

INVESTMENT

BRADFORD INDUSTRIES IN LOWELL IS
BULLISH ON MANUFACTURING
BUSINESS — PAGE 19



FINANCIAL AID

LOWELL HIGH STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT
DOLLARS AND SENSE AT 'MONEYSTRONG'
SCHOOLS — PAGE 22



Celtics find themselves at a fork in road/15

Sports

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THE SUN, LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

TV HIGHLIGHTS

NBA: Celtics at Bucks
1 p.m., ABC
NHL: Penguins at Flyers
3 p.m., NBC
Golf: Texas Open
3 p.m., CBS
MLB: Red Sox at A's
4 p.m., NESN

STARS OF THE DAY

Logan MacDonald
The Austin Prep senior softball pitcher from Wilmington fired a one-hit shutout with 16 K's as the 6-0 Cougars defeated Andover High 10-0.

Brady McGarry
The Billerica High senior knocked in the game-winning run in the 7th inning, one of his two RBI on the day, as the Indians beat Bridgewater-Raynham 5-4.

PARDON ME?



Jack Johnson

President Donald Trump says he's considering a posthumous pardon for boxing's first black heavyweight champion more than 100 years after the late Jack Johnson was convicted by all-white jury of accompanying a white woman across state lines.

Trump announced Saturday on Twitter that the actor Sylvester Stallone, a friend of his, had called to bring Johnson's story to his attention.

"His trials and tribulations were great, his life complex and controversial," Trump wrote from his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida. "Others have looked at this over the years, most thought it would be done, but yes, I am considering a Full Pardon!"

Johnson is a legendary figure in boxing. He was convicted in 1913 for violating the Mann Act, which made it illegal to transport women across state lines for "immoral" purposes.

The boxer died in 1946. Sen. John McCain has pushed for a full pardon.

ON THIS DATE



Miller twice champ

1994 — Shannon Miller wins the women's all-around title for the second straight year at the world gymnastics championships in Brisbane, Australia. The last woman to win consecutive all-around titles was Ludmilla Tourischeva of the Soviet Union in 1970 and 1974.

SUN ON TWITTER

Carmine Frongillo
@CWFrongi
Matt Langone
@MattLangone
Barry Scanlon
@BarryScanlonSun
Dennis Whitton
@DAWhitton

UP, UP & AWAY



UMass Lowell pole-vaulting standout Vladimir Poposoi shows his winning form as he clears the bar while capturing first place in the event at the annual George Davis Invitational track & field meet held Saturday at UML. More photos, **Page 16**. GEORGE DELUCA PHOTO

Porcello recaptures Cy Young form

Rick Porcello entered the season as the No. 3 pitcher in the Red Sox starting rotation basically by default.



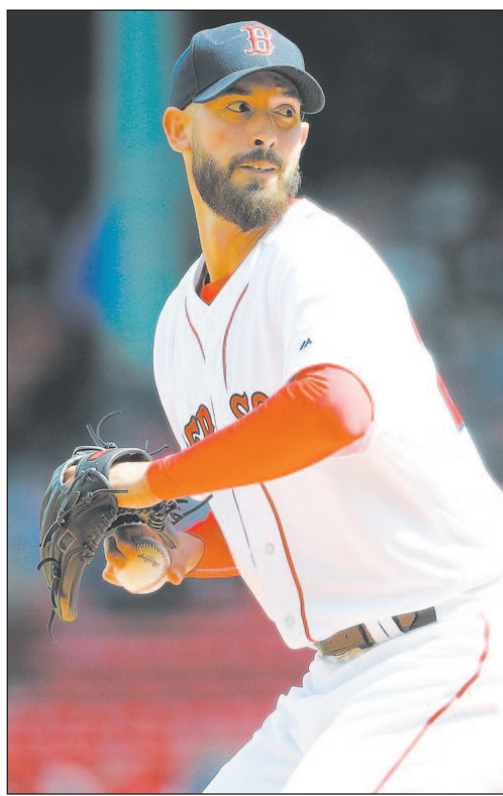
CARMINE FRONGILLO

Chris Sale and David Price were locks to pitch at the top of the rotation entering spring training. When Drew Pomeranz and Eduardo Rodriguez weren't ready to start the regular season, Porcello was slotted in as the third starter, despite coming off a 2017 campaign during which he led the American League in losses (17), hits allowed (236) and home runs allowed (38).

But Porcello has pitched like an ace during this most electric of starts to the season by the Red Sox. He is 4-0 with a 1.40 ERA. Porcello has notched 23 strikeouts while allowing only one walk in 25.2 innings.

Whether or not he can maintain his current mound mastery throughout the summer remains to be seen.

During his time in Boston, Porcello has been consistently inconsistent. Porcello went from leading MLB in wins with 22 in 2016, to leading MLB in losses last season and now he's back on top as his four wins were tied for the most in the majors heading into Saturday's games.



Red Sox starting pitcher Rick Porcello has posted some great numbers to start the season. He's 4-0 with a 1.40 ERA. AP PHOTO

At his best, Porcello has been dominant, proving you don't have to possess a 100 mph heater and strike every batter out to be a big-time winner. Porcello went 22-4 with a 3.15 ERA and won the Cy Young Award in 2016 by mixing speeds, hitting spots, getting groundballs and most important of all, producing quick outs that keep games moving.

At his worst, Red Sox fans likely dread seeing Porcello's name listed as that day's probable starting pitcher.

In his final season with the Detroit Tigers, Porcello went 15-13 with a 3.43 ERA and an AL leading three shutouts in 2014. Porcello was traded by Detroit to the Red Sox for Yoenis Cespedes, Alex Wilson and Gabe Speier in December of 2014.

Much was expected of him in 2015. And Porcello, who agreed to a four-year contract extension worth \$82.5 million in April of 2015 before throwing a pitch in a Red Sox uniform in a regular season game, failed to deliver. He was 9-15 with a 4.92 ERA in his first season in Boston.

Then he had a career year in 2016. Only to flop again last summer, going 11-17 with a 4.65 ERA.

As long as Porcello continues to pitch-in at Please see **FRONGILLO/15**

Westford's Caster rides a wave to world title



Westford's Jake Caster in action at the World Championships of wakesurfing in Canada last summer. He came home with the overall title. COURTESY PHOTO

By Vince Pigott
Sun Correspondent

WESTFORD — In the middle of the lake catching the start of a wave stands Westford native and 2017 world champion Jake Caster. Splashing and balancing through the difficulties of the wave set by a boat, Caster maintains focus and completes a few tricks on his board.

Caster began wakesurfing just a few years ago when he was 14. His inspiration came from a close friend at a lake house where he first discovered the sport for himself.

The sport is simple to understand. A surfer is brought out by a boat to the middle of a body of water. The waves are cre-

ated by the boat on which the surfer can perform tricks. It's reminiscent of surfing.

There is no league for wakesurfing however there is the Competitive Wakesurf Association (CWSA). This is a select group which holds wakesurfing events. The world championship began in 1996. This is called the Centurion World Wake Surfing Championship (WWSC). Men from all over the world train all year long in hopes of being one of the top 10 men selected to take part in this annual event.

The location for the event changes every year. Last year it was held in British Columbia in

Please see **CASTER/17**