

Brad Keselowski, Jeff Gordon spar after Pocono race

BY JOSEPH PERSON
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

LONG POND, Pennsylv-
nia — The bad blood be-
tween Brad Keselowski and
Jeff Gordon hasn’t stopped,
no matter than the former
driver of the No. 24 car has
moved to the broadcast
booth.

Keselowski fired shots at
Gordon following Monday’s
Axalta 400 for Gordon’s com-
ments concerning Keselows-
ki’s penalty history during
the race, which Kurt Busch
won at Pocono Raceway.

Keselowski was penalized
early in the race for improv-

er body modification after
an FSI camera caught one of
his crew members slam-
ming into the side of the No.
2 Ford.

Gordon explained to view-
ers that such a tactic would
give a car additional side-
force and make it faster.
Later in the broadcast Gor-
don compared the move by
Keselowski’s crew member
with a similar incident dur-
ing Keselowski’s Las Vegas
victory in March.

While FSI aired footage of
a No. 2 team member ram-
ming into the side at Vegas,
Gordon erroneously said Ke-
selowski incurred the same

penalty in that race. In fact,
Keselowski was penalized
for speeding.

Told that FSI had com-
pared the two incidents
Monday, Keselowski said:
“That’s because Jeff Gor-
don’s in the booth. They
need to get some people in
the booth that aren’t inbred
to the sport and own teams
and have internal knowl-
edge because that’s pretty
crappy. But it is what it is.”

Gordon took to Twitter to
own up to his “mistake” in
comparing the two inci-
dents. But, Gordon added,
“@NASCAR called car down
pit road to fix issue not me.”

This is not the first time
Gordon and Keselowski
have squared off. The two
fought after the AAA Texas
500 at Texas Motor Speed-
way in 2014 after their cars
made contact on the track
with what Gordon thought
was over-aggressive driving
by Keselowski.

Gordon appeared to land
a punch to Keselowski, and
both drivers had cuts on
their faces as a result of the
brawl.

“It’s his disregard for
what’s going on out there,”
Gordon said at the time. “He
does things that force his
team to have to defend him

like that. I mean it’s a shame.
It’s a real shame, you know?”

Monday’s disagreement
wasn’t physical, but it made
for good theater following a
race in which Keselowski
finished third behind Busch
and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Gordon retired after last
season following a 23-year
career with Hendrick Mo-
torsports. He remains the
part-owner of Jimmie John-
son’s team, which Keselows-
ki referenced in his post-
race comments. Keselowski
said he noticed “every car”
had made body modifica-
tions, but did not cite specif-
ic examples.

Still, Keselowski wonder
aloud whether Gordon could
remain impartial as a color
commentator.

“It’s not that I don’t like
Jeff Gordon in the booth,”
Keselowski said. “It’s just
that you need to have people
in the booth that don’t own
teams or don’t have com-
mercial interest to the sport
because they say things that
are very — biased would be
the word.”

Gordon’s response on
Twitter: “I will admit I am
biased in the booth ... to any-
one making it interesting
and exciting for all the @
NASCARONFOX viewers!”



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

Camden Hills’ Jana Spieker returns a volley to Waterville’s
Emma Cristan during their Class B North girls tennis
match on Tuesday at Armstrong Tennis Center in Hamp-
den.

Class B

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championship roster, but
a Class A regular-season
schedule that included six
3-2 matches hardened the
Windjammers for its show-
down against a Caribou
team that had avenged its
only loss of the year with a
semifinal victory over top-
seeded John Bapst of Ban-
gor.

“It was a benefit because
the competition in Class A
suited us a little more in
helping us get better as
players,” said Camden
Hills top singles player
Matt Morse. “I think this
year we’re actually better
than last season with more
depth. A lot of kids played
in the offseason this year,
so we got better there,
too.”

The Windjammers’ first
doubles tandem of Alex
Forcillo and Colby Arn-
u scored the first point of
the match, easing past Austin
Scott and Bailey Griffith
6-1, 6-1.

Caribou (13-2) equaled
the match at second dou-
bles where Austin Chep-
lic and Gabriel Rand outlast-
ed Shawn Albertson and
Henry Cooper 7-6 (1), 1-6,
6-3.

Camden Hills swept the
singles, as No. 2 Luke
Burstein topped Alec Cyr
6-2, 6-0; No. 3 Krul defeated
Emerson Duplisse-Cyr 6-2,
6-4; and Morse topped
Ethan Plourde 6-2, 6-4.

