

GOLF: R.I. AMATEUR

Hayes alone atop leaderboard after first round

Wind, hard greens play havoc with field at Point Judith

By Bill Koch
Journal Sports Writer

NARRAGANSETT — Point Judith Country Club took no prisoners on the opening day of the 111th R.I. Amateur Championship.

None of the field's 116 players were able to break par at the seaside layout co-designed by Donald Ross, with treacherous greens and freshening winds making for a difficult Monday.

Newport Country Club's Johnny Hayes IV took advantage of the relative morning calm to card an even-par 71, enjoying the lead all by himself heading into the tournament's second day of stroke play on Tuesday. The top 32 players in the field will survive to the match-play portion of the event, which begins on Wednesday.

"These are the fastest greens I've played on in a while," Hayes said. "It was difficult to get the speed. But I made some clutch putts which kept the momentum going."

Hayes enjoyed a brief lunch in the sunshine off the clubhouse deck and strolled toward the parking lot just after noon, blissfully unaware

Rhode Island Amateur

FIRST-ROUND RESULTS

At Point Judith, par-71
1. Johnny Hayes IV, 71; 2. Cameron Andrade, 73; T3. George Pirie, Eric Marchetti, Jason Kain, Matt Costaregni, 74;
T7. Bobby Leopold, Davis Chatfield, Jeffrey Giguere, 75; T14. Colin Sutyla, Jake Bauer, Jason Short, Jay Barrow, Kyle Hoffman, 76;
T15. Christopher DeLucia, Eric Ahlberg, Fred Schick, Kevin Blaser, Tyler Cooke, 77; T26. Billy Forcier, Bryan Couture, Dave Carvara, Jon Costa III, Riley Griffin, Ryan Pelletier, Tom McCormick, 78; T27. Andrew Jankowski, Barry Higham, Brian Bardier, Bruce Heterick, E.J. Wholey, George Philip, James Green, John Drohen, John McCarthy, Michael Phillips, Mitchell Perez, Seamus Fennelly, 79;
T39. Domenic Mainelli, Eli Epstein-Lubow, Gary Palmer, Jim Colucci, Joe Tucher, Nicholas Caccia, Sean Irons, Tom Goryl, Will Hall, 80; T48. Andrew Florenzano, Billy Walsh, Brad Valois, Dave Nuttall Jr., Kevin Carrozza, Kevin Silva, Matthew Phillips, McKinley Slade, Michael

TODAY'S TEE TIMES

7:30 a.m. — Robert Duarte, Alex Parents, Jim Lathrop
7:30 a.m. — Andrew Jankowski, Steve Chevalier, Mike Caparco
7:40 a.m. — Jim Mahoney, Sean Irons, Mark Mazur
7:57 a.m. — Ben Donaldson, George Philip, Cosmo Minicucci
8:05 a.m. — Andrew Rathier, Claudio Souza, M. Neuth, Tom Kellogg
8:15 a.m. — Jay Barrow, Christopher DeLucia, Will Hall
8:24 a.m. — Bobby Leopold, Andrew Florenzano, Jake Bauer
8:42 a.m. — Brad Valois, Kyle Hoffman, Riley Griffin
8:51 a.m. — Mitchell Perez, E.J. Wholey, Joe Tucher
9:00 a.m. — Jon Costa III, Kevin Blaser, McKinley Slade
9:09 a.m. — James Irving, Rick Bernard, Bob Marshalewski
9:18 a.m. — Jim Colucci, Tyler Cooke, Dan Lovejoy
9:27 a.m. — Roger DiEffenbach, Eli Epstein-Lubow, Pat Jamison
9:36 a.m. — John Drohen, Michael Petrarca, Gary Palmer
9:54 a.m. — Matthew Phillips, Matthew Occhi, John McCarthy
10:03 a.m. — Dave Marshall, Nicholas Caccia, Jake Rosen
10:12 a.m. — Domenic Mainelli, Kevin Carrozza, Greg Lakeway
10:21 a.m. — Barry Higham, Pat Healey, William Blinn III
10:30 a.m. — Jacob Anderson, James Green, Taylor Harrington

of the carnage he left behind. All 18 holes played over par and a stroke average of nearly 82 — a grisly 11-over — left the field grasping for answers entering the second round. The 425-yard eighth, 404-yard 13th and 217-yard 16th yielded just one birdie each, and just two birdies were recorded at the 446-yard 10th and 373-yard 15th.

"It's just one of those golf courses," said Bobby Leopold, the 2009 and 2014 winner who

carded a 4-over 75. "It doesn't lend many birdies out there."

Hayes, 26, was the Maine Amateur champion last year and looked solid tee-to-green on Monday, carding 14 pars. He played two years of college golf at Towson and two more at Colorado, including a 2010 appearance with Towson at the Adams Cup in Newport. Navigating Point Judith on Monday was a challenge equal to what he would have faced had Hayes accepted a late invitation to

Petrarca, Richard Audette Jr., Rick Bernard, Roger DiEffenbach, Ryan Mzloy, 81;
T51. Andrew Rathier, Drew Aitken, Jacob Anderson, Jamil Lukowicz, John Auslar, Matthew Corio, Pat Healey, Paul Quigley, Ryan Porter, Tom Acciaro Sr., Tom Kellogg, 82; T72. Cody Wims, Donald Gallagher, George Maropoulos, Glenn Dufault, Greg Lakeway, Jake Rosen, Jim Lathrop, Pat Jamison, Rob Grossguth, Steven Lettierie Jr., 83;
T82. Ben Donaldson, Claudio Soukameuth, Dave Marshall, John Damiano, Michael Botelho, Mike Soucy, Robert Gaudreau Jr., Taylor Harrington, 84; T96. Cosmo Minicucci, Frankie Lee, James Irving, Matthew Occhi, Richard Carroll, Robert Duarte, 85; T96. Brad Edgerton, Jim Mahoney, Mark Mazur, 86;
T99. Andrew Resmini, Austin Cilley, Joe Hassett, John Aitken, Mike Caparco, 87; T104. Andrew Coughlin, Dan Lovejoy, Erik Williams, Steve Chevalier, 88; T108. Dean Parziale, Ronald Amado, 89; T118. David Boggini, William Blinn III, 90; T112. Alex Parents, Bob Marshalewski, Jason Resmini, 91; T115. David Dichiera Jr., Pat Monti, 93.

10:30 a.m. — Bryan Couture, George Maropoulos, David Dichiera Jr.
11:00 a.m. — Dave Nuttall Jr., John Auslar, Eric Marchetti
11:18 a.m. — John Damiano, Glenn Dufault, Colin Sutyla
11:27 a.m. — Ronald Amado, Michael Botelho, Pat Monti
11:36 a.m. — George Pirie, Rob Grossguth, Johnny Hayes IV
11:45 a.m. — Michael Phillips, Dean Parziale, Matthew Corio
11:54 a.m. — Cameron Andrade, Joe Hassett, Tom Goryl
12:03 p.m. — Mike Soucy, Matt Costaregni, Dave Carvara
12:11 p.m. — Ryan Pelletier, Tom Acciaro Jr., Jason Kain
12:20 p.m. — Kevin Silva, Davis Chatfield, Paul Quigley
12:28 p.m. — Tom McCormick, Richard Audette Jr., Billy Forcier
12:37 p.m. — Seamus Fennelly, Eric Ahlberg, Ryan Porter
1:06 p.m. — Fred Schick, Richard Carroll, Bruce Heterick
1:15 p.m. — Steven Lettierie Jr., Jason Short
1:33 p.m. — Jeffrey Giguere, Brian Bardier, Brad Edgerton
1:42 p.m. — David Boggini, Drew Aitken, Robert Gaudreau Jr.
1:51 p.m. — Billy Walsh, Andrew Coughlin, John Aitken
2:00 p.m. — Frankie Lee, Donald Gallagher, Andrew Resmini
2:09 p.m. — Cody Wims, Austin Cilley, Jason Resmini
2:18 p.m. — Jamie Lukowicz, Erik Williams, Ryan Malloy

last week's Northeast Amateur at Wannamoisett.

"There's no letting up," said University of Rhode Island sophomore Jason Short, who finished with a 76. "There are a few short holes, but even on the short holes you have to be in the right spots or you're not going to have a chance."

Hayes enjoyed a two-shot overnight lead over Cameron Andrade, as the Wofford senior-to-be wrapped up an early 73 before heading

to Barrington and his home course at Rhode Island Country Club. His father, Billy Andrade, was busy partnering on a co-leading 62 with Bill Haas at the CVS Health Charity Classic event that he also helps host with former high school rival Brad Faxon. Billy Andrade and Faxon count three R.I. Amateur titles between them, with Faxon going back-to-back in 1981-82 and Andrade claiming the 1983 crown.

George Pirie won the first of his three titles in 1989 — six years after Andrade's victory — and Valley Country Club's resident periodontist leads a group of four players at 3-over 74. Leopold and young guns Davis Chatfield and Jeff Giguere are locked in a three-way tie while Short joined Bishop Hendrickson star Colin Sutyla, Johnson & Wales-Miami rising sophomore Jake Bauer and two others at 5-over.

"Those holes on the back nine, once the wind gets going, it's a case of just hanging on," Leopold said. "It felt like at times there trying to make par was almost impossible."

Even a bit of local knowledge wasn't enough to remain in red figures. Short calls Point Judith home during the Rams' season and will spend this summer working in the

club's bag room. True to Leopold's words, Short's round included four bogeys over his final six holes, dropping the Massachusetts native back to the pack after making the turn at 1-under.

"I knew it was going to be hard," Short said. "I knew they'd been prepping the course, and it's not an easy course when the wind comes up in general."

The Amateur returned to the 6,691-yard layout after an 18-year absence, forcing the players to compete over a firmer, faster golf course. Extensive drainage work about a dozen years ago allows for superintendent Brett Johnson and the R.I. Golf Association staff to oversee an event that could feature a double-digit cut line. Past champions Brad Valois (81), Paul Quigley (82), Mike Soucy (84) and 2015 winner Kevin Silva (81) all sit outside the top 30 entering Tuesday.

"The greens are so firm and fast that your misses are exaggerated," Leopold said. "You think you can attack something and all of a sudden you're like, 'Don't miss it there or you can get a double.'"

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Silva bounces back with a 66

Marchetti earns medalist honors

By Kevin McNamara
Journal Sports Writer

NARRAGANSETT — After two days of introduction to the dangers of Point Judith Country Club, the 32 who survived into match play at the Rhode Island Amateur couldn't be happier.

