

COMMENTARY

State Amateur has a familiar feel about it

EAST PROVIDENCE — It's hardly a sure thing that this year's State Amateur golf champion will be from Metacomet, where the 110th edition of the tournament got under way on Monday.

But the odds are that he will be.

Although Bobby Leopold of Wannamoisett is the defending champion, four of last year's eight quarterfinalists were from Metacomet, including



JIM DONALDSON

Andrew Fiorenzano, who lost to Leopold in the finals at Montaup.

Three of the last five State Ams have been won by Metacomet golfers

— Brad Valois in 2013 and 2011, and Garrett Medeiros in 2010.

Of the 123 qualifiers for this year's tourney, 23 are from Metacomet. That's eight more than from Wannamoisett, which annually battles its East Providence neighbor for the claim to have the largest number of the state's best players.

And, after the first 18 holes of the two-day, 36-hole, medal qualifying

SEE DONALDSON, B8



Players warm up before the start of the Rhode Island Amateur golf tournament at Metacomet Country Club on Monday.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB BREIDENBACH

Manfred: No fan-safety upgrades likely before 2016

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Major League Baseball is likely to wait until next season before making any changes to improve fan safety.

A fan at Fenway Park was hospitalized after she was hit by a broken bat while sitting along the third-base line on June 5. MLB is studying whether netting should be expanded.

"I don't like to be reactive. Obviously, we had a very serious injury. It concerns us," commissioner Rob Manfred said Tuesday during a meeting with the Baseball Writers' Association of America. "But making a major change in the game in a reactive mode I believe is a mistake. I think the most likely course for us is that the evaluation will continue this season and whatever change, if we decide to make one, will be something that will be a new regulation applicable to the clubs for next year."

Teams may increase safety netting on their own.



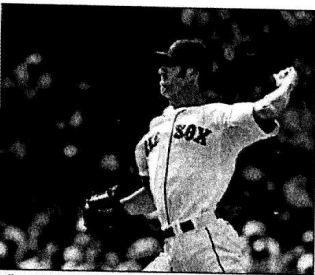
Manfred

"We set minimum standards," Manfred said. "Obviously the clubs remain free to do what they want to do in their own ballpark."

An Oakland Athletics season ticket-holder sued MLB in federal court in California this week, asking that safety netting be installed for the entire length of the foul lines.

Players' association head Tony Clark said the union could be part of fan safety discussions.

"Obviously, you want everyone who comes to the ballpark to be safe and enjoy the ballpark, and we believe there are some opportunities to address some of those issues to provide that kind of safety support here moving forward," he said. "It is definitely a topic that players will want to engage in, have engaged in, are looking forward to engaging in going forward."



Reliever Tommy Lincecum has pitched about as well as could be expected, but he can keep it up for the rest of the season?
AP/STEVEN SENNE

RED SOX

From Page C1

of the Opening Day Red Sox rotation has posted a better FIP than ERA this season. FIP conjectures an ERA for a pitcher based off strikeouts, walks and home runs allowed — the things a pitcher theoretically possesses more control over than his defense. Thus, Clay Buchholz's FIP is one of the best in the league. Wade Miley, Rick Porcello and Joe Kelly don't have good FIPs, but they're considerably better than their ERAs.

It's easy to see the relationship between the rotation's underperformance and Boston's porous defense. Ramirez has been worse than anyone expected in left field, and he's graded out as the game's worst defender at any position. Pablo Sandoval, typically an above-average third baseman across all categories, has perhaps been an even bigger disappointment defensively; he's been the third-worst defender in baseball. The right side of the Red Sox infield, as good as any in baseball over the last two seasons, has slipped noticeably.

Ramirez and Sandoval each showed marked improvement in the last month with the glove, and it's a safe bet that Dustin Pedroia will look more like his usual Gold Glove self in the second half than he did in the first.

The bullpen, on the other hand, may not have yet hit bottom.

Here's the scary thing

about the Red Sox bullpen: its most reliable pitchers have been about as good as you could possibly have expected coming into the season. There still aren't doubts here about Koji Uehara and Junichi Tazawa in the second half; Boston's late-game righties are money in the bank. But Tommy Lincecum and Alexi Ogando, the other two arms John Farrell has trusted late in games, have shown signs of slippage.

Lincecum was outstanding in the first two months. He retired the first batter he faced in 18 consecutive appearances — a marvel for a left-handed specialist. But over the last month, he's had less command of the strike zone, leading to some free passes, and he's been asked to face more right-handed hitters. Even in a successful first half, Lincecum's allowed righties a batting average above .300, an on-base percentage above .400 and a slugging percentage above .500. Trusting him against righties, as Farrell was forced to do in Toronto, isn't going to work out.

Ogando's strikeout rate is down from his career marks, and he's allowing a startling number of home runs. The first handful of homers weren't costly; the last three have come at terrible times for the Red Sox. The bottom line remains the same: To contend this season, the Sox need serious help in the pen.

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BRITISH OPEN

Woods says he's not done yet

Buoyed by performance in Greenbrier Classic

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Winless in nearly two years, Tiger Woods at least has experience on his side at St. Andrews.

It has been 20 years since he first played the Old Course as a 19-year-old amateur and heard the secret was to hit it hard and hit it left. After playing the British Open four times at St. Andrews, and winning twice, he realized that wasn't the case. There are bunkers to avoid and angles to create, and it can change with the slightest shift in direction of the notorious wind.

Whether that's enough to carry him this week depends more on his golf, which he says is not as hopeless as it might appear.

"I'm still young. I'm not 40 yet," said Woods, who has five months left in his 30s. "I know some of you guys think I'm buried and done, but I'm still right here in front of you. Yeah, I love playing. I love competing, and I love playing these events."

He just doesn't win them — his last major was the 2008 U.S. Open — and it's rare he even contends since he chose last year to change his swing about the same time he was trying to recover from another round of injuries.

Hope comes from more than just his affection for St. Andrews. Woods said the way he struck the ball in his last tournament round — a 67 at the Greenbrier Classic to tie for 32nd — was as good as he has in two years.

"That was awfully nice to be able to do coming into this week," he said. "I've hit the ball just as well in my practice rounds."

If that's the case, that would make this an important week because it would be the first



Tiger Woods tees off on the 14th hole during a practice round on Monday at St. Andrews. AP/JOHN SUPER

time since his last victory — August 2013 at Firestone — that he goes into a major with good health and a reasonable idea what to expect.

Consider his last four majors:

■ He was out three months because of back surgery, missed the cut in his return at Congressional, and then had his worst 72-hole finish in a major at the British Open.

■ He withdrew in the final round at Firestone after jarring his lower back, and missed the cut at the PGA Championship.

■ He took two months off to fix a short game in disarray and returned at the Masters, where he tied for 17th. Woods said he "had a chance to win" at Augusta National, but he was 10 shots behind going into the final round and ended up 13 shots behind Jordan Spieth.

■ He shot the worst score of his career (85) at the Memorial, and then posted his highest 36-hole score (156) to miss the cut at the U.S. Open.

"Obviously, the previous majors were a little bit more difficult," Woods said. "Last year, coming off surgery on my back and trying to get back and trying to get my feels back, meanwhile trying to making a

swing change all at the same time was very difficult. I had some pretty apparent flaws in my technique."

He called the Greenbrier, where he finished six shots out of the lead, a "very, very good sign."

Experience should not be dismissed at the home of golf. Tony Lama in 1964 was the last player to win a British Open at St. Andrews without ever having competed on the Old Course. Louis Oosthuizen (2010 winner) and John Daly (1995) previously played the Dunhill Cup.

That's one obstacle facing Spieth, who did play a practice round on his way to the Walker Cup in 2011. And he played 18 holes upon his arrival Monday from his playoff win at the John Deere Classic.

Still, the betting favorite is a 21-year-old Old Course rookie.

"You need to learn it. The course changes so much with different wind directions," said Justin Rose, who won the St. Andrews Links Trophy as an amateur and is a regular at the Dunhill Links on the European Tour. "You get a better idea of where the better angles are, where the better layups

are with certain winds, and the pin placement can change so much when you have greens that are 60 to 100 yards wide or long."

Woods didn't hit into a single bunker when he won by eight shots in 2000 to complete the career Grand Slam, and he led over the final 63 holes in 2005 when he won by five. In his most recent Open at St. Andrews, he got finished 13 shots behind Oosthuizen.

