HORNETS EDGE PIRATES IN DISTRICT SEMIFINAL MATCH

The Pirates are hosting the District 3-4A boys soccer tournament this week. The Fernandina Beach High School boys team (the No. 3 seed) was eliminated by No. 2 Yulee 2-1 in Monday's semifinal round. Stanton (the top seed) beat Raines 7-0 in the other semifinal match. Yulee takes on Stanton at 6 p.m. today at Pirate Field. Buy tickets at gofan.co. The Pirates (9-6-2) beat Ribault 10-0 Thursday to advance to the semifinal round. Yulee (10-3-1) and Stanton drew first-round byes. Pictured are, top row from left, Yulee's Daniel Armenta and FBHS's Wyatt Steele; FBHS's Jacob Kovalcik and Yulee's Tristian Riggs; Riggs and FBHS's Jack McGohan; above from left, Kevin Reyes-Ramos and FBHS's Ryker Lee; far left, Reyes-Ramos; and left, Riggs and McGohan. The FBHS girls (11-3-1) beat West Nassau 6-2 Monday in the semifinal round of the District 3-4A tournament to advance to today's championship match at 6 p.m. at Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville. The FBHS Lady Pirates (the No. 2 seed), No. 1 Stanton and No. 3 West Nassau all drew first-round byes. Yulee (No. 4) blanked No. 5 Raines 11-0 on Thursday in the lone quarterfinal match. Stanton knocked out Yulee 8-0 on Monday in the other semifinal.

PHOTOS BY BETH JONES/NEWS-LEADER

Sailing club holds Ice Bucket Challenge

The Amelia Island Sailing Club held its first race of the 2024 racing season on Saturday, Jan. 20. It was a gorgeous sailing day. The mid-40s cold temperature and variable northwest winds of 10-15 knots under clear sunny skies was suitable for this annual race, the Ice Bucket Challenge. The club's perpetual "Ice Bucket" trophy has been awarded to the winner of this race since 1985.

Seven sailboats with 24 bundled-up sailors competed for the trophy on the six-nautical mile course, with the start time of 1 p.m. The race committee boat, under the command of Russ Ridley and his crew, monitored one of the closest starts in recent memory and then motored alongside the fleet to provide many great pictures.

Six boats on port tack raced for the pin end of the start line, with one boat, Lola, racing along the line on her right-of-way starboard tack, hoping to block the port-tackers, but she was just a little late to stop the first boats from starting.

All boats remained close heading towards Cumberland Island after the start before a required tack to the west for the long windward leg to the first mark. Sailing with the current into freshening winds, the naturally faster sailboats separated from the slower boats.

Valkyrie and Misty battled to be the first boat around the windward mark, which was not far from the shallows off the west end of Cumberland Island. Unfortunately, Valkyrie suffered a soft grounding and had to retire from the race after being assisted by the race committee boat. Fortunately, there was no damage or injuries, just bruised egos.

Favorable winds helped with the downwind legs into the current, and all boats finished the race without further incident. Bill Kavanaugh's "Tiger Tale" took line honors for being the first boat to finish with an elapsed time of one hour and nine minutes, followed very closely just two minutes later by Wilby Whitt's Misty, with Fred Eichmann at the helm. The next two boats also finished closely together with Gary Sanders on Salty Sally finishing 12 minutes later and beating Jos Wolke on Lola by just one minute. Norm Wentworth and crew on Morning Glory finished next, followed by Jason and Colleen Gerke on Juliana.

After applying PHRF Racing handicaps, the corrected finish order was Misty winning the race, then Tiger Tale, "Salty Sally, Lola, Morning Glory and Juliana.

Hearty congratulations to Misty for winning the 2024 Ice Bucket Challenge. She was raced hard and fast by her owner, Whitt, helmsman Eichmann and crew mem-

SAIL Continued on 2B

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Misty and Julianna before the race, top left. Colleen Gerke bundled up on Julianna, top right. Valkyrie, Morning Glory, Tiger Tale, Salty Sally and Misty beat towards Cumberland Island, above.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ice Bucket winners John Hodge, Wilby Whitt, Fred Eichmann and Dave Ahlers on Misty.

SAIL *From 1B*

bers Dave Ahlers and John Hodge.

Back at the dock, Wolke, last year's winner on Lola, graciously presented the Ice Bucket Trophy to the winning team on Misty.

