RUSS DILLINGHAM | SUN JOURNAL FILE

Anthony Morrison blocks a kick by Ray Wood during a NEF XVI MMA fight in February 2015 at the Androscoggin Bank Colisee in Lewiston.

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Wood, who last fought in Maine in February 2015, is ranked second in the region's featherweight division, trailing only Chris "Cassius" Foster (8-4) of Middletown, Connecticut.

Two other Mainers with ties to Young's MMA are ranked among New England's top-10 lightweights.

"The" Ryan Sanders (10-7) is ranked second in the division thanks to four victories in his last five fights, including a second-round stoppage of top-ranked Luis Felix on the nationally televised CES 32 card held in early January at the Twin Rivers casino in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

That fight ended when Felix (14-9) suffered an apparent right knee injury.

Sanders previously won the Toe2Toe lightweight championship with a splitdecision victory over Lucas Cruz in Portland last fall.

lightweight champion Bruce "Pretty Boy" Boyington, who trains out of Young's MMA and Boying- Ricky Dexter (5-2) of Team ton's Taekwondo Acade- Irish MMA Fitness Academy, is ranked eighth in the my in Brewer, fourth New England lightweight division.

Boyington, who won his debut last fall with a splitdecision victory over Rodrigo Almeida at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut, scored his fourth straight win and improved his record to 13-8 on Feb. 6 by split decision over Jon Lemke in an NEF title defense at Lewiston.

Several amateur MMA fighters from Maine also are ranked among the top 10 regionally by massmma.com, including two Young's MMA products ranked No. 1 in their weight class.

Aaron Lacey (6-1) of Bangor is the top-rated amateur featherweight after winning the NEF title in that 145-pound division with a unanimous decision over Caleb Horner last November in Lewiston.

Josh Harvey, a former standout wrestler from Dexter Regional High School, is ranked tops in the New England amateur lightweight division. The NEF amateur champ at 155 pounds, Harvey has a 5-1 record.

Other ranked amateur England Fights fighters from the area include Billy Leahy (3-1) of Young's MMA, third in the heavyweight division; among welterweights (170 pounds); and Fred Lear (3-2) of Young's MMA, World Series of Fighting eighth in the bantamweight (135-pound) class.

## Former Bangor swimmer posts wins for WPI

BY ROBBY MACDONALD SPECIAL TO THE BDN

David Smallwood, a sophomore swimmer for Worcester

Polvtechnic **SWIM** Institute, **REPORT** won the 100vard butter-

fly (49.3 seconds) at the recent New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Championship.

The Bangor High graduate also collected gold medals as a member of the 200 medley relay (1:30.8) where he split 22.2 on the butterfly leg and as a member of the 200 free relay

team with a 21.1 time on the team's 1:21.9 clocking.

Racing in the 50-yard free, Smallwood also recorded a 20.98 to finish in a tie for the bronze medal.

Smallwood, who was recently named to the NEW-MAC Winter All-Academic team, contributed a 48.6 butterfly to WPI's silver medal 400-medley relay (3:20.4). Smallwood and his WPI teammates finished in second place behind MIT in the conference championship meet.

Other Mainers also turned in strong performances last

At the Atlantic Coast Con-Championship. ference Mount Desert's Leila Johnston, competing for Florida State University, sped to a 23.4 50 free, a 51.1 100 free and split a 23.9 on the butterfly leg of FSU's 1:38 200 medley relay. FSU placed ninth in the 13team field.

Falmouth's Jake Perron, swimming for Davidson at the Atlantic 10 championships, raced impressively in several events including the 500 free (4:37.1), 200 free (1:41.7) and 100 free (46.7).

Sarah Easterling, a state champion in the 100 backstroke and 200 individual medley at Greely High in Cumberland, was a member of the University of Arkansas entry in the Southeastern Conference Championship meet. Easterling swam a 56.3 100-yard backstroke and a 2:02.7 200 individual medley.

Dale Schultz, a diver for the University Maine in 1979-80 and 1980-81, who is the diving coach at the University of Florida, coached Gator diver Kahila Warner to gold medals and school records in both the 1- and 3-meter diving at the recent Southeastern Conference Championship meet.

## Baseball

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"The unknowns, No. 1 is our offense," Trimper said. We're going to be hitting two, three — sometimes four freshmen."

Heading the veterans are senior Brett Chappell (.316, two HR, team-high 38 RBI), senior Shane Bussey (.250, 17 RBI, eight SB), senior first baseman Brenden Geary (.280, three HR, 20 RBI) and senior catcher Kevin Stypulkowski (.254, two HR, 26

Among those four returning starters, Chappell and Bussey have moved to the outfield to make way for two promising freshmen.