And while he knows and loves the Old Course, he's not used to seeing it this way — green from rain, with intervals of rain expected during the week.

"You can't quite chase it like you normally do," Woods said.

For Spieth, experience comes from winning four times this year, including two majors.

"It's a golf course where you can have four, five, six different wind directions," Oosthuizen said. "I think you need to know where the dangers are with certain types of wind. But you know, the form that he's on now, I think he's still the guy that everyone will be chasing."

GOLF: R.I. STATE AMATEUR

Welch, 15, on course for special feat

The last time a high schooler won State Am was 1973

By Kevin McNamara
Journal Sports Writer

EAST PROVIDENCE — Patrick Welch has no intention of waiting his turn to make a run at the Rhode Island Amateur golf championship.

Welch, who at 15 is the youngest player in the field, took medalist honors in a rain-marred second round Tuesday at Metacomet Country Club. Welch followed his opening-round 67 with a 2-under 68 to finish at 5-under par. That was good enough to edge defending champion Bobby Leopold, who fired a scintillating 64 to finish his 36 holes at 3-under.

Pawtucket's Ryan Pelletier came in at 2-under 38. Welch just completed his freshman year at Classical High and will try to become the first high school player to win the State Am since North Kingstown's Scott Teller in 1973.

"I hope I'm ready," said Welch, a Metacomet member. "I'm playing pretty well and I really know the golf course. My dad (Marty) is on my bag and he's doing a good job keeping me focused."

Match play begins Wednesday morning but Welch won't know his opponent until a playoff for tie the final entries in the 32-player bracket is contested. Play was stopped twice Tuesday by RIGA officials, once before 9 a.m. for about 45 minutes and then again for nearly 90 minutes in the late afternoon. About 40 players watched a

torrential rain storm flood the course but superintendent Matt Klida and his staff quickly went to work to drain and squeegee as much standing water as possible off the course. Play resumed at 7 p.m. and continued until dark.

Welch is the youngest player in the field for the third straight year, or since he first qualified as a 13-year-old. He's made the cut all three years and won a match in each of the last two. He lost in 2013 in the round of 16 to Jamison Randall and in the same round to Leopold last July at Montaup.

"I'd like to make it further this year," Welch said. "There are a lot of good players in the field but I think I'm playing pretty well."

Leopold played alongside Welch for two days and is certainly a favorite to repeat. He bounced back from an opening-round 73 by making seven birdies. The last was a three-footer at the 18th hole to cap off his second-best competitive round ever.

"I had a 63 once at Potowomut in a club event," Leopold said. "This was a lot of fun, though."

Pelletier knows if he wins this week, his wife, Erin, sits atop his list of people to thank. The Pelletiers have two young children, ages 3 and 1. Those are normally years that temporarily cripple a golfer's game but somehow the Mansfield, Mass., resident is finding a way to thrive like never before in his amateur career.

Pelletier, 33, finished at 2-under after following a first-round 67 with a 71. The strong start follows a high-light week ago at Pawtucket

1. Patrick Welch 67-68-135	31. Patrick Welch 67-68-135
2. Bobby Leopold 73-64-137	32. Bobby Leopold 73-64-137
3. Ryan Pelletier 67-71-138	33. Ryan Pelletier 67-71-138
4. Matt Klida 73-66-139	34. Matt Klida 73-66-139
5. James Leacock 65-74-139	35. James Leacock 65-74-139
6. John Jackson 69-71-140	36. John Jackson 69-71-140
7. McKinley Blake 73-67-140	37. McKinley Blake 73-67-140
8. Mitch Kuba 70-70-140	38. Mitch Kuba 70-70-140
9. Kevin Blaser 71-71-142	39. Kevin Blaser 71-71-142
10. Brendan Lemp 75-67-142	40. Brendan Lemp 75-67-142
11. Bruce Metcalfe 68-74-142	41. Bruce Metcalfe 68-74-142
12. Charlie Blanchard 75-68-143	42. Charlie Blanchard 75-68-143
13. Brad Valdes 75-68-143	43. Brad Valdes 75-68-143
14. Jason Kell 72-73-143	44. Jason Kell 72-73-143
15. Kevin Silva 71-72-143	45. Kevin Silva 71-72-143
16. Jim Mahoney 70-70-144	46. Jim Mahoney 70-70-144
17. Tyler Cook 72-72-144	47. Tyler Cook 72-72-144
18. Jeff Maher 73-71-144	48. Jeff Maher 73-71-144
19. Jake Bauer 69-75-144	49. Jake Bauer 69-75-144
20. Josh Cameron 75-69-144	50. Josh Cameron 75-69-144
21. Makertie Denver 74-70-144	51. Makertie Denver 74-70-144
22. Rick Austin 75-69-145	52. Rick Austin 75-69-145
23. Seanus Kennedy 72-73-145	53. Seanus Kennedy 72-73-145
24. George Price 76-69-145	54. George Price 76-69-145
25. Paul Dugley 75-75-145	55. Paul Dugley 75-75-145
26. Tim Grosscup 74-72-146	56. Tim Grosscup 74-72-146
27. Ryan Porter 72-74-146	57. Ryan Porter 72-74-146
28. Jay Barrow 75-71-146	58. Jay Barrow 75-71-146
29. Tom McCormick 69-77-146	59. Tom McCormick 69-77-146
30. Cameron Andrade 73-73-146	60. Cameron Andrade 73-73-146

Failed to Qualify

131. Jim Colucci 79-69-147
132. Ben Tubb 71-75-147
133. Mike Soucy 74-71-147
134. Michael Peters 74-71-147
135. Vincent Battista 74-73-147
136. Aaron Corvino 72-74-147
137. Jonathan Drum 75-73-147
138. Brian Barker 76-71-147
139. T.J. Ronald Amadio 76-74-148
140. Jamie Griffin 76-73-148
141. James Greer 75-74-148
142. Matt Conzatti 76-73-148
143. Kelly Simmons 73-75-148
144. Kyle Hoffman 75-73-148
145. Tim Conry 75-75-149
146. Dean Simmons 76-73-149
147. Whitney Taylor 76-73-149
148. Steven Mercurio 75-74-149
149. Vince Tucker 75-74-149
150. David Barone 82-80-150
151. David Barone 82-80-150
152. David Barone 82-80-150
153. Zachary Hayes 80-82-152
154. Mike Caputo 79-86-152
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200. Mike Caputo 79-86-152

Country Club when he shot 67-68 to secure a spot in next month's U.S. Amateur at Olympia Fields (Ill.).

"I basically play one round a weekend and try to sneak out and play nine holes here or there," Pelletier said. "When you do get a chance to play now, you treasure it."

Pelletier grew up in Acushnet, Mass., and played college golf at UMass Dartmouth before becoming an assistant club professional. He regained his amateur status in 2007 and

has enjoyed playing in RIGA events ever since joining Pawtucket four years ago.

"The fields here aren't as deep as in Massachusetts but the top players here are as good as any state out there. And there are a lot of great courses in Rhode Island," he said.

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GOLF: R.I. STATE AMATEUR

Quarterfinals feature youth and experience

But hard-fought matches left some surprising names on list of vanquished

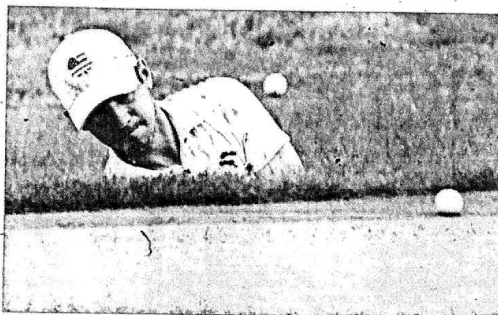
By Kevin McNamara
Journal Sports Writer

EAST PROVIDENCE — On a day when several longtime fixtures met their demise, the Rhode Island State Amateur was introduced to some new talent at Metacomet Country Club.

Among the eight players who won two matches Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinal round were Wannamoisett's Jeffrey Giguere, who just completed his junior year at the Wheeler School; John Jakopiec, who just graduated after a stellar career at Boston College; and Kevin Silva, a former professional from New Bedford.