Complete results and more race photos along with 2024 racing schedule are available on the AISC website at ameliaislandsailingclub.wildapricot.org.

The next race is on Saturday, Feb. 17. All are welcome to race with AISC requiring a club membership at $100 per year. Visit the club's website to learn more, and anyone with a boating interest is invited to join.

Members have sailboats, power boats and pontoon boats, and many have no boats. The club holds monthly dinner meetings, monthly races and other social events throughout the year.

Morning Glory leads Valkyrie and Salty Sally right after start.

Beyond the Badges event Feb. 24

The Fernandina Beach police and fire departments will host the Beyond the Badges Golf Tournament Feb. 24 at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club, 2800 Bill Melton Road.

Entry fee is $500 per team and includes golf and lunch. Prices include closest to the pin and longest drive. Shotgun start is at 10 a.m.

Proceeds benefit the Beyond the Badges Scholarship Program. For information, call 904-310-3205.

GOLF NEWS

ACT tourney Feb. 12

The Amelia Community Theatre will hold its second annual golf tournament on Feb. 12 at the Golf Club of Amelia Island at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island.

Registration and warm-up with breakfast bar are at 8 a.m. Shotgun start is at 9 a.m. Format is a four-person scramble. Lunch reception with raffle prizes, awards and silent auction is at 1 p.m. Proximity awards include hole-in-one, longest drive, closest-to-the-pin and putting contest.

There will be team prizes and goody bags for all participants. Raffle tickets are $20, $50 and $100 and are available at the event.

Entry fee is $150 per player. Sponsorships are available. ACT is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation registered with Florida. Sponsorships are tax deductible. Visit www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org/golf for information.

Play in men's blitz

All golfers are invited to the Fernandina Beach Golf Club men's biweekly 18-hole blitz Wednesdays and Fridays. Shotgun start is 10 a.m. Entry fee for the Stableford scored game is $20. Contact John Rudd at jrudd9404@gmail.com.

Ladies play Tuesdays

The Fernandina Beach Women's Golf Association welcomes women of all levels. Play is 9 a.m. Tuesdays; registration at 8:30 a.m. Membership is $40 per year. Email fbwga18@gmail.com for information.

SPORTS SHORTS

Babe Ruth sign-ups

Fernandina Beach Babe Ruth spring registration is open through Feb. 2. Register online at www.fbbrl.com.

The league is holding a banner drive, and the cost is $350 for one or $600 for two. Banners are 4 feet by 6 feet. Advertise your business or send a shout-out to a player or team.

Umpires are needed. Contact Tom Camera at 240-460-5500 for information.

March 30 is opening day for Fernandina Beach Babe Ruth, which plays at Buccaneer Sports Complex on Beech Street.

Restock food pantry

The 18th annual tennis players food pantry restocking event will be from 1-3:30 p.m. Feb. 4 at three local tennis clubs. Entry fee is one bag (or more) of nonperishable grocery items that will be donated to Gracie's Kitchen. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

Divisions are men's doubles and ladies doubles combinations 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0. Enter with a partner. Scoring format will be determined by the number of entries. Play will be on the courts at Kraft, Amelia National and Omni Amelia Island Plantation.

Deadline to enter is Jan. 31. Email entries to michelemaha@msn.com. Location and start times will be emailed at 5 p.m. Feb. 2.

Stadium challenge

The Jaguars 5K Stadium Challenge will be held Feb. 24 at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, home of the Jacksonville Jaguars. The 5K wave starts at 6 p.m., and the one-mile Fun Run starts at 6:15 p.m. It is a glow-in-the-dark run with post-race glow in the dark dance party on the stadium field.

Finishers receive custom medals, and entrants receive a custom-designed long-sleeve shirt. There will be an interactive course through and around EverBank Field, with finish line broadcast on the largest videoboards in the NFL. Participants 21 and up receive a free 10-ounce beer at the post-race celebration.

The event benefits the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation and local youth sports programs. Entry fees are $55 for the 5K and $45 for the Fun Run through Feb. 23, and $60 and $55, respectively, on race day, with a $5 discount for 13 and under and 65 and over through Jan. 31. Packets will be available for pickup at 1st Place Sports on Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendor booths are $250. Contact Kristina Heath at heathk@nfl.jaguars.com for information. Register at www.raceroster.com.

Bull riders return

The Professional Bull Riders's premier Unleash The Beast will buck into Jacksonville, holding U.S. Border Patrol PBR Jacksonville Feb. 23-24 at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A Philip Randolph Blvd.

