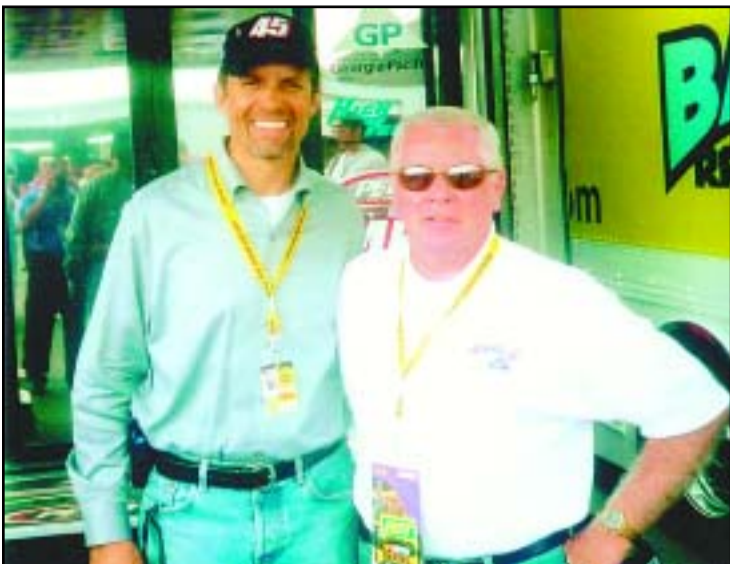


"Having Dad as a coach was a benefit, but having him as a father was an honor."



Bill Race Sr., right, is known in these parts as the former Falconer Central School football coach, but — thanks to his son, Billy Jr. — he can rub elbows with NASCAR's Kyle Petty. Submitted photo

Paying Tribute To Dad

Four Area Natives Tell Why Father Knows Best

EDITOR'S NOTE: In observance of Father's Day, The Post-Journal talked to four area natives who shared their thoughts about their dads.

By SCOTT KINDBERG
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Billy Race Jr. has let the cat out of the bag.

His father, Bill Race Sr., the legendary former Falconer Central School football coach, is "Mr. Hallmark." "He's such a great card sender,"

Billy said. "He's right on time. He knows when to send it out. ... I just can't compete with that."

But living in his father's long shadow — whether it be because of his ability to pick out just the right greeting card or whether it's because of the impact he's had on so many since arriving in Falconer in 1962 — is fine with Billy.

"I'm just fortunate to have his name," Billy said.

Take, for instance, when father and son were walking through Chautauqua Mall during the Christmas holidays.

"Whether it's a player from 1962 or 1992, they all remember him," Billy said. "He made a difference in everyone's life."

So even though the "coaching never stopped," Billy considered it an honor to play for his dad in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"I learned so much," Billy said, "but not only about the game, but life. He took football very seriously, but off the football field he was the greatest dad you could have. He'd bend over backwards for me or my sisters. See DAD, Page C-2

ITALIAN-AMERICAN CHARITY TOURNEY

Leg Up On The Field



Pat Smeraldo displays a victory kick after he sunk a 12-foot putt on the 18th hole to give he and his partner, Rich Joslyn, the overall championship at the 38th annual Italian-American Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday at Holiday Valley Resort.

P-J photo by Jim Riggs

Putt On Final Hole Gives Smeraldo, Joslyn One-Shot Win

By JIM RIGGS
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ELLICOTTVILLE — "Don't leave it short."

That is what Pat Smeraldo said he was thinking as he stood over a 12-foot putt from the fringe on the 18th hole to win the 38th annual Italian-American Charity Golf Tour-

namment on Saturday.

Smeraldo didn't leave the putt short as he rammed it into the center of the cup to give he and his partner, Rich Joslyn, the overall championship by one shot over George Panebianco and John O'Mara.

Smeraldo and Joslyn, who were the leaders or co-leaders every day of the 54-hole event at Holiday Valley Resort, finished with

a net best-ball total of 194, 16 under par, while Panebianco and O'Mara finished with a 195.

Smeraldo faced a 12-foot putt to win because he didn't leave his first putt on the 18th hole short. He had a 45-footer from the back fringe that ended up traveling 12 feet past the cup to the lower fringe.

See I-A, Page C-3



Tiger Woods celebrates his eagle putt on the 13th hole during the third round of the U.S. Open.

AP photo

Prime Time Is Tiger Time At Open

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. Open went prime time, and so did Tiger Woods.

