

Stony Brook beats UM to clinch AE title

BY PETE WARNER
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — Coach Bob Walsh has spent most of the season preaching the need to have a championship mentality in everything the University of Maine basketball team does.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

On Sunday afternoon, the Black Bears got a first-hand look at that dynamic. Stony Brook held the Black Bears to 26 second-half points with gritty man-to-man defense and wore out UMaine with its balanced offense to register a 75-56 America East men's basketball victory at the Cross Insurance Center.

With the win, coach Steve Pikiell's team (23-5, 14-1 AE) wrapped up the conference regular-season

title and secured the top seed for the upcoming playoffs.

It was the sixth consecutive setback for UMaine (8-19, 4-10 AE), which could not match a talented and well-rounded Stony Brook squad.

The Black Bears battled and kept the game within 12 points most of the way, but were unable to sustain their success at either end of the floor.

"The way they coach, their talent level, their depth, the toughness, the way they defend, their composure ... everything about them is at a championship level and hopefully our guys are learning what it takes to get there," Walsh said.

Stony Brook center Jameel Warney achieved another milestone as he eclipsed 2,000 points with a 20-point, nine-rebound, three-blocked

shot performance. He went 9-for-12 from the floor.

The 6-foot-8 senior becomes only the third player in league history, joining Malik Rose of Drexel and Boston University's Tunji Awojobi, to score 2,000 points and grab 1,000 rebounds in a career. Warney has 1,206 rebounds.

"He's physical," said UMaine freshman Ilija Stojiljkovic.

"He's big but he's also quick, so it's kind of hard to guard him," he added.

Rayshaun McGrew (8 rebounds) and Carson Puriefoy (5 assists) tossed in 14 points each for Stony Brook, which shot 49 percent overall, and Ahmad Walker contributed nine points, nine rebounds and four assists.

Aaron Calixte (4 assists) and Till Gloger paced the UMaine offense with 11 points each. Sto-

jiljkovic bounced back after a one-game suspension by Walsh for a Flagrant 2 foul with 10 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Devine Eke grabbed nine rebounds and Troy Reid-Knight snared eight, while Shaun Lawton added seven points and three assists.

The Black Bears shot only 34 percent overall, including 29 percent (8-for-28) in the second half.

"They don't get enough credit for how good they are defensively," Walsh said of SBU, which allows a league-low 60.3 points per game on 39 percent shooting in AE play.

UMaine was again without sophomore scorer Kevin Little (ankle), freshman guard Ryan Bernstein (mononucleosis) and junior Garett Beal of Beals Island (ankle), all of whom are out for the season. Stony Brook outscored UMaine

12-5 during the last 3:39 of the first half to grab a 43-34 lead at intermission. The visitors shot 59 percent, but committed nine turnovers.

The Seawolves finally stretched the lead with a 12-2 run. McGrew scored on a fast-break layup, then Walker and Roland Nyama each sank two free throws to make it 59-45 with 8:34 to play.

Gloger countered with a layup off a touch pass from Lawton, but Warney dunked off an ally-oop pass from Walker, then scored off a lob by Lucas Woodhouse (5 assists) to go over 2,000 points.

Two Tyrell Sturdivant foul shots pushed the advantage to 65-47 with 5:40 left.

"I think that we played good at times when we were denying the ball, when we had pressure on the ball, but we couldn't sustain it," Stojiljkovic said.

Husson teams earn No. 1 seeds for NAC tourney

BANGOR — The Husson University men's and women's basketball teams have earned the No. 1 seeds for

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

North Atlantic Conference tourney, which opens with quarterfinal games Tuesday night at the home courts of the higher seeded teams.

Both Husson teams received byes for the quarterfinal rounds and will serve as tourney host for the semifinal and final rounds Friday and Saturday at Newman Gym in Bangor.

The NAC champs will advance to the first round of the NCAA Division III tourney.

Quarterfinal men's action tips off when No. 5 Castleton University (Vt.) visits No. 4 Thomas College in Waterville while No. 6 Lyndon State (Vt.) will be at No. 3 Johnson State at 6 p.m.

Husson will take on the Castleton-Thomas winner at 6

p.m. Friday while the Lyndon-Johnson winner will play No. 2 Colby-Sawyer at 8 p.m.

The semifinal winners will battle for the title at 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

In the women's tourney, fifth-ranked University of Maine-Farmington will travel to Henniker, N.H., to battle No. 4 New England College at 6 p.m. Tuesday while No. 6 Colby-Sawyer will visit No. 3 Maine Maritime Academy at 6:30 p.m. in Castine.

Second-seeded Castleton will battle the winner between MMA and Colby-Sawyer at 1 p.m. Friday, while Husson will play the UMF-NEC winner at 3 p.m.

The semifinal winners will vie in the final at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The Husson men's and women's teams both wrapped up their regular seasons with victories on Saturday while the MMA women also notched a win.

Women's basketball MMA 77, Thomas 40

At Waterville, Alayne Felix scored 16 points, grabbed nine rebounds and provided five assists and three steals to power the Mariners.