Some familiar names remain alive as well. Leading that group is Charlie Blanchard, the State Am champ in 2002 and 2012; Seamus Fennelly, a Coventry native who plays at the University of Rhode Island and was a semifinalist in 2012; and steady local golf veteran Tommy McCormick (the 2005 title), Rob Grossguth and Jamie Lukowicz.

Those players are the lucky ones. The list of losers on the first day of match play can only be labeled surprising. They include defending champion Bobby



Kevin Silva, 31, of New Bedford, finishes the 16th hole in style, chipping from a bunker to within a few inches from the hole during the Rhode Island State Amateur on Wednesday at Metacomet Country Club in East Providence. Silva won his match against Patrick Welch, 15, whose ball is on the green at right.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB THAYER

Leopold, four-time champ Brad Valois, 15-year-old medalist Patrick Welch and RIGA Hall of Famers George Pirie and Paul Quigley.

"There are still a lot of good players left, that's for sure," said Blanchard, who took care of one of Wannamoisett's better young players in 10-year-old Davis Chatfield in his round of 16 match, 5 and 3. "Kevin Silva is a heck of a player."

Silva is a name that area golf fans certainly remember. He led New Bedford High to Massachusetts state titles in 1999 and 2001, and went on to star at the University of North Carolina. He competed on several

professional mini-tours for several years and qualified for the U.S. Open twice, in 2008 at Torrey Pines and 2009 at Bethpage Black.

Now 31, Silva regained his amateur status in 2013 and now plays out of Montauk in Portsmouth. He registered two impressive wins, easily dispatching Point Judith's Jim Mahoney in his morning round and then besting Metacomet favorite Welch, 3 and 2, in the afternoon.

The match was well-played, with neither golfer posting a bogey, but Silva made three birdies on the front nine for a 2-up lead and stretched it to three with another bird at the 11th hole. Welch fought back

with a birdie at the par-3 12th, but when both players stuck nice approach shots at the 15th hole, Welch missed his downhill 12-footer while Silva drained a 7-footer to give him a three-hole edge with three to play. At the 16th hole, Silva was in a greenside bunker but nearly holed his shot to end the match.

"This was just one of those days where I was in a good rhythm all day," Silva said. "Patrick is a phenomenal talent. I knew there was no letup in him. He was the medalist for a reason and he didn't make a bogey all day."

Silva will face Fennelly, a tall, talented 21-year-old

118TH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP WEDNESDAY RESULTS

Round of 32

Patrick Welch, Metacomet CC def. Cameron

Andrade, Rhode Island CC 8 and 7

Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Jim Mahoney,

Point Judith CC 5 and 1

Seamus Fennelly, Metacomet CC def. Nicky

Slade, Wannamoisett CC 3 and 1

Rick Audette Jr., Metacomet CC def. John

Blanchard, Wannamoisett CC 1 and 1

Davis Chatfield, Wannamoisett CC def. Ryan

Perlin, Swansea CC 6 and 3

Charlie Blanchard, Wannamoisett CC def. Jeff

Maher, Metacomet CC 3 and 2

Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC def. Fletcher

Balchouk, Connecticut National CC 3 and 1

Brady Heston, Gryonwood CC def. Jake Ryan,

Green Valley CC 1 up

Tom McCormick, Kirkbrae CC def. Bobby

Leopold, Wannamoisett CC 18 holes

Tyler Cooke, Polioacomet CC def. Jason Nash,

Metacomet CC 2 and 1

John Jakopiec, Meadow Brook CC def. Dr.

George Hill, Valley CC 2 and 1

Wannamoisett CC 4 and 2

Ryan Perlinier, Pawtucket CC def. Jay Warren,

Laurel Lane CC 1 up

Jeffrey Giguere, Wannamoisett CC def. Brad

Valois, Metacomet CC 1 up

Jamie Lukowicz, Metacomet CC def. Paul

Quigley, Swansea Country Club 1 and 1

Jack Cameron, Meadow Brook CC def. Brandon

Lane, The Metacomet Club 7 and 1

Round of 16

Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Patrick Welch,

Metacomet CC 3 and 2

Seamus Fennelly, Metacomet CC def. Nicky

Slade, Wannamoisett CC 3 and 1

Charlie Blanchard, Wannamoisett CC def. Rick

Chatfield, Wannamoisett CC 1 and 1

Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC def. Ryan

Perlin, Swansea CC 3 and 2

Tom McCormick, Kirkbrae CC def. Bobby

Leopold, Wannamoisett CC 1 up

Jeffrey Giguere, Wannamoisett CC def. Ryan

Perlinier, Pawtucket CC 1 up

Jamie Lukowicz, Metacomet CC def. Paul

Quigley, Swansea Country Club 1 and 1

Jack Cameron, Meadow Brook CC def. Brandon

Lane, The Metacomet Club 7 and 1

Round of 8

Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Patrick Welch,

Metacomet CC 3 and 2

Seamus Fennelly, Metacomet CC def. Nicky

Slade, Wannamoisett CC 3 and 1

Charlie Blanchard, Wannamoisett CC def. Rick

Chatfield, Wannamoisett CC 1 and 1

Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC def. Ryan

Perlin, Swansea CC 3 and 2

Tom McCormick, Kirkbrae CC def. Bobby

Leopold, Wannamoisett CC 1 up

Jeffrey Giguere, Wannamoisett CC def. Ryan

Perlinier, Pawtucket CC 1 up

Jamie Lukowicz, Metacomet CC def. Paul

Quigley, Swansea Country Club 1 and 1

Jack Cameron, Meadow Brook CC def. Brandon

Lane, The Metacomet Club 7 and 1

Round of 4

Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Patrick Welch,

Metacomet CC 3 and 2

Seamus Fennelly, Metacomet CC def. Nicky

Slade, Wannamoisett CC 3 and 1

Charlie Blanchard, Wannamoisett CC def. Rick

Chatfield, Wannamoisett CC 1 and 1

Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC def. Ryan

Perlin, Swansea CC 3 and 2

Tom McCormick, Kirkbrae CC def. Bobby

Leopold, Wannamoisett CC 1 up

Jeffrey Giguere, Wannamoisett CC def. Ryan

Perlinier, Pawtucket CC 1 up

Jamie Lukowicz, Metacomet CC def. Paul

Quigley, Swansea Country Club 1 and 1

Jack Cameron, Meadow Brook CC def. Brandon

Lane, The Metacomet Club 7 and 1

Round of 2

Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Patrick Welch,

Metacomet CC 3 and 2

Seamus Fennelly, Metacomet CC def. Nicky

Slade, Wannamoisett CC 3 and 1

Charlie Blanchard, Wannamoisett CC def. Rick

Chatfield, Wannamoisett CC 1 and 1

Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC def. Ryan

Perlin, Swansea CC 3 and 2

Tom McCormick, Kirkbrae CC def. Bobby

Leopold, Wannamoisett CC 1 up

Jeffrey Giguere, Wannamoisett CC def. Ryan

Perlinier, Pawtucket CC 1 up

Jamie Lukowicz, Metacomet CC def. Paul

Quigley, Swansea Country Club 1 and 1

Jack Cameron, Meadow Brook CC def. Brandon

Lane, The Metacomet Club 7 and 1

Round of 1

Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Patrick Welch,

Metacomet CC 3 and 2

Seamus Fennelly, Metacomet CC def. Nicky

Slade, Wannamoisett CC 3 and 1

Charlie Blanchard, Wannamoisett CC def. Rick

Chatfield, Wannamoisett CC 1 and 1

Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC def. Ryan

Perlin, Swansea CC 3 and 2

Tom McCormick, Kirkbrae CC def. Bobby

Leopold, Wannamoisett CC 1 up

Jeffrey Giguere, Wannamoisett CC def. Ryan

Perlinier, Pawtucket CC 1 up

Jamie Lukowicz, Metacomet CC def. Paul

Quigley, Swansea Country Club 1 and 1

Jack Cameron, Meadow Brook CC def. Brandon

Lane, The Metacomet Club 7 and 1

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Round of 1

Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Patrick Welch,

Metacomet CC 3 and 2

Seamus Fennelly, Metacomet CC def. Nicky

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SPORTS

RED SOX RETURN

Get pregame, in-game and postgame reports from Anaheim by following Tim Britton on Twitter, @TimBritton

QUESTIONS? Contact Michael McDermott, sports editor | Phone 401-277-7125 | Fax 401-277-7494 | mmcderm@providencejournal.com

