

Bob D's Beat

by Bob DeCristoforo

MARCH MADNESS

The State hockey and basketball teams are headed into the home stretch, as they head to the Boston Garden or Worcester DCU Center for championships games. We congratulate all those who are still alive and well, and thank all those, who have completed their season on a job well done.

In the Girls Hockey Tournament St. Mary's Lynn and Woburn will vie for the D1 Championship. St. Mary's advance by shutting out Braintree 5-0 and coming from behind to defeat Hingham 4-3. Sabrina Innetti had three goals, including the game winner. Woburn punched its ticket defeating Acton Boxboro 3-2 with Kayla Smith scoring all three goals. In D2 Winchester and Fontbonne are in. Michaela Chiucciariello had the winner when Winchester topped Sandwich 3-1, and Fontbonne held on to beat Duxbury 4-3. Sunday, March 14th both Championships will be decided at the TD Garden.

Boys Hockey Garden bounders are D1 North winner Arlington Catholic who defeated St. Mary's 2-1. The Cougars will play D1 South winner Archbishop Williams who defeated Weymouth 4-1. In D2 North Newburyport, who defeated Peabody 3-1, will play Canton who defeated Nauset 3-2. Over in D3 it will be Marblehead playing Situate. Marblehead had defeated Concord Carlisle 4-2 to advance, and Situate beat Ashland 4-1 to move on. All Hockey State Championships will be crowned on Sunday, March 14th at the TD Garden.

The field is set for the 1A Super Eight Semifinals: CM will play Austin Prep and Malden Catholic will play Hingham. In the Opening Rounds of this double elimination tournament CM defeated Winchester 5-2, Malden Catholic defeated Needham 3-1, CM defeated Needham 6-3, MC defeated Winchester 9-2. Hingham topped Xaverian 3-1, Springfield Cathedral tipped Austin Prep 2-1 in overtime, Hingham beat Springfield Cathedral 4-2 and Austin Prep shutout Xaverian 2-0. On Sunday Malden Catholic stung CM 6-5 in overtime. Austin Prep shutout Hingham 4-0, Winchester tipped Needham 5-4 and Springfield Cathedral and Xaverian battled to a 2-2 tie. In an NEPSAC Dexter was defeated by Kimball Union 3-2 in double overtime.

In Girls Hoop Division Championships were decided at the TD Garden, and the winners advance to Saturday March 13 Championships at the DCU Center in Worcester. In D1 North Andover stung Central Catholic 69-65, and in D1 South Mansfield topped Durfee 60-50. In D2 North Melrose sent Arlington Catholic packing 67-64. AC had beaten Reading 57-36 to advance. In D2 South Oliver Ames upended Fontbonne 55-52. Fontbonne had moved on by defeating Medfield 60-31. In D3 North Pentucket powered past St. Mary's Lynn 58-48, and D3 South Fenwick upped Stoneham 53-49, but Pentucket advanced by defeating Fenwick 58-47. In D3 South Archbishop Williams moved on by defeating Ashland 61-47. Williams had defeated Coyle Cassidy 49-42. Over in D4 North Manchester-Essex beat Presentation of Mary 50-32, and Fenway topped Matignon 61-51, but Manchester-Essex won pounding Fenway 53-36. In D4 South play Cohasset sank Nantucket 58-49. Confused, don't be. MIAA State Semifinals: D1 Andover vs. Mansfield, D2 Melrose vs. Oliver Ames, D3 Pentucket vs. Archbishop Williams, D4 Manchester-Essex vs. Cohasset

In Boys hoop St. John's Prep defeated Lynn English 79-78, and Central Catholic defeated

Acton-Boxboro 52-33, but the D1 North Title goes to Central Catholic who stung St. John's 74-62. Catholic Central will take on South Champ Madison Park, who defeated Mansfield 72-60, MP advanced by beating Brockton 77-72 in overtime. In D2 North Salem beat Reading 62-53 to play D2 South winner Falmouth who tipped Milton 51-50. Over in D3 North Bedford topped Lynn Tech 73-67 in overtime. Bedford takes on D3 South winner Wareham, who sank Spellman 78-71. In D4 North New Mission dissed on Snowden 85-57 and Winthrop 70-58. Winthrop had dissed on Manchester-Essex 51-36. New Mission takes on D4 South winner Cathedral, who defeated Westport 65-49 for the D4 State Championship.