Junior Tyler Schwanz, a transfer from Division II Saginaw (Michigan) Valley State, is expected to bolster the out-

A revamped infield will feature two freshmen and other underclassmen. Jeremy Pena of Providence, Rhode Island, the son of former major leaguer Jeronimo Pena, has taken over at shortstop, while Miami's Danny Casals has locked up the third base spot.

'Jeremy Pena is a big upgrade at short and Danny Casals was the Dade County Player of the Year. They're very good," Trimper said.

The rotation at second base is expected to include sophomores Caleb Kerbs and Alex Cabrera, along with freshman Zach Quintal of Eliot.

"It's as solid an infield as we've had since the 2011 and 2013 teams that won a lot of games," Trimper said. "I think that's a strength."

Stypulkowski is expected to share time behind the plate with senior Jon Salcedo (.085), who threw out 28 percent of opponents trying to steal last year. Junior Pat Coughlin also is in the mix as Salcedo may see time as the backup closer on the mound.





UMaine has some roles to

fill on a pitching staff that will feature righty Justin Courtney. The sophomore

from Bangor went 5-6 with a

3.24 ERA on his way to AE

kid, he's gained 15 pounds," Trimper said. "He looks like a

"He's physically a different

There are unproven play-

ers behind Courtney in the

rotation. Redshirt freshman right-hander Chris Murphy

is coming off 2014 Tommy

John surgery, and junior

righty Jeff Gelinas of Saco

(3-1, 5.51) hopes to rebound

Trimmed-down sopho-

more righty John Arel, fresh-

man right-hander Nick Silva

and sophomore Jonah Nor-

mandeau of Cumberland,

who is two years out from

Tommy John surgery, are

fight for the No. 4 starter/long

relief spot with those three

innings of one-hit, shutout

ball in last Saturday's 9-4 loss

"There's a three-way dog-

Normandeau pitched 5â..."

The relief corps features

two established seniors in

setup man Charlie Butler (3-5,

4.80, four saves) and closer

other candidates.

guys," Trimper said.

at Clemson.

after an inconsistent 2015.

All-Rookie recognition.

man. He's ready to go.





Chappell









Binghamton second baseman Reed Gamache (right) waits for the umpire's call as Maine player Brett Chappell slides back to second base at Mahaney Diamond in Orono in May 2015.

Logan Fullmer (1-1, 3.75, four saves), who combined to pitch

1023 innings last season. Other candidates to contribute include sophomore left-hander Connor Johnson (0-1, 4.50), freshman lefty Eddie Emerson of Lewiston and junior righty Matt Cop-

"I'm really excited to see how we pitch," Trimper said. "We've got a lot of guys back with experience and some guys [coming] off of injury.

UMaine also has potential contributors in junior outfielders Jake Osborne (.385) and Lou Della Fera (.250, one RBI).

Sophomore infielder Christian Garabedian (.247, five RBI) is academically ineligible this season, and fellow Miami product Danny Diaz (.203, two HR, 12 RBI) transferred.

Ultimately, the Black Bears will need freshman starters and unproven returnees to be productive in prominent roles for the team to make a run at the America

Upon its return from New Mexico, UMaine will make a 13-game, 17-day trip to Florida where it will face the likes of Miami and Stetson.

## **Kimbrel**

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"I'm ready to go," Kimbrel said. "I'm ready to figure out what this organization is about. This is one of the biggest organizations there are, and I couldn't be more excited.'

Could the World Series expectations in Boston intimidate him?

"I feel like I do better in big situations," he said. "I love seeing people in the seats. I love the crowds getting loud. I think that's just a great atmosphere to have. I know as a player I feed off of it and the There's no holding back.

the game. I want to wrap it up and let everyone go home happy. So the more opportunities I get to do that, and the that are tight situations, I

think that's good.' Kimbrel spoke with the confidence of former Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon, who set the record for most saves by a rookie in 2006 with 35 for the 86-win Sox. Kimbrel shattered that, collecting 46 saves for the

89-win Braves in 2011. When an observer noted Kimbrel appeared "gung-ho," he said, "That's how I am.

want that ball at the end of time to work, and right now I'm at work. I guess I can relax a little bit when I get home."

Adding Kimbrel to the mix allows the Sox to slide former more situations I get put in closer Koji Uehara to the eighth inning and Junichi Tazawa to the seventh, giving Farrell the option to use sidearmed set-up man Carson

Smith whenever necessary. Farrell said the Sox did "a lot of background work" to make sure Kimbrel could charge out of the Fenway bullpen and show composure on the mound in front of 35,000 people when the game is on the line.

"I think this is a very good fit to add to our bull-





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