The winds that wreaked havoc in Monday's opening round lessened, but didn't die, on the second day of qualifying. That opened the door for some birdies to finally fly but everyone was relieved to move on to match play on Wednesday morning. No one posted a two-day, under-par qualifying score and only two players had under-par rounds.

"I think this course will be a heck of a match-play course," said Kevin Silva, the defending champion and one of only two players who broke par on Tuesday with a 5-under 66, tying him for fourth at 5-over 147. "You're not setting up the course to get everyone around. You can put some pins in some fun places. It's going to be so much fun for match play."

Just getting to match play was a major chore. After a 6-over par cut line last summer at Metacomet, the final qualifying spot was 15-over.

Medalist honors went to Eric Marchetti, who plays Point Judith regularly as a member of the University of Rhode Island team. Marchetti made just one birdie on Monday but stayed away from major problems until a double bogey at the 18th hole to shoot 74. On Tuesday he came out firing. He birdied the second and third holes, slipped up with two bogeys, but had birdies at the 12th and 15th holes to shoot a 69 and finish at 1-over 143.

"I've struggled with a

Rhode Island Amateur

SECOND-ROUND RESULTS

At Point Judith CC, par-71
1, Eric Marchetti, 74-69-143; 2, Cameron Andrade, 73-72-145; 3, Bobby Leopold, 75-71-146; 4, Johnny Hayes IV, 71-76-147; Kevin Silva, 81-66-147; 5, Jason Short, 76-72-148; 7, Matt Costaregni, 74-75-149; Ryan Pelletier, 78-71-149; 9, Jason Kallin, 74-76-150; Kyle Hoffman, 76-74-150; T11, Kevin Blaser, 77-74-151; Jeffrey Giguere, 75-76-151; Jake Bauer, 76-75-151; 14, George Pirie, 74-78-152.

T15, EJ Wholey, 79-74-153; Dave Carvera, 78-77-153; Seamus Fennelly, 79-74-153; T18, Eric Ahlberg, 77-77-154; Richard Audette Jr., 81-73-154; John McCarthy, 79-75-154; Tyler Cooke, 77-77-154; Colin Suflya, 76-78-154; Christopher DeLucia, 77-77-154; Joe Tucker, 80-74-154; Davis Chatfield, 75-79-154; T26, McKinley Slade, 81-74-155; Nicholas Caccia, 80-75-155; Billy Forcier, 78-77-155; Michael Philipp, 79-76-155; T30, Tom Goryl, 80-76-156; Paul Quigley, 82-74-156; 32, Eli Epstein-Lubow, 80-77-157 (qualified on 2nd playoff hole). Failed to make cut

T32, Bruce Heterick, 79-78-157; Matthew Corio, 82-75-157; Tom McCormick, 78-79-157; Gary Palmer, 80-77-157; T37, Mitchell Pozor, 79-79-158; Andrew Fiorenzano, 81-77-158; Jon Costa III, 78-80-158; Dave Nuttall Jr., 81-77-158; Jay Barrow, 76-82-158; Tom Acciardo Sr., 82-76-158; Brad Valois, 81-77-158; Billy Griffin, 78-80-158; James Green, 79-79-158.

T46, Fred Schick, 77-82-159; Ryan Malloy, 81-78-159; Billy Walsh, 81-78-159; T49, Matthew Phillips, 81-79-160; Drew Alden, 82-78-160; Brian Barden, 79-81-160; T52, John Drohen, 79-82-161; Jim Colucci, 80-81-161; Will Hall, 80-81-161; Andrew Jankowski, 79-82-161; Dave Marshall, 84-77-161; T57,

TODAY'S TEE TIMES

Round of 32

7:30 a.m. — Eric Marchetti, Metacomet CC vs. Eli Epstein-Lubow, Ledgemont CC.

7:39 a.m. — Dave Carvera, Montauk CC vs. Seamus Fennelly, Metacomet CC.

7:48 a.m. — Ryan Pelletier, Pawtucket CC vs. Eric Ahlberg, Warwick CC.

7:57 a.m. — Kyle Hoffman, Pawtucket CC vs. Richard Audette Jr., Metacomet CC.

8:06 a.m. — Johnny Hayes IV, Newport CC vs. Billy Forcier, Wannamoisett CC.

8:15 a.m. — Jeffrey Giguere, Wannamoisett CC vs. Tyler Cooke, Potowomut CC.

8:24 a.m. — Kevin Silva, Montauk CC vs. Michael Philipp, Briggs Memorial CC.

8:33 a.m. — Kevin Blaser, Metacomet CC vs. John McCarthy, Potowomut CC.

Michael Bolelio, 84-78-162; Rob Grossguth, 83-79-162; Barry Higham, 79-83-162; Sean Irons, 80-82-162.

T61, Tom Kallag, 83-81-163; Richard Carroll, 85-78-163; T63, Donald Gallagher, 83-81-164; John Auchter, 82-82-164; John Damiano, 84-80-164; Ben Donaldson, 84-80-164; Pat Jamison, 83-81-164; Greg Lukowsky, 83-81-164; Dean Parside, 88-75-164; T76, Nick Bernard, 81-84-168; Andrew Rastler, 82-83-168; James Irving, 85-80-168; Glenn Dufault, 83-82-168; Domenic Mahesh, 80-85-168.

T75, Mark Mazur, 80-80-168; Michael Petroski, 81-85-168; David Boggini, 90-76-168; Brad Edgerton, 86-86-168; Roger DiPierbach, 81-85-168; John Alden, 87-79-168; Taylor Harrington, 84-83-168; Robert Gaudreau Jr., 84-82-168; Jake Rosen, 83-83-168; Bryan Coulson, 79-88-168.

T85, Ryan Porter, 82-85-167; Steven Lettler Jr., 83-84-167; Jim Lathrop, 83-84-167; Austin Cilly, 87-80-167; T88, Matthew Oishi, 85-83-168; Pat Healey, 82-86-168; Kevin Carozza, 81-87-168; George Markopoulos, 83-85-168; 93, Claudio Soukameath, 84-85-168; T94, Ronald Amado, 89-81-170; Andrew Resmini, 87-83-170; Erik Williams, 88-82-170; Frankie Lee, 85-85-170.

T98, Jim Mahoney, 86-85-171; Joe Hassett, 87-84-171; Robert Duarte, 85-86-171; Andrew Coughlin, 88-83-171; Jacob Anderson, 82-89-171; 103, Cody Wims, 83-90-172; 104, Bob Marshalewski, 91-83-174; T105 Cosmo Minicucci, 85-91-176; Mike Caporaso, 87-89-176; 107, Pat Monti, 93-84-177; T108, Alex Perenna, 91-87-178; Don Lovejoy, 88-90-178.

T10, William, — Blinn III, 90-91-181; T11, Jason Resmini, 91-91-182; T12, David Cichlars Jr., 93-94-187.

T113, George Philip, 79-DQ-DQ; Jamie Lukowsky, 82-WD-WD; Mike Soucy, 84-DQ-DQ; Steve Chevalier, 88-WD-WD.

8:51 a.m. — Cameron Andrade, Rhode Island CC vs. Paul Quigley, Swansea CC.

9:00 a.m. — EJ Wholey, Quinmisset CC vs. Christopher DeLucia, Connecticut National CC.

9:09 a.m. — Matt Costaregni, Potowomut CC vs. McKinley Slade, Potowomut CC.

9:18 a.m. — Jason Kallin, Metacomet CC vs. Davis Chatfield, Wannamoisett CC.

9:27 a.m. — Bobby Leopold, Wannamoisett CC vs. Tom Goryl, Wannamoisett CC.

9:36 a.m. — George Pirie, Valley CC vs. Joe Tucker, Potowomut CC.

9:45 a.m. — Jason Short, Point Judith CC vs. Nicholas Caccia, Metacomet CC.

9:54 a.m. — Jake Bauer, Montauk CC vs. Colin Suflya, Potowomut CC.

pinched nerve in my back, but I'm feeling well now," said Marchetti, a North Attleboro resident. "There is some local knowledge here in knowing what pins to go after and I think that helped today."

Marchetti, 21, qualified for match play two years ago and lost to eventual champion Bobby Leopold.

Two of Marchetti's URI teammates, Jason Short (6-over) and Seamus Fennelly (11-over), also made the cut.

Silva was in danger of not having the chance to defend his title after shooting 81 in the opening round. He quickly wiped out those bad thoughts by opening his round on Tuesday with birdies on four of the first five holes. He went on to make seven birdies and looks very much like the tournament favorite.

"I wanted to make an adjustment today and position my ball better on the green," Silva said. "I had way better course management. You have to think your way around this course."

Cameron Andrade, a senior at Wofford College, heard at the turn that his father, Billy, had just finished second at the CVS Health Charity Classic. Cameron went on to make eight pars on the back nine and post a 1-over 72 to finish second at 3-over.

Andrade spends his summers in Bristol with his grandparents and cousins and has now made match play in the Rhode Island Amateur four times. His father won the Amateur in 1983.

"I love the golf courses up here," Andrade said. "Who wants to be in Atlanta where it's 110 degrees? Our coach wants us to be playing tournament golf and this is a fun one. It would be so cool to bring something back like my Dad did."

Leopold, a two-time champion, shot an even-par 71 to finish third at 4-over. The only other players to shot an even-par round over the two days were Newport's Johnny Hayes (71-76) and Pawtucket's Ryan Pelletier (78-71).

The 116 players left with a new-found respect — or contempt — for the course. Many players remember the Point Judith of 20 years ago that was known for its soft, often water-logged fairways and thatched greens. But those days are long gone.

The field posted an average of 80.8 and yielded more double bogeys (369) than birdies (280). Among the players who made the cut were 67-year old former champion George Pirie (10-over), 71-year old three-time champ Paul Quigley (14-over) and 67-year old Tom Goryl (14-over).

Brad Valois, a four-time champion, missed the cut by one shot. He would have breezed into match play if he didn't post a nine on the par-5 18th on Monday and then an eight on the par-4 17th on Tuesday.

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SPORTS

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COMMENTARY

On Sox, Summitt, and charity



BILL REYNOLDS

Three mini-columns for the price of one:

RED SOX

Where did the promise of spring go?

That's the question as the Red Sox hit the wall in June.

That's the question as the pitching has lost its luster, and the Sox are in the midst of a too-long mediocre streak.

That's the question as the Sox have one of Major League Baseball's worst records for the month of June.

