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SECTION C

The Providence Journal

SPORTS

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International Tennis Hall of Fame - Newport RI

NEWS WIRE

■ CHIARELLI TAKES BRUINS' REINS

Peter Chiarelli, who was hired as the Boston Bruins' general manager in May but had to serve out his term as an assistant GM in Ottawa,

was released from his obligations with the Senators yesterday — five days early — and cleared to take over the struggling Original Six franchise. He is planning to arrive in Boston today and be at work tomorrow. Among the things he wants to do first are study the Bruins' restricted free agents. "I hope to get moving on that pretty quick," he said, adding that he also needs to fill out new coach Dave Lewis' staff and the scouting department. The Bruins hired Chiarelli on May 26, but the NHL ruled that Chiarelli couldn't start until July 15.

■ LEBRON CONTRACT IN QUESTION

Late Sunday night, ESPN reported LeBron James will not be accepting the July five-year maximum contract extension worth \$80 million as widely assumed after he announced he'd re-sign with the Cavaliers. Instead, the network reported, he'll sign a four-year deal worth close to \$60 million and have an opt-out clause after the third year of the extension, giving him a chance to be an unrestricted free agent in 2010. The report appears both premature and flawed, according to the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal.

■ YANKS, METS RATED 1-2

New York's Yankees and Mets are the two most popular teams of fans who follow Major League Baseball, according to a nationwide Harris Poll. The poll has rated the Yankees as the nation's favorite team every year since 2003. The Mets bumped the Atlanta Braves out of the second spot down to third, while the Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox round out the top five.

■ SALVE SAILORS BRING HOME GOLD

A United States crew that included Salve Regina University sailing coach John Ingalle of Little Compton and two students from his sailing team — senior James Randall of Minnesota and junior Michael Komar of Plymouth, Mass. — claimed the gold medal at the 2006 Yngling World Championships in La Rochelle, France, held June 30-July 8. The American squad was among 42 teams that competed in 10 races. The silver medal went to a team the Netherlands, and the bronze was won by a team from Denmark.

■ BARBARO SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

Barbaro, the Kentucky Derby winner, had a new cast applied for a sixth time yesterday — the fourth change in a week — to his right hind leg. The latest development followed three hours of surgery Saturday night when doctors replaced the titanium plate and many screws and also treated an infection. Barbaro was back in his stall in the intensive care unit, where he's been since the injury occurred at the Preakness. "Right now, he's happier," Dr. Dean Richardson said. "He's got a normal heart rate, normal temperature, he's eating like crazy."

■ WORLD CUP RATINGS UP

The World Cup final earned a 7.0 national rating for ABC, a 180 percentage increase from the 2002 final in Japan.

2006 RED SOX FIRST-HALF REVIEW

The Sox weren't half bad

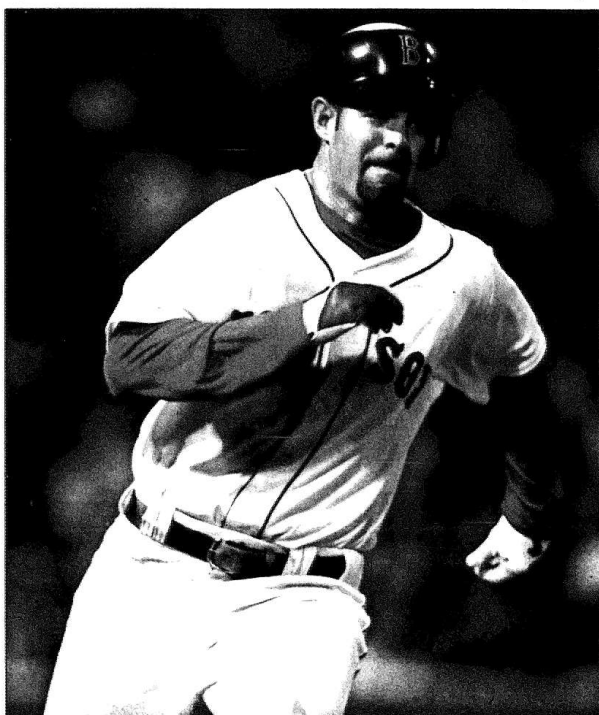
BY STEVEN KRASNER

Last spring was the same as all previous springs.

When the Boston Red Sox convened for the start of spring training last February, there were question marks surrounding the team.

No team is ever set before the first day of stretching exercises. There are personnel decisions to be made. And then there are the inevitable injuries, variables that crop up from time to time, circumstances that are impossible to predict when the players and coaching staff assemble in Fort Myers, Fla.

Somehow, that seems like a long time ago.



Offensive production has been a big part of the equation for the Red Sox in the first half of the season — both the unexpected from Mike Lowell, above, and the expected from David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez, right.

Tonight, the American League will square off against the National League in the annual All-Star Game, to be played this season in Pittsburgh.

It's the unofficial halfway point of the season, though Boston already has played more than half (86 games) of the 162 game schedule. The Red Sox sit atop the A.L. East, three games

ahead of the archrival New York Yankees.

Some question marks that greeted the Sox last February have been answered. Others popped up along the way. Here is a glimpse at several of the spring concerns as well as where things stand now with Boston boasting a 54-43 record, the third best record in the major leagues.

Slow bat; seeing double

Florida would not part with right hander Josh Beckett in an offseason trade unless Boston took Mike Lowell off its hands, relieving the Marlins of \$16 million in salary, spread over two years, to rid themselves of the seemingly washed-up, offensively challenged 32-year-old third baseman.

Lowell was not impressive early in camp. There were whispers about his slow bat, whispers that echoed around the N.L. last year when a power starved Lowell hit only 236 with a meager 8 homers and 58 RBI in 500 at bats.

His bat, though, seems to have quickened. Lowell has become a doubles machine. He ripped 11 two-run buggers in his first 81 at bats. Shortly thereafter, Lowell posted an amazing five-game stretch in which he smacked eight more doubles. He enters the break for first in the league with 31, not to mention 11 homers, 45 RBI and a .307 batting average in 416 at bats.

Trade Manny? Whose dumb idea was that?

Manny wants out. Manny demands a trade. Manny granted permission to report late to camp. The Sox explore trade possibilities to accommodate Manny. Those were the hot and heavy spring story lines. Manny Ramirez, seemingly tired of living in the fish bowl that is Red Sox Nation, wanted out of the spotlight. The three years and roughly \$60 million Boston was shelling out for his power hitting services didn't seem to engender any loyalty on his side.

RED SOX, C5



Behind-the-scenes intrigue makes Sox book a winner

BILL REYNOLDS



The book is called *Feeding the Monster: How Money, Smarts, and Nerve Took a Team to the Top*. It's written by Seth Minskoff, and it's a look inside the palace gates of the Red Sox.

A very close look. Minskoff, a former senior editor at Newsweek magazine, was given virtually total access to the Red Sox by owner John Henry, complete

with his own desk and passkey, to most of the offices. Henry's obvious plan was to have his ownership group immortalized as the one that brought a world championship to Boston for the first time in 86 years, just three years after they bought the franchise. That's certainly the book's spine. But that's not the interesting part. The interesting part is the behind-

the-scenes intrigue Minskoff uncovers, everything from the deterioration of the relationship between Larry Lucchino and Theo Epstein, to Nomar's paranoia and Curt Schilling's self-absorption to the unavailability of both Pedro and Nomar, and other arming of dirty laundry that *Feeding the Monster* floats in the breeze. In short, *Feeding the Monster* is a must-read.

For instance, Bill James conducted a study on how much a player's lack of hustle negatively affected the team.

Guess who the star of that particular study was? To the rest of the baseball world, Manny Ramirez looked like a hitting savant who was anchoring a prodigiously potent lineup. Writes

REYNOLDS, C6

McAndrew's 68 is tops in R.I. Amateur

BY PAUL KENYON

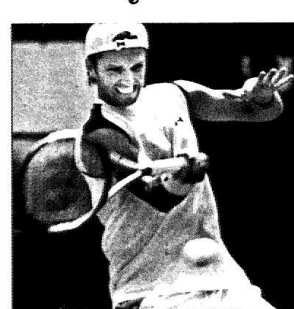
BARRINGTON — As someone who has grown up playing golf at Rhode Island Country Club, David McAndrew knows the course plays differently, depending on the time of day. It's always harder in the afternoon when the wind comes up, McAndrew said. "That's just the way it is here."

Yesterday, when the course hosted the first round of the 101st R.I. Golf Association Amateur Championship, was a perfect example. A breeze came in off the bay all day. But it picked up in the afternoon and blew much harder through the second half of the day.

"This is even a little bit harder than usual," McAndrew said of the strong winds as he finished his round shortly before 5 o'clock.

All of which made the work turned in by

Victory in the card for Kendrick



Robert Kendrick returns a volley during his match against Vince Spadea yesterday at Newport.

Wild-card entry Robert Kendrick, coming off a surprising performance at Wimbledon, knocks off fifth-seeded Vince Spadea to highlight first-day action.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK

NEWPORT — Robert Kendrick, who threw a five-set scare at Rafael Nadal in the second round at Wimbledon, and Vince Spadea, who reached the final on this same patch of lawn a year ago, were playing solid on a tartan tennis yesterday when one wicked crosscourt forehand punctuated the match.

Serving at 1-2, 30-40 in the third set, Spadea drove a shot that raked the net cord as it flew toward Kendrick. Timing the slight carom perfectly, Kendrick snapped a forehand toward the opposite sideline that Spadea

had no chance of reaching and broke serve for a 3-1 lead.

That was probably the shot that won me the match, Kendrick said after upsetting the fifth-seeded Spadea, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the Campbell's Hall of Fame Tennis Championships at the Newport Casino.

You have to be a tennis sleuth to know much about this affable 26-year-old from Sanibel, Fla. He is ranked No. 186 on the ATP computer and has never been higher than No. 112. He was sidelined for six months last summer while recovering from wrist surgery on a shredded tendon.

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FAME, C3

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NEWS WIRE

ITALIAN DENIES 'TERRORIST' INSULT

Italy's Marco Materazzi acknowledged he insulted Zinedine Zidane before the French captain head-butted him in the World Cup final, but repeated his denial that he called Zidane a "terrorist." "I did insult him, it's true," Materazzi said in yesterday's *Gazzetta dello Sport*. "But I categorically did not call him a terrorist. I'm not cultured and I don't even know what an Islamic terrorist is." A Paris-based anti-racism group issued a statement

ZIDANE

Monday saying Materazzi had called Zidane, whose parents emigrated to France from Algeria, a "dirty terrorist."

BRUINS SIGN BC'S COLLINS

Boston Bruins general manager Peter Chiarelli made his first roster move in his new job yesterday, signing Boston College left wing and Hobey Baker finalist Chris Collins. The 22-year-old Collins led Hockey East in scoring and tied with Minnesota's Ryan Peltun in the national scoring race with 63 points (34 goals and 29 assists). He was the Hockey East player of the year and was honored by the New England Hockey Writers as their Most Valuable Player.

CUP GOING TO CAMP LEJEUNE

Carolina Hurricanes defenseman Glen Wesley will take the Stanley Cup to Camp Lejeune, N.C., tomorrow and visit with Marines wounded in combat. Wesley and his wife, Barb, are scheduled to visit the East Coast's largest Marine Corps base with the storied trophy as part of the Wesley family's day with the Stanley Cup.