The Camden Hills girls
(13-2) similarly used their
accidental strength of
schedule to their benefit in

preparing for a postseason
run that included back-to-
back victories over previ-
ously undefeated teams —
the Windjammers edged
No. 1 Caribou 3-2 in the
semifinals.

“I think it might have
helped us, at least that was
our plan going in,” said
Camden Hills coach Dave
Cook. “We just knew that
we had to win enough
matches to get in.”

Windjammers’ top seed
Jana Spieker outlasted
Waterville’s Emma Crist-
an in a first-set tiebreaker
before going on to a 7-6 (6),
6-1 victory in a clash of
players both seeded at the
recent state singles tour-
nament.

Katie Vannorsdall then
rallied for a 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-2
win over Sammi Saulter at
second singles before the
second doubles team of
Vivian Priestly and Char-
lotte Messer secured the
clinching point with a 6-3,
6-3 victory over Madeline
Greene and Sofie Warren.

The Windjammers
capped off the sweep with
victories by Kelsie Merrill
and Kassie Krul at second
doubles and by Naomi
Landry at third singles.

“The doubles teams
played well and got stron-
ger as the matches went
on, and my second singles
and third singles had lost
up to Caribou, and they
both came back strong,”
said Cook. “Emma Cristan
is a good player, so I didn’t
know what was going to
happen there, but Jana
won a tough first set and
went on from there.”

Waterville ended its sea-
son at 14-1.

and faced charges in 2011,
along with his mother, for
aggravated assault with a
deadly weapon in an alter-
cation with Talib’s sister’s
boyfriend. He had repeated
run-ins with teammates
early in his career with the
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
and after a game in Novem-
ber 2010, was restrained by
team officials outside the
locker room from going
after a game official who
flagged Talib for a ques-
tionable penalty.

In November 2015, Talib
was suspended one game
for poking Indianapolis
Colts tight end Dwayne
Allen in the eye. He was
fined for multiple personal
foul penalties in Super
Bowl 50, including an ag-
gressive facemasking pen-
alty.

Class C

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losses to Van Buren in the
2013 and 2015 regional finals.
“It didn’t matter who we
played,” said Mattanawcook
coach Aaron Ward. “This
was our third year back [in
four years] to the final, and
we were just ready. To fi-
nally break through is really
sweet for them.”

Mattanawcook jumped
out to a 2-0 lead by sweeping
the doubles, with the first
doubles tandem of Abby
Morrison and Paige Hessel-
tine defeating Hunter Mor-
ris and Tatianna Heggstad
6-3, 6-0, and the second dou-
bles team of Sydney Morri-
son and Katey Libby topping
Juliana Allen and Grace Hy-
land 6-2, 6-2.

But the team champion
wasn’t determined until more
than an hour later, when
Lynx top seed Ali Hardy
capped off a 6-0, 6-2 victory
over Erin Niehoff to give Mat-
tanawcook a 3-0 lead.

Much of what kept the
final result in doubt
stemmed from lengthy
matches at second and third
singles. Mattanawcook’s
Natalie Tilton outlasted
Lindsay Nevin 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in
a 2-hour, 15-minute mara-
thon at second singles, while
Abby Frost scored George
Stevens’ lone point at third



GABOR DEGRE | BDN

Mattanawcook Academy’s Paige Hesselstine makes a return during the No. 1 doubles
match against George Stevens Academy during the Class C North championship on Tues-
day at the University of Maine in Orono.

singles with a 2-6, 7-6 (8), 6-3
win over Ava Broderick.

“I think there was a bit of
mystery because we hadn’t
played them,” said Hardy.
“Our coach told us all he
could about them, but I
think we needed to go in
with a clear head and an
open mind. It was anybody’s
game.”

The George Stevens and
Orono boys split two regu-
lar-season matches, but the
George Stevens boys took a
2-0 lead in their third meet-
ing on the strength of
straight-set singles victories

by Politte (6-0, 6-2 over Ben
Blood) and third-seeded Be-
owulf Urban (6-1, 6-0 over
Sam Sheppard).

The clinching point came
at second doubles, where
George Stevens’ Christian
Jones and Kent Fang split
sets with Thor Van Walsum
and Joe Sheppard before
pulling away from a 2-1 edge
in the third to win 6-0, 5-7,
6-2.