DEADLINE STOPPERS!

Monday at the TD Garden New Mission pounded Cathedral 75-47 to win the State Division 4 Basketball Boys Championship. In Division 3 Wareham whipped Bedford 63-49. In Division 2 it was Falmouth beating up Bedford 63-49. In the much anticipated Division 1 game Central Catholic defeated Madison Park 59-50. Wareham, Falmouth and Central Catholic ... the Eastern Division Champs, now travel to the DCU Center in Worcester Saturday (March 14) to play in the State Championship Games!

COLLEGE BOARD: TOURNAMENT TIME

In one of the closest regular season races UNH clinched first place in Hockey East coming from behind to tie BC 3-3. I spent my Hockey Weekend at the BU-Northeastern Home and Home Series. On Friday at BU the Terriers tipped the Huskies 5-4 on Vin Saponari game winner, and at Northeastern the Terriers barked again, beating the Huskies 4-3, when Kevin Gilroy out the game winner, resulting NU clinching 3rd place and home ice, and the Huskies finishing 9th, and out of the playoffs. Final regular season standings with many tiebreakers figuring into the Hockey East playoff picture. UNH 36 BC 35 BU 28 Maine 28 Lowell 28 Merrimack 26 Vermont 25 Northeastern 24 Providence 14. Best of Three Quarter finals this weekend: Vermont at UNH, UMass at BC, Merrimack at BU, Lowell at Maine.

In ECAC Round 1 "Best of Three" visiting Harvard knocked out Princeton 4-2 and 3-0 and will take on Cornell in the quarterfinals. Brown upended Rennselaer and will visit Yale. Quinnipiac topped Dartmouth, and will travel to Union and St. Lawrence, who dropped Clarkson, will go to Colgate.

In the Womens Hockey East Tournament BU shutout UNH 4-0 and Conn dropped host Providence 2-1 in the Semifinals. BU won the Championship game defeating UConn 2-1 in overtime. BU and UNH will represent Hockey East in this weekend's NCAA D1 Hockey Tournament.

In the ECAC Womens Tournament Semifinals Clarkson defeated Harvard 3-2, and Cornell topped Rensselaer 5-4. In the Championship game Cornell defeated Clarkson 4-3 in overtime. ECAC Representatives in the NCAA D1 Tournament will be Cornell, Clarkson and Harvard.

TIDBITS

- North End St. Francis House Flea Market and Bake Sale March 19th and 20th at the Nazzaro Center.

- Celeb Sightings: Joe Frissora over at Sacred Heart Church, Bosco Basketball Alum and Channel 7 Sportscaster Joe Amoroso, and CM Hockey Alum and Harvard Coach Teddy Donato at the "Face Off For Ace" Dinner, Patte Papa home from "warm Florida," Tony Solimini, Jimmy Gannon at Dunkin' Donuts in C'Town, "Devlin" at Mangia, Mangia, the legendary Ralph DelGuadio, Officer Bobby Luongo visit-ing C'Town High, and the First Lady of North End Public Safety, Mrs. John Daley!

- Don't forget to move your clocks 1 hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday night ... spring ahead!

SMILE!



UNRIVALED (Blu-ray-DVD) Lionsgate

Step into the ring ready for a no-holds-barred fight to the death, starring the world's top mixed martial arts champions as Lionsgate delivers the knockout Unrivaled. Rashad "Sugar" Evans, Nate "The Great" Marquardt, Forrest Griffin and Keith "The Dean of Mean" Jardine come together in this action-packed film set in the world of street fighting. On these streets everyone is fighting for a way out, when a down-on-his-luck cage fighter is chosen to compete against the MMA world champ. He realizes the stakes are high, but the reward is great! Take a ring-side seat and enjoy. (1 hr. 48 mins.).