GRZEBIEN LEADS BY 4 IN MAINE

Narragansett's Anna Grzebien, making her first appearance in the New England Women's Golf Association championship since she won it in a playoff in 2003, shot a first round 66 yesterday at the Sunday River Golf Club in Newry, Maine, for a four-shot lead. Other total players were Kibbe Reilly (75, tied for 6th); Alexandra Caffrey and Valerie Biller (78, tied for 13th); Carol Clavay (79, tied for 20th); and Amanda Sabatoni (83, tied for 33rd).

CHINA'S LIU SETS WORLD MARK

Liu Xiang of China set a world record in the 110-meter hurdles yesterday, breaking the record he shared with Britain's Colin Jackson. Liu's time of 12.88 seconds at the Athletissima Grand Prix meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, was .03 better than the record he matched in winning gold at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Jackson ran 12.91 in Stuttgart, Germany, in August 1993.

BLAST WINS VOLLEYBALL BRONZE

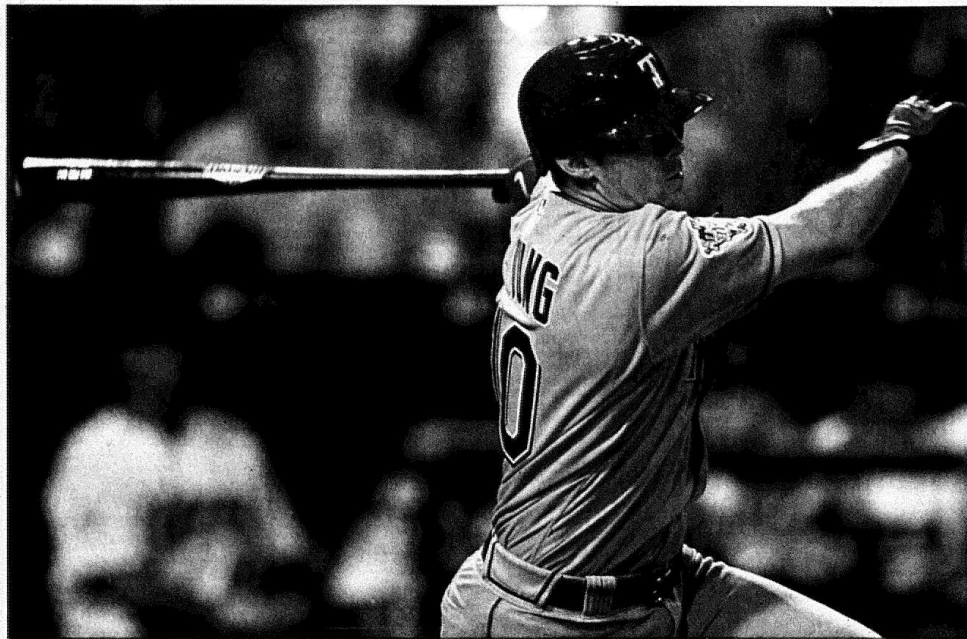
The Rhode Island Blast boys' 18-and-under volleyball team won the bronze bracket at the Junior Olympic Championships held in Minneapolis, Minn., last week. The Blast, which features All-Staters Scott Grandpre (East Greenwich), Steve Fuller (Bishop Hendricken), Ed DeSignore (Bishop Hendricken), Kevin McDonald (Bishop Hendricken), James Roch (Toll Gate), along with Joe Catanzaro (Scituate), Craig Harvey (Beverly, Mass.), and Jared Andreozzi (Barrington), finished 17th out of 55 teams in the national tournament.

ALL-STAR GAME

A.L. 3, N.L. 2

2006 ALL-STAR GAME

American know-how, again



AP PHOTO / CHARLES KRUPA

Michael Young of the Texas Rangers rips a triple to center field to drive in two runs as the American League rallied in the ninth inning to beat the National League.



AP PHOTO / CHARLES KRUPA

The Red Sox' David Ortiz, center, welcomes the Angels' Vladimir Guerrero back to the dugout after he hit a home run in the second inning. The blast gave the A.L. a 1-0 lead over the N.L.

A two-run triple in the ninth by the A.L.'s Michael Young drives in the tying and winning runs and extends the N.L.'s winless streak to a decade.

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PITTSBURGH — The All-Star Game has all set up for the National League this time. Trevor Hoffman on the mound, one strike to go, fans on their feet at Pittsburgh's enchanting ballpark.

But no matter the setting or the season, the Nationals can't find a way to close out the A.L.

Down to a final strike, Michael Young hit a two-run triple off Hoffman for a 3-2 victory last night that kept the Americans unbeaten for the last decade.

"You're never going to forget these things on this kind of stage," said Hoffman, who has 460 saves. "You feel like you let a lot of people down."

Young took home the MVP award — and the A.L. won home-field advantage in the World Series for the fourth straight year.

"Nobody wants to make the last out of anything, whether it's a regular season, World

Series or an All-Star Game," said Troy Glaus, whose double set the stage for Young.

Behind David Wright's homer and some daring, old-style baserunning, the N.L. took a 2-1 lead into the ninth.

Houston manager Phil Garner went to Hoffman, who is closing in on Lee Smith's career saves record (478) and has converted 24 of 25 chances this season.

After getting two soft comebackers, Hoffman gave up a single to Paul Konerko, who was replaced by pinch-runner Jose Lopez.

Then the N.L. nearly caught a break — it hasn't had many since its last victory in Philadelphia in 1996.

SEE A.L. C5

HOW THE RED SOX FARED

| DAVID ORTIZ | AB | R | H | HR | RBI | BB | K |
|-------------------|----|---|---|----|-----|----|---|
| MARK LORETTA | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| JONATHAN PAPERBON | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Did not play

RIGA AMATEUR

Early bird Pannone catches break, wins medalist honors

BY PAUL KENTON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BARRINGTON — Jason Pannone missed a lot of the fun yesterday in the 101st R.I. Golf Association Amateur, which meant everything worked out well for him.

Pannone, a URI golf star who plays out of Potowomut, went out early and put together his second straight excellent round at Rhode Island Country Club, a 3-under-par 68. That

gave him both the best score of the day and medalist honors at 5-under 137, two better than first-day leader David McAndrew of the host club.

Both Pannone and McAndrew were long gone by the time the day's real fun began. The weather changed in the early afternoon from pleasant to downright nasty.

Strong winds came in off Narragansett Bay through the second half

SEE AMATEUR, C3

Shorter off tee, but long on game

BARRINGTON — Let other guys write about the flat-bellies, those lean and fit, long-hitting college boys who seemingly can reach the Jamestown Bridge



JIM DONALDSON

with a driver and a 6-iron from the water-side tees at R.I. Country Club. It's the fat-bellies that grab my

attention.

Forget about the kids. It's the codgers who interest me.

Particularly when they can't hit a tee ball out of their own shadow, considerable as it may be, yet still manage to shoot 69.

Which is the number that 54-year-old George Donnell put up yesterday morning in the second round of qualifying in the 101st R.I. Amateur Championship.

SEE DONALDSON, C3



JOURNAL PHOTO / BOB BREIDENBACH

Andy Murray, who became the No. 1 seed after the three players ranked ahead of him were forced to withdraw, returns a volley to Ricardo Mello in their opening-round match yesterday.

Top-seeded Murray has great escape

Scotland's Andy Murray outlasts Brazil's Ricardo Mello and, for now, wards off the Curse of the Casino.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEWPORT — Top-seeded Andy Murray, down two service breaks midway through the third set and then facing five match points in the 42nd game, was close to becoming the 30th victim of the Curse of the Casino yesterday.

Since the Campbell's Hall of Fame Tennis Championships, officially joined the men's circuit in 1977, no top seed has ever won this event. Murray seeped well on his way to interment in this graveyard of number ones, but the 19-year-old from Scotland somehow escaped with a 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (5) first-round victory over Ricardo Mello of Brazil.

Mello, ranked No. 139 in the world, only 3-6 in singles this year and playing his first and last tournament of 2006 on grass, served for the match at 5-2, 5-4, and 6-5, but could not make the one shot he needed

SEE FAME, C6

NEWS WIRE

BARBARO FACES 'TOUGH ODDS'

Barbaro's condition turned "potentially serious" again yesterday, according to his veterinarian, Dean Richardson, the chief surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, said the colt faced "tough odds" and that doctors were looking at



BARBARO

treatments to keep the 3-year-old comfortable, seven weeks after his catastrophic injuries in the Preakness Stakes on

May 20. The colt's condition is scheduled to be discussed at a news conference today.

SAMSONOV SIGNS WITH MONTREAL

Free-agent forward Sergei Samsonov signed a two-year contract with the Montreal Canadiens yesterday. Samsonov, 27, who went to Edmonton in a deadline-day trade with the Boston Bruins, had 53 points in 74 games last season for the Bruins and Oilers.

SUN STARS HELP EAST BEAT WEST

The Connecticut Sun's Katie Douglas scored 16 points and Katie Smith had 14 to help the Eastern Conference cruise to its first victory in seven WNBA All-Star games, 98-82, over the West last night at Madison Square Garden. Douglas shot 4-for-7 on 3-pointers and had five rebounds and four assists to earn MVP honors. Cheryl Ford added 13 points, and Taj McWilliams-Franklin and Lindsay Whalen, both of the Sun, scored 10 apiece for the East, which took control with a 39-13 run spanning halftime.

ALL-STAR GAME RATINGS UP 15%

Television ratings for Tuesday night's All-Star Game on Fox were up 15 percent over last season's contest, the largest increase in 24 years. The game itself had a 9.3 rating and 16 share with an average of 14.4 million viewers. Last year's game got an 8.1 rating and a 14 share, the second year in a row that the game had plummeted to an all-time low. The Home Run Derby on Monday, televised by ESPN, had a 10 percent increase. The contest had a 5.4 rating compared to 4.9 last year.

GRZEBIEN LEADS BY 9 IN MAINE

Narragansett's Adam Grzebien fired her second consecutive 6-under-par 66 yesterday to open up a nine-stroke lead heading into the final round of the New England Women's Golf Association championship at Sunday River Golf Club in Newry, Maine. Grzebien is one of two players under par and the only player to shoot a round in the 50s. Other local players in the top 20 are: Valerie Blinn (tied for 11th); Alexandra Caffrey and Kibbe Bailey (tied for 17th); and Katherine Murphy (tied for 19th).

BRAZIL STILL BEST IN WORLD SOCCER

Brazil remained No. 1 yesterday in FIFA's redesigned world soccer rankings, which changes the criteria for rating the world's top teams. Argentina moved into third place with France No. 4 and England No. 5. Except for Brazil, the other top teams all moved up several places from the rankings published before the World Cup. Italy improved 10 places, Argentina six. France four and England five. Rounding out the top 10 were: the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Which way do they go?



Boston's (from left) Alex Cora, the enigmatic Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz share a laugh before Saturday's game against the Chicago White Sox.

It's Manny's output that really matters

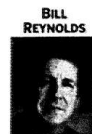
He is our ongoing soap opera, part mythic figure, part cartoon character. Manny.

No last name needed.

No pardon me if I don't get all excited at the latest little mini-controversy, this week's firestorm, the fact that Manny chose not to attend the All-Star Game, claiming a bad knee.

No matter that he was the highest vote-getter by the fans, so

SEE REYNOLDS, C4



BILL REYNOLDS

WHAT HAS TO CONTINUE

■ The one-two, power-packed punch from David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez, who have combined for 55 home runs and 152 RBI over the first 85 games.

■ The on-base excellence of Kevin Youkilis and Mark Loretta, setting up Ortiz and Ramirez for their RBI opportunities.

■ Consistent, solid efforts from the two pitching aces, Curt Schilling and Josh Beckett.

■ The air-tight, late-inning dominance from closer Jonathan Papelbon.

