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Righthander Garrett Richards (\$10 million, 7-8 record, 4.87 ERA) goes down in the loss column for Chaim Bloom.

Dreaming of what might have been

►SHAUGHNESSY
Continued from Page C1

that I'm back in Boston.”

Xander Bogaerts, who can opt out of his long-term contract at the end of the season, said he's open to discussing a contract extension with baseball boss Chaim Bloom.

In other news, J.D. Martinez said he was looking forward to his fifth season with the Red Sox, but anything beyond that was “God’s will.” Alex Verdugo said he’s going to steal more bases this season (the Sox swiped only 40 bags in 2021). Rafael Devers appears to be in the best shape of his career.

The Sox front office announced that the volume on Fenway’s sound system will be lowered in 2022 and that there will be 34 David Ortiz giveaway days during the upcoming season.

“Sox fans can’t get enough of David and we’ll be celebrating his journey to Cooperstown all year,” said team chairman Tom Werner. “Thirty-four in all. Just like his No. 34. Get it? We’ve got Big Papi bobbleheads, T-shirts, calendars, paper weights, key chains, you name it. We’re actually entertaining the notion of changing the name of Fenway Park to ‘Papi’s Playground.’ ”

“We’re just glad baseball is back,” added Werner. “Let’s go, Red Sox!”

■ Quiz: The seventh game of the 1962 World Series featured starting pitchers Ralph Terry (Yankees) and Jack Sanford (Giants). Both were 20-game winners that year. Since that game there have been two World Series Game 7s started by opposing 20-game winners. All four of the 20-game winners spent at least four seasons pitching for the Red Sox at some juncture. Name the two Game 7s and the four starters (answer below).

■ There’s still time for Rob Manfred to fly to Beijing and suggest we cast doubt on Kamila Valieva’s positive drug test. Everybody likes a feel-good story.

■ One of my readers astutely points out that, unlike Bill Belichick, Sony Michel can now say he managed to win a Super Bowl without Tom Brady. Speaking of Belichick, is it possible that Richard Seymour is the only player (thus far) drafted by the Hoodie who’s made it to the Hall of Fame? One final Hoodie item: Bill’s Super Bowl weekend playdate with Urban Meyer and Donald Trump no doubt will be a party-starter in the Patriots locker room.

■ USA women’s hockey silver medalist Alex Carpenter (North Reading, Boston College) is the daughter of former NHLer Bobby Carpenter, who appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 1981 (“The Can’t Miss Kid”) when he was a senior at St. John’s Prep. Only 14 high schoolers have graced the cover, including Kevin Garnett, LeBron James, Bryce Harper, Sebastian Telfair, and Jabari Parker.

■ Tuesday’s Celtics blowout of the 76ers in Philly was amazing. You don’t see a lot of 51-point leads in NBA games. In typical 2021-22 Celtics fashion, the Green were tripped up by the 12-45 Pistons, at the Garden, one night later.

Colleague Adam Himmelsbach reminded us that the surging Celtics faced only one team at full strength (Orlando) during their nine-game winning streak. Miami (Jimmy Butler and Kyle Lowry), Brooklyn (Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, New Orleans (Brandon Ingram, Jonas Valanciunas), Charlotte (Gordon Hayward), Detroit (Cade Cunningham), Atlanta (John Collins), and Denver (Monte Morris) all

played shorthanded. Nevertheless, nine straight wins is impressive and there is new hope for the home team when play resumes after the All-Star break.

■ Team-killer Irving has no remorse about what he’s done to Brooklyn. With the struggling Nets playing at home for a while, the anti-vax guard won’t be able to play again until Feb. 26 at the earliest. “Play your media games with somebody else, bro, please,” Irving told the New York Post. “. . . There’s no guilt that I feel. I’m the only player who has to deal with this in New York City because I play there. . . . Some people say it’s as simple as, go get this, go get the shot. It’s not as simple as that.” Yes, Kyrie. It actually is.