INSIDE SPORTS



Johnson leads
Dustin Johnson takes the lead in the British Open by shooting a bogey-free 65, two strokes better than Jordan Spieth. B6



Praise for Rousey

Former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson says that UFC women's champion Ronda Rousey possesses the same 'killer aura' that he had. B6



Tour de France

Joaquin Rodriguez rides away with Stage 12 of the Tour de France and Chris Froome continues to hold the lead. B6



Hall of Fame tennis

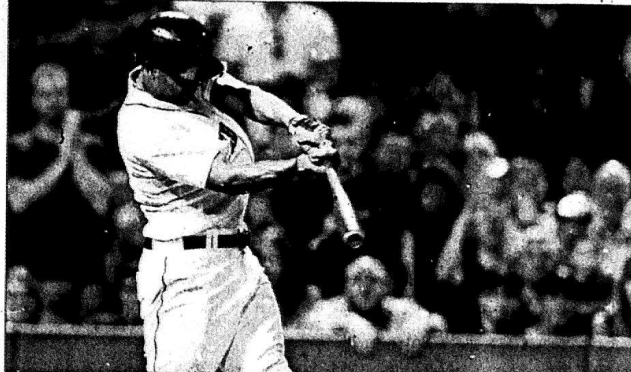
2009 champion Rajeev Ram ousts fifth-seed Adrian Panarino to move on to Friday's quarterfinals of the Hall of Fame Tennis Championships in Newport. B7



All-State boys tennis

State champion Zach Johnson of East Greenwich High School leads the All-State boys tennis team. B8

RED SOX



Xander Bogaerts has been a force at the plate as well as at shortstop and was a serious contender to be placed on the All-Star roster. AP/CHARLES KRUPA

Youth on their side

One bright spot is development of young players

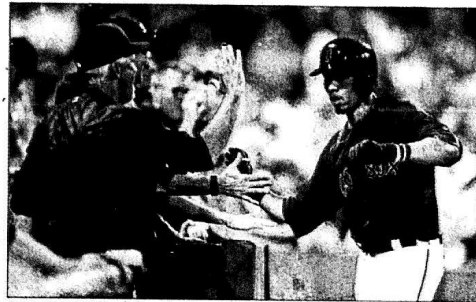
By Tim Britton
Journal Sports Writer

BOSTON — It was Mike Trout, all of 23 years old yet somehow already playing in his fourth All-Star Game, who led off the festivities Tuesday night with a home run. That was in support of 27-year-old starting pitcher for the American League, Dallas Keuchel.

On the other side, 22-year-old Bryce Harper, in the midst of one of the best offensive seasons of the century, hit third. Jacob DeGrom, himself 27, struck out the side on 10 pitches for the National League.

And so the All-Star Game hammered home a point that's been developing for nearly a decade across Major League Baseball: The best players are the young players. And this, right now, is good news for the Red Sox.

There was a time not too long ago when the



Mookie Betts, right, celebrating a home run against the Yankees last week, has been one of the hottest young players in the league over the last month. AP/MICHAEL DWYER

season teetered on the catastrophic for Boston. (For the especially pessimistic, perhaps it still is.) But in late May, Hanley Ramirez and Pablo Sandoval looked like terrible long-term investments — defensive liabilities who weren't producing nearly enough on offense to mitigate those flaws. The long-term contracts given to Ramirez, Sandoval, Rick Porcello and Wade Miley all looked like serious

mistakes that would erode Boston's financial flexibility for years to come. At the same time, the team's young players remained unknown quantities. Xander Bogaerts had had a nice month and a half — just as he did last year. Eduardo Rodriguez hadn't started a major-league game yet. Mookie Betts' on-base percentage lingered below .300, and Blake Swihart hadn't found any kind of offensive rhythm.

The present was bleak; the future looked bleaker. The Red Sox have played better since then, with Ramirez and Sandoval approaching adequate in the field and doing more with their bats. Their contracts still don't look good, but they aren't so bad that Boston needs to be looking to offload them for nickels on the dollar.

But the best news over

SEE RED SOX, B4

COMMENTARY



JIM DONALDSON

It's hard to pick the worst Sox deal

The Red Sox start the second half of the season in last place in the A.L. East.

Which is exactly where they were at the end of last season.

Would you say that is despite general manager Ben Cherington's efforts to improve the team — or because of them?

If you're not too tired after doing all your All-Star balloting, how about casting your vote for the absolute worst of several questionable — and some unquestionably bad — decisions by Cherington that have contributed greatly to Boston's ongoing residence in the division basement?

In no particular order, they are:

The \$72-million, seven-year deal given to Rusney Castillo

Castillo, who turned 28 on July 9, hit .230 in 26 games, with one homer in 77 at-bats, for Boston before being sent down to Pawtucket.

The Dodgers signed Yasiel Puig out of Cuba. The White Sox signed Jose Abreu out of Cuba. The Red Sox signed Castillo out of Cuba.

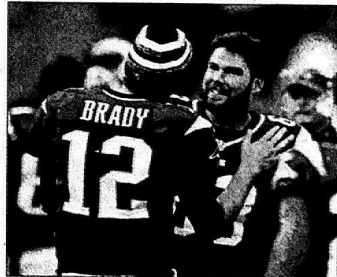
Which team's scouts appear to have been under the influence of too many Cuba Libres?

The \$82.5-million, four-year contract extension given to Rick Porcello

Before ever throwing a pitch in a Red Sox

SEE DONALDSON, B4

PATRIOTS



Patriots QB Tom Brady talks with offensive lineman Dan Connolly during last season's 51-23 romp over the Bears. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB BREIDENBACH

Connolly's departure leaves a hole in the line

Last season's starting left guard retires at age 32, cites health concerns

By Mark Daniels
Journal Sports Writer

The Patriots have had plenty of turnover this off-season on defense and on Thursday, we learned that the team will also have a hole to fill on the offensive line. In an interview with ESPN

Boston, last season's starting left guard Dan Connolly announced his retirement from the NFL. The news isn't exactly shocking — the Patriots drafted two guards and had given Connolly's No. 63 to rookie Tre Jackson — but the retirement does confirm that a reliable player will be gone from the Patriots' ever-so-important offensive line. A series of four

SEE PATRIOTS, B5

GOLF: R.I. STATE AMATEUR

Home-course favorites knocked off by finalists

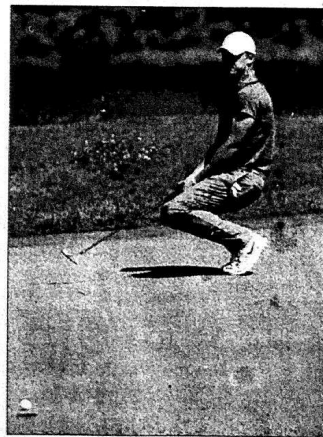
Silva beats Metacomet member in quarterfinals; Jackopsis eliminates another in semis

By Kevin McManara
Journal Sports Writer

EAST PROVIDENCE — It wasn't easy and it may not be all that popular, but New Bedford's Kevin Silva and Connecticut native John Jackopsis fought off tough challengers and advanced to Friday's Rhode Island Amateur 36-hole final at Metacomet Country Club.

Silva, a member at Montauk who regained his amateur status in 2013 after seven years as a professional, birdied the 18th hole in both his morning and afternoon matches to post two 1-up victories. Jackopsis, a recent Boston College graduate who spent his childhood summers in Westerly, needed 21 holes to secure his semifinal round

SEE AMATEUR, B6



John Jackopsis, of Meadow Brook Golf Club, barely misses a long putt on the 10th hole at Metacomet Country Club during the Rhode Island State Amateur on Thursday. He went on to advance to the final on Friday, where he'll face Kevin Silva, out of Montauk. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB THAYER

BRITISH OPEN

This round goes to Johnson

U.S. Open runner-up gets 2-stroke jump on rival Spieth

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Jordan Spieth played like he had a Grand Slam to win. Dustin Johnson played like he had a score to settle.

The two main characters from Chambers Bay brought their games across eight time zones and an ocean Thursday and set the tone at St. Andrews for what could be another riveting battle at the British Open.

Spieth quickly seized on his opportunity for a third straight major with six birdies in his first 11 holes, fought through a chilly wind on the inward nine and closed with a birdie for a 5-under 67 that put him two shots out of the lead.

