5 apg, 5 steals per game); 14-4 Penobscot Valley of Howland is a legitimate contender behind 1,000-point scorer Sami Ireland, and Amy Hallett and 15-4 Schenck of East Millinocket is another threat behind Kayla Falone and Chantel Lane.

**In Class D**, Washburn is

the defending five-time state champ but lost 2,000-point scorer Mackenzie Worcester and fellow standout Joan Overman to Bangor’s Husson University.

However, coach Diana Trams’ Beavers still strung together a 14-4 season good for the second seed behind the surprising Southern Aroostook Warriors from Dyer Brook, whose four freshmen and four eighth-graders posted a 13-5 campaign after a 3-15 showing last year.

Every team in Class D lost at least four games.

“We aren’t a typical No. 1 team. But we’re happy with where we are. We played some tough competition down the stretch,” said Southern Aroostook coach Cliff Urquhart, whose Warriors have been led by 5-9 freshman point guard Cassidy Mathers (15 ppg), freshman guard-forward and rebound leader Kylie Vining (9 ppg, 10 rpg) and 5-8 eighth-grade center Sydney Brewer (13 ppg, 9 rpg).

Urquhart said there is no shortage of contenders.

“Central Aroostook struggled with injuries early but is getting everybody back. Karli Levesque is a 1,000-point scorer, and they have two excellent guards in Kelsey Dominique and Molly Anthony,” said Urquhart.

“Washburn is an athletic team with a lot of experience, and going up against Worcester and Overman in practice every day has to make you better,” he added. “Katahdin is the most dangerous team in the tournament. Molly Cunningham is real good inside; she blocks a lot of shots. They have a ton of size, and they have athletic guards in Courtney Stevens and Georgia Landry.”

Seven of Katahdin’s nine losses came to the top seven Class C schools.

Trams said long playoff runs culminating in state championships has given her players the equivalence of “another full season of experience.”

Senior guard Emmy Churchill leads the team in points (14 ppg) and rebounds (10 rpg), and Laine Mette (12 ppg) and Grace Braley (12 ppg) have been the other catalysts.

Holly Preston and Ciera Seeley have been 12-6 Sheaf of Eastport’s driving force, and 1,000-point scorer Tate Dolley has been 10-8 Machias’ leader.

Unlike the other classes, there is a clear-cut favorite in **Class A North** in defending state champ Lawrence of Fairfield, 18-0 and winner of 39 of its last 40 games.

Lawrence’s average margin of victory is 28.3 points.

Lawrence has two 1,000-point scorers in 2014-15 Maine Gatorade Player of the Year and first team BDN All-Maine selection Nia Irving (25 ppg, 20 rpg) along with sharpshooting guard Dominique Lewis (15 ppg, 6 apg).

Boston University-bound Irving also has over 1,000 career rebounds.

There is an impressive supporting cast led by Morgan Boudreau.

Messalonskee of Oakland, 15-3, has been led by Sophia Holmes (20 ppg) and Taylor Easler and could be the primary threat to Lawrence, but the Eagles lost each of its two games to coach John Donato’s Bulldogs by 24 points.

Gardiner has had an impressive 14-4 campaign behind Mary Toman and Lauren Chadwick, and 13-5 Nokomis of Newport features Sidney Moore, Olivia Brown and Chelsea Crockett.