■ The superlative infield defense.

■ The team's good health, notably for Ortiz, Ramirez, Schilling, Beckett, Wakefield and Papelbon.

■ What HAS TO IMPROVE

■ Production from the fifth starter.

■ Bullpen dependability leading to Papelbon.

■ Jason Varitek's offense.

■ The bench — late-inning thump.

The Red Sox still have lots of question marks

BY STEVEN KRASNER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Now, the season begins in earnest.

The first half was solid for the Boston Red Sox. The first 86 games have put the Red Sox in position for a fourth straight postseason appearance, maybe even their first outright division championship since 1995.

But now it's time to get serious. The second half begins tonight, with a game against the Oakland Athletics at Fenway Park.

Boston enters the game sporting a 53-33 record, which gives the Red Sox a three-game lead over the New York Yankees in the

TONIGHT
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American League East.

Each team has 76 games remaining, but it looks like the schedule-makers have tilted the post-All-Star-break action in the Red Sox' favor, if the first-half results are any indication.

Boston has the second-best home winning percentage in the majors at 73 (27-10), trailing only the Minnesota Twins (30-10, 75 percent) in that category.

SEE RED SOX, C5

Ex-Brown star has been around world and back

Chris Drake, who is playing doubles at Newport Casino, has been on a tennis odyssey that has taken him to Europe, South America and the Middle East.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT — After playing tennis at Brown University for four years and leading the Bears to their first Ivy League championship in 2002 and NCAA Tournament appearances in 2002 and 2003, Chris Drake took his game to Natick, Mass., and went from college tennis star to junior tennis teacher. "That's what I wanted to do. I was enjoying living in Boston and hanging out with my friends," he said. "I wasn't playing at all. I had played a lot of tennis in college and wanted to take a break."

That feeling lasted a year. As the summer of 2004 waned, Drake was eager to play again. "I missed having something worth shooting for. I missed the training. And I didn't feel I had reached my top level. I wanted to see what I could do."

So began a tennis odyssey that has taken Drake

SEE FAME, C3

RIGA AMATEUR

Young guns continue to call the shots

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

BARRINGTON — The changing of the guard in Rhode Island golf not only continued yesterday; it accelerated.

Many of the familiar names that have dominated the scene for a generation, players like George Pirie, Paul Quigley, John Drohen and Billy Auger, were sent packing on the first day of match play in the 101st R.I. Golf Association Amateur at Rhode Island Country Club.

They have been ushered out by a largely college crowd, players like Jason Pannone, David Marino, Brad Valois, Danny Mollicone, Drew Harker and Bobby Fournier.

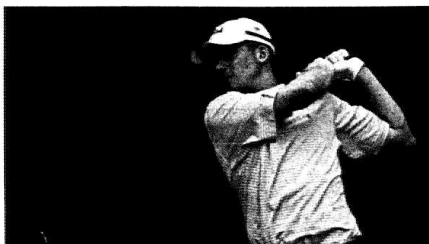
It is not a total turnover. There is still some veteran representation left as the tournament heads to the quarterfinals, namely Charlie Blanchard and Eugene DiSarro, neither of whom let late-day rain prevent them from winning twice yesterday.

Still, six of the eight quarterfinalists are under 25. They are Pannone, a senior at URI; Marino, a junior at the

University of Mississippi; Valois, a sophomore at Johnson & Wales' Miami campus; Harker, a junior at Emory College in Atlanta; Mollicone, a

recent Hendrickson grad who is headed to St. John's; and Fournier, who graduated from Furman two years ago.

SEE AMATEUR, C6



JOURNAL PHOTO / MARY MURPHY

URI senior Jason Pannone, teeing off on the second hole yesterday at Rhode Island Country Club, continues to roll along at the RIGA Amateur, yesterday eliminating RICC's David Patrick and three-time champion George Pirie.

Morrell, Green take top honors in RPGA Juniors

Samantha Morrell's 71 in the girls division is the lowest score among all competitors, and Jim Green finishes first in the boys 15-and-over division.

BY ROBERT LEE
JUNIOR SPORTS WRITER
NORTH KINGSTOWN — The boys 15-and-over division of the Rhode Island Professional Golfers' Association Junior Championships was supposed to be the featured group, but it was Samantha Morrell of the girls division who shot the lowest score yesterday.

Morrell, the 15-year-old soon-to-be North Kingstown High sophomore, not only won the girls division with a 1-over-par 71, but her score — a personal best at the North Kingstown Golf Club — was the lowest among all competitors.

"I should have played against the boys," Morrell said afterward.

Jim Green, who will be a junior at North Kingstown High in the fall, won the boys 15-and-over division with a 74, edging Barrington High's Jeff Ray, who shot a 75.

"It's nice to win it," said Green, 16. "It's nice to get first place. I'm hoping to play better in some more serious events in the future. Seventy-four is a good number. I'm happy with that."

Ray missed a three-foot putt on the par-4, 362-yard fifth hole, which he double-bogeyed, and that came back to haunt him. He said he was satisfied with his score, though.

"I played well," said Ray, 15. "I was one under through my last five holes. I had a good finish."

Green played steady throughout, which proved to be the difference, he said.

"I was hitting a lot of greens and two-putting from there," Green said. "I made a lot of pars. I was hitting my drive all right. I was hitting the fairway and then the green. I didn't really hit any amazing shots, it was just consistent. Being consistent really helped me out in the end." Consistency was the key for all three golfers.

"I was just trying to be consistent," Ray said. "I was trying to hit greens and trying to make pars. I played good. You have to be consistent."

"I was consistently hitting greens, and that was basically the key," Morrell said. "I made a lot of up-and-downs. My chipping is getting a lot better and so is my short putting, and that really contributed a lot. I'm really happy with my score."

Morrell was even par through the first 16 holes, then bogeyed the par-4, 259-yard 17th. She fired a 2-over 38 on the

front nine, bogeying the par-4, 385-yard second hole and the par-3, 157-yard eighth. On the back nine, she birdied the par-3, 148-yard 10th hole and the par-4, 260-yard 12th.

Green got off to a rocky start, bogeying the par-4, 354-yard first hole and the par-3, 154-yard third, but he birdied the par-5, 448-yard fourth to move back to 1-over. Green bogeyed the next hole, however, but birdied the par-4, 343-yard sixth to move back to 1-over before the turn. He made three bogeys (11th, 13th and 14th) on the back nine and no birdies.

With the exception of his double bogey on the fifth hole, Ray said he played well on the front nine. He bogeyed the second and ninth, and birdied the sixth. He recovered from a slow start on the back nine, where he bogeyed holes 10, 12 and 13, by carding

a birdie on 18.

Morrell, who finished tied for third at the girls interscholastic League state tournament last season, has been playing golf for six years and has improved a lot in recent months.

Green's dad was the pro at Quinnesett Country Club, and had Jim on the links at age 5. This was his first major victory.

Ray started playing golf only two years ago but has picked up the game quickly.

John McCarthy won the 14-and-under division with a 79.

15 & Over Division
Jim Green, 16, Jeff Ray, 15, Phil Martin, 16, Mike Boyd, 15, Derek Jensen, 15, Wyatt Sparks, 15, Peter Cruz, 16, Joe DiMillo, 15.

14 & Under Division
John McCarthy, 14, Mike DiMillo, 14, Sean Leach, 13, Samantha Morrell, 13, Nicole Scott, 14, Jenna Murphy, 14.

roblee@projo.com / (401) 277-7340

Amateur

Continued from Page C1

Fournier is the old man in that group, at 23.

They all survived another wild weather day as a downpour marred afternoon matches and delayed play for about 45 minutes for the final match on the course — Harker against Auger, the RIGA player of the year two of the last three years.

In keeping with the day's theme, it was the youngest, Harker, who won that match, 4 and 2, leaving Blanchard, who is 41, and DiSarro, 43, as the only veterans left.

"It's a young man's game," Blanchard said.

It's that way in most places. It's just that in Rhode Island, there have been so many veterans who have played so well for so long that the newcomers often have had to wait for their day in the sun. That day came yesterday, even if it was raining again.

Pannone, the medalist, set the pace. He now has been under par in all four rounds he has

played in the tournament.

"I was 3-under in each match today," he said after beating David Patrick, 4 and 2, and then three-time champion Pirie, 2 and 1, in the second round.

In keeping with the way he always plays, Pirie, who eliminated defending champion Tom McCormick in the morning, 4 and 3, did not go down easily. He was 2-down before winning both 11 and 12. Pannone birdied 13, but Pirie birdied 14 to square it again.

On 15, Pirie narrowly missed an eight-footer for bird, before Pannone made his seven-footer to go back ahead. Pirie bogeyed 16 after his approach landed in a bunker. That opened the door for Pannone, the 2004 RIGA Stroke Play champion, to advance to the quarterfinals.

Pannone will square off against Marino in the quarters. Marino will enter off perhaps his best day yet on the course. The long-hitting bomber swept past Jake Gaffey of RICC, 6 and 5, and then Kirkbrae clubmate Bob Corio, 5 and 4.

"This morning might have been the best I've ever played,"

Marino said. "I was 4-under and I didn't make a bogey. I've had rounds where I've been more under par, but from a consistency standpoint, as far as hitting everything right where I was aiming it, that might have been my best round. I never had anything more than a three-footer for par. It's a great feeling."

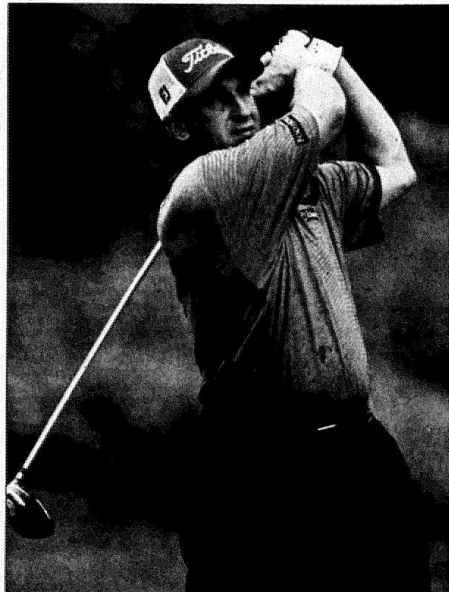
It carried over to the afternoon, when he had five more birdies as he powered past Corio. "It was a really good match because holes were won with birdies," Marino said. "He won two holes with birdies. I had five birdies. I made two bogeys but I played well."

"He won 7 and 8 with birdies. Then on nine, he hit it in the trees and I thought I had him," Corio said. "He knocked it out on the green. He just hits it so far. He played well."

The two most exciting finishes were provided by Fournier and DiSarro. Both were 1-down going to 18 in the afternoon. Both birdied 18 to stay alive. Then both birdied 19 to win. Fournier taking out Drozen while DiSarro stopped a great run from Jeff Kafalas, an unaffiliated player who was strong through the tournament.

Fournier, who has helped coach the Johnson & Wales golf team this year, will meet Blanchard in the quarters while DiSarro draws Mollicone. Blanchard, who has won every RIGA title there is to win, held off Colby Pacheco, 2 and 1, in the second round while Mollicone won a back and forth match with Billy Forcier, 2 up.

Harker, the last RICC player remaining, and Valois, the three-time RIGA junior champion, will meet in the last quarterfinal in a match between two of the most talented of all the young players. Harker got up early and never lost the lead in eliminating Auger in the second round. He ended it,



Eugene DiSarro of Metacomet was one of two veteran players, along with Charlie Blanchard of Wannamoisett, to advance to today's quarterfinals of the RIGA Amateur at Rhode Island Country Club.