Johnson, whose three-putt from 12 feet on the final hole cost him a shot at the U.S. Open, looked as dominating as ever. He simply overpowered the Old Course with such force that he hit wedge into 10 of the par 4s and had an eagle putt on another. With a pair of big par saves on the tough closing holes, he played bogey-free for a 65 and for at least a day made good on a warning he made earlier in the week.

Asked about Spieth's chances to sweep the four majors, Johnson said, "Well, I'm playing the next two so we'll have to see." This was hardly a two-man show.

The six players who were one shot behind at 66 included former British Open champion Paul Lawrie and two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen. Jason Day, coming off his scary bout with vertigo symptoms



Dustin Johnson, right, confers with his caddy Austin Johnson during the first round of the British Open in St. Andrews, Scotland, on Thursday. Johnson is in the lead after shooting a 65. AP/DAVID J. PHILLIP

at the U.S. Open, was back on his feet and back in the hunt. Most impressive from that group were Zach Johnson and Danny Willett, who posted their scores as the temperature dropped and wind stiffened late in the afternoon.

Spieth was joined at 67 by Louis Oosthuizen, the last Open champion at St. Andrews.

"If D.J. keeps driving it the way he is, then I'm going to have to play my best golf to have a chance," Spieth said. The real test might come from the weather.

Spieth and Johnson got a break by playing in the morning when St. Andrews was ripe for scoring — 10 of the top 12 scores came from that side of the draw. That didn't help Tiger Woods, who hit into the Swilcan Burn on the opening hole, made only one birdie and shot 76.

"Guys have been shooting good numbers," said Woods. "A two-time Open champion at St. Andrews." Unfortunately I did not do that. Instead, he was headed for a

missed cut for the third time in his last four majors.

The afternoon wave suffered in chill and wind so strong that Phil Mickelson hit driver and 3-wood and didn't reach the 465-yard 13th hole. He said he had to hit 5-iron for his third shot on the par-5 14th. Johnson was pin-high with a 3-wood in the morning. Mickelson made only one bogey on the back nine and shot 70. He called the conditions "fun," though his smile might not last if the morning group doesn't face the same conditions.

"We were at a significant disadvantage today," Mickelson said. "And hopefully, if we're able to play an entire day tomorrow, it will even itself out."

The first 26 groups had an average score of 71.46. The last 26 groups averaged 72.62.

Rickie Fowler, coming off a victory in the Scottish Open, said the final seven holes was "hanging on for dear life." He made two bogeys, one eagle and 15 pars for a 72. The forecast was for rain

early Friday and wind calming as it clears, followed by stronger gusts in the afternoon. Saturday could have gusts approaching 40 mph.

Any duel between Spieth and Johnson is void of animosity. They played in the same group, and during one long wait on the 17th tee, they laughed and chatted as if this were an opening round at a regular PGA Tour event.

"No chat about the U.S. Open at all, as I wouldn't imagine there would be, other than talking about the differences in the course," Spieth said. "But I enjoy playing with Dustin. I've played a lot of golf with him."

And he knows what to expect from golf's most athletic figure. Johnson hit driver on all but three holes, leaving him wedges into the par 4s (except for three longer holes into a hurting wind on the back nine) and a 7-iron that Johnson stuck to 10 feet for eagle on the par-5 fifth hole.

"I'm going to hit driver on every hole if I can," Johnson said.

telecommunications salesman who still yearns for golfing moments like he's enjoyed this week.

"I love it. I can't say that enough," he said. "It's all about visualizing every shot, your pre-shot routine, and we're putting on phenomenal greens that are running at about 12.5."

Silva trailed Fennelly on the 17th tee but promptly tied the match with a birdie and then drained a downhill five-footer at the 18th for the win. In his afternoon match against a gritty Rob Grossguth, Silva found himself down two after 12 holes. But when Grossguth three-putted the 13th hole, Silva found an opening. "He putted great all day but that opened the door just a crack. I felt I needed some momentum and that was the crack I needed," he said.

The match drew tied at the 16th hole when Grossguth couldn't get up-and-down. That set up more drama at the 18th. This time Grossguth missed his 12-footer for birdie and Silva drained another winning putt.

"I had 77 [yards to the green] this morning and 72 now, pretty much the same shot each time," he said. "That pin placement is an attackable pin. I hit good wedges both times. I liked the one this afternoon better than the one this morning. This one was uphill. This morning was downhill."

QUARTERFINALS
Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Seamus Fennelly, Montauk CC 1 up
Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC def. Charlie MacFarland, Warramosssett CC 21 holes
John Jackopis, Meadow Brook CC def. Tom McCormick, Kirkbride CC 4 and 3
Javier Lukowicz, Metacommet CC def. Jeffery Giguere, Warramosssett CC 1 up

SEMINALS
Kevin Silva, Montauk CC def. Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC 1 up
John Jackopis, Meadow Brook CC def. Jamie Lukowicz, Metacommet CC 21 holes

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AMATEUR

From Page B1

win over Metacommet's Jamie Lukowicz.

While no one can dispute that both players are the two best in the field, they weren't exactly fan favorites. Metacommet boasts several top-flight players. As one after another fell by the wayside this week, they'd jump in golf carts and cheer on their friends. At the start of the day, two quarterfinalists dreamed of winning the state title on their home course. Silva took care of one, URI senior Seamus Fennelly, in an outstanding morning match. In the afternoon, Jackopis watched Lukowicz miss a potential winning putt on the 18th hole before ending their match on the third extra hole. The result disappointed 99 percent of the fans watching the match.

"Everyone was nice and saying, 'Good shot' and all, but sometimes I did a good shot and there would be no reaction. It was just weird," Jackopis said.

There were plenty of good shots by both players. Jackopis beat 2005 champion Tom McCormick, 4 and 3, in his morning match. Lukowicz didn't shake 17-year old Jeff Giguere until he took advantage of a bogey at the 17th hole and claimed a 1-up win. In the semifinal match, Lukowicz jumped out to a two-hole lead after three and never lost that lead until the final result. Miscues at the fifth and sixth holes allowed Jackopis to tie the match. Lukowicz regained the lead with a birdie at the 11th, lost his ball on a poor tee shot at the 12th but bounced right back and birdied the 13th hole.

But Jackopis wasn't done. He ran in "an outrageous putt, about 45 feet with about 12 feet of break



Kevin Silva, of Montauk Country Club, lines up a putt at the Rhode Island State Amateur on Thursday at Metacommet Country Club. He'll play John Jackopis in the final on Friday. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB THAYER

in it," for a critical birdie at No. 15 to knot the match. Both players then dropped birds on top of each other at the 16th. After pars at 17, Lukowicz pulled his drive left to a hard-pan area. He then chipped a green-side bunker. Jackopis coolly hit his second shot a bit deep, but on the green. Lukowicz chipped to within six feet but caught new life when Jackopis's first putt went screaming downhill and eight feet past the cup. He missed his comebacker for par and had that awful feeling of having to watch his opponent putt for the match. But Lukowicz could not convert and the match moved to extra holes.

After pars on the first two, Lukowicz hit his drive on the third playoff hole into

the right rough and couldn't scout his approach onto the green. He tried to putt from the fringe but his try went four feet above the cup and he could not convert the comebacker. Jackopis closed things out with a solid two-putt from the back of the green and heard plenty of polite applause at the conclusion of the match.

"I love match play," said Jackopis, the only semifinalist who chose to carry his own bag and not ride in a cart. "The back nine with Jamie was a lot of fun. He's obviously a great competitor."

Jackopis recently qualified for the U.S. Amateur next month and that will delay his plans to try to play professionally. That's a route Silva took a decade ago but now he's a

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS



Mixed martial arts fighter Ronda Rousey, right, shares a fist bump with former boxing champ Mike Tyson recently after her workout at Glendale Fighting Club in California. AP/JAE C. HONG

Tyson sees something familiar in Rousey

Ex-boxing great says UFC women's champ possesses 'killer aura' he had

By Greg Beacham
The Associated Press

GLENDAL, Calif. — Moments after Mike Tyson stepped into the Glendale Fighting Club, Ronda Rousey grabbed her judo coach and abruptly flung him onto the canvas with an enormous bang.

This training violence unsettled Iron Mike, whose eyes widened in awe while Rousey repeatedly hip-tossed Justin Flores with the same brute skill. The former heavyweight champion finally spoke up.