That's the question as the demise of Clay Buchholz has become a symbol of a team that's scuffling.

That's the question as the Sox have lost their mojo.

Where did the promise of spring go?

Gone to graveyards every one, as the old song goes.

This is a team that came out of the gate fast, as if it was their destiny to erase the stench of the past two seasons. Now it's as if those past two seasons are about to stare them down, as if the flaws have come running out of the dugout and are running around on the field.

Not is there really any mystery that the wolves are beginning to circle around embattled manager John Farrell, who is coming off two lost seasons. This manager doesn't seem to have a lot of rope left, this man who has "fall guy" all but stamped on his forehead unless this team gets its groove back. This is the terrain Farrell now walks on, and it's shaky.

And maybe it gets turned around, and maybe this is just a bad patch. But for now the fun of the spring, and all its promise, is yesterday's news.

PAT SUMMITT

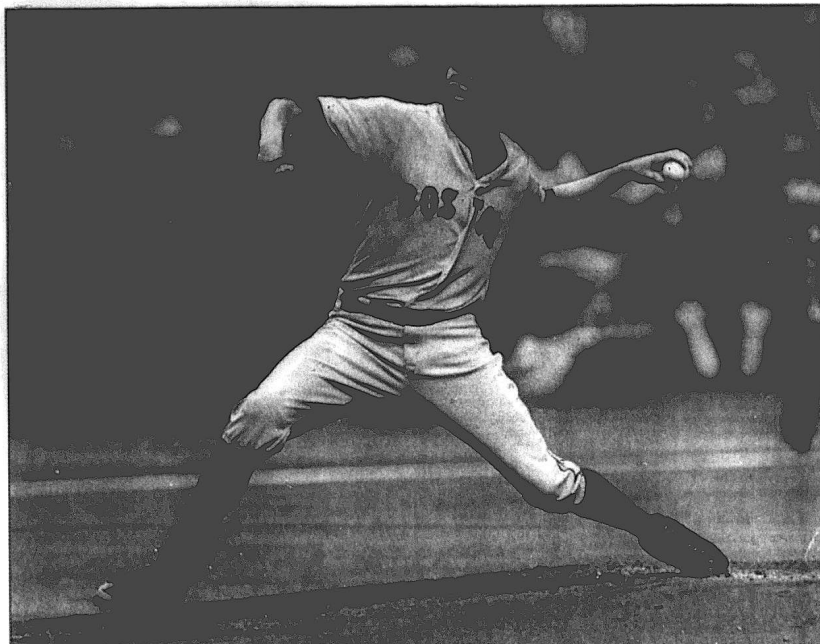
She was a basketball giant.

She also was a pioneer, going off into unexplored territory and taking a sport with her.

And maybe it's this simple: If she didn't exist, women's basketball would have had to make her up.

And it's more than the fact that she won eight

RAYS 4, RED SOX 0



Red Sox starter David Price was ineffective on Wednesday against the Tampa Bay Rays, as he fell to 8-5 on the season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/STEVE NESIUS PHOTOS

PERPLEXING PRICE

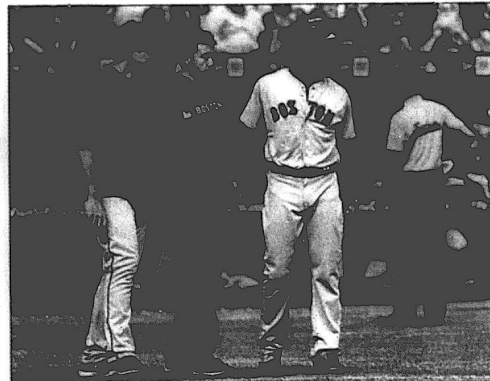
Sox ace strikes out 10, but Rays tee off on his mistakes

By Brian MacPherson
Journal Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Well after Wednesday's game had ended, more than an hour after he'd been removed from it, David Price was still wearing his uniform in front of his locker in the visitors' clubhouse at Tropicana Field. It was as though changing would make permanent the uneven and ineffective outing he'd just turned in, like hot water setting a stain in dirty laundry.

"I'm so much better than this," he said. "I've just got to get better. It's crushing me right now, but I'll get there."

Price (8-5 on the season) struck out 10 hitters, his fifth double-digit strike-out game of the season, but he had most of his success against the bottom half of the Tampa Bay order. The top half mostly teed off on him, especially in the early innings, as the Rays handed Boston a 4-0 defeat, their seventh loss in 10 days.



Red Sox manager John Farrell, left, and trainer Masahiro Tanaka, center, check on Hanley Ramirez after a wild swing during an at-bat in the sixth inning on Wednesday. Ramirez was removed from the game later with tightness on his right side.

Brandon Guyer homered and doubled on a fastball and changeup, respectively, that Price left in the middle of the plate. As was the case

five days ago in Texas, Price spent far too much time getting far too much time with his pitches.

"That's probably the

not commanding my fastball the way I need to. I'm just bad right now."

Price pitched around a leadoff double by Logan Forsythe to get through the first inning unscathed, something he couldn't do when the Rangers jumped all over him in his last start. But the second pitch he threw in the second inning was a fastball that didn't get nearly as far in on Guyer as he intended, and Guyer smacked it over the left field fence.

An inning later, Evan Longoria yanked an RBI double to left on a cutter that caught too much of the inner half of the plate, and Guyer followed two batters later with another double on a changeup right down the middle.

As he had after Guyer homered in the second inning, Price followed the Guyer double by striking out each of the final four hitters in the Tampa Bay order. By then, though, it was too late.

SEE RED SOX, B5

GOLF R.I. AMATEUR

Familiar names remain in contention

Two most recent champions, Kevin Silva and Bobby Leopold, are still in tourney

By Kevin McNamara
Journal Sports Writer

NARRAGANSETT — The eight golfers who've survived three days at Point Judith Country Club have all taken disparate turns into the quarterfinal round at the Rhode Island State Amateur.

The two most recent champions, Kevin Silva and Bobby Leopold, are still alive. So is Cameron Andrade, who gutted out two wins with his father,

Billy, mother and grandfather all watching. He'll face Davis Chatfield, a rising senior at Bishop Feehan High with a lot of game.

The other quarterfinalists include some very good players but none who've taken deep runs in the State Amateur before. That group includes URI's Eric Marchetti and Jason Short, former Four Ball champ Ryan Pelletier and Johnny Hayes IV, a dangerous talent



Cameron Andrade hits a shot off a green near the 11th hole during his match against Paul Quigley on Wednesday. Andrade advanced to the quarterfinals of R.I. State Amateur Golf Championship. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB BREIDENBACH

SEE R.I. AMATEUR, B6

BRUINS

Defensive help a priority

With free agent market opening, Boston may spend

By Mike Loftus
@MikeLoftus_Ledger

Friday is a big day on the NHL calendar.

There's at least one big gap in the Bruins' lineup, and that number could grow just after noon, when the free agent market opens.

The Bruins can either make a big move or two — not necessarily at 12:01 p.m., but certainly by the time the July Fourth weekend is over — or they may as well start to promote 2016-17 as a

rebuilding year.

Yes, the situation is that stark. Everyone knows it. As close as they have come to qualifying for the playoffs for the last two seasons, it's virtually impossible to see the B's competing for a berth next year, if they bring back a roster identical to 2015-16.

Their only two under-contract defensemen to have played Top 4 roles over their careers, Zdeno Chara and Dennis Seidenberg, are 39 and 34, respectively, and have passed their peak years. The Bruins have been unable to re-sign one of their relatively few dependable,

SEE BRUINS, B7

YANKEES 9, RANGERS 7

Six runs in 9th caps epic comeback

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brian McCann hit a tying, three-run homer off Sam Dyson, Didi Gregorius capped a six-run ninth inning with his two-run shot and the New York Yankees woke up late to beat the Texas Rangers, 9-7, Wednesday night.

Down 7-2 and in danger of falling 10 games behind A.L. East-leading Baltimore, the Yankees began their comeback when McCann homered off Cesar Ramos in the eighth.

Rob Refsnyder singled off Matt Bush leading off the ninth, Jacoby Ellsbury singled and Dyson (1-2) relieved.

Brett Gardner singled and Refsnyder came home when center fielder Ian Desmond bobbled the ball for an error. After Alex Rodriguez lined out, McCann homered into the right-field bleachers, Starlin Castro walked and Gregorius lined the ball into the right-field seats for his first career game-ending homer.

Luis Cessa (1-0) allowed one run in three innings for his first big league win. Before the game, New York manager Joe Girardi sounded more concerned about a slow start that has turned into a half season of struggles.

After improving to one game over .500 last weekend — their season high was 4-2 in April — the Yankees (17-10) had lost three straight going into Wednesday's game against the Texas Rangers.

"There's a sense of urgency," Girardi said. "As days tick away, you start to run out of time, and you don't want to bury yourself."

"Baltimore is playing extremely well. Boston has run into a few bumps here but they've played well. Toronto's played well. And so you can't mess around too long and expect to be there."

He also concerned about injuries. Carlos Beltran left Tuesday's game in the first inning with a tight right hamstring. Girardi said he was worried and was not sure whether Beltran would



Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka leaves the mound after allowing four runs to the Texas Rangers in the third inning. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/KATHY WILLIAMS

be available to pinch hit. "It's not as sore as it was last night," the manager said. "I don't think I'm going to have Belt tomorrow, either."

The 30-year-old Beltran is the Yankees' top batter, hitting .297 with 10 homers and 53 RBI.

"You want to feel good that when you put him out there he's going to be OK," Girardi said, "but in the situation that we're in, you can't necessarily always wait as long as you want."

Slumping Alex Rodriguez, benched against right-handed starters earlier this week, replaced Beltran as the Yankees' designated hitter. New York starts a trip Friday with an interleague series against the Padres — meaning there will be no DH.

It's probably easy to manage if he's DHing, but we're going to San Diego, so that's a concern," Girardi said.

First baseman Mark Teixeira, who started four straight games after coming off the disabled list, was given a night off from the starting lineup.

Girardi said he did not want to start Teixeira in five consecutive games following his knee injury. Rob Refsnyder replaced him at first.

"This kid's had to adapt to a lot, a couple different position changes," Girardi said. "But he's really pushed himself on here because he's made himself more versatile and he gives you really good at-bats and runs the bases well."

WIMBLEDON

Federer ends magical run of unknown player

By Howard Fendrich
The Associated Press

LONDON — How much money might you be willing to pay for the once-in-a-lifetime chance to play tennis against Roger Federer on Centre Court at Wimbledon?