JOURNAL PHOTO / MARY MURPHY



Three-time winner George Pirie gave Jason Pannone a run for his money yesterday, but was done in when he found a bunker at 16.

JOURNAL PHOTO / MARY MURPHY

France's Dessell is new leader; Landis 5th

PAU, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong once said there are no gifts at the Tour de France — a maxim that a Frenchman and a Spaniard showed still holds true, even with the seventh-time champion out of the picture.

Racing toward the finish of yesterday's 10th stage, having left the field far behind on hard mountain climbs, Cyril Dessell and Juan Miguel Mercado talked about which of them should reap the win.

Dessell already knew the ride had been good enough to earn him the overall race leader's prized yellow jersey and, as icing on the cake, the polka-dot jersey as the best mountain climber, too.

Mercado figured that was glory enough and that Dessell should leave the honor of winning the stage to him. He leaned over and said so — only to be told no.

"You don't often get the chance for a stage victory at the Tour de France. I couldn't pass it up," Dessell said later.

Unable to agree, the pair battled for the win in a finishing sprint — and Mercado turned out to be over-so-slightly quicker. It was the Spaniard's second stage win in three Tours. His first was in 2004.

"I did my utmost but, despite everything, he won and I congratulate him," said the previously unheralded Dessell, who

AT A GLANCE

STAGE: The 10th stage was a winding 118.4-mile ride from the southwestern town of Cambes-les-Bains to Pau featuring two tough climbs in the Pyrenees, the first mountain stage since the Tour.

WINNER: Spain's Juan Miguel Mercado, of the Agnol team, in 4 hours, 49 minutes, 10 seconds. Frenchman Cyril Dessell, of AG2R, was second in the same time, and Inigo Landaluze, a Spaniard with Basque team Euskaltel Euskadi, was third, 56 seconds behind Dessell.

YELLOW JERSEY: Dessell.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "He's going to live a big, big day with the yellow jersey. You'll never see the same man again."

AG2R's team leader, Frenchman Christophe Moreau, on Dessell.

NEXT STAGE: The 11th stage today takes riders on five tough climbs — including one at the finish — along a 128.3-mile trek from Tarbes to Piau d'Aud in Spain.

despite his disappointment at being beaten, relished becoming the first French rider to take the overall lead at this Tour.

"A dream come true," he said. "Their race together at the front of the field redeemed an otherwise anticlimactic first day in the high mountains, where top contenders to succeed Armstrong sat back and let Dessell, Mercado and other lower-placed riders get away ahead."

There was logic to their lethargy. Expending energy chasing after Dessell's group of 15 escapees would have made little sense, because none is likely to threaten for the Tour title.

Instead, the favorites focused on not losing time to each other and saved themselves for yet harder mountain stages to come.

American Floyd Landis, German Andreas Kjoeden, Australian Cadel Evans, previous race leader. Serbyh of Ukraine and 70 others finished together 7 minutes, 23 seconds behind Mercado and Dessell. Many other riders were further back.

Safety causing complacency in NASCAR?

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASCAR has made significant safety strides since the death of Dale Earnhardt, and many drivers credit recent innovations for an improved safety record: No deaths and few serious injuries in NASCAR's top three series in the last five years.

AUTO RACING But after watching his drivers get wrecked at high-speed tracks three times this season — including Jeff Gordon knocking Matt Kenseth out of the lead at Chicagoland Speedway on Sunday — Roush Racing president Geoff Smith says drivers have been lulled into a false sense of security and are more willing to make risky moves.

"There's an undeserved complacency that's creeping into the racing," Smith said. "To me, there's a time bomb that's ticking there. You've got to stop it."

After winning Sunday's race, Gordon didn't deny he made the aggressive move in part to pay back Kenseth for an incident earlier this season.

Smith suspects two other incidents this season were intentional and unsafe: Kurt Busch's crash with Roush driver Greg Biffle at Texas Motor Speedway, which led to a pit-road confrontation between Biffle's girlfriend and Busch's fiancée, and the Tony Stewart-Kenseth crash at Daytona.

Busch denied it was intentional. But after Daytona, Stewart said Busch deserved rough treatment because of an earlier race incident.

The reason people keep pushing the limits is because they're keeping getting a slap on the wrist. And 25 points or 50 points are starting to get more peoples' attention — and some of the



Matt Kenseth (17) and Tony Stewart collide in Turn 1 during the NASCAR Nextel All-Star Challenge in May. Roush Racing president Geoff Smith says drivers have a false sense of security.

lines," Gordon said yesterday. "But until they truly react in a big, big way, I think that guys are always going to continue to push the limits."

Paybacks and grudges always have been a part of NASCAR. But revenge typically has been unleashed at relatively low-speed short tracks, not bigger tracks where speeds can exceed 180 mph and consequences can be more severe.

"It's starting to get in their heads that it's not dangerous anymore," Smith said.

NASCAR certainly is less dangerous than before Earnhardt's death. Drivers wear full-face helmets and head and neck restraints. Cars sport redesigned cockpits with improved padding, seatbelts and seats. Tracks fea-

ture sprouted impact-absorbing wall barriers.

But racing never will be safe. "We're not done testing the limits of what physics can do or not do in this sport," Smith said.

"It's not bumper cars."

It sure looked that way Sunday. After winning the race, Gordon said he was trying to bump Kenseth out of the way, not wreck him.

"He should have expected, if I could get to his bumper, there was going to be some action," Gordon said Sunday. "One, because of what happened in Bristol — and I'm not saying I just was going to wreck him, but you better believe I was going to make life difficult on him. And then No. 2, just 'cause we're hungry right now."

NASCAR SCHEDULE

TODAY
2:50 p.m. — Whelen Modified Tour: New England 100 (qualifying)
4:15 p.m. — Busch Series East: New England 125 (qualifying)
TOMORROW
3:40 p.m. — Nextel Cup Series: LENOX Industrial Tools 300 (qualifying)
5:10 p.m. — Busch Series East: New England 125
SATURDAY
11:05 a.m. — Busch Series: New England 200 (qualifying)
1:10 p.m. — Whelen Modified Tour: New England 100
3 p.m. — Busch Series: New England 200
SUNDAY
2:10 p.m. — Nextel Cup Series: LENOX Industrial Tools 300

Hall of Fame Classic
Doubles exhibit featuring
2006 inductee Pat Rafter
and legend Stan Smith
Sunday - 10:30am
tennisfame.com
(401) 849-6053
International Tennis Hall of Fame - Newport RI

NEWS WIRE

■ CELTS' PIERCE OKS EXTENSION



The Boston Celtics have reportedly agreed to terms with forward **Paul Pierce** on a three-year contract extension worth almost \$60 million. Terms of the extension, which is subject to league approval, weren't released, but the Boston Herald reported on its Web site that the deal will be for three years and almost \$60 million. Also yesterday, the Celtics said Pierce is scheduled to have minor surgery on his left elbow next month.

■ KESSEL GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?

First-round draft pick **Phil Kessel** will not sign with the Boston Bruins this summer, according to yesterday's Minneapolis Star Tribune. Kessel, the fifth pick in last month's NHL draft, told University of Minnesota assistant coach **Mike Guentzel** that he will return for his sophomore year, according to the Tribune's **Sid Hartman**. The Bruins apparently believe that Kessel will benefit from another year of college hockey, Hartman said. "I don't think any freshman hockey player we have had in recent years had the pressure that Kessel had this past season. He is an outstanding hockey player," Guentzel said. The 18-year-old Kessel had 18 goals and 33 assists for 51 points in 39 games last season.

■ STEVENSON SIGNS WITH PATS

The New England Patriots signed sixth-round draft choice **Dan Stevenson** yesterday. The 6-foot-5, 300-pound offensive guard was Notre Dame's top offensive lineman last season.

■ NEW CAST FOR NFL PRIMETIME

NFL PrimeTime without **Chris Berman** and **Tom Jackson**? ESPN confirmed this week that after an 18-year run on Sunday evenings, NFL PrimeTime will move to 6 p.m. Mondays and feature a new cast (**Stuart Scott**, **Ron Jaworski** and **Mike Ditka**). NBC's new contract for Sunday games prohibits ESPN from carrying PrimeTime anytime on Sunday nights. But ESPN has found a clever way around that rule: having Berman and Jackson narrate highlights on the 90-minute SportsCenter at 11 p.m. Berman and Jackson then will join **Michael Irvin**, **Steve Young** and **Chris Mortenson** on ESPN's Monday Night Football 90-minute pregame show at 7 p.m.

■ AFTER A REST, WILLIAMS RETURNS

It turns out **Serena Williams** was rehabilitating more than her left knee while away from tennis. Her mind needed healing, too. "I honestly just needed a mental break. I was going through a lot of stuff in my life, besides surgery and including surgery," Williams said yesterday without going into specifics. "It was a lot — a lot that not everyone will understand or ever know." She'll play her first match in six months when she returns to action at a hard-court tournament in Cincinnati next week. Her aim is to compete at the U.S. Open, which starts Aug. 28.

■ A.L. BASEBALL

Oakland 5, Boston 4
Texas 15, Baltimore 1
Detroit 6, Kansas City 4
Cleveland 6, Minnesota 4

■ N.L. BASEBALL

Houston 5, Florida 1
Cincinnati 9, Colorado 7
St. Louis 3, L.A. Dodgers 2

■ I.L. BASEBALL

PawSox 3, Charlotte 0

Red Sox turn this one into a complete waste

ATHLETICS
5
RED SOX
4
NEXT GAME
Tonight
A's at Red Sox
7:05 p.m.

By stranding baserunners galore, Boston is forced to go extra innings, and then Oakland takes charge

BY ART MARTONE
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

BOSTON — And now some numbers from last night's Red Sox A's game at Fenway Park: Number of Red Sox baserunners

20 Number of Red Sox home runs
1 Number of times the Red Sox were retired in order by Oakland pitching
1 All those numbers were far more impressive than the one line that actually meant something: Number of Red Sox runs: 4
We just didn't help ourselves very much tonight, sighed manager Terry Francona. That they didn't. Beyond the wasteful offense, there was a very ill-

timed error by second baseman Mark Loretta and several mental lapses, including a ninth-inning pickoff of pinch runner Willie Harris. It all contributed to a 5-4, 11-inning loss to the A's as the second half of the season got under way. Oakland snapped a 1-3 tie with two runs in the top of the 11th off Julian Tavarez, the sixth Sox pitcher of the night on two-out, run-scoring hits from Bobby Kielty and Frank

Thomas. The Sox came back with a run after two were out in the bottom of the inning, but Mike Lowell grounded back to pitcher Kirk Saubers with a runner on base to end the game, and also snap Boston's nine-game home winning streak. Of course, one team's wastefulness is another team's clutch pitching, and for a good long time last night it appeared the Sox were going

RED SOX, D9

2006 PROVIDENCE JOURNAL HONOR ROLL

With desire comes success

Portsmouth's Sewall doesn't settle for 2nd, even in school

By JOHN GILLOOLY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Usually it's difficult describing a teenager in a few words, especially a teenager as talented as Portsmouth High's Bobby Sewall.

But Portsmouth football coach Tim Coen has no problem fashioning a concise verbal portrait of Sewall.

There are not too many like him," said Coen. "He's special."