With unbearable pain and three unforgettable shots, Woods turned in one of his most memorable performances in a major Saturday by holing two long eagle putts, chipping in for birdie and somehow taking a one-shot lead over Lee Westwood.

Right when some 50,000 fans at Torrey Pines thought they had seen it all, Woods knocked in a 30-foot eagle on the 18th for a 1-under 70 and his first 54-hole lead in the U.S. Open since he won at Bethpage Black in 2002.

That he made it to the finish line was nearly as impressive as a magical array of shots. His tender left knee first buckled on the 15th hole, and Woods used his club as a cane to get down the fairway, limping along while trying to stay in the hunt. He played the final six holes in 4 under — and that included a bogey — and will play in the final group for the sixth time in the last eight majors.

Stoddard, Swanson To Return To State Amateur

LOCKPORT — Chris Stoddard and Nolan Swanson each qualified for the New York State Amateur Golf Tournament at Lockport Town and Country Club on Friday.

Stoddard, who in the fall begins his sophomore season at St. Bonaventure, finished second with a 76.

Swanson came in sixth with a 78 and they are among 13 players out of 54 that advance to New York State Amateur Tournament to be held July 15-19 at Pine Haven CC in Guilderland, near Albany.

Stoddard, playing out of Moon Brook Country Club, and Swanson, playing out of Chautauqua Golf Club, will be making their second appearances at the state amateur.

Fredonia Girls, Gowanda Boys Fall At States

Three-Run HR Ends Billies' Title Hopes

By CRAIG HARVEY
Special to The Post-Journal

BINGHAMTON — Following the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class B championship game, Fredonia fans stood behind the Lady Hillbillies' dugout and gave the team a standing ovation.

It was their way of thanking the girls for an unforgettable season in which the team won the Section 6 Class B title.

It was for their second straight Far West Regional title.

The applause was also for giving the fans and community of Fredonia something to cheer about the last three weeks.

Unfortunately, the applause wasn't to congratulate the team on winning the state championship as the Windsor Lady Black Knights only needed one pitch to defeat Fredonia, 3-0.

In the bottom of the sixth, with runners on the corners, Windsor's Kristin Waldron hit a three-run homer over the right-field fence for the only runs of the game.

See FREDONIA, Page C-3



Gowanda's Jay John delivers to the plate during Saturday's state baseball semifinal at Broome Community College.

P-J photo by Simon Teska

Inability To Produce Clutch Hit Sinks Panthers

By SIMON TESKA
sports@post-journal.com

BINGHAMTON — Pitchers can win ball games by zipping fastballs past hitters or by using the opposite methodology — simply pitching to contact.

John F. Kennedy Catholic's Ryan Tannell used the latter strategy against Gowanda, as he led his Gaels to a 5-1 victory in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class B semifinal at Broome Community College on Saturday.

Ground balls, lazy flies and pop-ups headlined the stat sheet for Gowanda.

The Panther hitters helped out the Kennedy Catholic ace by putting a lot of first pitches in play for easy outs.

The Cinderella season ended abruptly for the Gowanda Panthers, who played well in the loss but were plagued with costly errors early and a lack of timely hitting throughout.

"Hitting has kind of been our crutch all year," Gowanda coach Tim Smith said after the game.

See GOWANDA, Page C-3

SPORTS

I-A

"That one got away from me a little bit," he said with a smile. "I didn't think it was that bad."

But when the crowd watching began to yell for the ball to stop, Smeraldo knew he might be in trouble.

"I was hoping he would have a nice, easy two-putt," Joslyn said.

That's because Joslyn was 10 feet from the cup, but in four. If Smeraldo missed his putt, Joslyn would have had to make his for the win.

Smeraldo was on the back fringe in three, which was his strategy.

On the 18th tee he told Joslyn he was planning to reach the par-4 18th green in three so he could get a bogey for a net par and the win. And he did it with a driver, 9-iron and a half wedge shot to the back of the green.

Joslyn had trouble off the tee and didn't reach the green until his fourth shot which finished only 10 feet away, but he never got a chance to putt as his partner locked up the win.

Like on all his shots, Smeraldo didn't take a lot of time over his winning putt.

"It was a straight putt," he said.

And he was due to make one.

"I missed probably five two- to three-foot putts all day," said the Moon Brook Country Club member playing with an 18 handicap.

The eventual winners came into the final round tied for the lead with two others teams while three more were one shot back, two were two shots behind and three more were within three shots. So it was almost anyone's tournament and that's why a bogey at the first hole didn't look good for Smeraldo and Joslyn. But they weren't too concerned about it.