"It just doesn't look fun no more," Tyson said with a smile.

"It's fun for me," Rousey replied from the cage. "I don't know about him."

Tyson once dominated boxing in much the same way Rousey dominates mixed martial arts, overwhelming every opponent in their paths with a mixture of pre-fight intimidation, hard-earned skill and unstoppable force.

Dana White realizes the comparison is inexact, but the UFC president believes no other athletes in the so-called combat sports have separated themselves from their competition more than Tyson and Rousey over the past 30 years.

"These are two of the greatest to ever walk the white in their sports," White said. "Not many people in the world can relate to that."

Although the 49-year-old Tyson is years removed from any interest in competition, he saw shades of himself in the UFC's most authoritative champion when he dropped in to meet the appreciative Rousey this week. Tyson has watched Rousey's fights cage-side for years, but hadn't seen her training work up close.

"Ronda, she's a lady. Polite, kind, sweet and adorable," Tyson said. "But her whole barometer is, she's a killer. She has that killer aura, meaning anything is capable of happening. Whoa! That's exciting

before the fight even starts. I think of myself when I watch her."

Rousey (11-0) is the only women's bantamweight champion in the UFC's history, and the two-time U.S. Olympic judoka has dominated her new sport. She is heavily favored to win her next bout against Bethe Correia at UFC 190 in Rio de Janeiro on Aug. 1, but that hasn't stopped it from becoming one of the most attractive pay-per-view fights of the year, according to White.

Rousey, who has stopped 10 of her 11 opponents in the first round, has been a big fan of Tyson for years. After the fighters chatted for several minutes, she even let her training session wearing an Iron Mike T-shirt.

"Tyson is like the God of War," White said. "When people see him at their fights, they freak out. They love fighting in front of him."

After they bumped fists, Rousey gave tips to Tyson on Armenian food, and Tyson expressed his admiration for Rousey's training focus in front of spectators. When Tyson mentioned that his favorite moments were his post-fight return to his hotel room with "the belt and the cash," Rousey immediately agreed.

"You look in the mirror, and you're like, 'What happened today?'" she said.

"It's very humbling, and I was just honored that he would go through the trouble or go out of his way to watch me train," Rousey added. "I'm really glad he was able to come, but it won't be until after I beat Bethe and go home and go back to the hotel and look at myself in the mirror for the first time, like he was saying, that's the moment it all hits you. He knows better than anyone what that moment is like."

Rousey has promised to make her next fight painful for Correia, the trash-talking Brazilian who has mentioned Rousey's late father in her pre-fight taunts. Rousey, whose previous three fights lasted a total of 96 seconds, said she wants Correia to lose "in the most devastatingly embarrassing way possible."

TOUR DE FRANCE

Froome fends off contenders

By John Leicester
The Associated Press

PLATEAU DE BEILLE, France — One mountain range completed, one more to go.

Only the Alps loom as the last major obstacle between Chris Froome and a second Tour de France victory in Paris.

His rivals tried and failed to make the British rider and his super-strong Sky team wilt on the toughest — and last — day of climbing in the Pyrenees on Thursday, on Stage 12 won by Joaquim Rodriguez of Spain, who gritted his teeth in driving rain on the final climb for his second stage win.

With those mountains that straddle France and Spain behind them, the opportunities for podium contenders to eat into Froome's comfortable race lead are starting to run out. That might make them only more dangerous. They could take bigger risks, like speeding hell for leather on

downhill roads, in hopes that Froome might crash, or gang up on him, as they sought to on Thursday's steep final ascent.

"There are only a certain amount of opportunities before we get to Paris," Froome said. "We've just got to expect everything to be thrown at us."

But to get to the 2013 champion, Froome's rivals must first get past his teammates. And that is a problem.

The big budget of his Sky team has bought the best help money can buy, riders so strong they could lead other teams if they weren't working for Froome.

They ride hard at the front, controlling the race. They allow only those riders with no hope of victory in Paris — like Rodriguez — to escape the race lead, because they're chasing stage victories and other rewards, while Sky flatters on the big prize: keeping Froome in the yellow jersey.

SPORTS

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INDUCTION DAY

Get news from the induction ceremonies at the International Tennis Hall of Fame, plus today's championship, semifinals, by following Bill Koch on Twitter, @BillKoch25

MORE ONLINE



Sox vs. Angels

For a report on last night's late game between the Red Sox and Angels in Anaheim, go to providencejournal.com/sports.



Happy campers

First-round draft pick Jake DeBrusk scores a flashy goal on the final day of Boston Bruins development camp. For more, go to providencejournal.com/sports.



Johnson on top

Dustin Johnson continues to hold onto the lead at the British Open, which was delayed by rain on Friday. C7



On to semifinals

Ivo Karlovic advances to the semifinals of the Tennis Hall of Fame Championship with a win over Dustin Brown. C7



All-State softball

Gatorade Player of the Year Rachel Kantor of North Kingstown heads the All-State softball team. C8

RED SOX

Boston's top pick adjusting to pro game

For Benintendi, now playing for Single-A Lowell, adapting to a wooden bat has been his biggest challenge

By Tim Britton
Journal Sports Writer

Sitting in the crowd at Great American Ball Park on Tuesday night, taking in the All-Star performances of players barely older than himself, was Red Sox first-round pick Andrew Benintendi. Benintendi was back in his hometown of Cincinnati, serendipitously the site where he received the Golden Spikes Award — annually given to college

baseball's best player.

While there, Benintendi got to take in the All-Star festivities with family and friends.

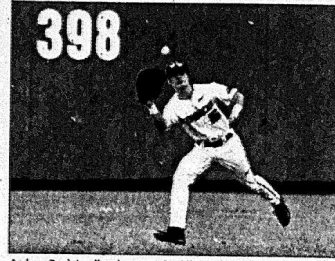
"It's just motivating," the 21-year-old said of watching 23-year-old Mike Trout and 22-year-old Bryce Harper showcase their skills. "It just motivates everybody to get better and to hopefully get there one day."

Of course, talking about a major-league All-Star appearance for a guy who's

played eight games at Single-A Lowell is perhaps a tad premature. But that's as much an expectation as a hope for a player drafted seventh overall last month on the heels of one of the most impressive collegiate seasons in recent memory — one Red Sox area scout Chris Mears described as "unbelievable."

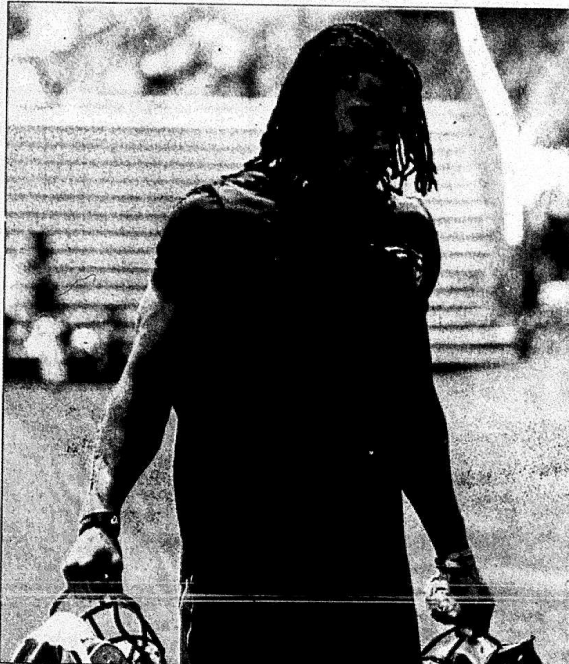
Mears had liked what he'd seen from Benintendi

SEE SOX, C3



Andrew Benintendi makes a catch while playing for the University of Arkansas earlier this year. AP/JOE OGROCKI

PATRIOTS



Patriots rookie defensive back Darryl Roberts carries himself with confidence. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/MARY MURPHY

ROBERTS DOESN'T LACK FOR CONFIDENCE

Seventh-round pick impressed during OTAs

By Mark Daniels
Journal Sports Writer

FOXBORO — You could see it in the way he moved. His head held high as he strolled about.

No worries in the world when he walked on or off the football field. Nothing could rattle him — at least it appeared that way.

A defensive back needs confidence. Even if you give up a reception or a touchdown — and it's going to happen — you need to have self-assurance or it will happen over and over again until that final whistle blows.

That's never been a problem

for Darryl Roberts.