Megan McLean (6 rebounds) and Bekah Campbell (9 rebounds) tossed in 15 and 14 points, respectively, for Maine Maritime Academy of Castine (17-8, 13-5 NAC).

Katie McAllister led Thomas (3-22, 2-16 NAC) with 17 points.

Husson 75, UMF 72

At Farmington, Victoria McIntyre scored 22 points and Kenzie Worcester added 20 to lead Husson by UMF.

McIntyre also grabbed nine rebounds for Husson (19-6, 17-1 NAC) while Worcester had five rebounds, four assists and three steals.

Meghan Smith poured in 27 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to power UMF (11-14,

9-9). Kennadi Grover chipped in with 11 points and Kelly Pomerleau added 10.

Men's Basketball

Husson 90, UM-Farmington 85

At Farmington, Eli Itkin connected for a game-high 27 points, including seven 3-pointers, to help the Eagles beat the Beavers.

Trevon Butler poured in 20 points and pulled down 14 rebounds for Husson University of Bangor (19-6, 15-3 NAC) and Raheem Anderson provided 18 points, nine assists, four rebounds and two steals.

Nick Hilton paced a balanced effort for the University of Maine-Farmington (3-22, 3-15 NAC) with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Ryan Camire and Sean Murphy each tossed in 17 points, while Eric Berry (4 assists) and Logan Nichols chipped in with 11 points each.

Koizar propels UMaine women past Stony Brook

BY PETE WARNER
BDN STAFF

Junior guard Sigi Koizar poured in 30 points on Saturday afternoon, spearheading the University of

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

a 60-43 America East women's basketball victory over Stony Brook at Pritchard Gym.

Koizar shot 13-for-19 from the floor and also contributed seven rebounds and four assists for the Black Bears, who improved to 22-7 overall and 13-1 in conference play.

Senior forward Mikaela Gustafsson finished with eight points and six rebounds for UMaine, while Chantel Charles and Sophie Weckstrom added six points each. Liz Wood chipped in seven rebounds and four assists.

After a slow offensive start that saw the Black Bears shoot 3-for-11 in the first quarter, they finished at 52 percent (26-for-50) and went 6-for-11 from the 3-point arc.

Brittany Snow paced

Stony Brook (16-2, 8-7 AE) with 19 points and five rebounds and Kori Bayne-Walker posted eight points and three assists for the hosts, who committed only four turnovers.

The Seawolves shot 32 percent (17-for-53) from the floor but hit only 2 of 13 (15 percent) from long distance.

The Black Bears led only 22-19 at halftime, but built an 11-point cushion with a solid third quarter.

Leading by four points, Koizar drove in for a layup at the 2:42 mark. Weckstrom knocked down a 3-pointer 1:10 later, then Koizar and Gustafsson answered free throws by Bayne-Walker with a basket each to make it 41-30 after three quarters.

Koizar went on to score two layups in the first 2:05 of the fourth period to make it a 45-30 contest. UMaine led by as many as 18 before closing it out.

UMaine returns to action Wednesday at Hartford, then closes out the regular season on Feb. 27 at home against Binghamton.



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

George Stevens Academy players celebrate their win against Bucksport in the Class C North championship game Saturday at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor. The Eagles will face Waynflete of Portland for the state Class C title Saturday night at the Augusta Civic Center.

GSA

Continued from Page B4

12-10 by the end of the period.

GSA made just 4 of 17 shots in the opening eight minutes of play.

"First off we hadn't been in a game like this before so that was a little shell-shocking," said Szwec of his team's slow start. "We missed a lot of shots in that

first quarter. There was probably a nine-minute stretch when we didn't score much at all."

Bucksport built its lead back to 19-12, then watched as Schildroth scored seven unanswered points to tie the game before Pye took a pass from Macleod in for a layup to give the Golden Bucks a 21-19 halftime edge.

The low score favored a Bucksport team that scored just 41 and 34 points in its regular-season losses to

George Stevens, but Schildroth saw to it that the scoring pace didn't last.

The Eagles outscored Bucksport 8-0 to open the third quarter, with Schildroth scoring three straight baskets after Chase hit a game-tying 15-footer.

Bucksport hung close the rest of the way, but never fully recovered.

"I think we were settling at first and I think that came from me, I kind of settled for a couple of jump shots that

weren't the best looks early in the game," said Schildroth. "So we got down and coach said to get it to the rack and we started getting layups. I got a rhythm going and my teammates started finding me."

The George Stevens lead was 38-30 entering the final period, and after Mattson hit a layup and Chase added two free throws to extend the lead to double digits Bucksport got no closer than nine points the rest of the way.