"It was a weird start," said Joslyn, playing with a 14 handicap.

That's because they hit their first two shots and then the field was called off the course for nearly an hour because of rain.

Back-to-back net birdie 3s at No. 3 and No. 4 by Joslyn moved his team to 1 under on the day and then they went to 2 under when Joslyn had another net birdie 3 at No. 8.

Then they bogeyed the par-3 ninth hole when Smeraldo missed one of those 2-footers he mentioned.

"We gave two back on par three yesterday," Joslyn noted.

But after losing a stroke on 9, Smeraldo said, "We got it right back."

That's because Joslyn put his tee shot at the par-3 10th hole 29 inches from the cup for a birdie to move the team to 3 under.

"That was good," was Joslyn's understatement about his shot.

On the 13th hole Joslyn had a net birdie 3 and at 15 he had a net birdie 2 to move the team to 5 under. By then, most of the contenders were falling behind. However, a few groups in front were Panebianco and O'Mara, who were also 5 under on the day, but they still trailed Smeraldo and Joslyn.

When Smeraldo and Joslyn came to the 17th tee, they knew they held a two-shot lead over the eventual runner-up team. That lead fell to one when they both double bogeyed the par-5 17th.

And the lead was still one after Smeraldo sunk his clutch putt at No. 18 to nail



Rich Joslyn, right, celebrates with Pat Smeraldo after they won the overall championship at the 38th annual Italian-American Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday at Holiday Valley Resort.

P-J photo by Jim Riggs

down the title. After the overall winner and runner-up came out of the First Flight, the champion in that division ended up being Dave Rizzo and Tim Mead with 196. Tied for second with 198 were Tim D'Angelo and Jeff Keppel, and Mark Panebianco and Sean Larson. D'Angelo and Keppel won the playoff.

The Second Flight champions were Joe DeMarco and Tom Yocum with 199 while there was a logjam of teams tied at 200. They were Pete Pillitteri and Andy Sandstrom, Paul Mole and Steve Anderson, and John Liscianadro and Marv Emiller. After playoffs, Pillitteri and Sandstrom took second and Mole and Anderson were third.

The Third Flight was won by Ray Paladino and Lynn Sweet with 199. In second with a 200 were John LaMancuso and Mike Roberts while John Calamunci and Ken Johnson were third with 201.

Ray Paladino and Lynn Sweet won the Fourth Flight with 199. In a playoff for second, Dave Munella and Dave Leathers defeated Lou Bianco and Ed Shults after they tied with 202.

The winners of the Fifth Flight were Jim Barlow and Ryan Foote with 200 while Jim Giunta and Mike Spanbauer were second with 202. In a playoff for third between teams with 203s, Todd Frangione and Mark Tarbrake defeated Joe Bellitto and Greg Smith.

The Sixth Flight required a playoff between teams tied with 200s and Henry Mole and Tom Ames defeated Rocky Morgan and Greg Wren for the title. There was also a playoff for third among teams with 204 and Dan Delmonte and Dick Emke defeated Jack Munella and Dave Currie.

Todd D'Angelo and Steve Handzel won the Seventh Flight with 203. Mo Mo Paterniti and Scott Smith were second with 204 while Sam Galbato and Dick Cole took third with 210.

OVERALL	
Smeraldo-Joslyn	60-68-66-194
Panebianco-O'Mara	63-68-64-195
FIRST FLIGHT	
Rizzo-Mead	62-67-67-196
D'Angelo-Keppel	63-68-67-198
Panebianco-Larson	63-68-67-198
Cappa-Boron	64-66-69-199
Peppy-Moss	64-70-65-199
Vitello-Deppas	65-63-72-200
Passalardo-Brunenavv	64-71-65-200
Scalise-Emiller	64-71-65-200
LaMancuso-Hartweg	64-71-70-205
Conti-Miller	64-70-71-205

SECOND FLIGHT	
DeMarco-Yocum	66-69-64-199
Pillitteri-Sandstrom	65-67-68-200
Mole-Anderson	65-67-68-200
Liscianadro-Emiller	65-65-70-200
Pillitteri-Bogdan	67-66-68-201
D'Angelo-Johnson	66-70-66-202
Pietrocarlo-Auer	66-65-72-203
Restivo-Lockwood	67-67-68-205
Liscianadro-Dumaine	67-67-72-206
DeMarco-Kubic	67-69-70-206
Paquale-Hedberg	66-70-71-207
Cusimano-Bjork	66-71-70-207