When he walked down the hallways at Marshall University, his coaches and teammates could see it. Even when he was a freshman, he had a swagger about him, a level of confidence that was rare for someone so young, a level of self-belief that was only amplified when he stepped out on the football field.

SEE PATRIOTS, C3

GOLF: R.I. STATE AMATEUR

Silva makes most of his winning ticket

Defeats Jackopsis, 6 and 5, to take title for the first time

By Kevin McNamara
Journal Sports Writer

EAST PROVIDENCE — Kevin Silva's professional golf career may be complete but he's quickly showing that he has great promise as a top amateur.

Silva, who regained his amateur status in 2013 after a seven-year stint on the mini-tour circuit, won his first major title by grabbing the 110th Rhode Island Amateur championship on Friday at Metacomb Country Club. Silva, a New Bedford native who plays out of Montauk CC, beat recent Boston College grad John Jackopsis, 6 and 5. Silva was entered in the tournament purely on a fluke. For the last few years he's been a member at the Country Club of New Bedford. All contestants in RIGA events must be affiliated with a local course and Silva became eligible when his name was drawn last winter as a winner in a lottery held by Montauk to admit associate members. This week he became the first state amateur champion from that club.

Silva, 31, is now a field engineer who spends his days driving around New England monitoring cellphone towers. But the golf bug still lives. He played in the USGA Four-Ball at The Olympic Club in San Francisco in May and says he'd like to remain competitive as long as possible.

"I'm going to try and stay on the national level," he said. "It's for the love of the game. I really and truly love competition and I love the game of golf."

Silva played in the 2008 and '09 U.S. Opens but by 2010 his career was over. He said he's noticed a "different Kevin" in the years since with his game and that difference became clear this week as he won five matches in a three-day period. He said he spoke with his father after Thursday's quarterfinal and semifinal rounds, both of which ended with birdies on the 18th hole for victories.

"I told him, that's the difference between the 31-year-old Kevin and the 20-year-old Kevin," he said. "I sat there and said, 'Hey, I'm going to stay with my process and pick my targets and stay within myself. If this guy beats me, he beats me.' When I was younger, I tried to force things."

Silva won the first three holes of the 36-hole championship match and never lost the lead. Just after 8 a.m. on the day's first hole, Silva hit his approach shot to

SEE GOLF, C7

COMMENTARY

It's time to close the book on Deflategate

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH: ■ Deflategate has been going on for too many months now, like some infection that never really goes away, this sad little soap opera in cleats that now threatens to impact the start of this new season.

A four-game suspension for Tom Brady?

Two games? No games? The football world waits.

It almost seems inconceivable that it's gotten this far, and I suspect that



BILL REYNOLDS

everyone involved in this sorry little scenario wished this had been resolved months ago. For there will be no real winners however it gets resolved. This will be a footnote to Brady's

legacy, even if he's absolved and doesn't have to miss any games. And it's also one more example of the NFL's ineptitude in dealing with issues that transcend the actual games on the field.

■ The symbolic fall of Tiger continues at the British Open.

■ Did you see where Pedro Martinez said in the New York Post the other day that probably 60 percent of major leaguers were using PEDs when he was

playing, "not just Manny."

■ There's no truth to the rumor that Bill Cosby has become the perfect metaphor for a culture in crisis; America's favorite TV dad, who now is being called a serial rapist.

■ Or where have you gone "Ozzie and Harriet," a nation turns its lonely eyes to you.

■ QUIZ OF THE WEEK: The Royals had four starters in the All-Star Game on Tuesday night. What was the

last team to have four All-Star starters? (Answer near the bottom of the column.)

■ LINE OF THE WEEK comes from Tiger Woods, when asked on Thursday if he was thinking of retiring after a first-round 70: "I don't have my AARP card yet."

■ LINE OF THE WEEK comes from David Letterman on Donald Trump: "He wants to build a wall? How about building a wall

SEE REYNOLDS, C7

HALL OF FAME TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Beating Karlovic certainly will be a tall order

The 6-foot-11 Croatian will play Sock in one semifinal; Ram will face Smith in the other

By Bill Koch
Journal Sports Writer

NEWPORT — An abbreviated afternoon at the Hall of Fame Tennis Championships saw the tournament's lone two remaining seeds seal a semifinal meeting.

No. 2 seed Ivo Karlovic rode his dominant serve to victory over Dustin Brown, while No. 4 Jack Sock needed barely six minutes to advance past Jan Hernych.

Karlovic smacked 23 aces in a 7-6 (3), 6-1 win, while Sock made it to the semifinals after Hernych retired due to a left knee injury.

"I was doing everything right tactically as well as physically," Karlovic said. "I'm happy about that."

"You don't wish that on anybody," Sock said. "I've been through a few injuries — hips and pelvises. I don't know the extent of that one, but you never want to see someone go down."

Karlovic drilled a tournament-best 29 aces in his second-round win over Malek Jaziri and might have

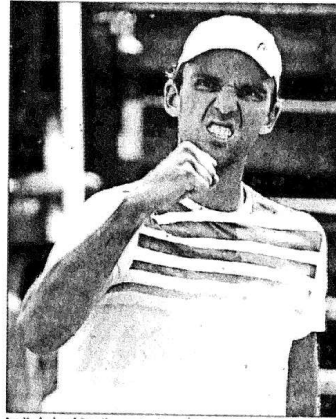
been even sharper against Brown on Center Court. The 6-foot-11 Croatian dropped just five points on first serve and frustrated Brown to the point where the deadlocked German gave his racquet a toss deep in the second set.

"You guys saw the match," Brown said. "Obviously I was frustrated — otherwise I wouldn't have thrown the racquet."

"It happens every day," Karlovic said. "I'm really used to it. It is nice if you know the other guy isn't having a good time."

Karlovic never faced a break point and was on the verge of trouble only twice in the match, mashing aces upwards of 133 mph. Up a break and serving with a 4-2 lead, Karlovic fell into his second 15-30 hole of the afternoon and only escaped thanks to a little extra hustle. He ambled back toward the baseline to chase down a Brown lob, preventing what would have been two chances for Brown to get back on serve.

"It was a difficult point,



Ivo Karlovic, of Croatia, reacts after winning a point against Dustin Brown, of Germany, in their quarterfinal match on Friday.
AP/MICHAEL DOWYER

but I was able to squeeze it out," Karlovic said. "I'm happy about that. At my age [30] it's not even easy to get up in the morning. I was a little bit lucky there."

Just as he did against Jaziri, Karlovic thumped an ace down the middle on match point to clinch a second straight trip to the Newport semifinals. He was

runner-up last year to Lleyton Hewitt, as the Australian former world No. 1 captured his 30th professional title in his third straight finals appearance.

"It will be difficult to go against Sock tomorrow, but I think that if I continue playing like this I'll have a good chance to win," Karlovic said.

Most of Sock's work on Friday came on the practice courts — he retreated there following his press briefing for about 45 minutes of hitting that wasn't required during his match. Hernych limped off the court after just seven points and was due to have an x-ray on his knee, which he twisted awkwardly while hitting a forehand in the second game.

"Any less you can spend on the court, the better," Sock said.

Karlovic and Sock advancing ensures at least one seeded player will be in Sunday's final. Rajeev Ram — the 2009 champion — and John Patrick Smith will meet in the other semifinal.

Sock knows he has his work cut out for him attempting to stop Karlovic from reaching

the last day yet again.

"I think he's served like that almost every day," Sock said. "I kind of know what I'm going up against. He's pretty straightforward."

Ram watched his chance at another Newport double slip past in Friday's opening match, as he and partner Austin Krajicek suffered a 7-6 (4), 6-2, 10-6 semifinal loss to Jonathan Marray and Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi. Ram combined with Jordan Kerr to make home the Newport doubles crown in 2009 and bested Sam Querrey in the singles final.

Marray and Qureshi await the winner of Saturday's second semifinal, which will be played at the end of a three-match card on Center Court. Nicholas Monroe and Mate Pavic will face Fabrice Martin and Puray Raja following the singles semifinals. All play follows the International Tennis Hall of Fame induction ceremony, which is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m.

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GOLF: BRITISH OPEN

Johnson overcomes harsh weather

Spith trails by 5 as round is cut short by darkness

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — The grand pursuit of Jordan Spieth, redemption for Dustin Johnson, the mystery that has become Tiger Woods. It all came to a momentary halt on Friday in the gloaming of St. Andrews when Tom Watson said goodbye to the British Open.