■ Garrett Richards goes down in the minus column for Bloom. The Sox gave Richards \$10 million as a free agent last winter. He was put into the starting rotation, lost his job on merit, then complained that he had to learn how to pitch again because the umps were clamping down on doctoring the baseball. Richards finished 7-8 with a 4.87 ERA and faced one batter in the postseason. At the trial in which former Angels employee Eric Kay was found guilty of providing illegal drugs that led to the overdose death of Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs, a retired DEA agent testified that Richards (then with the Angels) made payments totaling \$1,700 to Kay during the 2017 season.

■ Glad to see the Providence Friars return to prominence in college basketball. The Dunk Center was rockin’ 1970s style when the Friars took on Villanova Tuesday. “This is bringing it back to the old days,” 71-year-old Ernie DiGregorio told the New York Times. “There’s a lot of the same electricity.” Old-timers remember when Providence had maybe the best team in the country with Ernie, Marvin Barnes, and Kevin Stacom, but lost in the Final Four because Marvin got hurt against Memphis State. Hats off to Providence coach Ed Cooley, a South Providence native who went to Stonehill and took over the Friars in 2011.

■ Sixteen-year-old North Shore gymnast Brian Solomon, son of Nancy Kerrigan and Jerry Solomon, will be competing in Texas this coming week as part of the Region 6 team in the Elite Team Cup national competition.

■ Make sure to read Ian O’Connor’s latest book, “Coach K,” which has great details of young Mike Krzyzewski’s college years playing for coach Bobby Knight at West Point and how their relationship soured when Krzyzewski’s Duke teams played Knight’s Hoosiers in the NCAA Tournament.

■ The Sports Museum is seeking entries for its 18th annual Will McDonough Writing Contest. The contest is open to students in grades 4-12 with a deadline of March 8. Winners in each grade will receive a Kindle, have their essays displayed in the museum at TD Garden, and will be invited, with their parents and a teacher, to participate in an awards ceremony held prior to the Celtics-Pacers game April 1. For information on how to enter and for more contest details, please visit sportsmuseum.org.

■ Quiz answer: 1985: John Tudor (Cardinals) vs. Bret Saberhagen (Royals); 2001: Curt Schilling (Diamondbacks) vs. Roger Clemens (Yankees).

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MIAA STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Ethan McDowell and Lulu Kesin
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

FITCHBURG — St. John’s Prep went into the second day of the Division 1 state wrestling tournament Saturday in second place to Natick, unfamiliar territory for a team that has trounced each opponent in its path on the way to an undefeated season.

Despite the deficit, the Eagles were not worried. Tyler Knox, who pinned his way through the bracket to take home the 126-pound title, knew the team had a strong group of wrestlers in both the championship and consolation brackets who would come up big for Prep.

“Honestly, I felt pretty comfortable,” Knox said. “I knew that the guys we had in the semis were going to get it done and bonus their way into the finals. So I wasn’t worried about it too much.”

The Eagles erased their deficit quickly thanks to five semifinal wins and four state titles, finishing first with 198½ points. Natick finished second with 164½, and Central Catholic’s 144½ rounded out the top three. It was the first state championship in the individual tournament format in program history.

Joining Knox atop the podium for the Eagles were Alex Schaeublin (113 pounds), Rawson Iwanicki (152), and Jack Blizard (220).

“[Blizard] pinned his way through the state tournament, which, if you said that to him at the beginning of the year, I don’t think he would have believed you,” Knox said.

Charlie Smith, competing at 285, finished third as a 14 seed, an impressive showing from the heavyweight wrestler.

Bonus points from pins early on helped the Eagles make up ground quickly. Coach Manny Costa was confident his squad would win the points necessary.

“A good thing about having guys like that, they know bonus points are big,” Costa said. “You don’t have to tell them anything. You just tell them to just go out there and do your job and stay focused and let it happen.

Division 2

Cameron Phillips struck first in his 195-pound title bout for Milford, pinning Concord Carlisle’s Nate Hubbard-Nelson in the first period and taking home the title.

The third-seeded junior’s aggressive style is a familiar strategy for the Scarlet Hawks, who jumped out to an early lead and never looked back during the Division 2 championship, sealing the win with a 150-point total — Milford’s first state tour-



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

Shawsheen’s Sidney Tildsley got a reversal on his way to a state championship at 132 pounds, but Adam Schaeublin helped St. John’s Prep to the team title.

namment win since 1996, when coach PJ Boccia was a senior for the Scarlet Hawks.