THIRD FLIGHT	
Ribauda-Johnson	67-61-71-199
Lamancuso-Roberts	67-65-68-200
Calamunci-Johnson	68-65-68-201
Cusimano-Melquist	68-70-74-202
Mason-Glatz	67-67-69-203
Barlow-McNally	67-66-70-203
Baggiano-Yager	68-69-67-204
Munella-Miller	68-70-70-208
Pillitteri-Johnson	67-68-75-211
Vassallo-Szpacchier	68-72-73-213
Peppy-VanEvery	68-74-72-214
Cusimano-Wright	68-75-75-218

FOURTH FLIGHT	
Paladino-Sweet	68-66-65-199
Munella-Leathers	68-67-67-202
Bianco-Shults	68-64-70-202
Fashano-Johnson	68-65-71-204
Panebianco-Michos	68-69-70-206
DeAngelo-Meyers	68-72-66-206
DeMarco-Loeb	68-71-67-206
Scheria-Whitemore	68-72-68-208
Guelfi-Cross	68-69-72-209
Viele-Miley	68-76-68-212
Phillips-Toter	68-72-77-217
Panebianco-Johnson	68-74-79-221

FIFTH FLIGHT	
Barlow-Foote	70-67-63-200
Giunta-Spanbauer	70-67-65-202
Frangione-Tarbrake	69-63-71-203
Bellitto-Smith	69-69-65-203
Brigiotta-Anderson	69-67-71-207
Ribauda-Crist	69-70-70-209
Giunta-Beauseigneur	70-66-74-210
D'Angelo-Sheffield	70-70-70-210
DeMarco-Henderson	69-71-72-216
Conti-Higgins	69-71-72-213
Volpe-Emerson	70-71-72-213
Baggiano-MacKenzie	69-76-76-221

SIXTH FLIGHT	
Mole-Ames	71-66-63-200
Morgan-Wren	70-65-65-200
Delmonte-Emke	70-69-65-204
Munella-Curie	72-67-65-204
Certo-Dawson	70-68-67-205
Volpe-Emiller	71-69-67-207
Tarana-Joslyn	70-64-73-207
Tuccio-Joslyn	70-64-73-207
Foti-Lundgren	72-70-68-210
Panebianco-Brady	70-72-68-210
Anzalone-Whitney	72-68-71-211
Sriannno-Lockwood	71-74-68-213
Sinatra-Sard	71-71-73-215
Paterniti-Weinstein	72-80-73-225

SEVENTH FLIGHT	
D'Angelo-Handzel	74-66-63-203
Paterniti-Smith	73-67-64-204
Galbato-Cole	72-67-71-210
Calamunci-Bender	72-65-73-216
Schiera-Moore	75-71-70-220
Baggiano-Fulford	72-76-72-220
Cappa-Sullivan	75-68-78-221
Triscari-Hoff	73-77-71-221
Cardinale-Benson	75-74-75-224
Triscari-Gustafson	75-73-76-224
Lombardo-MacIntyre	75-73-76-224
Paladino-Sheffield	75-76-80-231
Liscianadro-Peterson	76-77-78-231
Cusimano-Gronquist	81-78-81-240

* won playoff

Fredonia

From Page C-1

T'Ana Abt propelled the Lady Hillbillies to the championship game with a three-run double to break a 6-all tie and lead Fredonia to a 9-6 victory over Cohoes in the semifinals.

Trailing 6-5 in the top of the seventh, Fredonia's eight and nine hitters — Jenn Lutz and Marge Wronski, respectively — hit consecutive singles. With one out, Mary Kate Bongiovanni loaded the bases as she reached on an error. The next hitter, Katie Bartkowiak ripped an RBI single to tie the game, 6-6.

With Abt at the plate, lightning struck, forcing an hour rain delay.

When the game resumed, Abt belted her game-winning three-run double.

"That was great late-game heroics by T'Ana," Fredonia coach Dave Polechetti said. "She hit the ball well all day. She came up big at the end."

The Lady Tigers made the game interesting in the bottom half of the seventh as they were able to load the bases. However, Bartkowiak, who came in to pitch in relief, induced a game-ending groundout to send the Lady Hillbillies into the finals.

Abt's hit was not the only key for Fredonia, it was also an important hit for herself as it helped raise her confidence after struggling in the infield at her shortstop position during the sixth inning.