The Eagles (13-2) also won
a tight match at first dou-
bles, where Aiden Byrne
and Leif Lyon-Miller edged
Alex Fergusson and Bran-

don Hines 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

“Today we were generally
a lot more focused and really
prepared and ready to go,”
said Urban.

“We knew who we were
playing and what strengths
they had, so we were pre-
pared individually to play to
those weaknesses and our
strengths.”

Takumi Hoshima earned
Orono’s point with a 6-2, 6-1
victory over Matt Stephens
at first singles.

The Red Riots finished
their season with an 11-4 re-
cord.

Golf

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Another favorite will be
Sam Grindle from Deer
Isle, who won last year’s
Paul Bunyan Amateur.

Bangor’s Drew Powell,
who was third in the Bun-
yan, is another contender,
as is former Brewer golfer
Mike Norris.

“People will really be
gunning for low scores at
Bangor,” said Jarvis. “Cer-
tainly Kebo will present
more of a challenge.”

“If the wind comes up at
Kebo, it will be very, very
challenging, regardless of
which direction it comes
from,” DeVos said.

He said another exciting
aspect of the tournament is
landing major sponsor
Downeast Toyota of Brew-
er.

The top two flights, the
A and B flights, will play at
Bangor Muni on Saturday
and at Kebo on Sunday,
while the C and D flights

and the women’s division
golfers will play at Kebo on
Saturday and Bangor Muni
on Sunday.

Besides the Downeast
Metro and Paul Bunyan
Amateur tournaments, the
other major tournaments
in the state coming up are
the Maine Amateur at the
York Golf and Tennis Club
on July 12-14; the Maine
Junior Amateur at the Val
Halla Golf Course in Cum-
berland (July 19-20); the
Greater Bangor Open (July
20-23); the Maine Women’s
Amateur at the Penobscot
Valley Country Club (July
25-27); the Maine Open at
the Augusta Country Club
(July 25-26); the Maine
Match Play Golf Champi-
onship at the Brunswick
Golf Club (Aug. 16-18); the
Maine Senior Amateur at
the Biddeford-Saco CC
(Aug. 23-24); the Maine
Four-Ball Championship
at the Webhannet Golf
Club in Kennebunk (Sept.
14-15) and the Maine Mid-
Amateur at Kebo (Sept. 24-
25).

NBA

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So if they’re taking the ball
out of bounds, then it slows
it up just a little bit. So we’ve
got to do a better job of put-
ting the ball in the basket.”

Two-time runner-up for
Defensive Player of the Year
Green, who said the energy of
his own home crowd helped
sparked the Warriors, said
there is plenty of fuel to be
found away from Oracle
Arena.

“I’ve always said the best
feeling in the world is to quiet
another team’s crowd, so that
right there is motivation,”
said Green.

The Warriors have won
five games in a row since fall-
ing behind the Oklahoma
City Thunder 3-1 in the West-
ern Conference finals. In the
past four games, the Warriors
are giving up 88.8 points per
game, and thriving against
the Cavaliers despite below-
average efforts from MVP
Steph Curry and shooting
guard Klay Thompson.

“We just want to win. It
doesn’t matter who scores the
points or who gets the credit,”
Warriors coach Steve Kerr
said Tuesday. “We do feel like

the strength of our team is
our depth, and we’re not over-
ly reliant on one player, even
the MVP. So our depth has
shown so far, and I’m sure
we’ll have different players
continue to step up as the se-
ries goes on.”

Love must clear the concus-
sion protocol before he can re-
turn and ESPN reported after
Tuesday’s practice that sour-
ces told the network that Love
is optimistic about his chan-
ces of playing on Wednesday.

