



J.J. Putz and the Mets fall to Florida in NL action, 11B

The Brunswick News



Courtney Kupets

Georgia gymnast voted nation's best

Former Olympic medalist **Courtney Kupets** has won the Honda Sports Award for the second time as the nation's top female college gymnast.

After missing the 2008 post-season with an Achilles' injury, Kupets returned to lead Georgia to its fifth straight NCAA title. The senior became the first gymnast to win a national title in the all-around, bars, beam and floor competition in the same year.

Kupets won the silver medal in the team all-around and captured individual bronze in the uneven bars at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

The Honda Award is based on national balloting among 1,000 NCAA member schools. Kupets also won it in 2007 and her teammate, Katie Heenan, won it last year.

Elbow sends Magic's Howard to bench

Dwight Howard has been suspended for Game 6 of the Orlando Magic's playoff series against the Philadelphia 76ers.

The NBA announced Wednesday that Howard will be suspended for his elbow on Sixers center Samuel Dalembert in Game 5 on Tuesday.

The two got tangled up going for a rebound in the first quarter. Replays showed Howard's elbow hit Dalembert above the shoulders. Howard drew a technical foul for the hit.

The Magic lead the best-of-seven series 3-2 with Game 6 set for tonight.

Ex-Bulldog coming home to roost

Verron Haynes, the former Atlanta area high school running back who led Georgia in rushing in his 2001 senior season, has signed with the Atlanta Falcons as a free agent.

Haynes, a fifth-round pick by Pittsburgh in 2002, rushed for 738 yards and had 58 catches for 429 yards in six seasons with the Steelers.

Haynes will compete for a spot behind Michael Turner and backup Jerious Norwood.

Visit **The Sports Lounge** at thebrunswicknews.com

for a beyond-the-scores podcast of sports opinions and comments.

Future stars make their best pitch at North Glynn

Area kids showcase skills at Pitch, Hit and Run event

By **KEVIN PRICE**
The Brunswick News

Alex Stanton took one look at his target, then rocked and fired, hitting the blue sign square in the middle for a strike.

Stanton repeated the routine five more times, hitting the "strike zone" on four of the six total pitches he threw.

"I felt good about it," said the 11-year-old of his performance.

"I just threw it and trusted my arm."

Stanton, still chewing sunflower seeds after taking his turn pitching, was one of the many competitors in the Aquafina Pitch, Hit and Run competition held on Wednesday at the Glynn County Recreation and Parks Department's North Glynn Complex. The competition is the official skills competition of Major League Baseball.

Some 75 youth baseball and softball players — boys and girls ages 7-14 — took part in the local competition with the winners advancing to the sectional competition May 9 in Jesup. Those lucky enough to advance from the sectionals to the state event get the chance to compete at Turner Field in Atlanta. Those winners then move

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Please see **SKILLS, 9A**



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Cassidy Richburg takes her turn throwing during Wednesday's Aquafina Pitch, Hit and Run event at North Glynn Complex. Cassidy was one of 75 youngsters who took part in the event.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Kayak fisherman Jamie Davis works his line while fishing Wednesday in the Mackay River. Davis will join an estimated 400 kayak fishermen taking part in this weekend's Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic, to be held in the inland waters of north Florida and Glynn and Camden counties.

Fishing with a twist

Local angler to join hundreds for weekend of tournament kayak fishing

By **DAVE JORDAN**
The Brunswick News

When Jamie Davis goes fishing, he doesn't fool around.

Davis eschews the usual methods of fishing — off a bank or from a boat — and gets right down to the fish's level. Like a growing number of area outdoor enthusiasts, Davis fishes from his kayak — and has gotten quite adept at it.

"For one thing, it's easier and less maintenance than a boat," Davis said of why he prefers using a kayak. "It's easy to transport, too. I have a two-door (Honda) Civic and they have roof racks. It's easy and safe to transport a kayak on a small car, and a kayak can go a lot of places boats can't go and all the places they can. It's pretty good exercise, as well."

Last week, Davis reeled in his biggest catch to date, a black drum weighing in excess of 60 pounds he caught off Jekyll Island.

"The black drum was the biggest fish I

have ever caught. We were fishing the mud flats near the Jekyll causeway. I was fishing for reds when I saw him in about three feet of water feeding, made a cast right on top of him, and he swallowed the gulp bait I was using. He was 50 inches long and it took me two hours to reel him in."