"It meant a lot to me," Abt said about her hit. "Before, my head was all over the place. The ball was taking different hops. When we had our rain-out, the team pulled me together and calmed me down and got me focused. I needed the time to focus."

The Lady Hillbillies belted 22 hits in the game, but could not string the hits together to put the game out of reach.

With Fredonia ahead 5-2, Cohoes rallied to take a 6-5 lead as Cohoes' Jessica Dearstyne hit a grand-slam home run in the bottom of the fifth. The ball went over the center-field fence in a hurry as it traveled an estimated 230 feet.

"This was probably the wildest high school softball game in terms of a championship that I have been a part of," Polechetti said. "We left a lot of people on base. If we made a hit here or there, we could have had a few more runs."

Gowanda

From Page C-1

Tatnell's mound adversary, Jay John, nearly dominated the game himself, but three costly errors riddled the otherwise efficient outing and deterred a nail-biting finish.

Pitching on four days rest, John went the distance and gave up two runs in the first and three in the third.

The Panthers accounted for just three base hits on the day, the most important of which was an RBI single off the bat of Adam Steves in the fifth inning to score the lone run for Gowanda.

With runners stationed at second and third in the fifth, Gowanda was threatening to score a few more runs and shift the momentum in their

Fredonia got on the board early as Abt had an RBI double in the first inning to score Mary Kate Bongiovanni.

In the second inning, Julie Arnold scored on a passed ball as she led off the inning with a double. Bongiovanni also recorded an RBI single in the inning to give the Lady Hillbillies a 3-0 edge.

The Lady Tigers scored two runs in the bottom of the second inning, highlighted by a wild rundown in which Stephanie Ladue was called safe on a debatable call at the plate.

Fredonia responded in the top half of the next inning with a run on a Lutz RBI single to score Abt for a 4-2 lead.

In the top of the fourth inning, the Lady Hillbillies tacked on another run as Erin Pantano cracked an RBI single to score Bartkowiak for a 5-2 advantage.

After Cohoes took the lead in the bottom of the fifth inning, it was time for some more late heroics for the Lady Hillbillies.

Though it was Abt's hit that helped get Fredonia into the championship game, Polechetti credited Lutz for getting the inning started.

"Jenn Lutz started it off for us," he said. "She led off with that base hit. That was big. Going up to your last at-bat down one, that lead-off hitter is so important. She is a senior. We always talk about how we want the seniors stepping up. She came through big."

However, in the championship game, the Lady Hillbillies could only record five hits.

Fredonia assistant coach John Bongiovanni referred to the game as a chess match as both teams were able to match each other's move the entire game. The only time Fredonia could not match the Lady Black Knights' move was on Waldron's three-run blast.

"I thought we battled today," Polechetti said. "We battled all year. I guess it wasn't meant to be. It certainly was not because of a lack of battle. They battled all year. We just didn't get that one extra bounce we needed."

The only inning Fredonia was able to get more than a hit was in the seventh as Abt and Pantano hit back-to-back singles to lead off the inning.

Katrina Johnston ran for Pantano and was able to

make it to third while Julie Arnold advanced to second in the inning. However, that is as far as any baserunner got for Fredonia in the championship game.

One reason the Lady Hillbillies were unable to advance runners was the strong arm of Waldron behind home plate.

"She is the best catcher I have seen in a long, long time," Polechetti said. "I have never seen a catcher with an arm like that."

Another reason was the strong pitching of Windsor's Meghan Tucker who faced only five batters more than the minimum.

"She has a terrific change-up, just a terrific change-up," Polechetti said. "She has the best changeup we have seen. Her changeup is not a slow changeup. She takes just enough off her fastball to make it really, really effective."

The Lady Black Knights have six seniors on their roster — all at key positions. Meanwhile, Fredonia will only lose three players to graduation along with foreign exchange student Yuki Tezuka. The three seniors are Jenn Lutz, Keriann Ketcham and Jenna Shaw.

"They were a veteran team," Polechetti said. "Next year, we will be a veteran team."

Polechetti hopes to be back for another season and plans on making a return trip to the state championships.

"We came up short," he said. "We have a lot coming back. Maybe third time will be a charm. I started with these kids as eighth-graders. I would like to finish it out."

What makes the loss difficult is knowing the team was close to a state championship last year and felt this was their year.