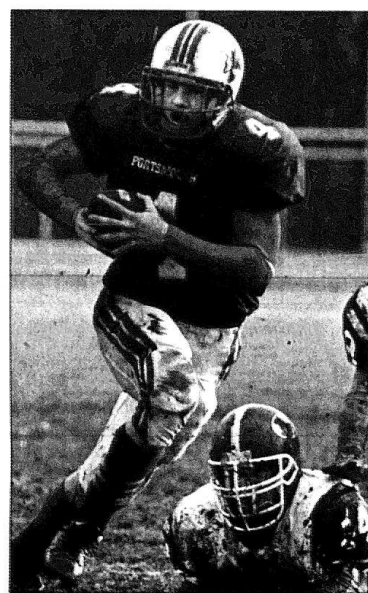
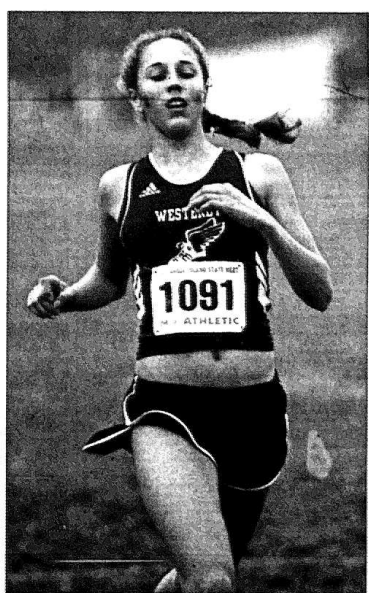
Indeed, there certainly were not many student athletes like Sewall around Rhode Island the past few years. He was one of the top all-around athletes

in the state. The starting quarterback for the Portsmouth football team since his sophomore year, he also was a sensational defensive player, earning first-team Providence Journal All-State honors as a defensive back in both his junior and senior seasons. The irony is that neither quarterback nor defensive back is his best position. He's a great receiver, but with his athletic talent we couldn't afford not to have the ball in his hands at all times," said Coen. Last winter Sewall also played a major role in the Portsmouth boys basketball team's drive to the Division III state championship game.

SEE SEWALL, D5

Westerly's Samantha Gawrych isn't just a winner on the track, she also conquered a difficult academic program.

JOURNAL FILES / MARY MURPHY



Portsmouth's Bobby Sewall was one of the top all-around athletes in Rhode Island, but also found success in the classroom.
JOURNAL FILES / MARY MURPHY

Unbeatable on track, Gawrych kept same pace in classroom

By JOHN GILLOOLY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The track resume was common knowledge to any regular sports-page reader. Over the past few years, it seemed you couldn't go more than a week without reading how Westerly's Samantha Gawrych had set another high school track record or received some type of state or national recognition. There were 15 individual state championships in indoor and outdoor track — which is believed to be more than any other Rhode Island high school track performer has even won. There also were two individual state cross-country titles, a national indoor indi-

vidual track championship and four consecutive selections as the Rhode Island Gatorade Female High School Track Athlete of the Year. And that doesn't even mention the dozen or so All-American awards or her two-time selection as the R.I. Words Unlimited Female High School Athlete of the Year. What the headlines never told, however, was that to the people who knew her best, it was an intellectual curiosity combined with a sense of humor that made her special beyond her

GIRLS WINNER

SEE GAWRYCH, D5

One for the ages leads charge in Newport tennis

By MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT — Day Four of Newport Tennis Week 2006, wet and wild, was one for the ages.

Middle ages for Wayne Arthurs and Justin Gimelstob and teen ages for Andy Murray and Sam Querrey.

So Arthurs is 35 and Gimelstob 29, just scratching middle age in the real world. On the pro tennis tour, Arthurs is old enough to receive AARP newsletters, and Gimelstob, only six months from turning 30, is getting close.

Murray, 19, and Querrey, 18, are legitimate teens and the game's future. Arthurs and Gimelstob led off another

SEE HALL, D3

Collegians Marino, Valois win spots in final

By PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

BARRINGTON — Rhode Island's new amateur golf champion will be a college star who hits the ball massive distances. He is a guy who began winning championships as a teenager and was identified then as a special talent. He was pegged as someone with a chance to be the next great player from Rhode Island.

The only question is whether his name is David Marino or Brad Valois.

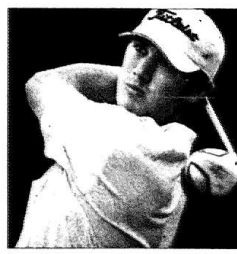
The two collegians made the biggest statement yet about their talent yesterday when both won twice in the 101st R.I. Golf Association Amateur at Rhode Island Country Club. That gave them spots in today's 36-hole tie match.

"If anyone's going to see two players who could be players to watch in the future, (today's) the day to do it," said Valois. "It's going to be an all-out match."

Marino beat Bobby Fournier, 6 and 5, in the semifinals, while Valois topped Eugene DiSarro, 3 and 2.

The two — Valois is a three-time RIGA Junior champion and Marino a former Interscholastic League champ — have become friends through golf.

SEE AMATEUR, D4



Brad Valois watches a tee shot during his match against Eugene DiSarro in yesterday afternoon's semifinals of the RIGA Amateur.
JOURNAL PHOTO / BOB BREIDENBACH

Ailing Barbaro in a life-and-death battle

The Kentucky Derby winner is suffering from an often fatal hoof disease.

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (AP) — He still looks every bit the champion. Only the fiberglass casts on not one but both of Barbaro's hind legs are indicators of something terribly wrong.

"His ears are up, he's bright, he's looking around," Dr. Dean Richardson said Thursday. "If you look at this horse, it'd be hard to put him down."

That precisely is the heart-breaking task that could be imminent because of a hoof disease so serious Richardson said the Kentucky Derby winner is "a long shot" to survive.

"It could happen within 24 hours," Richardson said during a news conference at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center.

Richardson said Barbaro has a severe case of laminitis in his left hind leg — a painful, often fatal disease caused by uneven weight distribution in the limbs.

"If he starts acting like he doesn't want to stand on the leg, that's it. That will be when we call it quits," he said.

Richardson, who has treated Barbaro since the colt suffered catastrophic injuries in the Preakness on May 20, said 80 percent of the horse's left hoof wall was removed Wednesday with the sudden onset of the disease.

Though he looks just fine, that doesn't reflect the true nature of his condition, termed "poor" by Richardson.

"I'd be lying if I said anything other than poor," he said. "As long as the horse is not suffering, we are going to continue to try to save him. If we can keep him comfortable, we think it's worth the effort."

Barbaro is being treated aggressively with pain medication and remains in the same stall he's been in since being brought to the intensive care unit at the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals.

Until his misstep at the Preakness, Barbaro's career was nothing short of brilliant.

He won his first five starts, including the Florida Derby. His 11-2-length victory at the Derby was so convincing he was being hailed as the next likely Triple Crown champion — and first since Affirmed since 1978.

But seconds after the gates swung open at Pimlico, that career was cut short when the colt broke down, his right hind leg flaring out awkwardly because of three broken bones.

Race fans at Pimlico wept and within 24 hours the entire nation seemed to be caught up in a "Barbaro watch," waiting for any news of his surgery and condition.

And for the longest time, it all



seemed to be going well.

Barbaro's first six weeks of recovery were relatively smooth — despite five hours of surgery to insert a titanium plate and 27 screws into his three shattered bones.

Each day brought more optimism: Barbaro was eyeing the mares, nickered, gobbling up his feed and trying to walk out of his stall. There was great hope Barbaro somehow would overcome the odds and live a life of leisure on the farm, although he'd always have a hitch in his gait.

Richardson, along with owners Gretchen and Roy Jackson and trainer Michael Matz, all believed the colt had a chance to recover.

Until last week, when Barbaro's condition steadily worsened.

The colt underwent three surgical procedures and four cast changes on the injured leg, followed by a hoof wall resection to remove 80 percent of his left rear hoof.

"I really thought we were going to make it two weeks ago,"

Richardson said. "Today I'm not as confident."

Within hours of the grim update, roses and apples began arriving at the hospital, and hundreds of get-well e-mail messages were posted on a Web site set up by the New Bolton Center.

The vet didn't mince words: "It's as bad as laminitis as you can have. It's as bad as it gets."

He said he has discussed the situation closely with the Jacksons, who have stressed that their main concern is for Barbaro to be pain free.

On and off the field, they're the tops

BY JOHN GILLOOLY
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

They live in a world where sports has become a 24-hour-a-day fascination.

So it would have been easy for Bobby Sewall, Samantha Gawrych and the other 99 nominees for The Providence Journal Honor Roll Boy and Girl awards. Being named Honor Roll Boy or Girl means you are the top Rhode Island male/female student-athlete in your graduating class.

All of the 101 nominees for the two awards are accomplished athletes as well as outstanding students. They are teenagers who understand the value of both sports scores and classroom stats.

In addition to Sewall and Gawrych they are teenagers like Katherine Murphy. Murphy was a two-time girls golf state champion.

Each year the principals of every Rhode Island high school are asked to submit nominees from their graduating class for the Honor Roll Boy and Girl awards. Being named Honor Roll Boy or Girl means you are the top Rhode Island male/female student-athlete in your graduating class.

All of the 101 nominees for the two awards are accomplished athletes as well as outstanding students. They are teenagers who understand the value of both sports scores and classroom stats.

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KATHERINE MURPHY
Excelled in sports and in class

Fans still show support

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (AP) — The roses on the lobby table were addressed to "Mr. Barbaro Jackson" and the card said best wishes to a champion horse.

One girl and her family drove more than an hour to deliver a homemade get-well note and to let Barbaro know they were praying for him. Another sign put on a fence encouraged the Kentucky Derby winner to "Keep up the Fight!"

While the public outpouring of support was significantly muted yesterday compared to the first days after Barbaro was admitted to the New Bolton Center, fans were still rooting for the ailing colt to recover from his catastrophic injuries and a potentially fatal disease.

"It's pretty sad," said 9-year-old Samantha Layton. "Barbaro is a great racer. He's the only horse I really loved."

At Churchill Downs yesterday, jockey Rafael Bejarano said he still hopes Barbaro recovers.

"It's a very good horse, so we hope for the best," he said. "But I hope they make the decision that's best for the horse."

Owners Roy and Gretchen Jackson, who live less than 10 miles down the road from New Bolton in nearby West Grove, Pa., said this week the well wishes have slowed, but they remained touched by all the support and encouragement they've received from Barbaro's fans.

"It's overwhelming," Gretchen Jackson said in late May. "I don't know how Rev and I could participate in responding to their loving kindness throughout his career."

Instead of sending flowers and peppermints, some faithful fans expressed their well wishes on New Bolton Center's on-line message board. "Barbaro, nobody is giving up! Don't you! Miracles do happen! I keep asking St. Anthony, St. Jude, and St. Francis to get that Miracle to you!" said one note posted yesterday.

Secretariat had it, too

NEW YORK (AP) — The painful hoof disease affecting Barbaro is no stranger to horse racing fans. Secretariat, the 1973 Triple Crown winner, was euthanized because of it in 1989.

The disease, called laminitis or founder, involves inflammation and structural damage to tissue that bonds the horse's bone to the inner wall of the hoof. In severe cases, this connection can be so damaged that a horse literally can walk out of its foot, said Rob Sigafos, a horse expert at the University of Pennsylvania.

Laminitis has multiple causes, and scientists still are debating exactly what prompts the disease, he said. In Barbaro's case, it's blamed on the uneven weight distribution between the rear legs after the injury to the right hind leg in the Preakness.

"There's no book you go to that says here's laminitis 101 ... put tab A in slot

B. It's not that simple," said Dean Richardson, the chief surgeon who has been treating Barbaro since the colt suffered catastrophic injuries. "It's a devastating problem in horses that nobody has a solution to."

The disease also is seen in horses with systemic infections and mares that retain the placenta. Diet also has been implicated. When the condition strikes their front feet, horses can be seen trying to shift their weight to their back feet.