Or merely for the chance to emerge from the tunnel leading out to the green grass there and hear the full-throated yells of nearly 15,000 standing, clapping spectators pulling for you?

Or, perhaps best of all, for the chance to look up at a guest box and see your parents, sister, brother and cousin leaping out of their seats, rejoicing, after you conjured up a beautifully curled lob that floated over the man considered by many to be the sport's greatest player in history and landed in to win a 14-stroke exchange?

Marcus Willis, who lives at home with his mom and dad and works as a tennis instructor at a club in central England, got to experience all of that and more Wednesday, and it didn't cost the 25-year-old a dime. Actually, Willis earned the biggest paycheck of his career despite winding up with the sort of result everyone expected when a guy ranked 772nd in the world somehow found himself across the net from the



Englishman Marcus Willis, a complete tennis unknown, found himself playing Roger Federer Wednesday at Wimbledon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/TIM IRELAND

man who spent more weeks at No. 1 than anyone: a 6-0, 6-3, 6-4 victory for Federer in the second round at the All England Club.

"I did look up twice as I bounced the ball, and saw Roger Federer, and thought, 'Oh, haven't seen this before,'" Willis said. "Yeah, it was surreal. ... I had to get used to it and play."

He earned the right to be out there against the 17-time Grand Slam champion thanks to an improbable, straight-from-a-screen-play couple of weeks that included victories in three matches during a playoff for low-ranked British players, three more in the qualifying rounds at Wimbledon, and then another Monday in his

very first tour-level match.

"It's all been incredible and a bit of a blur," said Willis, a left-hander with a strong serve who slices shots off both wings. "I've gone from one extreme to the other in a matter of days."

Willis, who charges about \$40 per hour for lessons, truly became an overnight sensation. His girlfriend — who, in keeping with the Hollywood nature of the whole episode, recently persuaded him not to give up on his dream of being a regular on the professional tour — was interviewed on the BBC. So were his family members. His loud group of supporters, who led rowdy chants that reverberated under the closed roof of the

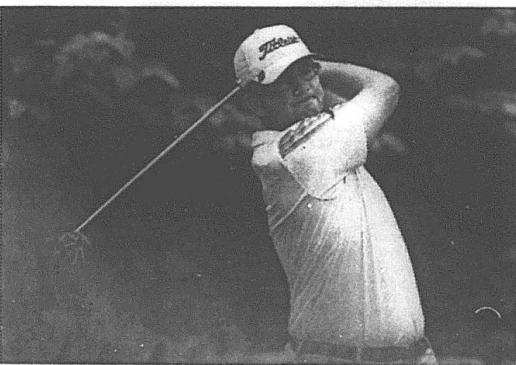
generally staid venue, got the TV treatment, too. "I said a few days ago: 'This story is gold,'" Federer said. "He's got a career after this. He definitely made the most of it."

Federer's career prize money is just shy of \$100 million, and that doesn't include plenty from endorsement deals. Willis entered Wimbledon with about \$350 this year and less than \$100,000 for his career in prize money — and, needless to say, zero endorsements. On Wednesday, Willis' white shirt, which he bought about a year ago, was made by Federer's apparel sponsor and had the gray initials "RF" etched on the left sleeve. Willis earned a check for 50,000 pounds (about \$67,000) and plenty of memories.

On another rain-filled day that left a dozen men still unable to complete their first-round matches while No. 3 Federer and No. 1 Novak Djokovic moved into the third, Willis stepped out on court with a wave and the widest smile imaginable, shaking his head at the scene.

Willis, it turns out, made an impression on Federer, too.

"As I was playing," Federer said, "I was thinking ... 'This is definitely one of the matches I'll remember.'"



Eric Marchetti made the quarterfinals with his play Wednesday at the Point Judith Country Club. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB BREIDENBACH

RI AMATEUR

From Page B1

from Maine who plays out of Newport.

It makes for a wide open set of quarterfinal matches that tee off Thursday morning. The semifinals follow in the afternoon.

"The greens are still really fast, like chipping onto grass," said Hayes, "but it's not a long course. It's how you hit your wedges. If you're hitting wedges close, you can win out here."

While Point Judith's length (6,700 yards) may limit a birdie barrage, Leopold was the only survivor who tore through both of his two matches Wednesday. The 2014 champion lost only one hole on his way to a 7 and 6 win over Tom Goryl in the morning and then turned around and made short order (6 and 5) of Joe Tucker in the afternoon.

Silva, the defending champ, admitted to "really being on the ropes" in his morning match with Michael Phillip of Trigg. Silva made just one birdie in the opening 12 holes and fell behind, 3-down. But Phillip cracked, making three double bogeys in the next four holes, all of which Silva won. Silva then made par on the last two holes to win, 1 up.

Silva was much more dominant in an afternoon match, disposing of Metacomet's Kevin Blaser, 4 and 3. Silva won three of the first eight holes with pars and never

looked back.

Silva will face Hayes, who played college golf at both Towson and the University of Colorado. He's from Cape Elizabeth, Maine, won the Maine Amateur last year and has plenty of game. He got by Coventry's Billy Forcier, 3 and 1, in the morning but then blew a 4-up lead after nine in a match with Tyler Cooke. After the match grew tied at the 14th hole, both players made pars at the 15th and 16th but Cooke flew the 17th green with his approach and made a bogey. Hayes then closed the door with a par on 18 for the win.

The two URI players survived in different ways. Jason Short, a Rhody freshman from Marlboro, Mass., beat Nicholas Caccia, 6 and 5, but needed 19 holes to fight off Montaup's Jake Bauer. Marchetti, of North Attleboro, was limited by injury this past spring and acknowledged he was more focused on his studies as a biological sciences major than golf. But he found a way to win consecutive matches in a tournament for the first time since his junior career. First he battled back from a two-hole deficit after 12 to overtake Moses Brown's Eli Epstein-Lubow. Then he earned a 4 and 3 win over good friend and Rhody teammate Seamus Fennelly. "The goal here for me is par," Marchetti said. "You make 18 pars and you'll win most of your matches."

Marchetti will face Ryan Pelletier, another Attleboro resident. He shot 77-75-81 in

three rounds at the Northeast Amateur last week and then 78-71 in qualifying at PJCC. He fought off Eric Ahlberg, 2 and 1, in a morning match but the heavy golf load caught up to him when he hurt his right rib cage on a tee shot on the third hole in an afternoon match against Kyle Hoffman. Even after yelping in pain at times, he never trailed and won, 3 and 2.

"I'm going to stop at an urgent care facility for an x-ray but I think I'm all right," Pelletier said. "Kyle is my Four Ball partner and we play at Pawtucket all the time so I have mixed feelings but I'm happy to keep playing."

Chatfield may be the shortest player remaining, but he has a lot of game. He made five birdies to race to a 4-up lead after 10 holes but lost three holes on the back before hanging on to beat Jason Kalin. Chatfield then tore past Bryant's McKinley Slade, 6 and 5, in the afternoon.

He'll face Andrade, the Wofford College junior with deep roots in Bristol. He was all square with Paul Quigley after 12 holes before pulling away for a 3 and 1 win. He was one up on Chris DeLucia after 11 but then crazy things started happening. Both players birdied 12 but only after Andrade got up-and-down from the practice chipping area.

Andrade made birdie at a bunker at 17, Andrade was moving on as well.

Rhode Island Amateur

MATCH PLAY RESULTS
Point Judith CCC, par 71
Round of 32

Eric Marchetti def. Eli Epstein-Lubow, 1 up; Seamus Fennelly def. Dave Carvara, 3 and 2; Ryan Pelletier def. Eric Ahlberg, 2 and 1; Kyle Hoffman def. Richard Audette Jr., 20 holes; Johnny Hayes IV def. Billy Forcier, 3 and 1; Tyler Cooke def. Jeffrey Giguere, 19 holes; Kevin Silva CC def. Michael Philipp, 1 up; Kevin Blaser def. John McCarthy, 2 up; Cameron Andrade def. Paul Quigley, 3 and 1; Christopher DeLucia def. EJ Wholey, 5 and 3; McKinley Slade def. Matt Costaregni, 6 and 5; Davis Chatfield def. Jason Kalin, 2 up; Bobby Leopold def. Tom Goryl, 7 and 6; Joe Tucker def. George Pirie, 1 up; Jason Short def. Nicholas Caccia, 6 and 5; Jake Bauer def. Colin Sutyla, 6 and 4.

Round of 16

Eric Marchetti def. Seamus Fennelly, 4 and 3; Ryan Pelletier def. Kyle Hoffman, 3 and 2; Johnny Hayes IV def. Tyler Cooke, 1 up; Kevin Silva, Montaup CC (5) def. Kevin Blaser, 4 and 3; Cameron Andrade def. Christopher DeLucia, 2 and 1; Davis Chatfield def. McKinley Slade, 6 and 5; Bobby Leopold def. Joe Tucker, 6 and 5; Jason Short def. Jake Bauer, 19 holes.

TODAY'S TEE TIMES

Quarterfinals

7:30 a.m. — Eric Marchetti, Metacomet CC vs. Ryan Pelletier, Pawtucket CC.
7:35 a.m. — Johnny Hayes IV, Newport CC vs. Kevin Silva, Montaup CC.
7:48 a.m. — Cameron Andrade, Rhode Island CC vs. Davis Chatfield, Wannamoisett CC.
7:57 a.m. — Bobby Leopold, Wannamoisett CC vs. Jason Short, Point Judith CC.

a few paces away. He said he located the spot just on the fringe that he hoped to blast out from, took a deep breath and then did just that. The ball barely rolled onto the green and kept rotating until it hit the stick and rolled in for a birdie. When DeLucia couldn't make par out of a bunker at 17, Andrade was moving on as well.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NCAA puts rule in place to clear up bowl selection

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA has cleared up its bowl-selection process, assuring that no eligible teams with 500 records are passed over for postseason play in favor of more well-known schools with fewer than six wins.

The new rule, which was implemented by the NCAA's Division I Council on Wednesday, will be put in place for the upcoming season and says bowl-eligible teams with 6-6 records must be selected for bowl games before any 5-7 teams are considered.

The NCAA's football oversight committee first made the recommendation for the new rule to the council, following a season that saw only 77 teams eligible for the 80 bowl slots.

The three remaining slots were filled by 5-7 teams — Nebraska, Minnesota and San Jose State.