"I think you think if you're repeating, this will be our year," Polechetti said. "We ran into an outstanding team. One pitch makes the difference of the game. That's how fine this game is at this level. Both are outstanding teams to be here in the first place. One pitch. One play."

As for what he told his player at the end of the game.

"I told them I loved them and I was so proud to be a part of this. Hopefully we will get another shot at this thing."

favor, but Tatnell wasn't going to let that happen.

The right-hander finished the game, earning the win and giving up just three hits while the well-coached defense made all of the plays it needed behind him to seal the victory.

"We knew what was coming," Smith said. "(Tatnell) wasn't throwing anything we haven't seen before."

With plenty of fans on hand in Binghamton, Gowanda tried to stage a comeback late with two-out walks in the fourth and the fifth, but Adam Pagan's walk in the fifth was the only run the offense could muster against the quick-working Tatnell.

"I don't think anybody

expected us to be here," Smith said. "It was a good run and it's been fun."

The over-achieving Panthers return eight of nine starters next year and won't be surprising anybody if they make it back to the state championships in 2009.

"Of course (everybody) will be gunning for us next year," John said after suffering the loss.

After finishing the season with a record of 8-2, John is ready for the challenge.

While disappointment was apparent in the Gowanda dugout, encouragement poured onto the field from the stands, as Panther fans cheered on their team even though it came up short.

Kobe Says NBA Finals Are Far From Over

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With the same purpose as one of his in-your-face jumpers, Kobe Bryant leaned into the microphone.

He promised more NBA finals games to come.

"The series ain't over," he said. "It's far from over."

Faced with long odds, Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers returned to the practice floor Saturday for the first time since Game 4, when the Boston Celtics stormed back from a 24-point deficit to win and take a 3-1 lead in this reborn rivalry.

The Lakers have run out of time and tomorrow. It's either win Game 5 today or pack away the sneakers for summer.

No team has ever come back from a 3-1 deficit in the finals, and even if the Lakers can stave off elimination and win at Staples Center, they'll have to play Games 6 and 7 in Boston, where the Celtics are 12-1 this postseason. Since the league switched to the much-debated 2-3-2 format in 1985, no team has won the last two games on

the road. Their climb is a steep one, and if the Lakers have any chance of mounting a comeback, Bryant, the league's MVP and the game's most transcendent player, most criticized personality and most unstoppable force, must be the one to lead them.

If he's feeling any pressure, Bryant isn't showing it. The Black Mamba is as cold-blooded as ever.

Bryant was relaxed and jovial during a news conference at the club's practice facility in El Segundo. The three-time champion, whose every gesture and facial expression made toward teammates gets overanalyzed, cracked jokes during a 10-minute session with the media.

Bryant insists the Lakers have moved on since their Game 4 collapse. There's no time to dwell on what happened, all that counts now is what happens next.

"We've got to take care of business on Sunday," said Bryant, who spent much of the past two days relaxing at home with his family. "So

what are we going to do? How am I going to get my teammates in the right frame of mind, make sure they're energetic, and that's what it's been all about."

Bryant said he spent much of the past two days reading a Harry Potter book to his daughters.

"It was awesome," he said. "He had more problems dealing with Voldemort than what we have dealing with the media and the Celtics."

Boston is one win from its 17th NBA title and first in 22 years, but the Celtics are wary of Bryant. They've done a decent job of containing him through four games — his only breakout was a 36-point performance in Game 3 — but they know Bryant can single-handedly beat them if their not careful.

"We're up 3-1 and we know we have a lot of basketball to play because Kobe is on that team," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "He's the scariest player in the NBA in a lot of ways, so you're fearful of him all the time. A respectful fear."

Clymer Relay Places 10th At States

BUFFALO — The Clymer 3,200 relay team finished 10th in 8:18.30 in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Track & Field Championships at the University of Buffalo on Saturday.

Nick Lombardozi, Tyler Sweet, Cody White and Cameron Neckers comprised the relay for Clymer.

Danielle Anderson of Jamestown High School wound up 12th with a leap of 5-2 in the high jump, including eighth among the Division I schools. She was seeded 17th overall.

Mitch Schrecongost of Falconer was 18th in the pentathlon with 2,879

points. He ran the 1,500 in 4:42.88 and long jumped 5.92 meters.

Tom Little also from Falconer was 22nd in the high jump with 5-9.

Nicole Emborski of Randolph wound up 22nd in a pentathlon with 2,338 points. She had a 2:32.80 for the 800 and a 4.16 meters in the long jump.