Laminitis is treatable with drugs and special horse shoes, especially in mild cases. A 2000 report by the federal government, "Lameness and Laminitis in U.S. Horses," found laminitis was reported in about 2 percent of horses during a year-long period. That included new and existing cases. The 28-state survey covered U.S. horse operations with at least three animals.

Amateur

Continued from Page D1

"We've played practice rounds together quite a bit. I go to Valley or he comes up to Kirkbrae," Marino said. "We're friends."

They have gone head-to-head in competition three times. Valois won both the RIGA Juniors and State Am at Valley.

They have gone head-to-head in competition three times. Valois won both the RIGA Juniors and State Am at Valley. Marino won the Interscholastic League championship in a playoff with Valois four years ago after the two had tied for the title. On the first playoff hole at Cranston, a par-5, Marino got home in two and sank an eight-foot putt for eagle.

Their reputations, though, go far beyond that. Both played regularly and excelled in the Rhode Island-based Challenge Cup program. Among the spectators yesterday were David Adamonis Sr. and Dave Adamonis Jr., the two men who have run that program for the last two decades. As they proudly pointed out, 8 of the 16 players to reach the second round in the Mass Am this week, and 6 of the 8 quarterfinalists in the Rhode Island Am, are Challenge Cup grads.

Even among so much talent, Valois and

Marino stood out early because of their power and athleticism. Marino just finished a good sophomore year at the University of Mississippi. Valois had an even better freshman year for Johnson & Wales' Miami-based team, where he was the third-rated freshman in the country.

Both have displayed their considerable talent this week. Not even an hour rain delay between rounds yesterday could stop them.

Marino had topped another college star, URI's Jason Pannone, the tourney medalist, 2 and 1, in the morning quarterfinals. He then overpowered Fournier in the afternoon. Marino has been under par in every round he has played at RICC.

"To tell you the truth, I wasn't playing that great coming into this," Marino said. "But I started practicing more, getting more into it and figuring some things out. Everything kind of worked itself out. You gain confidence from that."

Fournier, 23, who spent this year helping coach the Johnson & Wales team organized by Dave Adamonis Sr., the team on which Valois plays, won a terrific quarterfinal match in the morning, eliminating the last former champion, Charlie

Blanchard, 1 up.

"I've been so relaxed all week," Fournier said. "I spent last weekend at my grandfather's (Raymond Fournier) funeral and it made me put everything in perspective. I've never felt this way at a golf tournament before. My attitude has been so good."

In the semis, though, Fournier hit his first shot out of bounds and Marino never gave him a chance. Marino won the first par and then the second with a birdie and led all the way.

Marino ended any hope Fournier had when he drove the par-4 12th, which was playing at 300 yards, and birdied. That meant Fournier's birdie only gave him a halve.

In the other semifinal, the outgoing DiSarro, the reigning Stroke Play champion, made for a different mood. While Marino and Fournier quietly went about their work, DiSarro chatted with Valois and talked with fans as he chain-smoked his way around the course.

Valois, who had birdied four of the first six holes in beating Drew Harker, 3 and 2, in the morning, did not mind talking with DiSarro. It was easy for him because he was playing so well. He took the lead with

a birdie on the par-4 second and moved to 2-up when he drove the par-4 sixth and two-putted for birdie. He played his best golf of the week.

"I hit the ball a lot better and I definitely putted a lot better," he said. "But I've still got some things I've got to work on."

The 14th hole typified Valois' control and DiSarro's frustration. Valois got in trouble and had a 25-foot downhill putt for par. DiSarro on his way to a routine par. He thought that would win the hole, but Valois rolled in his difficult, curling putt for a halve. DiSarro stared in disbelief as the ball disappeared, then dropped his putter to the ground.

"What the heck is going on?" he said, drawing a smile from Valois as Valois went to retrieve his ball from the cup.

DiSarro kept the match alive with a birdie on 15, but the match was closed out when both parred 16.

QUARTERFINALS
David Marino, Kirkbrae, def. Jason Pannone, Pittsford, 2 and 1; Bobby Fournier, Quabbin, def. Charlie Blanchard, Wampanoag, 1 up; Eugene DiSarro, Metcalf, def. Danny Mullicone, Quabbin, 1 up; Brad Valois, Valley, def. Drew Harker, RICC, 3 and 2.

SEMIFINALS
Marino def. Fournier, 6 and 5; Valois def. DiSarro, 3 and 2.
FINAL
Marino def. Valois, 7 and 5 a.m.; Second round about 12:15 p.m.

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Wie finds plenty of trouble en route to a 77 in PGA Tour

ASSOCIATED PRESS

After yet another errant shot, Michelle Wie groaned and tugged her baseball bat down over her eyes.

Nice try. There was no escaping the ugliness on her scorecard, though.

GOLF
Trying for a fifth time to become the first woman since 1945 to make a cut in a PGA Tour event, the 16-year-old instead found trouble virtually everywhere she turned yesterday in the first round of the John Deere Classic at Silvis, Ill. In the sand. In the water. In the weeds. And in the woods — several times.

"It was very uncharacteristic," she said. "Considering that I had the water hazard penalties, considering that I had to call unplayable, considering that I hit my driver like 50 yards right, I felt like I played really well."

"... I have a lot of confidence going into tomorrow."

She'll need it.

With a 6-over-par 77, Wie was 13 strokes off the lead and appears headed for another early trip home. The low 70 and ties will make the cut after the second round today, and 70 players were at 2 under or better, with three still on the course when play was suspended because of darkness. Wie was tied for 14th in the 153-player field, with only Bob May and Mike Springer behind her.

"I didn't make the cut shooting 1 under on the first (day), so maybe shooting 6 over might do it," said Wie, who missed the cut at last year's Deere Classic despite shooting 1 under the first day.

J.P. Hayes, John Senden, Daniel Chopra and local favorite Zach Johnson were tied for lead at Turner 64. Joe Ogilvie and Kris Cox were one stroke back at 65. Six players, including one of Wie's playing partners, Duilio Marimón, were at 66.

Jeff Gove, the third player in Wie's group, was at 3-over 74. Defending champion Sean O'Hair was five shots off the lead after a 69.

This is Wie's fifth visit to the PGA Tour, where she is trying to become the first woman since Babe Zaharias in 1945 to make the cut.

Jamie Farr Classic

Liselotte Neumann didn't mind being far from the center of attention yesterday in the Jamie Farr

Owens Corning Classic at Sylva, N.C. Surrounded by groups that included Hall of Famers and fan favorites Annika Sorenstam and Nancy Lopez, Neumann shot a 6-under 65 to take the first-round lead.

Sung Ah Yim, Reilley Rankin and Michelle Estill opened with 66s and 18 players were within three shots of the lead, including four-time tournament winner Se Ri Pak.

"This golf course is always great for me," Pak said after her 68.

Neumann birdied three of four holes after making the turn and stayed consistent all day and stayed away from any bogeys. "I putted very, very good today and drilled the ball," said Neumann, the 40-year-old Swede who won the last of her 13 LPGA Tour titles in 2004. "There were plenty of people there to cheer me on."

THE LOCALS

| FORD SENIOR PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| | | Yesterday lead | Off |
| +/+ | | | |
| -3 | Dana Quigley | 35-34 | -69 4 |
| SCHOLARSHIP AMERICA SHOWDOWN | | | |
| -6 | Ernie Adamonis | 35-35 | -70 -6 |
| -4 | Scott Martin | 39-37 | -76 12 |

pion, a two-time first-team All-State soccer player, the yearbook editor and a student council representative who academically ranked sixth in this year's graduating class at Portsmouth High.

Alexandra Fogarty was the state gymnastic champion and the valedictorian of this year's La Salle Academy graduating class. Meghan McCooey was the girls tennis state champion and one of the top academically ranked students at Mount St. Charles.

Cranston East's Rob Angell was one of the hardest hitting football linebackers in the state for the past two years, but he also knew how to hit the books.

On the basketball court, Candace Williams was one of the best female players in the state and in the classroom she was the best student in this year's graduating class at St. Raphael Academy.

You can't help but feel good about the future when you read the nomination forms and see that most of the nominees have already discovered that people with talent shouldn't limit their energies to achieving personal glory.

Sarah Votolato was the valedictorian of this year's graduating class at Pilgrim High and a field hockey star.

But ask Votolato what she considered one of the most important accomplishments of her high school career and it's a safe bet she would talk about being the driving force in the formation of "Pilgrim Pals," an after-school organization dedicated to providing developmentally challenged students at Pilgrim an opportunity to interact on a regular basis with mainstream students.

Chris Carney was the valedictorian at North Smithfield High this year and a three-sport athlete, but he also became involved in a fundraising effort to help a North Smithfield alumnus who is working in Togo, Africa.

There's never enough room in the paper to tell the stories of all of the nominees, but all their photos are on pages D6 and D7.

Take a look. It's the future and it looks good.

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SECTION B
The Providence Journal

SPORTS

SATURDAY
JULY 15, 2006
JCF

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Hall of Fame Classic

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Sunday - 10:30am

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International Tennis Hall of Fame - Newport RI

NEWS WIRE

■ STEELERS QB SEES LIFE DIFFERENTLY

Ben Roethlisberger has a new outlook on life. He talks to his family more. He appreciates those around him more. He even hugs more. Nearly dying in a motorcycle accident last month certainly has changed everything for the Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback.

"I think the accident was kind of God's way of saying,

'Ben, maybe you need to step back a little bit,'" said Roethlisberger yesterday before teeing off at a celebrity golf tournament at Lake Tahoe. "Maybe I was taking things for granted a little bit too much. It's almost like you get a feeling of invincibility."

■ BLACKMON SIGNS WITH PACKERS

The Green Bay Packers signed cornerback **Will Blackmon** yesterday. Blackmon, a 6-foot, 198-pound player from Boston College, was the 115th overall selection in the fourth round of the NFL Draft. A former All-Stater at Bishop Hendricken, Blackmon earned all-conference honors in two separate leagues at two different positions, as a wide receiver in the Atlantic Coast Conference and as a cornerback in the Big East.

■ BIG RAISE FOR BARNES

University of Texas men's basketball coach **Rick Barnes** was given a half-million dollar raise yesterday, to \$1.8 million in guaranteed annual compensation, plus new sweeteners that kick in if his players do well on the court or in the classroom. The raise had been expected after the team reached the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament in March. The former coach at Providence College, Barnes now is the sixth-highest-paid basketball coach in the nation, said a Texas official.

■ CRAYBAS IN FED CUP

Jill Craybas will lead the U.S. team against **Kim Clijsters** and **Belgium** in this weekend's Fed Cup semifinals in Ostend. The U.S. squad is without **Venus** and **Serena Williams** and **Lindsay Davenport**, while French Open champion **Justine Henin-Hardenne** was a late withdrawal from the Belgian team. Rhode Island's Craybas, ranked 70th in the world, opens against No. 122 **Kristen Flipkens** today.

■ WARWICK BOY TO NATIONALS

Michael Maloolf, 13, of Warwick, took first place in the discus (130 feet, 5 inches) and javelin (131 feet, 2 inches) and third place in the shot put (38 feet, 2 inches) at the Region 1 USA Track and Field Junior Olympic competition last weekend in Kingston, N.Y. His top-three finishes in each event qualified him for the National Junior Olympics, to be held July 26-30 at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md. Maloolf is the only Region 1 competitor to advance to the nationals in all three throwing events.