"It's impossible to project how many eligible bowl teams we will have," said Bob Bowlsby, chair of the football oversight committee and commissioner of the Big 12 Conference.

"We think we have a selection process in the postseason that makes sense and is fair to the schools and the bowls."

The council placed a

moratorium on new bowl games in April, assuring that no new games will be played before the 2020 season.

Despite the hold on any postseason expansion, the NCAA's football oversight committee recommended the rule as a way to clearly define the bowl-selection process in the event last year's lack of eligible teams proves to be an aberration.

The council agreed, and it also defined the process by which any 5-7 teams would be considered for post-season play — using the multiyear Academic Progress Rate in Football Bowl Subdivision as the selection criteria. Teams with the highest multiyear APR will be considered first, followed in descending order by others in the category.

Should there be a tie in multiyear APR, the team with the highest score in the most recent single year will have the selection edge.

Despite entering the postseason with sub-.500 records, Nebraska, Minnesota and San Jose State each won their bowl games last season.

The Cornhuskers defeated UCLA in the Foster Farms Bowl, while Minnesota beat Central Michigan in the Quick Lane Bowl and San Jose State topped Georgia State in the AutoNation Cure Bowl.

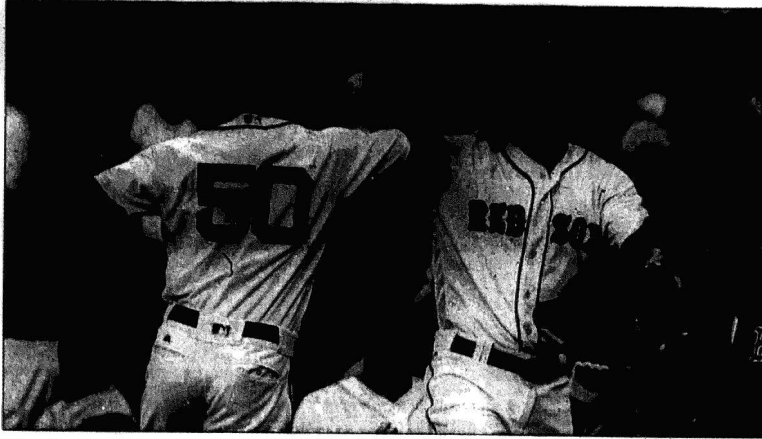
SPORTS

Q&A: STORIES Contact Bill Corey, sports editor | Phone: 401 277 7125 | Fax: 401 277 7444 | bcorey@providencejournal.com

ANGELS-RED SOX

Get pre-game, in-game and postgame news from Fenway Park by following Tim Britton on Twitter: @TimBritton

RED SOX



Mookie Betts, left, and Xander Bogaerts have been two of the bright spots for the Sox this season, even though the team is enduring a rough patch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILES/CHARLES KRUPA PHOTOS

Glimmers amid gloom

Plenty of positives despite Sox' skid

By Brian MacPherson
Journal Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — John Farrell gathered his team in the Tropicana Field visitors' clubhouse late Monday night because he saw what anybody watching can see — a reeling Red Sox team not playing up to its capabilities. A win and a loss in the two days following left the Red Sox 5½ games out of first place, only a half-game ahead in the Wild Card standings.

Farrell also gathered his team because he wanted to emphasize that he still was seeing effort and performance he appreciated. Just that night, for example, a worn-down Xander Bogaerts

sprinted down the first-base line to beat out an infield single on a ground ball to second with the Red Sox down seven runs in the ninth inning, a display of effort Dustin Pedroia later lauded.

Along with focusing on areas in need of significant improvement, Farrell said afterward, "It was also a time to acknowledge some of the positive things that continue."

There have been positives, the widespread consternation of the fan base notwithstanding. A Red Sox team that has finished last in back-to-back seasons remains in playoff position, six games over .500, even after a June that saw them go 10-16.

Among the bright spots: ■ Bogaerts, Mookie Betts and Jackie Bradley Jr.: At long last, a class of prospects has lived up to the hype for the Red Sox. All three homegrown youngsters could



The Sox' Jackie Bradley Jr. has proved that his strong performance last August was anything but a fluke. He's been solid at the plate and in the outfield.

start the All-Star Game for the American League, and at least two of the three would receive American League MVP votes if the season ended today. Betts at times has felt like

he's had trouble putting it all together, but he still has hit 16 home runs and is slugging .501 and he has stolen 12 bases while being caught just once. Bogaerts has shown signs that his long-awaited power has blossomed, hitting nine home runs while until recently, leading the American League in hits.

Bradley put to rest the idea that last August's outburst was a fluke, slugging .558 while dramatically improving his walk-to-strikeout ratio and continuing to play terrific defense in center field. So far this season, he's probably been the best of the bunch.

■ David Ortiz: What Ortiz has given during his retirement tour has been so much better than what he's received. He's getting on base at a remarkable

SEE RED SOX, B5

BRUINS

Krug iced for 4 years

Defenseman gets \$21-million deal; Seidenberg let go

By Mike Loftus
#MikeLoftus Ledger

The exit door continued to get a workout on Thursday, and more Bruins may access it when the NHL's free-agent signing season opens today.

One player doesn't have to think about it for four years, though.

On the same day they bought out the last two years of veteran defenseman Dennis Seidenberg's contract, making him an unrestricted free agent, the Bruins removed Torey Krug from the

SEE BRUINS, B3



After a few seasons of one-year deals, Bruins defenseman Torey Krug signed a four-year, \$21-million contract with Boston on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILES, MICHAEL OWEY

CELTICS

Isaiah busy making pitches

He's reached out to Durant, Horford to sell them on Celts

By Scott Souza
#ScottSouza

BOSTON — A player who first cast a skeptical eye toward a snow-covered city and its struggling basketball team upon his trade to Boston 10 months ago has now become one of the biggest ambassadors for both.

Isaiah Thomas has admitted he wasn't exactly overjoyed when first told he was headed to the Celtics in a trade deadline deal last February, but soon warmed up to his new home as he learned about the franchise and helped lead it back to the playoffs.

SEE CELTICS, B3

COMMENTARY

Rotation responsible for ugly June



Sox starter David Price hangs his head after a poor outing against the Rangers on June 24. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/AM OTERO

David Price summed up the situation candidly, honestly, and, sad to say, accurately.

He was more on target with his assessment than he was with his pitches.

"My curveball was awful," he said, after losing to the light-hitting Tampa Bay Rays, 4-0, Wednesday night. "That's probably the worst changeup I've had in a month. I can't get my cutter and my slider where I want to. I'm not commanding my fastball the way I need to. I'm just bad right now."

Price was describing his pitching problems, but he could just as well have been talking



JIM DONALDSON

about the team as a whole. The Red Sox are "just bad right now."

And have been for a while. In what has been a lovely month of June, the Sox have played ugly baseball, going 10-16. They're coming off a

SEE DONALDSON, B5

GOLF R.I. AMATEUR

Final shapes up as battle of champs

Defending champion, Juniors champion advance to head-to-head finale

By Kevin McKinnara
Journal Sports Writer

NARRAGANSETT — Neither Kevin Silva nor Davis Chatfield are very big but both flashed plenty of game Thursday on their way to the finals of the Rhode Island State Amateur at Point Judith Country Club.

Silva, a former professional who's played in two U.S. Opens, stands 5-foot-8 and weighs about 160 pounds. He wore down two

foes with his steady play and is looking to defend the championship he won last summer at Metacomet. A New Bedford, Mass., resident and a member at Montaup, Silva is in line to become the 14th repeat state titlist.

Chatfield, 17, is from Attleboro and a rising senior at Bishop Feehan. He's a fixture on the practice range and putting green at Wannamoisett and is headed to Notre Dame in the fall of 2017. At 5-4 and 120 pounds, Chatfield has a chance to become maybe the smallest state champion ever.

SEE R.I. AMATEUR, B6

Thursday's results

Quarterfinals
Eric Marchetti def. Ryan Pelletier, 3 and 1; Kevin Silva def. Johnny Hayes IV, 3 and 2; Davis Chatfield def. Cameron Andrade, 3 and 2; Jason Short def. Bobby Leopold, 2-up.

Semifinals
Silva def. Marchetti, 3 and 2; Chatfield def. Jason Short, 20 holes.

Friday's pairing

Championship match
8 a.m. — Silva vs. Chatfield (36 holes).



Defending R.I. State Amateur champion Kevin Silva hits out of a sand trap on the sixth hole in his semifinal match against Eric Marchetti on Thursday. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB BREIDENBACH

WIMBLEDON

Muguruza listless in loss to No. 124 qualifier

By Stephen Wilson
The Associated Press

LONDON — Garbine Muguruza's first major tournament as a reigning Grand Slam champion didn't last long.

Less than a month after winning the French Open, the second-seeded Spaniard was beaten in the second round of Wimbledon on Thursday by a Slovakian qualifier ranked No. 124.

In the biggest upset of the tournament so far, Jana Cepelova beat a listless and mistake-prone Muguruza, 6-3, 6-2, on Court One less than an hour to reach the third round at the All England Club. Muguruza was one of 11

seeded women's players eliminated on Thursday, a day that also saw 10 American men and women win first- or second-round matches as a full day without any rain delays following two days of wet weather.

Muguruza looked like a shadow of the player that reached the final last year, where she lost to Serena Williams, and beat Williams in the final at Roland Garros this month for her first major championship.

"My energy was missing a little today," Muguruza said. "From yesterday I felt a little bit tired. During the match and after the match, I'm like, 'Tough day today, empty today.'"

The Spaniard sprayed ugly shots all over the court and finished with 22 unforced errors; compared with just nine winners. Cepelova had a first-serve percentage of just over 40 percent, but still outplayed Muguruza with 14 winners and 12 errors.

"She played great, no fear," she played great, no fear, trying a lot of stuff that was working," Muguruza said. "But my energy wasn't there. I was trying but it didn't work at all."

Cepelova, Slovakia's No. 5 female player, had to win three matches in qualifying to make it into the main draw. It's not the first time she's knocked off a top player: Cepelova ousted Simona Halep in the

first round at Wimbledon last year, also on Court 1, and beat Serena Williams at a tournament in Charleston in 2014.

"Last year I beat Halep on the same court and I had great memories," the 23-year-old Cepelova said. "I am so happy."

The last time a second-seeded woman lost at Wimbledon before the third round was in 2013, when Victoria Azarenka was beaten in the second round.

The second-seeded men's player fared much better Thursday, as Andy Murray swept to a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 victory on Centre Court over Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan.