Phillips knew he wanted to come out of the gates aggressively after watching his opponent’s previous matches, and that strategy paid off throughout the tournament as he pinned three of his four opponents in the first period and won the fourth match early in the second.

“[Hubbard-Nelson] was a little not-as-strong in his legs because of his height, so I meant to push the pace and be a little bit aggressive and try to throw him off balance so I could get something to take him down with at least,” Phillips said.

Milford started strong and took an 18-point lead into the semifinals. The Scarlet Hawks stayed focused, knowing the individual titles would come if the team remained committed to protecting the lead.

The Scarlet Hawks held steady, maintaining the lead throughout the second day except for a brief period when Monty Tech took first place.

Monty Tech (118½) finished in third place, and Minnechaug came in second with 129 points.

Oliver Ames senior captain DJ Lipski Jr. (160 pounds) took home the first state championship in program history.

Boccia praised the performances of his formidable freshman duo, Aidan Baum (106 pounds) and Michael Boulanger (113), who both placed, along with state champions Hampton Kaye-Kuter (220) and Phillips — four key members of a balanced team.



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

With his win in the 1,000 meters, Tyler Tubman (left) provided valuable points toward Newton North’s Division 1 title.

MIAA DIVISION 1 INDOOR TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP

Newton North makes a clean sweep

By Joseph Pohoryles
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Cheers filled the Reggie Lewis Center during the 4 x 400-meter relay, the final event of the MIAA Division 1 Indoor Track State Championship, but one corner of the track was louder than the others.

Chants of “Let’s go Tigers” rang from the Newton North section as the boys’ 3:28.10 win in the 4 x 400 secured the state title for the Tigers (84 points) ahead of Acton-Boxborough (74) and St. John’s Prep (47).

The chanting grew even louder for the girls’ 4 x 400, as their second-place finish (4:06.60) behind Wachusett (4:04.71) clinched Newton North (55 points) the championship ahead of Wachusett (52) and Lexington (45).

“It’s kind of like you’re in the Olympics,” said Charlotte Kouroriez, the girls’ 4 x 400 third leg.

“I know we’re just in high school, but when you’re rounding the curve, and everyone’s screaming your name, it’s honestly amazing.”

Kouroriez helped secure the girls’ title with Olivia Doherty, Grace Doherty, and Lorna Arcese rounding out the relay team.

“It didn’t go the way we drew it up today. We had some outstanding performances from unexpected areas,” Newton North girls’ coach Joe Tranchita said. “We had six varsity kids out with COVID just three weeks ago. To be able to get them back in swing and contributing was really huge.”

On the boys’ side, Quincy Scott, Tyler Tubman, Jack Tsai, and Matthew Paquette made up the winning 4 x 400, with Tubman also winning the 1,000 meters (2:33.82) and finishing second in the mile (4:22.89).

“We knew [finishing] top three would be very close, but I’m even surprised. We did so well, I’m very proud of all of them,” Tubman said.

The sweep would not have happened without the contributions from the Newton North throwers. Max Klein, Tommy Lin, and Alex Acuna finished first, second, and third, respectively, in the boys’ shot

put. Klein won with a meet-record heave of 64 feet, 10¼ inches, shattering the 61-3¾ mark of Leominster’s Ray Auger from 1972.

The trio of Klein, Lin (52-1¼), and Acuna (50-3) have been throwing together since seventh grade. They liked their chances to score highly, but never expected to finish 1-2-3.

“There were a few bumps along the way, but it really means a lot to have it all come together at this day, and have us all [set personal records],” Klein said.

Somehow, the girls’ throwers one-upped the boys, as Skye Petrie-Cameron, Julia Tulimieri, Lily Siegelman, and Marion Carter finished first through fourth, respectively, contributing 29 points.

Newton North boys’ coach Shawn Wallace could only describe seeing both teams take home the championship in one way.

“It’s something special, there’s no doubt about that,” Wallace said.

The Tigers have the chance to add more hardware next Saturday at the All-State Championships.