Tickets start at $15. Purchase online at ticketmaster.com and PBR.com, at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena Box Office or by calling 1-800-732-1727.

Boules Club

The Amelia Island Boules Club holds pétanque pickup games on the pétanque courts at the south end of the downtown marina on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and most afternoons on weekdays. Pétanque (pay-tonk) is a cousin of both horseshoes and bocce, the Italian bowling game. The public is always welcome. Email AmeliaPetanque@gmail.com.

Play pickleball

Scheduled play at the pickleball courts at Central Park in Fernandina Beach is posted at the courts and online. Attendees should wear court shoes and athletic attire. Loaner paddles and balls are provided.

Schedule for doubles format: Sunday 2-5 p.m. all levels on courts 1-4 and beginners (1.0-2.5) on courts 5-6. Monday 8-10 a.m. women's play (all levels) on courts 1-4 and beginners (1.0-2.5 men and women) on courts 5-6. Monday 4-7 p.m. advanced competitive play (levels 4.0 and up) on courts 1-6 with challenge court on court 4. Tuesday 8-11 a.m. intermediate play (levels 3.0 and 3.5) on courts 1-6.

Wednesday 4-6 p.m. intermediate play (3.0 and 3.5) on courts 1-6. Thursday 8-10 a.m. men's play (all levels) on courts 1-4 and all levels (men and women) on courts 5-6. Friday 8-11 a.m. intermediate play (3.0 and 3.5) on courts 1-6. Schedule is posted at the courts along with general rules and descriptions of play. Visit www.fbfl.us/972/Pickleball, Fernandina Beach Pickleball Pirates on Facebook or email fbpbpirates@gmail.com.

Organized rides

The North Florida Bicycle Club offers several organized bicycle rides each week at various times and locations on Amelia Island and in Nassau County. Cyclists of all abilities are welcome. Helmets and a bicycle in good working condition are required. Cyclists typically split into groups, depending on pace and skill level. Lunch is optional.

Call 678-613-2074 or visit www.ameliaislandcycling.com, www.ameliaislandtrail.org or www.nfbc.us.

Ping pong at rec

The city of Fernandina Beach offers ping pong Thursdays from 4:30-7 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Beginning to advanced players welcome. Six tables, a robot, balls and loaner paddles are provided.

Contact the Recreation Department or Don Hughes at 904-415-0667 or visit Fernandina Beach Ping Pong on Facebook for updates.

Runners help

Want to improve your running? Come and enjoy the company of other supportive runners of all ages, abilities and levels of condition. Join the Runners Love Company workouts and learn to train smarter with tips of coachly wisdom from veteran coach Roy Benson.

Amelia Island Runners club, a local chapter of Road Runners Clubs of America, invites you to a workout every Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Fernandina Beach High School. Visit www.AmeliaRunners.com.

Sailing club meets

The Amelia Island Sailing Club meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Kraft Athletic Club at Ten Acres, located off Buccaneer Trail. Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner, business meeting and guest speaker presentation. Guests are welcome. Boat ownership or sailing skills are not required.

Club activities throughout the year may include day/overnight excursions by water and/or land, sailboat racing, social activities and assisting with local conservation and environmental efforts in waters surrounding Amelia Island. Visit www.ameliaislandsailingclub.wildapricot.org.

NSFA meetings

The Nassau Sport Fishing Association holds monthly meetings the second Wednesday and the monthly social get-together the fourth Wednesday of each month at Kraft Ten Acres, 961023 Buccaneer Trail in Fernandina Beach. Call 556-5531 or email info@nsfafish.net.

To submit an item for this column, email information to bjones@fbnewsleader.com.

PRO GOLF WEEKLY UPDATE

Golf News, Tips, Trivia & Stats

This Week in Pro Golf

The second Signature Event of the PGA Tour season comes from Pebble Beach Golf Links

This year, the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am field is comprised of the top 50 in last season's FedEx Cup standings, the top 10 finishers in the FedEx Cup Fall standings and the top five FedEx Cup points earners in the Sony Open in Hawaii, The American Express and Farmers Insurance Open. FedEx Cup champion Viktor Hovland and world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler will highlight the field at Pebble Beach. The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am will once again use its three-course rotation.