Murray, the 2013 champion, fell behind 1-3 in the first set,

but settled down, took control and dropped only three more games the rest of the way, breaking the 76th-ranked Lu seven times.

Muguruza was nearly joined on the sidelines by No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska, who saved three match points before coming back to beat 18-year-old Croatian Ana Konjuh, 2-6, 6-4, 9-7.

No. 4 Angelique Kerber and No. 5 Halep advanced, while No. 14 Samantha Stosur was knocked out, 6-4, 6-2, by 2013 runner-up Sabine Lisicki.

Dominic Thiem, seeded No. 8 and considered one of the rising stars in the men's game, became the highest seeded male player ousted so far this

week. The 22-year-old Austrian lost to 64th-ranked Ili Vasek of the Czech Republic, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3).

Five-time champion Venus Williams led a parade of Americans picking up victories.

The 36-year-old Williams, the oldest player in the women's draw, needed nearly 2½ hours to get past 20-year-old Greek qualifier Maria Sakkari, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.

The U.S. men's winners included John Isner, Sam Querrey, Donald Young, Jack Sock and Steve Johnson. Joining Williams among the women were Sloane Stephens, Madison Keys, Coco Vandeweghe and Julia Boserup.



Davis Chatfield chips onto the green on the second hole during his semifinal match against Jason Short. The 17-year-old advanced Thursday to the championship round. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB BREIDENBACH

RI AMATEUR

From Page B1

Chatfield won the state juniors last summer. Never in the 111 years of the Amateur has the reigning state junior champ moved on to grab the state's biggest title.

Silva and Chatfield played the two qualifying rounds together on Monday and Tuesday. Now they'll see each other again in Friday's 30-hole final.

"I learned a lot playing with Kevin and (Paul Quigley)," Chatfield said. "I shot 75 and 79 in those rounds, so I wasn't played too well. After that, the goal was just to get deeper than last year."

Chatfield lost in the round of 16 to Charlie Blanchard last year. That wasn't an issue this time around as he advanced with a strong showing in his morning match with Cameron Andrade. Chatfield won the first hole with a par and the fourth with a bogey to grab the lead. Andrade then lost the 8th, 9th and 10th holes with bogeys to fall 5-down. Andrade kept fighting and birdied the 11th for a win, the 12th for a halve and made a par for a win at 13. The run looked to keep going at the 14th but Chatfield made a difficult, curling 12-footer for birdie after Andrade had stuffed his approach to within five feet. Chatfield finished even par for 16 holes to win, 3 and 2.

His semifinal match against URI freshman Jason Short was much more eventful. Chatfield birdied the first hole and was 3-up after eight. But Short, who drove the ball longer than Chatfield all day, bounced back with a win at the ninth hole and with a birdie at No. 10. Chatfield won 12 with a par but Short birdied the 14th and Chatfield missed a four-footer for par at the 16th.

Short made a great up-and-in for par to halve 17 and appeared to be in the greatest shape to win at 18 but he left a potential 12-foot winning putt a foot short. On the first playoff hole, Chatfield pulled his approach just off the back of Point Judith's

tricky first green. "It wasn't a great lie in the rough," he said, "but I got it rolling on the right line and left it about eight feet below the pin."

Chatfield made the par putt to move the match to a 20th hole. Short then cracked, pushing his drive right and into a deep ditch. He chipped out but his third shot rolled off the front of the green. Chatfield hit his drive down the middle, laced an eight iron to the front of the green and two-putted for the par and the win. Silva has gotten steadily better, and more comfortable, as the week has progressed. He said shooting 74-74-73 at last week's Northeast Amateur (which Chatfield also played in) left him with a sour taste in his mouth but helped refocus him for a title defense.

He shot 3-under through 10 holes to work past Johnny Hayes IV, 3 and 2, in his morning match. Silva made four birdies and lost just one hole in that match. In the semis, Silva found himself in another tight match with URI's Eric Marchetti. The senior from North Attleboro birdied the fourth hole and won the fifth and ninth with pars to hold a 1-up lead after nine. But after halving the 10th, Silva took advantage of some shaky putting by Marchetti to win the next four holes. He closed the match out on the 16th hole.

"The wind picked up this afternoon and once we made the turn it was a different challenge," Silva said. "I kept playing and (Marchetti) gave me an opening."

Now with a chance to become the first repeat champion since Brad Valois (2006-07), Silva said he'll be ready to go once again Friday morning.

"It's a long week but I really like the golf course and am really settling in," he said. "I was down on myself after the Northeast but I talked with my dad and we're set things and am really positive coming down here."

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SOCCER EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Portugal squeaks past Poland

By James Ellingworth
The Associated Press

MARSEILLE, France — Ricardo Quaresma scored the winning penalty as Portugal beat Poland, 5-3, in a shootout to reach the semifinals of the European Championship on Thursday.

With the quarterfinal level at 1-1 after extra time, Quaresma fired his spot-kick past Lukasz Fabianski to line up a match against either Wales or Belgium in Lyon on Wednesday.

Having previously scored an extra-time winner in the round of 16 against Croatia, Quaresma's penalty sent Portugal into the semifinals for the fourth time in the last five European Championships.

Poland winger Jakub Blaszczykowski came into the match at the Stade Velodrome as his team's top scorer. But he had a poor game and saw his penalty

saved one-handed by Rui Patrício, allowing Quaresma to finish the job with the very next kick in front of stands packed with Polish fans.

On a night when captain Cristiano Ronaldo turned in another disappointing performance, 18-year-old midfielder Renato Sanches stepped up to score Portugal's equalizer in the first half. The teenager was his team's main attacking threat for much of the game with his smart movement and passing, and took man-of-the-match honors in his first international start.

"It's wonderful for the team, for me as well for scoring the goal," he said. "People criticize us, but we don't care because in the end we're in the semis."

Portugal's last six games at European Championships have been drawn after 90 minutes in a run dating back to its loss to Spain on penalties in the 2012 semifinals.

Earlier, Poland striker Robert Lewandowski had put his team in front with the quickest goal of the tournament, scoring inside two minutes.

Portugal right-back Cedric Soares misjudged a cross-field ball, allowing Kamil Grosicki to break into space on the left flank and send in a low cross for Lewandowski to convert with a first-time shot.

Poland's lead lasted until the 33rd minute, when Sanches lit up the game with an equalizer.

The youngster, who has just been signed by Bayern Munich, cut in from the right and sent it back immediately with a neat backheel. Sanches then unleashed a powerful shot from the edge of the area that took a deflection off Grzegorz Krychowiak on its way past the outstretched Fabianski.

Despite becoming the third-youngest scorer in

European Championship history, Sanches played down his goal, calling it simply "a move that just turned out that way and I scored." He also volunteered to take a penalty in the shootout and scored with a confident strike into the top-left corner.

The match might have been settled in regulation time if Ronaldo hadn't missed a golden opportunity in the 85th minute. He beat the Polish offside trap with a perfectly timed run, but completely missed the ball as he tried to convert a bouncing pass from Joao Moutinho.

The Real Madrid star missed another good chance early in extra time when he failed to control the ball in front of goal. The errors meant he has yet to match Michel Platini's all-time record at European Championships of nine goals. However, Ronaldo did score with Portugal's opening penalty of the shootout.

FISHING REPORT

\$200,000 reeled in for a good 'Cause'

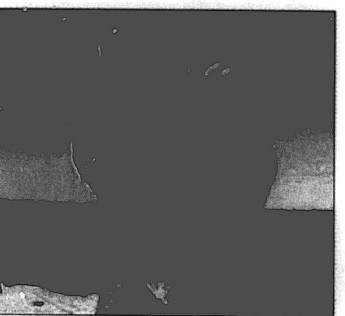
By Dave Monti
Special to the Journal

The sixth annual Fishing for a Cause tournament fundraiser and dinner raised \$200,000 to benefit children and families of The Schwartz Center. The annual event featured more than 100 anglers and more than 300 guests at the seaside dinner, making it once again the largest annual fundraiser for Meeting Street School's Dartmouth campus. Fishing for a Cause has raised more than \$800,000 in its history. The two-day catch and release tournament (June 25-26) was held in the waters of Buzzards Bay. This year, three local anglers took winning honors. Brian Combra of Newport won first place in the striped bass category; Rob Taylor of Newport won first place bluefish; and Jack Sprengel of Warwick won first place in the summer flounder (fluke) category.

Black sea bass season open

This year, the minimum size for black sea bass in Rhode Island is 15 inches, last year it was 14. The first sub-period started June 24 and runs to Aug. 31 with a three fish/person/day limit. The second sub-period runs from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31 with a seven fish/person/day limit.

Anglers have been catching keeper-size black sea bass since early spring before the season opened while fishing for tautog and summer flounder. So this should be a good year for black sea bass. Dave Heman of Ocean State Tackle, in Providence, said, "Right now the black sea bass bite is far more productive than the summer flounder bite off Newport and Jamestown." Anglers have been catching black sea bass when fishing for



Jack Sprengel, of Warwick, took first place in the Fishing for a Cause tournament with this 25 1/4-inch summer flounder. SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL/DAVE MONTI

summer flounder (fluke) in the 4- to 5-pound range. I caught several this week at Warwick Light.

Where's the bite

Black sea bass and summer flounder (fluke) fishing improved this week with Block Island's south side and the southern coastal shore being good spots.

Capt. Frank Blount, of the Frances Fleet, said, "It was a good week for fluke fishing with excellent results on sea bass when the season opened this week. Easy boat limits of big sea bass were attained with fish up to and over 5 pounds recorded. Solid fluke results each day but anglers often had to work for them a bit. Still a respectable amount of anglers amassed four to six keepers apiece with a couple of anglers managing a boat limit this week. The biggest fish of the week was taken by longtime regular Joe Gagne of Cumberland, who put a fine 12.3 pound slab on the deck of the Gall Frances Saturday. Joe caught this mammoth fluke on

a half-ounce white Spro tipped with squid and spearing."

"Fluke fishing at Warwick Light was on and off this week...one day anglers were catching them and the next day nothing," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, in Riverside. Capt. Rick Bellavance, of Priority Too charters, said, "We're happy the fluke bite is good off Block Island as the bass bite has been off the past two weeks."

The striped bass bite disappeared off Block Island this week. Some think it was the full moon. I think it will return by the end of the week. "One customer was spotting them at the Southwest Ledge on his fish finder but they were just not biting," said Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, in South Kingstown.