Daytona

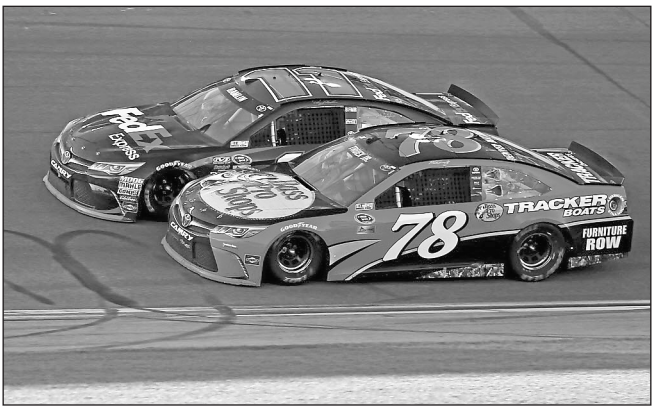
Continued from Page B4

Hamlin led nearly half of the 200-lap race. JGR teammate Edwards spent much of the race a lap down after hitting the wall on lap 57.

Kenseth was temporarily separated from the group when he had trouble getting out of his pit stall as Regan Smith was pulling into the stall right in front of him during a lap 119 caution.

Kenseth eventually caught back up to his teammates before Hamlin gave up positions to take four tires instead of two during a yellow flag with 30 laps to go.

Pole sitter Chase Elliott was joined up front by Hendrick



PETER CASEY | USA TODAY

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Denny Hamlin (11) leads driver Martin Truex Jr. (78) coming into the finish line Sunday during the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in Florida. Hamlin beat fellow-Toyota driver Truex by 0.01-second, the closest-ever Daytona 500 finish. It was the first Daytona 500 win for Toyota.

Motorsports teammate Dale Earnhardt at the start of the race, with Earnhardt taking

the lead on lap four. After losing the lead, Elliott slipped back to the back half of the top

10 before spinning into the infield grass and damaging the front end of his car on lap 19. He returned to the race 40 laps later.

"I'm not sure (what happened)," Elliott said. "Just got turned around there off of four. Got in the middle and got loose. Lost it and spun out. I hate it for everybody at less than 20 laps in and have something dumb like that happen. I apologize to my guys."

After leading 15 laps, Earnhardt lost the lead to Busch and drifted back several positions. He wound up having his own wreck with 30 laps to go.

Joey Logano finished sixth, Kyle Larson seventh, Smith was eighth, Austin Dillon ninth, and Kurt Busch rounded out the top 10. Kenseth wound up 14th after leading at the white flag.

REUTERS

PACIFIC PALISADES, California — Bubba Watson clinched the Northern Trust Open on Sunday for a second time in three

years, sealing PRO GOLF victory by one shot after a wildly fluctuating final round at sunny Riviera.

A stroke in front overnight, the American left-hander twice fell two off the pace as first Adam Scott and then Jason Kokrak broke clear but he regained control of the tournament with two birdies in the last three holes.

Watson, who has always loved playing on the iconic Riviera Country Club layout, shot a 68 on a breezy afternoon to land his ninth PGA Tour title with a 15-under total of 269.

"It means a lot," Watson, who won the 2014 Northern Trust Open two months before claiming his second Masters title, told CBS Sports in a greenside interview.

"You never know when your last (win) is going to be. So for me to come back and to win, and pull one out in a tough way, is special for me and my family.

"It's all about staying patient with (caddie) Teddy (Scott) in my ear. It's been a struggle over the last five years but it's going in the right direction."

Australian Scott, after an electrifying start that included an eagle and three birdies in his first six holes, carded a roller-coaster 67 to share second place with long-hitting American Kokrak (68).

"There wasn't a lot in it," said Scott, who ended his round with a birdie-birdie flourish, including a chip-in at the last.

"I played a good round of golf around a pretty demanding course again today."

World number three Rory McIlroy squandered a fast start with an erratic putting

display as he shot 75 to finish nine shots off the pace.

Nomura holds off Ko

Japanese golfer Haru Nomura held off world number one Lydia Ko down the stretch to land the Women's Australian Open in Adelaide on Sunday for her first LPGA Tour title.

Nomura, starting the day in a three-way tie for the lead, shot a blistering final round seven-under-par 65 as she edged out Kiwi Ko (67), the defending champion, by three shots.

Ko was only one back after 14th holes but world number 67 Nomura calmly made three consecutive birdie threes from the 15th to pull away from her illustrious opponent and seal the top prize with a 16-under 272 total.

"My shots were good, but my putts were so good I couldn't believe it," Nomura was quoted as saying by Kyodo News.

Seven-times major champion Karrie Webb of Australia finished a distant third, seven back of the 23-year-old champion, after a closing 71.

Fraser wins Maybank title

KUALA LUMPUR — Australian Marcus Fraser sank challenging putts on his final two holes to land the European Tour's \$3 million Maybank Championship Malaysia on Sunday after overnight leader Lee Soo-min fell apart down the stretch.

The South Korean led by two with three holes to play but went double bogey-par-double bogey as Fraser sunk a 10-foot effort on 17 and an uphill left to right 15-foot par putt on the last to win the inaugural event by two shots in Kuala Lumpur.

Lee, 22, had begun the final day with a three-shot lead and looked solid for most of his round before his closing struggles as a first tournament win on foreign soil slipped from his grasp.