Davis and his fishing compatriots will be among several hundred folks taking part in the sixth annual Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic, held this Friday and Saturday. Billed as the largest kayak fishing tournament anywhere, the JKFC is designed as a "fun, conservation-oriented" event to promote kayak fishing and raise funds for children's programs. Anglers — in kayaks only — will target redfish, trout and flounder and can fish any inshore location in the Jacksonville area as well as any river or stream in Camden and Glynn counties. No ocean fishing is allowed.

Tournament organizer Mike Kogan, who operates the Web site www.jaxkayakfishing.com and was instrumental in founding the

Jacksonville tournament, said the event has grown beyond even his wishes.

"After starting JaxKayakFishing.com in 2004, the folks in the online community thought it would be fun to have a kayak fishing tournament," Kogan said. "The first Classic was in April 2005, and we expected maybe 30-40 and got 100. We had the second event in October 2005 back when we were foolish enough to think we could run these two or four times a year. In October 2005 we got 170 and from there forward have retained the mantle of world's largest kayak fishing tournament. May 2006 we had 230 people, May 2007 we had 282, then last year in 2008 we had 340. We keep telling ourselves it can't possibly get any bigger and this year we will have over 400."

Prizes will be given for the greatest aggregate and for the largest of each of the three species, as well as prizes to the best junior, se-

Please see **KAYAK, 9A**

Quail Hollow somber reunion

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A tip of the hat and handshakes for Masters champion Angel Cabrera.

A pat on the back for Chad Campbell.

And for Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, reflections of a green jacket that got away from them.

Except for Kenny Perry, the leading characters from the Masters return to competition this week at the Quail Hollow Championship, their first time seeing their peers and the press since that memorable Sunday afternoon earlier this month at Augusta National.

Only one of them had reason to celebrate.

Cabrera scrambled for par from the trees at No. 18 in a playoff, then won on the second extra hole to defeat Perry and Campbell and capture his second major. Four days later, he was feted at what amounts to a club championship at his home club in Argentina.

"It was incredible to go back to my country and to be with my people, just was really a special, special feeling," Cabrera said through his Houston-based swing coach, Charlie Epps.

And it got even better when he arrived at Quail Hollow, the tree-lined course with a major championship atmosphere.

"It's very nice that my fellow professionals have congratulated me the way that they have," Cabrera said.

Woods still commanded all the attention Wednesday, partly because of his status as the No. 1 player and a 14-time major champion, and partly because of the company he kept. Woods played with Peyton Manning, the three-time MVP quarterback of the Indianapolis Colts, and both sides of the fairway were lined with spectators as they finished the round.

Despite not taking advantage of some easy scoring conditions at

Please see **QUAIL, 9A**

Here's hoping Glavine can get back to that stellar form



Kevin Price
Sports editor
kprice@theBrunswickNews.com

K.P.'s Corner

Tom Glavine may not pitch another inning for the Atlanta Braves, or anyone else for that matter.

Frankly, his chances of returning to the Braves' rotation this season don't sound good. And even if he does, it remains to be seen how effective he can be.

Last season, he only made 13 starts and finished with a 2-4 record and a 5.54 ERA before going on the disabled list for the first time in his career, which is amazing to say the least.

He needed surgery on his left elbow, and doctors also cleaned out his shoulder in what was thought to be a minor procedure.

But before the end of spring, Glavine's shoulder began to bother him and did so again during a minor league rehab start, forcing him to stop throwing for two weeks.

He did some throwing this week, and did so with encouraging signs. The elbow is fine, and the shoulder isn't 100 percent, but Glavine says that it feels better.

He plans to throw off the mound before the end of the Braves' current homestand, which should tell more about his possible return this season and when that return might be if at all possible.

If it isn't, Glavine has said he would retire before going through another long rehab.

Here's hoping these injuries to his left shoulder and left elbow don't end his season and his career prematurely.

Glavine is 43 years old. And with 305 wins under his belt already, he's almost certain to be a Hall of Famer.

He really doesn't have anything left to prove about himself on the mound, other

than the fact that he can return from injury and be a productive contributor to an already strong Braves' starting rotation for at least one more season.

But since that is what he is hoping to do, I certainly hope he can do it.

It would be nice to see Glavine back out there, changing speeds and working that outside corner like he has throughout his stellar career.