■ A.L. BASEBALL

Oakland 15, Boston 3
Detroit 10, Kansas City 9
Texas 2, Baltimore 1
N.Y. Yankees 6, White Sox 5
Seattle 5, Toronto 3
Minnesota 3, Cleveland 2
Tampa Bay at L.A. Angels

■ N.L. BASEBALL

N.Y. Mets 6, Chicago Cubs 3
Pittsburgh 7, Washington 4
Cincinnati 3, Colorado 1
Florida 3, Houston 1
St. Louis 5, L.A. Dodgers 0
Arizona 4, Milwaukee 3
Atlanta at San Diego
Philadelphia at San Francisco

■ I.L. BASEBALL

Charlotte 10, PawSox 6

■ MLS

Real Salt Lake 3, N. England 1

Thumping by A's gives Sox a sinking feeling

ATHLETICS
15
RED SOX
3

NEXT GAME
Tonight
At Red Sox
7:05 p.m.

Poor performances on the mound and at the plate make it a lost night for Boston, whose lead over the Yanks is cut to 1½ games.

BY CAROLYN THORNTON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Josh Beckett's performance last night frankly even left the right-hander baffled. All signs indicated that he was ready to have a good outing. The

result, however, told a very different story.

Failing to go at least six innings for the first time in his last six starts, Beckett allowed seven runs on eight hits and four walks in 4½ innings, taking the loss in the Red Sox' 15-3 thumping at the hands of the Oakland A's last night at Fenway.

"It's executing pitches," Beckett said following his team's third-straight setback, which coupled with the New York Yankees' 6-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox, cuts

Boston's lead in the American League East to 1½ games.

"It sounds like a broken record because I feel good. When you feel that good physically, that's what really gets under your skin. When you feel good, it's supposed to be an easy day. It's a battle sometimes. It was one of the most confusing days for me. I felt good right out of the chute, but it was a struggle for me to glow the game down. No excuses. It was brutal, just brutal."

The fact that Beckett needed 10

itches to strike out third baseman Antonio Perez — Oakland's last batter with a .097 average — pretty much summed up Beckett's start, which sent the A's on their way to setting a season high for runs scored and matching their season high for hits (16).

Mark Ellis and Milton Bradley led the way for Oakland, as Ellis tied a career high with five RBI after going 3-for-5 with two runs scored. Bradley went 4-for-5 with three RBI and three

SEE RED SOX, B7

RIGA AMATEUR

Perseverance pays off big for Valois



David Marino can't believe his putt did not drop on the eighth hole during the RIGA championship final.

The former Toll Gate star takes the lead on the 28th hole and then holds off David Marino for the state crown.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BARRINGTON — It took Brad Valois 28 holes to get the upper hand on David Marino yesterday. Once he did, Valois never gave up control.

The much-heralded Toll Gate graduate, who plays out of Valley, used his tenacity as well as his considerable talent to edge Marino, 2 and 1, in the title match of the 101st R.I. Golf Association Amateur Championship at Rhode Island Country Club.

Seven times Marino took the lead in the scheduled 36-hole title match. Every time Valois battled back to pull even.

After Valois finally took his first lead of the day on the 28th, he played smartly, in addition to playing well.

"I knew it was going to come down to the back nine today," said Valois, who knows Marino well. The two are good friends. They have played together many times.

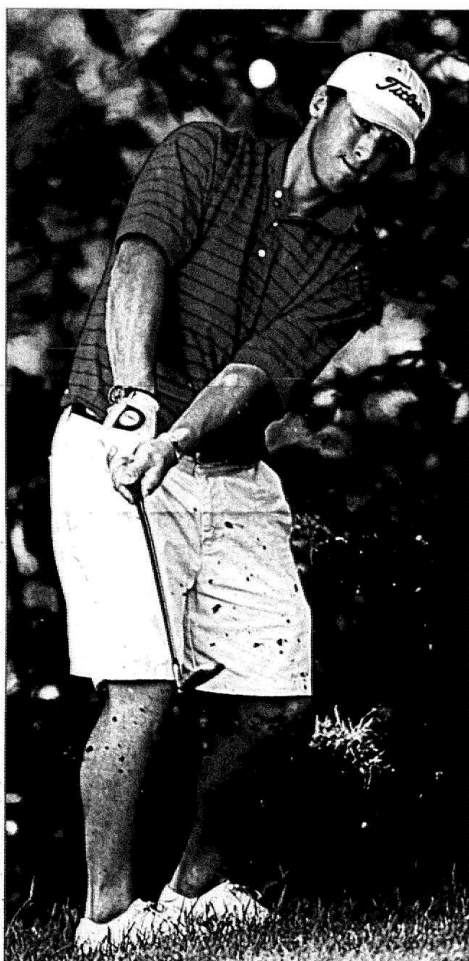
The whole point of a 36-hole match is to pace yourself," Valois said.

Both players paced themselves well. In the morning 18, they combined for 10 birdies (five apiece) as Marino shot 68, and Valois 69. Marino was 1 up at the lunch break.

"I thought I had the upper hand at that point, but obviously he found something," Marino said. "He started hitting fairways and greens and making a few birdies. He's a great player. You can't take anything for granted."

Marino took a 2-up lead when

SEE RIGA, B4



Brad Valois chips out of the rough during his match against David Marino yesterday for the RIGA Amateur championship.

Gimelstob nets semifinal berth against top seed

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEWPORT — Is 10 the lucky number for Justin Gimelstob? The veteran from New Jersey will find out today when he plays top-seeded Andy Murray in the semifinals of the Campbell's Hall of Fame Tennis Championships.

Making his 10th appearance here since 1996, Gimelstob reached the semifinals for the first time by defeating Kristian Pless of Denmark, 6-3, 6-1, in only 53 minutes on a sunny, breezy day before a crowd of 2,444 at the Newport Casino.

"Semifinals are a good thing," the eighth seed said with a smile.

Finals are even better, although Gimelstob wouldn't know. The 29-year-

SEE HALL, B2



AP PHOTO/SANDY MACYS

Drawing a speedy conclusion

Ryan Newman gets a charge out of posting the fastest time during yesterday's qualifying for tomorrow's NASCAR Nextel Cup Lenox Industrial Tools 300 race at New Hampshire International Speedway. See Page B5.

Right now, Red Sox are class of A.L. East

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH:

■ This is the Red Sox' division to lose. They began the second half of the season three games up on the Yankees, a team whose lineup has been hurt by injuries and whose pitching is suspect.

They began the second half five up on the Blue Jays. They have the best remaining schedule, more home games than the Yankees. They have young pitchers who have made this a better team than it was two months ago.

That doesn't mean it's a sure thing. It simply means that in a division where the runner-up would not be in the playoffs if the season ended today, the Sox right now are the best team in the division. The A.L. East is theirs to lose.

■ One question to the Yankees? Sidney Ponson? What's the matter, you couldn't make a trade for Boomer Wells?



BILL REYNOLDS

SEE REYNOLDS, B4



Brandon Bishop, 15, carries the sign with the latest score yesterday as he follows the players from hole to hole in the RIGA Amateur championship.

RIGA

Continued from Page B1

Valois bogeyed the first hole in the afternoon, his second bogey of the day on that hole and the second time he was 2 down.

The 19-year-old Valois, who is coming off an outstanding freshman season for Johnson & Wales-Miami (he was the third-ranked freshman in college golf), did not panic. The three-time RIGA junior champion, who plays left-handed but puts right-handed, used back-to-back birdies on the fourth and fifth (22nd and 23rd) to pull even.

For the seventh and final time, Marino regained the lead with a par on the 25th. The pivotal turn came on the 27th and 28th holes. Marino drove in the tees on the 27th and made bogey and took three from the fringe on the 28th and bogeyed again. Valois had pars on each to take his first lead.

Once he had the advantage, Valois played steady golf, running off six pars and a birdie.

"He played conservative. He was hitting the middle of the greens and two putting," Marino

said. "With the lead, Valois knew the pressure was on his opponent, who plays out of Kirkbrake and recently finished his sophomore year at the University of Mississippi."

Valois went 2 up when he drained an eight-foot downhill putt for birdie on the 30th hole, the 15th and last birdie of the match. Marino had several chances for birdies, but could not cash in.

"Usually, I'm the one hitting it close and missing everything," Valois said. "It's nice to see something like this (his opponent missing birdie chances) happen."

Marino had reason to be proud of what he accomplished.

"I played solid. I'm happy with my play," he said. "I just didn't make the putts when I needed to. This is probably some of the best golf I've ever played. I made no double bogeys through the entire match play, which is huge for me. I just played really consistent golf."

Valois won three tournaments for Johnson & Wales this year and coach Dave Adamonis, who was at RICC yesterday to watch his player win the Amateur. This one is special, Valois said.

"It's a different feeling because

it's a local tournament. It involves my peers, people I know, people I grew up playing with," he said. "It's a lot different than playing in a college tournament. In a college tournament, you just go out and play four rounds and the lowest score wins. Out here, it's more meaningful, more people know about it."

The fact that he has been identified as a potential star, and that he was able to win the state's biggest event, is icing on the cake. "I can't really describe it right now. It's a really set in my head, it's definitely a big stepping stone, something I've wanted to accomplish for a while."

He said he has never felt any pressure to live up to the high expectations placed on him.

"If you think about it that way, usually things aren't going to work out for you," he said. "You've got to take it out there and say, 'If I play well today, I have a chance to win regardless of what people say. If you play well, you don't have to worry about anything.'"

He shouldn't have anything to worry about now. He is the state champion.

kenyon@projo.com / (401) 277-7340

An ill Wie forced to withdraw from Deere, goes to hospital

Missing yet another PGA Tour cut was the least of Michelle Wie's worries.

The 16-year-old phenom was treated for heat exhaustion at a local hospital after withdrawing from the John Deere Classic with nine holes left yesterday. She struggled to keep herself from getting sick on a hot, steamy afternoon, and left the course in an ambulance with an IV in one arm.

GOLF "She suffered

a number of different symptoms, including stomach pains, nausea, dizziness and breathing problems which worsened as the round continued," Wie's agent, Ross Berlin, said in a statement.

"She was treated at the emergency room of the Genesis Medical Center and will soon be released. Michelle was diagnosed with heat exhaustion and is now resting and in very good spirits."

Wie walked off the ninth hole on her own, but after talking with her parents said she couldn't play anymore.

Her mother, Bo, accompanied the teenager in the ambulance and her father, B.J., followed behind in an SUV.

"She's fine. She's getting better," B.J. Wie said when he came out of the course medical trailer.

This was Wie's fifth attempt at becoming the first woman since Babe Zaharias in 1945 to make a PGA Tour cut. But her chances at history were all but over after she opened with a 6-over-par 77 Thursday, leaving her 13 strokes behind the leaders, and eight strokes over the projected cut line.

She was at 2-over-37 when she withdrew yesterday. Joe Ogilvie (67) was the early second-round leader at 10-under 132. Patrick Sheehan, of Warwick, shot a 68 for a 134 total and is two shots behind Ogilvie.

After teeing off on the ninth, she took a seat on her bag, holding her sides and bowing her head. At one point she sat up straight but put her hand to her mouth, as if she was going to get sick.

When she stood up, she put her hand to her mouth again and headed toward some weeds next to the tee. She stood there for a



Golfer Michelle Wie is taken into an ambulance, en route to the hospital yesterday after withdrawing from the John Deere Classic in Silvis, Ill.

minute or two, but didn't get sick. Dr. Benjamin Shurman checked on her, walking with her to her ball and asking how she was feeling.

"With the heat and when you don't feel well, she was appropriate for which she was going through," Shurman said.

Scottish Open

Darren Clarke had seven birdies and shot a 6-under 63 yesterday, opening a three-stroke lead in the first round of the Scottish Open.