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN VOL. 6 & 7 (DVD)

Sony Pictures Home Ent. Volume Six: School is back in session and Peter Parker's social life is exciting and chaotic. Spider-Man's life has become much more demanding too. Venom has come back with a vengeance and a fiendish plot to frame Spider-Man. John Jameson is infected with alien spores, Sandman is bigger than ever and Spidey's true identity may be compromised. There's loads of eye-popping action packed into these exciting new episodes. (1 hr. 8 mins.). **Volume Seven:** New York City's criminal underworld succumbs to a cataclysmic upheaval as the super-villains try to outmaneuver each other for the top spot. It's all-out gang warfare and Spider-Man is the only hope the good citizens of New York have against Hammerhead, Doctor Octopus and Silvermane. (1 hr. 6 mins.).

DROP DEAD ROCK (DVD) MVDvisual

Adam Ant and Deborah Harry star in Drop Dead Rock, a comedy that will rock your world. A down and out, rock n' roll band, Hindenburg, kidnap their favorite British rock star, Spazz-O, and hold him hostage so he will listen to their music and make them famous. The problem is Spazz-O's wife Holly Everest and his back-stabbing manager, Dave Donovan (Ant), can't wait to get their hands on his fortune and have hired a hit man to do him in. Thanks to a media feeding frenzy, Spazz-O's career is hotter than ever. Enter media mogul Thor Sturmundrang (Harry) with a big advance check. Now, Spazz-O is worth more alive than dead. Dave must outwit the bumbling band, clumsy cops, record execs and terrifying terrorists to get his just reward - a comic free-for-all! (1 hr. 49 mins.).

THE BIBLE STORIES: JESUS & ESTHER (DVD) Sony Pictures Home Ent.

Jesus: This inspirational movie is based on the best-

selling book of all time, and traces the life and death of Jesus through his resurrection. Jesus not only reinforces the ideals of the New Testament, but shows Jesus as a complex individual, conflicted over his feelings for Lazarus's sister, Mary, and tempted by Satan to stray from his path. (2 hrs. 56 mins.). **Esther:** As a girl living under Persian rule, Esther was kidnapped and taken into the harem of the king. The king, taken by her beauty, made her his queen, and she found herself involved in a delicate balancing act between the ruling Persians and her own Jewish people. The king's chief minister hoped to see the Jews annihilated, but thanks to Esther's intercession, the Jews were able to destroy their enemies. (1 hr. 31 mins.).

THE PRIVATE LIVES OF PIPPA LEE (Blu-Ray) Screen Media Films

After nearly two decades caught under the wing of an aging husband (Alan Arkin), devoted mother and housewife Pippa Lee (Robin Wright) undergoes a mid-life breakthrough. Unearthing the sexually curious wild child of her teens (as portrayed by Blake Lively), Pippa sparks a relationship with a kindred soul (Keanu Reeves). Wright delivers a stunning and revelatory performance in The Private Lives of Pippa Lee: a wry, moving, and complex portrait of the many lives behind a single name. (1 hr. 38 mins.).

ABBY IN WONDERLAND (DVD)

Warner Home Video-Sesame Follow Abby and Elmo down the rabbit hole in this enchanting re-imagining of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Elmo the Rabbit is late, late, late and has rushed away with Abby's wand in his back pocket. Abby must follow Elmo into Wonderland to get it back. Will the Counterpillar or Rose help her? Can she turn to Grover, the Mad Hatter or Cheshire Cookie Cat for sound advice? Join Abby, Elmo, and more Sesame Street friends in this whimsical adventure that's fun for the whole family! (41 mins.).

BROTHERS (DVD) Lionsgate

Captain Sam Cahill (Tobey Maguire) is embarking on his fourth tour of duty, leaving behind his beloved wife (Natalie Portman) and two daughters. When Sam's Blackhawk helicopter is shot down in the mountains of Afghanistan, the worst is presumed, leaving an enormous void in the family. Despite a dark history, Sam's charismatic younger brother Tommy (Jake Gyllenhaal) steps in to fill the family void. (1 hr. 45 mins.).



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