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Weekend high schools: Inaugural Pioneer Valley Invitational an ultimate success



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Sunday, May 18, 2014

(Published in print: Monday, May 19, 2014)

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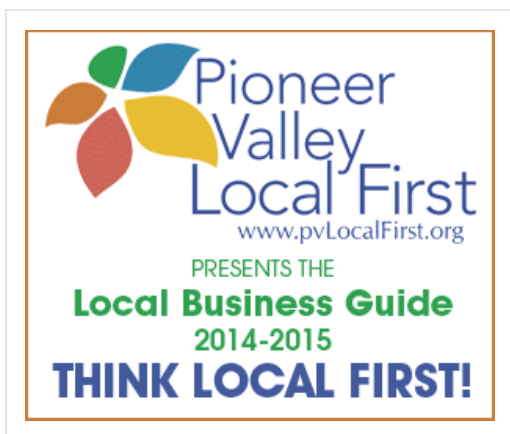
The Pioneer Valley Invitational could not have had better weather and the outcome could not have been any better this weekend.

Northampton High School's inaugural ultimate tournament wrapped up Sunday and it lived up to expectations.

"Huge success," Northampton coach Sheldon Snodgrass coach. "Parents were loving it. People were saying we're going to do this next year and we're going to do that. It was awesome."

It was almost a local sweep, instead Ottawa claimed both titles. Ottawa beat Pioneer Valley Performing Arts 15-8 in the girls final, while the boys team beat Northampton's varsity squad 15-6 in the championship.

"Everyone was great. Good camaraderie. It was a festive, beautiful time," Snodgrass said. "Super high-level ultimate too. The semifinals and finals play was high-end ultimate."



All 117 games between 38 teams went off without a hitch.

The Northampton ultimate community "was firing on all cylinders from the start to the finish and I was super impressed by what they were able to put together," tournament director Josh Seamon said. "It was a huge team effort. ... There were 60-plus volunteers. People put in a ton of hours to make this work."

Boys tournament — On Sunday, Northampton's varsity team took down

Ramah Berkshires 15-6 in the quarterfinals, then beat Longmeadow 11-8 in the semifinals.

Ottawa beat Falmouth 15-10 in its quarterfinal, then topped Concord-Carlisle 15-5 in the semifinals. C-C beat Amherst's junior varsity "A" team 11-9 in the quarterfinals.

On Saturday, Hamp went 3-0 in Pool A, while PVPA went 1-2. Amherst's JV-B went 0-3 in Pool B, while in Pool D, Amherst JV-A finished 1-2 and Northampton's JV went 0-3.

Girls tournament — On Sunday, Amherst's JV-A and PVPA met in the semifinal and it was PVPA which pulled out the 9-8 win to advance to the finals.

Amherst beat Montpelier 11-1, while PVPA topped Needham 15-5 in the quarterfinals.

Ottawa beat Longmeadow 15-3 and Northampton cruised past Lexington 13-4 in their quarterfinal games. Ottawa then beat Northampton 15-5 in the semifinals.

Amherst beat Northampton 15-2 in the third-place game.


During Saturday's competition, Amherst went 3-0 in Pool A with Northampton going 2-1.

PVPA went 2-1 in Pool B with its lone loss coming to Ottawa, 10-6.


In Pool C, Northampton's JV squad finished 3-3, while Amherst's JV-B went 4-2.

All games were held at the Oxbow Marina.

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“Unbelievably the perfect place for it,” Seamon said. Oxbow Marina owner “Mick Duda and the people at the Oxbow were unbelievable to us. They were wonderful hosts.”

Softball

South Hadley 14, Granby 2 (5) — Madi Kelleher struck out six, walked six and allowed two runs, but she threw a no-hitter as the Tigers (5-11) won at home Saturday.

Merry Kocot was 4 for 4 with four RBIs and two runs, while Abby Lukasik had three hits and scored twice.

Courtney Fudger (two RBIs), Delaney Duprat and Vic Mielnikowski each had two hits in the win.

Abi Beauregard (RBI) and Jordan Kennedy (run) each walked twice for the Rams (4-12).

Boys lacrosse

South Hadley 10, Minnechaug 9 (OT) — TJ Fitzell scored the tying goal with one second left in regulation, then netted the winner with less than a minute remaining in overtime as the Tigers (12-5) won on the road Sunday.

Fitzell (assist) and Sam Duda each had four goals, while Tom Crotty added two.

Baseball

Chicopee 7, South Hadley 2 — Joe Ciolek and Peter Luchini (two RBIs) each had two hits, but the Tigers (10-7) fell on the road Sunday.

Equestrian

Florence resident and Stoneleigh-Burnham School junior Kaleigh Intrator placed second and was the reserve champion in the Junior Varsity Novice Flat competition at the Interscholastic Equestrian Association National Competition, Sunday at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

Softball

South Hadley 14, Granby 2 (5)

Granby 020 00 —2 0 2

South Hadley 123 17 —14 17 0

WP - Kelleher; LP - Beauregard

Records: South Hadley (5-11); Granby (4-12)

Baseball

Chicopee 7, South Hadley 2

South Hadley 000 101 0—2 9 2

Chicopee 050 200 x—7 7 0

WP - Berube; LP - Ciolek



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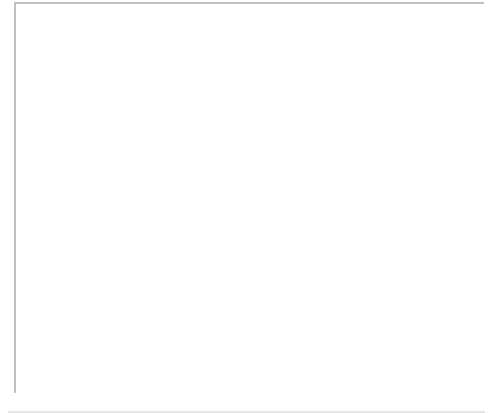
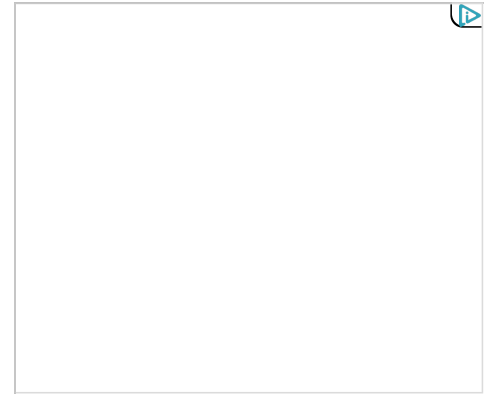
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