The Northern Irishman completed the second round at 11-under 131, ahead of Damien McGrane (66), Charl Schwartzel (66) and first-round leader Johan Edfors (69).

Thomas Bjorn, the inaugural Scottish Open winner in 1996, had a 64. He made putts of 20 and 18 feet on the final two holes to trail

by five strokes, along with defending champion Tim Clark (67). Colin Montgomerie (66) and Sergio Garcia (67) were seven strokes back.

Ernie Els, in danger of missing the cut through the first nine, had an eagle and two birdies over the last seven holes to finish with a 69 for a 3-under 139. Els hasn't missed a cut in Europe since 1999, a streak of 76 events.

Senior Players Championship

The TPC of Michigan was ripe for the picking, and Joe Ozaki was more than happy to oblige.

The Champions Tour rookie from Japan made a record-tying eighth birdie in a row and was atop the leaderboard at 9 under when rain stopped play during the second round of the Senior Players Championship in Dearborn yesterday.

Ozaki started the string of birdies by chipping in from just off the green at No. 2. He made four putts of at least 12 feet, including a 25-footer on No. 8.

Ozaki said through an interpreter that he didn't realize the magnitude of his achievement until his tournament-record seventh straight birdie on No. 8.

Owens Corning Classic

Reiley Rankin had just 30 minutes to practice with her new golf clubs before the start of the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic in Sylvania, Ohio.

It may have been the best thing to happen to her.

Rankin, her regular set of clubs lost in travel two weeks ago, shot a 3-under 68 yesterday to get to 8-under 134 and take a share of the lead with Mi Hyun Kim (66) before heavy rain forced the suspension of second-round play until today.

Natalie Gulbis was 8 under through nine holes before play was stopped.

Se Ri Pak, attempting to match Mickey Wright's tour record of five victories in one event, and Annika Sorenstam both were 4 under through 11 holes.

Tournament director Judd Silverman said it was a "longshot" that the course would be ready for play today.

Landis remains in the lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARCASSONNE, France — American Floyd Landis retained the yellow jersey as the Tour de France's overall leader yesterday, finishing well behind stage 12 winner Yaroslav Popovych.

Landis' lead over second-place Cyril Dessel remained at 8 seconds. Russian Denis Menchov is third overall, 61 seconds off the lead.

Popovych's win was a solo effort, and it came

on a day when two of his Discovery Channel teammates — Paolo Savoldelli and Benjamin Noval — dropped out of the race.

Following a long breakaway with three other riders, the Ukrainian took the stage with a solo effort to the line, finishing far ahead of Landis.

Popovych's win, his first in two Tours, came the day after he and other Discovery Channel riders performed poorly in the hardest stage of the Pyrenees. Discovery has struggled in its first Tour de France without former leader Lance Armstrong.

Popovych finished 27 seconds ahead of second-place Alessandro Ballan and 29 seconds in front of Oscar Freire of Spain.

Popovych covered the 131-mile stage in 4 hours, 34 minutes and 58 seconds. He rode at an average speed of just over 28 mph, remarkably quick given the hills in the stage, which featured a moderately hard climb early on, and the scorching sun.

Popovych was the second Ukrainian to win a stage this year. Serhiy Honchar won the first long time trial.

"It is good for morale and, I think, also for our country," Popovych said.

The three leaders had ridden together into the outskirts of the medieval city of Carcassonne. Popovych used repeated bursts of speed to pull

TOUR DE FRANCE

■ **STAGE:** The 12th stage took riders 131.4 miles from Luchon to Carcassonne.

■ **WINNER:** Yaroslav Popovych, a Ukrainian on the Discovery Channel team, in 4 hours, 34 minutes and 58 seconds. Italy's Alessandro Ballan of Lampre was second, and Spaniard Oscar Freire of Rabobank was third.

■ **YELLOW JERSEY:** American Floyd Landis, the Phonak team leader, retained the overall leader's jersey for second day.

■ **QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "Emergency! We were just desperate," — Russian veteran and Popovych teammate Viatcheslav Ekimov on Discovery's hopes to bounce back from a so-so mediocre Tour with a stage victory.

■ **NEXT STAGE:** Saturday's stage is a mostly flat 112.2-mile ride from Beziers to Montpellier in southwestern France.

away from Ballan and Freire and then raced alone to the finish line. They had already shaken off the fourth member of their group, Frenchman Christophe Le Mevel.

The four of them broke ahead of the main pack of riders, which included Landis, about halfway through the stage.

Popovych had started the stage in 23rd place, 9 minutes behind Landis. He moved up to 10th, 4:15 behind Landis, revising his hopes of a high finish when the Tour concludes in Paris on July 23.

Discovery was considered one of the favorites to win the team title when the race started July 1. Following the team's struggles, however, Popovych said Discovery is now focusing on winning stages.

Popovych, who last year won the white jersey awarded to the Tour's best young rider, said he hopes to win the race in a few years.

"I'll prepare better for the years to come," the 26-year-old said.

Barbaro now in stable condition

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. — The patient was doing better, and that alone accounted for Dean Richardson's upbeat demeanor yesterday.

A day after describing Barbaro's prognosis for recovery as "poor" because

of an often-fatal hoof disease, the colt's chief surgeon was able to

report the Kentucky Derby winner had a "good night and even slept on his side."

That nugget of good news followed a week of distressful updates: surgeries and cast changes on Barbaro's injured right hind leg — the one that suffered three broken bones in a horrific moment shortly after he left the gate at the Preakness

Stakes on May 20. And, perhaps most serious of all, a severe case of dreaded laminitis in his "good" left hind leg.

Barbaro was in stable condition after a restless night and a peaceful day, with his heart rate and pulse termed "good," according to statements issued by the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center.

"We are treating his laminitis

aggressively, and he continues to respond well and is acceptably comfortable," Richardson said. "Our goal is to keep him as comfortable as possible, and clearly that comfort level will be a major indicator for our treatment decisions."

The colt, who has fiberglass casts on both hind legs, also has been fitted with a sling to prevent sudden movements and allow him to shift the weight on his limbs. Laminitis is usually caused by uneven weight distribution in the limbs.

Barbaro was out of his sling for more than 12 hours yesterday, and he had a calm, restful night, sleeping on his side for more than four hours," Richardson said, adding that while his condition is stable, "it remains extremely serious."

Sleeping on his side was significant because it allowed the horse to rest without putting pressure on his legs.

Rick Arthur, a prominent veterinarian after the California thoroughbred circuit, said Barbaro's upgraded condition offers "a ray of hope."

"When a horse has laminitis, the downs come very quickly and very dramatically, it's almost like

going on a cascade," Arthur said. "When you get in cases like this, you are looking for hope. You are looking for anything that can give you an indication that you have a chance to move forward."

Barbaro was transported to the New Bolton Center directly from Pimlico Race Track and the next day, Richardson inserted a titanium plate and 27 screws into the colt's injured leg to help fuse the fetlock (ankle) joint.

Since that time, Richardson has said the onset of laminitis was a major concern. The disease tends to show up about six-to-eight weeks after a serious leg injury, when a horse has spent a great deal of time trying to balance his 1,000-pound frame on four fragile legs.

Barbaro's left hind leg has lost only 20 percent of its hoof left after Richardson performed a hoof wall resection Wednesday.

Richardson estimated it would take about six months for a new hoof wall to grow back.

Until recently, the strapping colt's recovery had gone smoothly. Given the laminitis problem, Richardson and owners Gretchen and Roy Jackson, must be prepared to decide when and if it's unreasonable to try to save him.

Reynolds

Continued from Page B1

■ There's no truth to the rumor that if the Celtics put Rajon Rondo on Sebastian Telfair's shoulders,

there'd be a regular-size NBA point guard.

■ Or that if Rhode Island politics were a sport, it would be the Tour de France.

■ A few minutes of the new "Opie and Anthony" morning show on 790 The Score yesterday is more than enough for me. One more example of the Visigoths at the gates, one more contribution to the cultural shroud.

■ Quiz of the Week: Randy Johnson has started four All-Star games, three of which were against either current or former Red Sox pitchers. Who are the three? (Answer near the bottom of the column.)

■ Line of the Week comes from White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen on Roberto Clemente: "He is the Latino that opened doors for the rest of the people. ... One of my kids is named Roberto."

■ Line of the Week II comes from David Wilner of Pawtucket: "There's been enough bin Laden tapes that the gift set will undoubtedly be out soon."

■ The Devil Wears Prada is as predictable as a batting-practice fastball. But it's stylish, moves along, and Meryl Streep is great.

■ The home run contest at the All-Star Game is great, as long as you're 12 years old.

■ If they had MVP awards for the first half of the year, Jonathan Papelbon should get it.

■ There is no one on the planet who thought the Tigers would be where they are this morning.

■ In the early '60s, Bob Dylan sang on a football field in Newport, and now he's scheduled to sing next month on a baseball field in Pawtucket. What goes around comes around, right?

■ Word out of the Celtics' summer-league team in Vegas is that the best player has been Ryan Gomes, Villanova free agent Allan Ray has been one of the top players, and Rondo's quickness has been impressive.

■ And that the Iverson trade is close to dead; the 76ers' choice.

■ But give the Celtics credit for signing Ray, who should make the team, and entered last year rated very similar to teammate Randy Foye, the seventh pick in the draft.

■ Are we starting to see the Pedro the Red Sox didn't want to give four years to?

■ "The Big Dig" should be called "The Big Disgrace."

■ Did you see where Hawk Harralson said last week that the White Sox' Joe Crede was right there with Brooks Robinson as a third baseman? Earth to Hawk: Come back, baby.

■ Sympathies to Lamar Odom, whose six-month-old son died unexpectedly recently in New York.

■ Josh Holmes, son of the North Kingstown lacrosse coach, recently had four goals while helping the East team to the high school summer showcase championship in St. Louis. Hendrickson's Kevin Murray coached the East team.

■ What were the odds that the University of Louisville would end up with a basketball coach named Pitino and a football coach named Petrino?

■ The Brotherhood's Annabeth Gish always has been one of my faves, ever since she co-starred with an unknown Julia Roberts in Mystic Pizza, back when there was little difference between the two.

■ The 76ers are like the Titanic about an hour after it hit the iceberg: they're going down, and there's nothing they can do about it.

■ Maybe all you have to know about the National League is that the number-four starter from last year's Red Sox team is one of the top pitchers in the league.

■ Did you see where Rick Barnes just got a \$500,000 raise at Texas, pushing his salary to \$1.8 million a year? Who said he can't run with the big dogs?

■ Narragansetts 1, Carcieri 0, in the early going.

■ Quiz Answer: Roger Clemens in 2001, David Wells in 2000, Hideo Nomo in 1995.

■ There should be a bumper sticker that says, "Hang Up And Drive."

■ The problem with the Friars' home Big East schedule is that the three featured teams — Syracuse, Villanova and Cincinnati — all figure to be down next year. And three of the top teams — Georgetown, Pitt and UConn — won't be coming in here at all.

■ From the All Roads Lead to Rhode Island Dept.: According to the New York Post, the Yankees' best pitching prospect, Philip Hughes, "grew up outside Anaheim, but comes from a family of Red Sox fans because of his father's Rhode Island roots."

■ There's no truth to the rumor that Bruce Sundlund really wanted a breed of raccoons named after him, but had to settle for a street.

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THE LOCALS

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|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
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| + | Jeff Martin | 74-150 DNQ |
| GIGMA CHIP IN FOR A CLUE CLASSIC | | |
| + | Kim Argente | 37-35-72 |