He might not be the same pitcher he once was, but that he would be able to come back from injury at this stage of his career and at least be somewhat effective might be the biggest achievement possible.

Meantime, Tim Hudson, who

wasn't expected to return before August after recovering from Tommy John surgery, thinks he might be able to return earlier than expected.

Always a starter, Hudson would be willing to return sooner and possibly pitch out of the bullpen if that was his only way to get back on the mound and help the team.

If that could happen, Hudson could possibly be another John Smoltz for the Braves in that he could come back firing that fastball and working as a setup man or even a closer, which might revive the former 20-game winner's career and bolster the Braves bullpen at the same time.

Of course, pitching really isn't the problem for the Braves at this point. Hitting and scoring runs are, however. What they need in the immediate future is the return of catcher Brian McCann and outfielder Garrett Anderson to the lineup.

Once the Braves are healthy and have everyone in the batting order they were counting on when the season started, we'll be able to tell more about what this team is capable of this season.

In the meantime, we'll keep our eyes on Glavine and Hudson and hope they both can return and help the Braves in some way this season on the mound.

Sports

Skills: Turnout strong at N. Glynn

Continued from 8A

on to compete in the national finals in July at the MLB All-Star Game in St. Louis.

"I think the kids enjoy the competition," said Jerry Moore, a program coordinator for the recreation department. "I think they like the individuality of it and, of course, I'm sure they want to win, too."

Perhaps surprisingly, winning wasn't on the mind of everyone in the competition. Many of the kids were strictly there to have a good time.

"I'm having fun and that's what I like about it," said 10-year-old Cassidy Richburg.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Participants line up to throw during Wednesday's Aquafina Pitch, Hit and Run event at North Glynn Complex. Some 75 kids turned out for the local event, sponsored by Major League Baseball.

"I just like playing. I practice baseball, but I play softball."

Kirstin Edwards, 7, also plays softball for the recreation department.

She was so excited she couldn't wait for the competition to begin.

"I was looking forward to this all day," she said with a large grin after completing the running portion of the contest.

"I had lots and lots of fun. I

like the running part of it the best because you have to run fast."

Stanton was looking forward to the rest of the competition after pitching, but after delivering a stellar performance, it didn't come as a surprise that he liked the pitching contest the best.

"I'm probably the best at pitching," he said confidently. "I've been a pitcher on a bunch of my teams."

Quail: Kim returning champ

Continued from 8A

Augusta National, and now going a career-long four years without winning another green jacket, the time off gave Woods some perspective on the state of his game.

He has played four times since his eight-month layoff due to reconstructive knee surgery. He won at Bay Hill, and he has finished in the top 10 in all of his stroke-play events.

"I've had people remind me to look at it that way," he said with a smile. "I have a hard time looking at it that way. It's just the nature of how I am. You want to try and win every event you play in, and obviously, I haven't done that this year. But I've had some successes this year. Even the years that I've won nine times, eight times in a year, you still look at all the times you didn't win."

Imagine how Campbell feels. He was in the middle of the 18th fairway in the playoff, a 7-iron in his hand, when he hung it out to the right and into a bunker and wound up missing a 5-foot par putt that knocked him out of the playoff.

Campbell enjoyed being away from golf for a few weeks, but it was almost too much time.

"The longer I had off, the more I started thinking about things I should have done or could have done," he said. "It's nice to be back out here playing, and maybe put that tournament behind me a little bit. It was a great experience. I had a blast. But I just wish it would have turned out a little bit better."

Mickelson tied a Masters record with a 30 on the front nine, but his charge to a third green jacket stalled with a tee shot into Rae's



Chuck Burton/AP

Defending champion Anthony Kim chips to the third green during Wednesday's pro-am of the Quail Hollow Championship at the Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C.

Creek and two missed birdie putts inside 5 feet. After a few weeks to reflect, he saw only positives.

"I'm looking forward to getting back and playing," he said. "I had a fun time at Augusta, and I can't wait to get back out. I've been working on my game and I'm excited about the rest of the year. We've got a big tournament every month."

It starts with the Quail Hollow Championship, the tournament formerly known as the Wachovia Championship until the bank was acquired by Wells Fargo, and the new owner decided to take its name off the tournament under scrutiny over taking federal money.

The defending champion is Anthony Kim, although Woods could claim part-ownership. He won at Quail Hollow two years ago, then missed last year while recovering from the first of his two knee surgeries.