Watson, the most prolific winner of golf's oldest championship in the last century, finished his 120th round with lights from the Royal & Ancient clubhouse illuminating the 18th green. The five-time champion made bogey. The score was irrelevant.

"There were no tears," Watson said. "This is a joyous occasion. I have a lot of great, great memories. And those memories filled me up."

Everything else about this wet and wild second round remained unsettled.

A heavy downpour at dawn flooded the Old Course and disrupted the start by more than three hours. Johnson and Spieth teed off shortly before 6 p.m. and were headed in different directions when it was too dark to continue.

In swift, shifting weather — umbrellas on one hole, sunglasses on the next — Johnson made three birdies in four holes on the front nine and built a two-shot lead before he made his first bogey of the tournament. He three-putted on the par-3 11th in wind so severe he had to back off a 4-foot putt and wipe his eyes.

Johnson was at 10-under par. Spieth three-putted for bogey three times in 11 holes to offset three birdies and was five shots behind Johnson, whom he beat by one shot in the U.S. Open last month to capture the second leg of the Grand Slam.

Both were just short on the par-5 14th hole in two shots when they chose to mark



Jordan Spieth follows his shot from a bunker on the 12th hole during the second round of the British Open on Friday.
AP/JOHN SUPER

their golf balls and return at 7 a.m. Saturday to resume the round.

"I'm in a good spot," Johnson said. "Definitely got very tricky this afternoon, all day. Even the front side, the wind was howling and it was blowing straight left-to-right pretty much. It played very tough all day."

Danny Willett of England had to cope with the wind, too, and he had a 3-under 60 to walk off the 18th green with his name atop the leaderboard at 9-under 135.

"Yeah, I think it's a childhood dream and looking up there it's still a little bit surreal, but something I'm going to have to get used to," Willett said. "Otherwise, no point in being up there. We're going to try and rest up and then try and go out for another good weekend and hopefully, we can be up there in two days' time."

Watson wasn't the only player to bid farewell to the Old Course.

Nick Faldo, the three-time Open champion regarded as Britain's greatest champion, came out of the TV tower to play St. Andrews one last time. He switched into a sweater that he wore for his first Open title in 1987 at Muirfield, thrust his arms

in the air atop the Swilcan Bridge, and saved par for a 71.

And then there was Woods, headed toward the wrong kind of history. Barring a burst of birdies when he returns on Saturday morning — the kind of form he has not shown in two years — he was likely to miss the cut in the U.S. Open and the British Open for the first time in the same year. Woods was 5-over with seven holes to play.

So much attention has been on Spieth and Jordan, the main characters from the drama that played out at Chambers Bay last month. Johnson had a 12-foot eagle putt on the final hole to win the U.S. Open, and three-putted to finish one shot behind golf's new golden child.

The wind was fierce, taxing shots with every club in the bag down to the putter. Johnson continued to hammer away with his driver, setting up birdies, and he looked every bit like the player to beat. Spieth got in enough trouble off the tee that he often left long-range putts that led to bogeys instead of birdies.

Behind them, a long list of players lined up to take their

shot on the weekend.

Jason Day, in contention at Chambers Bay even though he battled symptoms of vertigo, was at 8-under par through 11 holes. Paul Lawrie, the '99 champion at Carnoustie, also was at 8-under through 12 holes. Louis Oosthuizen, who won the claret jug last time the Open came to St. Andrews, was at 7-under through 11 holes.

Among those who managed to finish was Adam Scott, a former Masters champion who gave away the British Open at Royal Lytham & St. Annes in 2012 when he bogeyed the last four holes.

Scott was in control in blustery weather, fighting his ball low. He made three birdies around the loop at the far end of the course and closed with a birdie for a 67.

Scott was at 7-under 137, along with Zach Johnson (71), Marc Warren (69) and Robert Streb (71).

"The last few years at the Open has been some of my favorite golf," Scott said. "Getting into contention at this championship and having a chance to lift the claret jug is what it's all about. This is a great position. I'm excited for my weekend."

REYNOLDS

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around that thing on his head?"

■ **LINE OF THE WEEK III** comes from Tiger in a news conference on the eve of the British Open: "I know some of you guys think I'm buried and done, but I'm still here right in front of you."

■ **LINE OF THE WEEK IV** comes from Sinead O'Connor on Kim Kardashian being on the cover of Rolling Stone: "Missie of Rolling Stone." "Missie has officially died. Who knew it would be Rolling Stone that murdered it?"

■ Remember when the All-Star Game was bigger than big?

■ What were the odds two years ago that Brock Holt would be the only Red Sox player in the All-Star Game?

■ Speaking of Tiger — should we now call him Tomcat? — he went into the British Open ranked 241st in the world.

■ Orange is the new black? And crazy is the new normal here in Rhode Island. The mysterious blast at Salty Brine Beach is just the latest example.

■ The Celtics got 6-foot-11 Perry Jones III from the Thunder this week for a little more than a bag of old sweat socks in NBA reality, the same Perry Jones III that Kevin Durant called one of the most talented players in the NBA.

■ The word is Ben Cherington and the baseball operations people fill out the Red Sox lineup card, not John Farrell.

■ Baseball should have a shot clock on pitchers.

■ "The Overnight" might not be the worst movie I've seen in a long time. But it's in the discussion.

■ Don't invite Phil Jackson and Carmelo Anthony to the same party in New York, as the romance is unofficially over.

■ Bovada has the Royals as the top choice to win the World Series at 6%, followed by the Nationals at 5%. The Yankees are 4%. And the Red Sox? 2%.

■ Did you see where the rapper 50 Cent says he's broke, after supposedly making \$150 million in his

career?

■ Deron Williams is nowhere near as good as he's touted to be. He wasn't with the Nets, and he won't be with the Mavericks either.

■ The General Assembly is on summer break. Raise your hand if you think this is a good thing. Bunky.

■ Celtics rookie Terry Rozier is just the latest NBA player with a back story out of some contemporary Dickens' novel: His father spent most of Rozier's Ohio childhood in jail.

■ Jimmy Baron is on the Knicks' summer league roster.

■ Looking for a new crime/mystery writer? Check out David J. Bell, whose latest, in paperback, is "Somebody I Used to Know."

■ Is he Slumping Tiger now?

■ Speaking of Jimmy Baron, check out his pro workout on YouTube.

■ Can we have a little closure on the world closure?

■ Rex Ryan went skydiving on Friday.

■ But there's no truth to the rumor he saw Bill Belichick going up when he was going down.

■ The long forgotten "Go Set A Watchman," the prequel to the great "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, is the No. 1 novel in the country.

■ **QUIZ ANSWER:** The 2008 Red Sox, with Dustin Pedroia, Kevin Youkilis, David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez.

■ This, too, from David Letterman on Trump: "During sex, Donald Trump calls out his own name."

■ Jack Nicklaus won 18 majors. He also finished second 19 times in majors.

■ Has Gronk ever had a bad day?

■ Does "Big Papi" have one more act left in him, or is this about it?

■ Do we have to call in Columbus to actually find out what happened in the "beach blast," or are we just saying, "That's Rhode Island," and be done with it?

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GOLF

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tap-in-range.

"That really started my day off great," he said. On the par-5 second hole, he hit a 5-wood, then

two-putted for a win.

Jackspic bogeyed the third hole and faced a quick deficit.

"He got off to a great start this morning and being 3-down after three is not an ideal start," Jackspic said. "Then he just didn't make many mistakes."

Silva's advantage was shaved to one after a Jackspic birdie at the 16th hole, but Silva responded with birds at the 17th and 18th and then won the first hole of the afternoon, the 18th, to go 4-up.

"As I got a few holes up, that's when I focused the

hardest," Silva said. "I didn't want to give him that opportunity to come back. He's a very good player. He's in the finals for a reason and beat a lot of good players to get here."

When the players returned to the first tee, Silva noticed

a swirling wind. That seemed to slow both players, as the duo combined for only three birdies over the final 13 holes. Jackspic bogeyed the par-5 ninth to fall five back and when Silva dropped his approach on the 11th (and the match's 29th) to two feet,

any hopes for an improbable comeback were over. Silva finished the day's 31 holes at 3-under par.

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