TV Coverage

Day	Time	Network
Thursday	3-6 p.m.	GOLF
Friday	3-6 p.m.	GOLF
Saturday	1-3 p.m.	GOLF
Saturday	3-7 p.m.	CBS
Sunday	1-3 p.m.	GOLF
Sunday	3-6:30 p.m.	CBS

Pro Golf Trivia

Who is the only golfer to lose in a playoff twice at the Masters?

a) Ed Sneed **c)** Ken Venturi
b) Ben Hogan **d)** Ernie Els

Answer: b) Ben Hogan

Top News Stories

Anthony Kim in talks with PGA Tour, LIV about return

Anthony Kim, who blazed a red-hot trail on the PGA Tour for four seasons and then disappeared from public view after injuries derailed his career nearly a dozen years ago, has been in discussions with the PGA Tour and the LIV Golf League about returning to professional golf. Kim, 38, made his last start on the PGA Tour when he withdrew after the first round of the Wells Fargo Championship in May 2012. He underwent surgery to repair an Achilles tendon injury in his left leg the next month. He hasn't played in a professional tournament since. Kim is eyeing a potential return to pro tournaments sometime this spring. A sticking point in his comeback is that he collected at least part of a disability insurance policy that was reportedly worth $10 million to $20 million. He would probably be required to pay back a large portion, if not all, of the settlement he has collected.

Lessons from the Golf Pro

Most of us experience some form of joint stiffness or loss of flexibility when we hit too many balls. Here are some suggestions in order to maintain flexibility and keep your muscles in use. Regardless of your age, participating consistently in a golf-specific exercise program can greatly improve your game. A golf-specific conditioning program consists of resistance training, cardiovascular conditioning, and functional flexibility. Walking, biking, stair-stepping, and running are examples of cardiovascular exercise. For flexibility, try reaching your hands to the ceiling and stretching to your sides a couple of times each day. Tilting your head and neck back and forth and side-to-side are also very common exercises.

Last Week in Pro Golf

Matthieu Pavon won the Farmers Insurance Open

Matthieu Pavon made an 8-foot putt for a dramatic birdie on No. 18 at Torrey Pines South for a 1-shot victory in the Farmers Insurance Open on Saturday that made him the first Frenchman to win on the PGA Tour. "I have no words. It is amazing," the PGA Tour rookie, 31, said moments after the victory. Pavon's final-round 3-under 69 put him at 13-under, 1 stroke better than Nicolai Hojgaard. Pavon, who was born in Toulouse, was playing in just his 11th PGA Tour event.

FedEx Cup Standings

Through Jan. 28, 2024

1) Chris Kirk
753 pts. / 1 top tens

2) Matthieu Pavon
599 pts. / 2 top tens

3) Byeong Hun An
570 pts. / 2 top tens

FedEx Cup Standings continued...

Player	Points	Top 10s
4) Grayson Murray	500	1
5) J.T. Poston	415	2
6) Sahith Theegala	404	1
7) Xander Schauffele	388	3
8) Jordan Spieth	350	1
9) Nicolai Højgaard	300	1
10) Scottie Scheffler	300	1

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2024 SCHOOL SCHEDULES

FERNANDINA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL
Girls Basketball

Feb. 1	WESTSIDE	6:00

YULEE HIGH SCHOOL
Girls Basketball

Jan. 31	at Bishop Snyder	6:00
Feb. 1	TERRY PARKER	6:00
Feb. 5-9	District (TBA)	

FERNANDINA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL
Boys Basketball

Feb. 2	SANDALWOOD	6/7:30

YULEE HIGH SCHOOL
Boys Basketball

Jan. 31	at Englewood	6/7:30
Feb. 2	at West Nassau	6/7:30
Feb. 5-9	District tournament	

YULEE HIGH SCHOOL
Wrestling

Feb. 3	JV REGIONAL OPEN	8:00
Feb. 7	CHARLTON (seniors)	4:30
Feb. 9-10	JV state at Osceola	
Feb. 10	at Villages Duals	9:00
Feb. 17	Traditional dsitrict	
Feb. 24	region	
Feb. 29-March 2	state at Kissimmee	

FERNANDINA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL
Wrestling

Feb. 2-3	at Clay Rotary	2:30/9:30
Feb. 17	Individual district	
Feb. 23-24	Regional	
Feb. 29-March 2	individual state, Kissimmee	

YULEE HIGH SCHOOL
Girls Weightlifting

Feb. 1-3	region	