The course is in pristine shape, and it's easy to see why club president Johnny Harris — who joined Woods and Manning — is court-

ing a PGA Championship and a Ryder Cup for Quail Hollow. The difference this year is the lack of rough, with the difficulty aimed for greens that are expected to be faster than ever.

"It's not what we've seen here in years past," past champion Jim Furyk said. "I think it's a good enough golf course it doesn't matter. This is one of those tournaments that probably has a bit more of a green light to kind of mess around with the setup and see what's best and what's not, because the players like the course so much and support this event so well."

Woods, who is testing a new shaft in his driver, says he is starting to get some "pop" back in his swing. He might need that, especially after Mickelson was continually hitting it past him during their final-round pairing at the Masters.

He will play three times before the next major, the U.S. Open. And it wasn't long after the Masters that he began gearing up for his title defense at Bethpage Black.

Kayak: Angling for big reds

Continued from 8A

nior, lady and fly fishermen. Last year's tourney drew a record 341 participants.

Davis, who works in Sterling, said he fishes as often as possible and always from his kayak. And although registered anglers are allowed to pre-fish for this weekend's tournament, he said that won't be necessary for him.

"I'm going to fish Postell Creek," he said of the inlet on St. Simons Island.

"There's not a lot of boat traffic and (there are) lots of fish. I'm not going to pre-fish — I know that place like the back of my hand."

He said he's out to win, but the real prize is doing what he loves. He said he will target redfish this weekend and leave the trout — often very plentiful in the area — to someone else.

"Of course, I'm going to try to win but it's mainly to fish and have a good time. There's over 350 people (expected), so there's a ton of competition. I know where I can go and catch a lot of



Submitted photo

Jamie Davis displays the near 70-pound black drum he caught off Jekyll Island while fishing from his kayak. He will be among more than 400 kayak fishermen taking part in this weekend's Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic and will fish waters around St. Simons Island.

big reds so my plan is to catch the biggest red. The water has been muddy due to high tides and all that water coming from the rivers and the trout have been hard

to find."

More info: www.jaxkayak-fishing.com/tournament and 904-382-5007

• Fishing report, bottom left

Frederica wins twin tennis crowns

The Brunswick News

On Wednesday in Augusta, the Frederica Academy boys and girls tennis teams both won semifinal and final-round matches to capture the state title at the Georgia Independent School Association Class AA championships.

The championship was the second in a row for the FA girls, and the first for the boys since 1996.

In the girls' bracket, the Frederica ladies first defeated Valwood

4-0 in the semifinal rounds, then

downed LaGrange in the final.

Winners for FA against Valwood were Elizabeth Martin and Jessie Been in singles, and Ava MacArthur and Laura Gordon Thomas and Hart Smodic and Ellie Hough in doubles.

In the LaGrange matches — won 3-2 by the Lady Knights — Martin won in singles, and MacArthur/Gordon Thomas and Smodic/Hough won in doubles.

For the boys, Frederica first

defeated

page 4-1. Winning in singles against Tiftarea was McClain Culver, and Allen Clarkston and Wilson Elias and Elliot Post and Matthew Morton won in doubles.

In the final against Heritage, Will Ream and Culver won in singles, and Clarkston/Elias and Post/Morton won in doubles.

In individual play at the state championships on Monday, Martin won the Class AA girls singles title, and Ream was runner-up in boys singles.

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What's biting

A look at fishing this week in the Golden Isles:

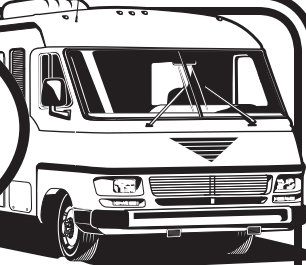
Inshore: The catfish bite is excellent, the bass bite is improving, and the shell-cracker are bedding. Altamaha Regional Park reports the water is expected to be under 10 feet by Saturday and the fishing is improving by the day.

Tidal creeks and sounds: The whiting bite is the best at present, and a few trout, flounder and black drum are being caught. The tripletail have returned as well.

Offshore: A few king mackerel have shown up, as have cobia farther out. At the reefs, expect to see some spanish mackerel. Out in the gulfstream, dolphin, wahoo and blackfin tuna have been caught.

Sources: Altamaha Regional Park and charter fishing captain Mark Noble

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