Bellavance said, "The bass fishing has not been good but we hear they are nailing them in states south of us and the hope is the bait and the fish will be holding on Block Island by the end of the week." "Smaller striped bass in

the 12-to-15 pound range are being caught in the Warren River with pogies (Atlantic menhaden) being the bait of choice. However, anglers are saying the Atlantic menhaden are not plentiful this year, they are very hard to come by compared with the last couple of years," said Littlefield.

Dave Heman of Ocean State Tackle, in Providence, said, "Capt. Jack Sprengel of East Coast Charters is catching striped bass in the Providence River to 30 pounds using live and chucked Atlantic menhaden. There is also a good bass bite on the east side of Prudence Island."

The scup bite is still good with anglers catching them all over. "Colt State Park and the Mount Hope Bridge have been good areas to fish for scup. They have been catching large fish there in the 15" to 20" range," Littlefield said. "The scup bite has improved in the Upper Bay with anglers now starting to catch them at Sabin Point and at the Barrington Bridge."

Offshore: "The charter boat L14 landed a 110-pound mako shark last week. Many other smaller makos were taken by anglers, too. Bluefin tuna were sighted on the surface this week at Cox's Ledge but no one has hooked up with them yet."

—Capt. Dave Monti has been fishing and shell fishing for over 40 years. He holds a captain's master license and a charter fishing license. He is a RISAA board member, a member of the RI Party & Charter Boat Association and a member of the RI Marine Fisheries Council. Contact or forward fishing news and photos to Capt. Dave at dmontifish@providencejournal.com or visit his website at www.nofishfishing.com.

RED SOX-ANGELS

Get pregame, in-game and postgame news from Fenway Park by following Tim Britton on Twitter: @TimBritton

RED SOX 5, ANGELS 4

Boston escapes with much-needed win

David Ortiz follows through on a home run in the fifth inning, the 522nd of his career, as Angels catcher Carlos Perez looks on Friday night. AP/MICHAEL OWEY

By Bill Ballou
@BillBallou_TG

BOSTON — One bad inning has been killing the Red Sox during their slide from the top of the A.L. East, but they survived one on Friday night.

Steven Wright served up a grand slam to C.J. Cron in the sixth inning but those were the only runs Boston allowed as it beat the Angels, 5-4. The game was stopped

in the sixth inning due to pounding rain and lightning with the Red Sox about to come up to bat. The delay lasted 1:35.

Wright left the game after the grand slam and the bullpen protected the 5-4 lead. Wright improved to 9-5 with the decision, getting help from Matt Barnes, Junichi Tazawa, Koji Uehara and finally Craig Kimbrel.

Angels starter Jhoulys Chacin was the losing

pitcher, working 4 1/3 innings and surrendering all five Boston runs. His record fell to 3-7.

David Ortiz hit a solo home run for the Red Sox, his 522nd homer overall and 2,000th hit as a Red Sox. He moved past Ted Williams, Willie McCovey and Frank Thomas into 19th place on baseball's all-time list. He is just the seventh batter with 2,000 hits in a Boston uniform.

Ortiz and Mookie Betts both had three hits while Brock Holt had a pair of doubles. Holt was part of a tense moment for Boston late in the game when he let Johnny Giavotella's fly ball get past him for a triple with one out in the eighth.

Giavotella was then tagged out at home on a failed squeeze attempt by Carlos Perez, who got the ball down

SEE BOSTON, B3

GOLF R.I. AMATEUR

WINNING LIKE A PRO



Seventeen-year-old Davis Chatfield, hitting his tee shot on the 10th hole, defeated defending champion Kevin Silva on the second playoff hole to win the Rhode Island State Amateur on Friday at Point Judith Country Club. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/STEVE SZYDLOWSKI

17-year-old Davis Chatfield captures title on second extra hole

By Jim Donaldson
Journal Sports Writer

"What tho the odds be great or small," young Davis Chatfield will win over all.

If that sounds like the Notre Dame "Victory March," it's fitting, because Chatfield will be playing golf for the Fighting Irish in the fall of 2017 after graduating

from Bishop Feehan and, perhaps, after winning his second straight R.I. Amateur.

He won his first in spectacular fashion on Friday afternoon at Point Judith Country Club, defeating defending champion Kevin Silva by sinking a slick, sliding, right-to-left breaking, 11-foot putt for a birdie on the second playoff hole.

It wasn't just the longest state title match in R.I. Golf Association history, it was one of the best.

"This was as exciting a day of golf as I can remember," said Silva, a 32-year-old former pro who had his name on the leaderboard for a few holes at the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines in 2008.

"It's unbelievable," said Chatfield, who just turned

17 in May and is the second-youngest player ever to win the Amateur. "You can't beat it."

It's hard to beat the ultra-consistent Chatfield, who is the first player in R.I.G.A. history to hold both the State Junior and State Amateur titles at the same time.

He hits almost every fairway, is on most greens in regulation, and

combines the touch of a safecracker with nerves of steel when he's putting.

"His swing is a model of efficiency," said Dave Marcotte, the longtime club pro at Point Judith. "It's one of the best I've ever seen. There's absolutely nothing wrong with that swing."

"He's a machine."

SEE CHATFIELD, B7

BOSTON BRUINS

Backes gets a 5-year deal

By Mike Loftus
@MLoftus_Ledger

The card Don Sweeney had up his sleeve probably wouldn't be called an ace.

It was more like a jack — of all trades.

The Bruins general manager, armed with far more salary-cap space than a year ago, handed a big stack of it — \$6 million annually for the next five years — to David Backes when the NHL's free agent signing period opened at noon on Friday.

Backes, 32, a 10-year member of the St. Louis Blues who was their captain, became a Bruin less than an hour after Loui Eriksson ceased to be one. Eriksson, the Bruins' No. 2 scorer last year with 63 points and the centerpiece of the July 3, 2013 trade that sent Tyler Seguin to the Stars, was also made a \$6 million player on Friday — by the Canucks, who signed him for six years.

Whether Backes fills the hole created by Eriksson's departure — which coincides

SEE BACKES, B7



David Backes, left, who played center and right wing for the Blues for the last 10 years, will bring his physical play to Boston. AP FILES/MARK J. TERRILL

COMMENTARY

Durant would be final piece to the puzzle for Celtics

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH:

■ The Celtics need a superstar, someone to take them to the next level. Maybe it's Kevin Durant. But they need someone because last year's team went as far as it could. Now it needs at least one great player to hang the future on. And maybe it's this simple: Isaiah Thomas is fun to watch, and a great NBA success story. But he shouldn't be your best player.

■ Then again, Rhode Island needs someone to



BILL REYNOLDS

take it to the next level, so it's not like we're breaking new ground here.

■ David Price makes roughly \$31 million a year? Nice work if you can get it.

■ Mike Stud, the rapper from Cranston who has his own show on Tuesday

nights on the Esquire Network, has Jose Canseco's daughter as his girlfriend.

■ The first early entry player in the NBA was Spencer Haywood, who sued the NBA in 1971.

■ There are over 100 free agents in the NBA.

■ QUIZ OF THE WEEK: I am the only person to be a high school All-American in football, basketball, and baseball, and became both a player and a coach in the NBA. Who am I? (Answer near the bottom of the column.)

■ LINE OF THE WEEK comes from Donald Trump,

when asked whether Texas would want to follow Britain's lead and secede from the United States: "Texas will never do that because Texas loves me."

■ LINE OF THE WEEK II comes from old friend Brad Dexter: "There's no truth to the rumor the Priests' Ben Bentil was given draft advice by the Rhody Ram."

■ You've got to love the fact that Red Sox manager John Farrell said David Price had good stuff after his latest meltdown of a start, and Price said he didn't.

■ Then again, the next

time Farrell tells the truth about his spurring team will be the first.

■ One question to President Obama: Is ISIS still the JV team?

■ One-and-done is not good for college basketball, or the NBA either.

■ Johnny Manziel told the New York Daily News he's going completely sober ... once he comes back from his Cabo vacation.

■ Scarlett Johansson is the highest-grossing Hollywood actress of all time. Who knew?

■ Or that Gronk is going to find it hard to fit his

lifestyle into the football season.

■ Or that if you look up "attack dog," Elizabeth Warren's face stares back at you.

■ Or that it's not officially summer until you see four Connecticut license plates in a row in South County.

■ One hundred and forty million dollars for Andrew Luck? Really?

■ Michael Phelps will be the first male swimmer to compete in five Olympics.

■ Kanye West showing

SEE REYNOLDS, B5

BACKES

From Page B1

with the exits of free-agent right wingers Leo Stempel and Brett Connolly — or slots in at center, the position at which the B's are strongest, remains to be seen.

"We're going to let it play out," Sweeney said. "We'll find the right complements."

"If that means [Backes] gets to move to the [wing] to play with one of the top two guys in a production role, that's OK." If Backes doesn't end up playing with Patrice Bergeron or David Krejci, the Bruins' top two centers, he'd become a \$6 million No. 3 center — his natural position — which he said wouldn't bother him.

"If I'm only on the third line, I completely respect that," said Backes, who shifted to wing late last season and into the playoffs, as the Blues reached the Western Conference finals. "Those two other guys [Bergeron and Krejci] are awesome."

Similarly, Backes said he'd be as content to play wing with either Bergeron or Krejci as he would to play behind both of them at center — a move that would bump last year's No. 3 center, Ryan Spooner, to wing.

"I'm into winning games," Backes said. "If [Bruins coach Claude Julien] thinks we're going to win more games if I'm playing wing, I'm in. If he thinks we're going to win more games with me playing center, I'm in."

"Whatever he thinks, I'll do it to the best of my ability."

While Backes' abilities have historically included production — he has two 31-goal seasons on his resumé — it slipped last season to 21 goals and 45 points. He had scored at least 24 goals and 45 points in each full season since a 17-goal, 48-campaign in 2009-10.

While those numbers fall short of Eriksson's, Sweeney felt Backes can bring more to the B's. Similar to Eriksson in that he's an all-situations

player (even strength, power play, penalty kill), Backes differs from Eriksson in that he is much more physical (he led the Blues with 239 hits last year; Eriksson had 22 in Boston), can play center, and has documented leadership qualities. He was captain or alternate captain with the Blues for seven of 10 years.

"We just decided, at this point in time, that Backes offered more versatility as to what our hockey club needed," Sweeney said. "He certainly fit, to a large degree, what we're trying to do going forward."