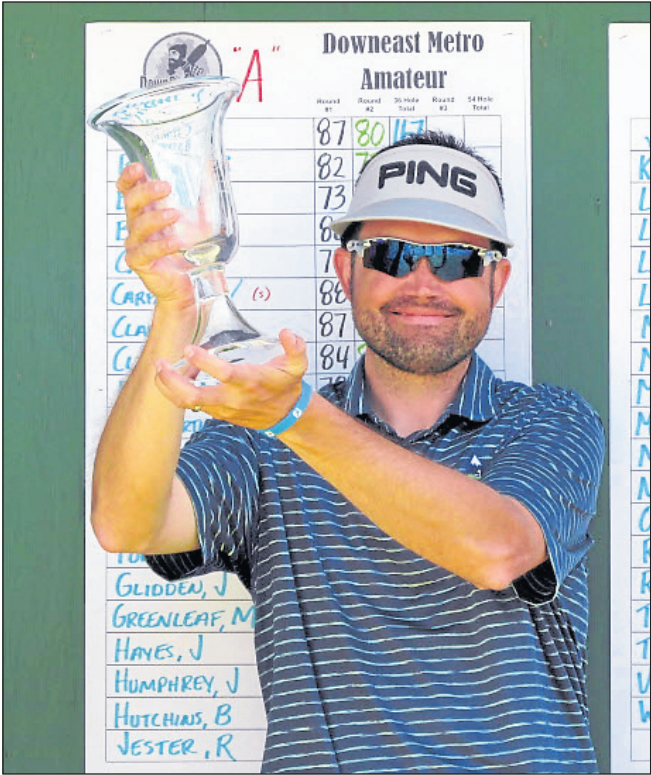
Cavaliers coach Tyronn
Lue didn’t offer much way of
info per Love’s status.

“He flew back with the
team,” Lue said in reference
to the injury happening dur-
ing Game 2 in Oakland. “He’s
feeling better, but right now
he’s just in the concussion
protocol, and we won’t know
until tomorrow.

“And what will I do if he
doesn’t play? I’m not going to
tell you today, I’m sorry.
That’s fair, right? OK.”

When the Cleveland play-
ers began practice around 11
a.m., Love remained behind
in the locker room.

Love suffered a concussion
in Game 2 when Warriors
forward Harrison Barnes in-
advertently flattened him
with his elbow as they fought
for a rebound.



BDN FILE

Matt Greenleaf of Portland beams as he hoists the champi-
onship trophy after winning the inaugural Downeast Metro
Amateur Golf Tournament last year at Bangor Municipal
Golf Course. He shot a two-round total of 2-over-par 143.

Penguins

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“Certainly the most impor-
tant game is the one right in
front of us. That’s where we
have to have our focus,” Sulli-
van said. “We need to have
that laser focus for that one
task at hand.”

Thursday night, they’ll try
to direct that focus on the
Sharks, not the Stanley Cup
that could join them on the ice
at the end of the night.

“Our players are well aware,
just based on their comments
after the game last night, excit-
ed to be in the position we’re in,
but by no means do we think
that we’ve accomplished what
we’ve set out to do,” Sullivan
said. “We still have a lot of work
ahead of us.”

On Monday night, Pitts-
burgh’s suffocating speed stif-
led the Sharks again Monday
for a 3-1 win in Game 4 at SAP
Center in San Jose, California.

San Jose coach Peter De-
Boer continued to shuffle
personnel on his forward
lines in hopes of finding com-
binations to solve the Pen-
guins’ defense. The fact the
Sharks scored the first goal
in the third period was a re-
bound from the Penguins’
shutout bid with his fourth
goal of the playoffs. He picked
up a rebound of Brenden Dil-
lon’s blocked shot and beat
Murray over his left glove at
8:07 of the third to make it 2-1.

for a fourth straight game.

Melker Karlsson snapped
Penguin goalie Matt Murray’s
shutout bid with his fourth
goal of the playoffs. He picked
up a rebound of Brenden Dil-
lon’s blocked shot and beat
Murray over his left glove at
8:07 of the third to make it 2-1.

But Pittsburgh’s fourth-line
right winger Eric Fehr scored
his third goal of the playoffs at
17:58 for the insurance the
Penguins needed to kill the
hosts’ comeback hopes.

Pittsburgh scored the only
goal of the middle period to
take a 2-0 lead into the third
period.

Evgeni Malkin scored his
first goal of the series and fifth
of the playoffs just nine sec-
onds into Karlsson’s interfer-
ence of Fehr at 2:28.

Malkin had an easy tap-in
as he got slipped behind the
Sharks defense on the far post
where teammate Phil Kessel
hit him with a perfect cross-
ice feed from above the left
circle.

As has been the case
throughout the series,
Pittsburgh jumped out first
and led 1-0 at the first inter-
mission. The Sharks pro-
duced the final six shots to
end a period with more
shots than the Penguins for
the first time (8-6).