

## Sports

## Worcester wins close matchup against Southerners

WORCESTER – The Railers have not played seven periods of sudden death overtime the last two nights here, it only feels that way.

Less than 24 hours after Worcester took a wild 6-5 decision from the Norfolk Admirals, the Railers beat the Southerners, 2-1, in an equally tense affair Saturday night. The victory kept them two points ahead of Reading in the North Division playoff race, although the Royals do have two games in hand.

Reading also won Saturday night. It beat Trois-Rivieres, 2-1.

As can happen when teams are playing a third game in three days, this was a goaltending duel. The win-

ner was Michael Bullion, who stopped 27 of 28 shots. He beat Thomas Milic, who was spectacular in the third period and made 25 saves on 27 shots.

The game ended appropriately.

The Admirals pulled Milic in favor of an extra skater. They won a faceoff with four seconds left in the third period and got the puck to Graham Sward at the left point. He delivered a slap shot from about 55 feet and Bullion, following it all the way, smothered the puck in his gut as the green light went on.

"I got a sight line," Bullion said, "so I was watching it the whole time, and I stayed

high the whole time, then just went down and ate it."

Had the shot gone in, it probably would have counted. Bullion made sure there was no replay needed and was happy to hear the buzzer.

"Yeah, that was really nice," he said.

The Railers got goals from Matt DeMelis and Anthony Callin. They had a 2-0 lead going into the third period but gave up a short-handed goal to Sean Montgomery at 8:28. That left the Admirals with a lot of time to tie it, or worse.

Worcester's penalty killing was once again a key factor in a victory. The Railers were 4 for 4 while short-

handed (all four penalties were for slashing) and are 20 for 20 in the last six games.

"Right now it is getting guys who are comfortable with each other and super aggressive," coach Nick Tuzzolino said of the killers. "There are certain penalty kill details you have to follow — good sticks, lots of shot blocks — and your goalie has to be your best penalty killer and Michael was ours tonight."

DeMelis scored at 9:56 of the first period with a high shot from between the circles. He was set up nicely by Tyler Kobryn, who fed him from the right boards. Callin's goal came a lot later, at 15:49 of the second period,

and from a similar spot in the slot but at the other end of the rink.

Matthew Kopperud made the pass.

Montgomery stole the puck at the right point and had a long breakaway. He put a 25-footer over Bullion's blocker.

The Railers had three fabulous chances to get a third goal in that third period but Milic made memorable saves on Loughran at 2:00, Jordan Kaplan at 5:30 and Anthony Repaci at 10:10.

The Admirals goalie kept them in the game, but he could not win it for them.

The Railers have 11 regular season games left. Their playoff push resumes

Friday night in Maine versus the Mariners, who are longshots in the post-season picture but always troublesome. The first-place Trois-Rivieres Lions are at the DCU Center Saturday and Sunday.

"This group, no matter what happens with them, they are battle tested," Tuzzolino said. "They have a good foundation. They know how to play with a lead in the third period, and if and when we hopefully make it to that mark and that push, it's gonna echo in the in the post-season if we get there."

"Because they've been playing in the post-season for the last month."

## Providence gets by Thunderbirds at 'Sensory-Friendly Sunday'

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-23-2-4) could not keep the newest Bruin quiet as Providence (33-19-4-3) skated away with a 4-1 win on Sunday afternoon in front of another sellout crowd at the MassMutual Center on CHD Sensory-Friendly Sunday.

The day began with fireworks as Kale Kessy and Joey Abate got both benches on their feet with a fight just two seconds into the action. As a scoreless first progressed, a late post-whistle penalty to the T-Birds set the Bruins up for the game's first power play. Providence made Springfield pay, as newest Bruin acquisition Fraser Minten chipped a shot over Vadim Zherenko at close range to give the Bruins a 1-0 lead at 15:20 of the first, a score that held into the intermission.

Minten was far from finished in his first career game against the T-Birds, adding a second goal at 2:29 of the second as he parked himself in the paint and guided a Billy Sweezy shot behind a helpless Zherenko. The rookie then completed a natural hat trick at 9:55 with some crafty hands at the side of the net to chip a puck into the top shelf over an outstretched Zherenko.

The T-Birds finally got a bounce to go their way, literally, at 12:46 when a Dalibor Dvorsky one-timer went off Bruins netminder Michael DiPietro, followed by the end glass. With everyone looking for the falling puck, it eventually careened off DiPietro's back and over the goal line, giving the T-Birds' 19-year-old his 19th goal of the season and making it a 3-1 game.

However, Springfield could not build upon their good fortune, as Minten fired another shot that Riley Duran tipped past Zherenko at 18:14 to polish off the rookie's four-point game and send the game into the third at a 4-1 score.