Sweeney didn't find a similar fit for the Bruins' defense corps. Veteran John-Michael Liles, 36, obtained from the Hurricanes at last season's trade deadline, was re-signed for one year at \$2 million, but one day after Dennis Seidenberg's contract was bought out, that vacancy remained.

"People do not want to part with those types of players," said the GM, who has added five defensemen in the first two rounds of the last two drafts, and signed two other drafted defense prospects.

"There's a high acquisition cost for these types of players. I think you're better served to identify them, grow them, and put them in your lineup when they're ready to play."

Friday's other notable addition was goalie Anton Khudobin, who backed up Tuukka Rask in lockout-shortened 2013. He got a two-year deal at \$1.2 million per season.

Other signings included fourth-line candidates Tyler Randall (re-signed, one-year), Riley Nash (formerly of the Hurricanes, he got a two-year deal), Providence College product Tim Schaller (one year), and four-year Providence Bruins defenseman Tommy Cross.

Mike Loftus covers the Bruins for The Providence Journal and other GateHouse New England newspapers.



Dennis Chatfield, second from right, watches Kevin Silva putt during Friday's Rhode Island Amateur. By winning on the second extra hole, Chatfield became the first player in RIGA history to hold both the State Junior and State Amateur titles at the same time. (The Providence Journal/Steve Szydlowski)

CHATFIELD

From Page B1

Marquette said. "He's like a tiny Iron Byron [Nelson]. He's unbelievable. He just doesn't make mistakes."

"He's a very solid ball-striker," said Silva, "and a gritty competitor."

Gritty and unshakable. Many a player — much less a 17-year-old — would have been shaken after Silva rattled off three straight birdies on the 15th, 16th and 17th holes of the afternoon round to tie the match.

Chatfield, who was 2-up after the morning 18, and opened up a 5-up lead after 22 holes by winning the second, third and fourth in the afternoon, appeared to be home free when he birdied the 33rd, par-4 17th to take a 3-up lead with four holes to play.

"I just wanted to par in. I thought that would do it," Chatfield said.

Against anybody else, it might have. But Silva, who had chipped in for birdie on the 12th to go to 2-down, wasn't going to go down without a fight.

He birdied the par-4 15th and then rolled in a spectacular, 55-footer that slid over a ridge and dove into the hole for birdie on the par-3 16th.

"I picked out a spot," said Silva, "and the putt rolled over it and went right into the hole."

It would have been understandable if Chatfield had rolled over after that, especially when he missed a 7-footer for birdie on the

rugged, 440-yard, par-4 17th and Silva rolled in a 4-footer to tie the match.

"He was on fire," Chatfield said.

After both bogeyed the 504-yard, par-5 18th, they went to the 406-yard, par-4 first, where Silva hit the green in regulation while Chatfield's approach ran through the green and on to the apron.

When Chatfield left his first putt eight feet above the hole, Silva was cautious with his birdie bid, leaving it at tap-in distance.

That left Chatfield needing to sink a downhill slider to prolong the match.

Asked what was the toughest shot he had all day, Chatfield didn't hesitate: "The putt on the 37th hole." "My caddy said: 'Don't leave it short.' I told him I didn't think that was possible. I hit it right where I wanted to."

He did the same thing on 365-yard, par-4 second hole — the 38th of the day — calmly rolling in his birdie putt for the victory.

So cheer, cheer for young Davis Chatfield. "Wake up the echoes... Send a volley cheer on high. Slide down the thunder from the sky."

But young Chatfield won over all, marching onward to victory.

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Read more from columnist Jim Donaldson on his blog at providencejournal.com/blog/sports/jim-donaldsons-blog/

GOLF

Day surges into the lead at Bridgestone

The Associated Press

Jason Day's plan for the Bridgestone Invitational in Akron, Ohio, was to get in the lead as quickly as possible and expand it from there.

He took care of the first part on Friday.

With just enough breeze to make the fairways at Firestone seem even tighter, Day relied on his sharp short game and a pair of late birdies for a 1-under 69 that gave him a one-shot lead over David Lingmerth going into the weekend.

What irritated the world's No. 1 player was the way he finished.

Day had a 20-foot birdie putt from the fringe on the final hole, and when his putter bumped up against the collar on the way back, he rapped it too hard and then missed the 6-foot par putt on the way back.

"I was very cross with myself when I was walking off," Day said. "The great thing is that once I do silly things like that on 18, I soon forget about it, and I just need to start focusing on tomorrow's round."

"But I know that I'm putting good because I'm holding putts. And if I can give myself the opportunity, I'm hoping that I can stretch that lead over 54 holes, and then hopefully by 72 holes, I can stretch that lead even more."

Day was at 4-under 130.



Jason Day, hitting out of a sand trap on the 13th hole, finished with a 1-under 69 and a one-shot lead over David Lingmerth after the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational on Friday. (AP/Tony Dejak)

matching Tiger Woods in 2005 for the highest 36-hole score to lead this World Golf Championship.

Lingmerth had a 67 that tied for the low score of the second round, where scoring was hampered by wind that felt as though it were coming out of different directions. He also made bogey on the 18th, and the Swede wasn't alone in dropping shots toward the end of his round.

William McGirt, who began the second round with a three-shot lead, stayed in front until he went over the par-5 10th with a wedge and made bogey, and then chopped up the 18th hole on his way to a double

bogey for a 74. McGirt had a 74 and was two shots back at 138, along with Emiliano Grillo (71) and Scott Piercy (69).

"Trying to figure out the wind was impossible," McGirt said. "It was a lot of down off the left with a touch of in off the right. I mean, who knows?"

Only nine players remained under par.

European PGA

Four-time major winner Rory McIlroy roared back into contention at the French Open in Saint Quentin-en-Yvelines on Friday, sinking six birdies in a 5-under round of 66 to join a five-way share of the

lead. The Northern Irishman could have taken the overall lead at the Le Golf National course — which is hosting the 2018 Ryder Cup — but a poor tee shot on the 18th hole led to a bogey.

South Korea's Wang Jeung-hun matched McIlroy's 66, while Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand — who was one stroke behind overnight leader Lucas Bjerregaard of Denmark — posted a 1-under 70 for a share of the lead. The other co-leaders, Mikko Ilonen of Finland and South African Brandon Stone, had 68s.

Bjerregaard is three shots behind after four bogeys in a 74.

NHL FREE AGENCY

Lucic joins McDavids in Edmonton

By Larry Lage
The Associated Press

Milan Lucic and Kyle Okposo, two of the NHL's top free agents, took full advantage of two of the league's worst teams eager to pair a veteran with a young star.

The 28-year-old wingers each got seven-year, \$42-million contracts on Friday even though neither is a proven or prolific scorer.

Okposo, coming off a 22-goal year with the New York Islanders, moved upstate to join the Buffalo Sabres, who haven't made the playoffs since 2011 or finished higher than seventh in their division in three years.

Lucic, who scored just 20 times last season with the Los Angeles Kings, is following the money to play for the lowly Edmonton Oilers.

"It's about time this team starts heading in the right direction," he said of the Oilers, who want to surround Connor McDavid with experienced talent.

NHL teams didn't waste time making a flurry of deals on the first shift of free agency. None involved a superstar player, not after Steven Stamkos decided to stay in Tampa Bay with an eight-year, \$68-million contract agreed to earlier this week.

Two days later, Tampa Bay may have made the best series of moves overall in a bid to stay near the top in the Eastern Conference. The Stanley Cup contender signed standout defenseman Victor Hedman to an eight-year, \$63-million extension and goaltender Andrei Vasilevsky to a three-year, \$10.5-million.

"It's been a good week for us," Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman said. "It has been a bad decade for the Oilers, who haven't made the playoffs since they lost Game Seven of the



Milan Lucic, who reportedly had an offer of more money and a longer contract, decided to bolt the Kings to join the Oilers and Connor McDavid. (AP/FILES/ROSS O. FRANKLIN)

2006 Stanley Cup finals to the Carolina Hurricanes and had the fewest points in the Western Conference last season for the second time in three years.

Lucic said two people, Oilers general manager Peter Chiarelli and the 19-year-old McDavid, were the reason he joined a franchise that most highly touted free agents have ignored in recent summers.

"The McDavid factor changes it all," Lucic said.

Lucic was also lured to Edmonton in part because of his relationship with Chiarelli, who was his general manager when he played for the Boston Bruins. Chiarelli said 12 teams tried to sign Lucic, indicating one of them was the Kings, the only franchise that could've offered him an eight-year deal under the NHL's collective bargaining agreement.

"He was offered a longer term," Chiarelli said. "He was offered more money."

Like Lucic, Okposo will get a chance to play with one of the league's most promising players, 19-year-old center Jack Eichel.

"He knows Jack's a great, young player," Sabres general manager Tim Murray said.

Here's a look at some of the other notable moves on the opening day of NHL free agency:

■ The New York Islanders signed forwards Andrew Ladd (seven years, \$38.5 million) and Jason Chimera (two years, \$4.5 million) after losing Okposo and Nielsen.

■ The Vancouver Canucks signed winger Loui Eriksson (six years, \$36 million) coming off his 30-goal, 33-assist season in Boston.

■ The Detroit Red Wings signed center Frans Nielsen (six years, \$31.5 million) to address a need with the departure of Pavel Datsyuk and re-signed center Darren Helm (five years, \$10.25 million) before he could have been on the market.

■ After spending his entire, 10-season career in St. Louis, David Backes (five years, \$30 million) bolted to play for the Bruins.

■ The Montreal Canadiens signed forward Alexander Radulov (one year, \$5.75 million) to play in the NHL

for the first time since he was with the Nashville Predators during the 2011-12 season.

■ The Calgary Flames signed forward Troy Brouwer (four years, \$18 million) hoping he can bring some of the success he helped St. Louis and Chicago have in the postseason.

■ The San Jose Sharks added forward Mikkel Boedker (four years, \$10 million) and defenseman David Schlemko (four years, \$8.4 million) to bolster their chances of getting back to the Stanley Cup finals.

■ The Florida Panthers, stockpiling goaltenders, signed James Reimer (five years, \$17 million) despite having Roberto Luongo and Roberto Berra on the roster.

■ The Toronto Maple Leafs, who probably dreamed of bringing Stamkos back home, had to settle for signing winger Matt Martin (four years, \$10 million) to perhaps play on their fourth line.

■ The Philadelphia Flyers signed forward Dale Weise (four years, \$9.4 million).

■ The Minnesota Wild signed center Eric Staal (three years, \$10.5 million).