DiPietro proved too tough to crack in the final period, as each of Springfield's nine third-period attempts got swallowed up by the AHL's leading victor in net. DiPietro picked up his 22nd win with 24 stops, while Zherenko was saddled with the defeat following a 25-save afternoon.

The T-Birds continue their four-game homestand on Wednesday as the Hershey Bears make their first trip to the Thunderdome this season. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

## Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season,

which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league.

Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

The next league board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 23 at 11:45 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. The league has also scheduled two open practices on Sunday, March 30, and Sunday, April 6. Both practices are scheduled to be held at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley and are weather-permitting. The league website and social media accounts will have updates as the preseason continues.

## Public Notices

## AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA, on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:30PM for all parties interested in the request of a Marc and Molly Perrone, who are seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180-23 (K) and Ch 180-8.1 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 37 Hampden Lane.

Doreen A. Prouty  
Chairperson  
Agawam Zoning  
Board of Appeals  
03/20, 03/27/2025

## AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam,

MA. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Heather Lomax for property located at 202 River Road.

By Order of  
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman  
Agawam Conservation  
Commission  
03/20/2025

## AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 6:05 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of the Town of Agawam DPW for work to be performed on Bridge Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of  
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman  
Agawam Conservation  
Commission  
03/20/2025

## AWARDS ■ from page 7

"I'll be playing college soccer at Springfield College next year," Fialho said. "I'm very happy that I'll be attending a college and playing soccer close to home."

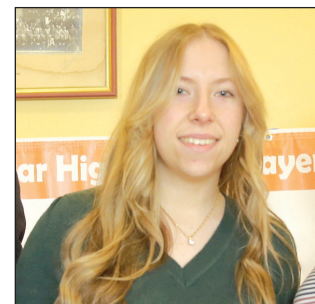
The Springfield College women's soccer team is currently looking for a new head coach.

Kristin Cannon will be stepping down from her coaching duties for personal reasons on June 30. Fialho is hoping that the current assistant coach Brendon Boates is named as the new head coach.

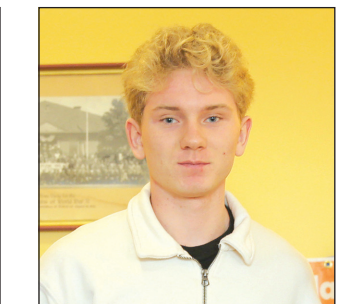
"I was recruited by coach Boates," Fialho said. "He has a passion for the sport of soccer, and he has a lot of energy."



Gabriella Fialho, a Pope Francis student from Ludlow, won a scholarship.



Samantha Lowe presented at Pathfinder Tech at this year's event.



Representing his hometown, Thomas Wadas receives a scholarship award.

award," said Lowe, who's not planning to play college soccer. "I'm proud of my accomplishments during my high school soccer career. The girls' soccer team has improved a lot since I joined the team."

Lowe is planning to pursue a degree in culinary arts at a local community college.

"When I was growing up, I was always in the kitchen with my mom and we've grown a lot of our own food," she said. "I was also able to get into the culinary arts program at Pathfinder."

Lowe is currently working at Farmer Matt in New

Braintree.

"I've been working there for two years on April 1," Lowe said. "They have a store, and we also make homemade soups. Working in a kitchen is just as fun as being on the soccer field. I'm learning something new every day."

The LAF President is Joseph Jorge Sr., who received a 30 year service award. Jeri Humphries is the Vice President, Luis Vitorino is the Treasurer, and Steven DaSilva is the Secretary. The four board members are Joseph Jorge Jr., Richard Oliveria, Teri Myette, and Stephen Scott.

## Valley Wheel tryouts set for next month

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 6. The time and location of the tryout is to be determined.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this reason:

Their league charter and

one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength.

The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do. Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner.

For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website [www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org](http://www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org).

## COACH ■ from page 7

from him. He taught us all the little things about baseball. We used to practice for two or three hours where we wouldn't even touch a ball. He would just bring us to the different positions on the field. He's a great guy."

Hanselman, who's a pitcher from Florida, was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the fourth round of the 1988 MLB draft. He played for several different minor league teams.

Another one of Rivest's AAU baseball coaches was Pete Fatse, who's currently the hitting coach for the Boston Red Sox.

Rivest was a four year member of the Springfield College baseball team where he played

several different positions. His college baseball coach was Mark Simeone, who recently retired after 33 years.

"Coach Simeone is an old school baseball coach," Rivest said. "He would have our practice and game day scheduled planned out for us every day. We were a successful team in my last two years there. It was a lot of fun playing college baseball."

The Ludlow junior varsity baseball coach is Joe Nixon. Paul Rivest will be helping his son's baseball team as a volunteer coach.

The Lions are scheduled to play their first game on the new diamond against the Monson Mustangs in the season opener on March 31. It'll be the start of a new era.

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)