

Search always on for next big wave

Eddie Pieper rides a wave June 14 during the Big Island Pro-Am Surfing Trials at Honolii Beach.

HOLLYN JOHNSON/
 Tribune-Herald



By KEVIN JAKAHI
 Tribune-Herald sports writer

The local surfers here know the legend of Myles Padaca, Noah Johnson and Spencer Skipper, and the guy with the golden radio voice for the wave reports — Orchardland Surf Shop owner Stan Lawrence.

For the land dwellers wondering who the first three are, here's a six-word clue: Triple Crown, Eddie Aikau and master shredder.

Padaca, from Kalapana, won the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing in 2001, becoming the Big Island's first winner of the

Trials help bridge surfing gap to Oahu

sport's most prestigious three-jewel series championship.

Johnson, from Hilo, captured the Eddie Aikau championship, the contest only held with waves 25 feet and higher, in 1999 at 25 years old, the youngest winner.

Skipper, from Hilo, is one of the best bodyboard pros in the business. He finished in third place at the Pipeline Championships in February on Oahu's North Shore.

Back in 1982, Lawrence

started the Pro-Am Trials to give Big Island surfers an opportunity to compete in world class events on the North Shore.

Padaca, Johnson and Skipper all competed in the Pro-Am before they made their runs at glory. In fact, Padaca is a four-time Pro-Am champion.

The local surfing community can claim Shane Dorian, who's from Kailua-Kona, as one of our own, too. He didn't compete in the Pro-Am back in the day, but spent 11 years

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Big Isle briefs

BIAC, Hilo Drag Strip results

The Big Island Auto Club hosted two days of drag racing June 21-22 at Hilo Drag Strip.

Saturday

Bracket race

Winner: Bill Brown (Hilo) in a Ford Mustang (11.16 sec/114 mph).

Runner-up: A.J. Veriato (Keaau) in a Chrysler 200 (15 sec/93 mph).

Sunday

Bracket race

Winner: David Francis (Paauilo) in a Camaro (8.67 sec/156 mph).

Runner-up: Cainin Francis (Honokaa) in a Chevy Nova (9.26 sec/144 mph).

Junior dragster bracket

Winner: Kaimi Francis (Hilo) (9.10 sec/66 mph).

Runner-up: Dionne Tobarra (Mt. View) (9.18 sec/71 mph).

Fastest car on the track: Brandon Murakami (Aiea) in a Chevy Cavalier (7.36 sec/186 mph).

Next race: July 12, Hilo Drag Strip

Kamehameha seeking coach

Kamehameha-Hawaii has an opening for an assistant girls volleyball coach.

The deadline to apply is July 2.

For full job descriptions and to apply, visit <http://www.ksbe.edu/careers>, contact humna resources 534-8040 or careers@ksbe.edu.

Fall football registration

HALOS Youth Services, formerly known as Hawaii Football Club, is holding registration for the fall football for seventh- and eighth-graders in Hilo and North Hawaii.

The first scheduled game is Aug. 14.

In Hilo, call coach Nalu at 854-7117. Practices will be held at the St. Joseph Field from 4-6 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

In North Hawaii, call coach Kalani at 895-8856. Practices are 4-6 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Waimea Rugby Field.

The first practice is July 2.

Registration may be done at www.hfchilo.com or at the field.

Karate tourney July 12 in Hilo

The International Karate League will host a Tournament of Champions from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 12 at Edith Kanaka'ole Multipurpose Stadium.

Marking the first IKL tournament in Hilo in 28 years, the event will welcome schools from the mainland and the islands.

The tournament is being hosted by Wilbur Mina of Keaau Dojo.

Admission is free.

Big Red Machine



PONY League photo

Hilo Red's Bula Ahuna cranks his third home run of the state PONY League tournament during Tuesday's championship game.

Hilo Bronco All-Stars rein in another state PONY League title



PONY League photos

Hilo Blue's Noah O'Hara tags out Hilo Red's Tai Atkins on Tuesday.

By MATT GERHART

Tribune-Herald sports writer

Devin Midel bats leadoff, and he does it so well he only made two outs in four games.

Next comes Maui Ahuna, who routinely gets on base for the big boppers, Stone Miyao and Bula Ahuna, to drive home.

And the trouble doesn't stop there for opposing pitchers.

"We have fast runners and slow runners," Maui Ahuna said. "We have guys who get base hits, guys who get bunts and guys who hit home runs. We have all kinds."

Add it all up and it was a machine, and that's not even taking into account the sound pitching and near flawless defense.

Hilo Red churned out one more unstoppable TKO performance Tuesday, overwhelming Hilo Blue 22-0 to claim the state PONY League championship at Walter Victor Stadium.

See PONY Page B2

LeBron tells Heat he's testing free agency

By TIM REYNOLDS
 Associated Press

MIAMI — LeBron James delivered his message loud and clear, without actually saying a word.

He's willing to leave Miami, if that's what it will take to win more championships. And what happens next will likely be up to not just the Heat, but Dwyane

Wade and Chris Bosh as well.

Through his agent, James informed the Heat on Tuesday that he has decided to opt out of the final two years of his contract, a move that means he becomes a free agent on July 1. He will be able to sign with any team, including Miami, and Heat President Pat Riley said he "fully expected" James to take advantage of his early termination

option.

"We look forward to sitting down with LeBron and his representatives and talking about our future together," Riley said.

The Heat have been preparing for this for some time. James, Wade and Bosh all got six-year contracts when they teamed up in Miami in July 2010, the last time free agency was accompanied by the sort of frenzy that

will envelop the league over the next few weeks. But each of those deals came with options to leave either this summer or in 2015, in part to allow both the players and the team to have financial flexibility.

James — who averaged 27.1 points this past season — was owed \$42.7 million for the next

See LEBRON Page B2

SPORTS

All Hawaii times Associated Press



Major League Baseball

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB. Lists MLB team records for various divisions.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB. Lists MLB team records for Tuesday's results.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB. Lists MLB team records for Wednesday's games.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB. Lists National League East Division team records.

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Transactions

BASEBALL American League BOSTON RED SOX -- Signed SS Michael Chavis to a minor league contract.

On TV/radio

WEDNESDAY TV COLLEGE BASEBALL 2 p.m. ESPN: World Series, finals, game 3, Virginia vs. Vanderbilt, if necessary.

MAINE RED CLAWS

Named Dajuan Eubanks president.

Women's National Basketball Association

MINNESOTA LYNX -- Signed G Nadirah McKeith. Waived G Lindsey Moore.

Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS -- Waived QB Dominique Croom.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Signed WR Allen Robinson to a four-year contract.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Released DT Andru Pulu.

Canadian Football League

B.C. LIONS -- Signed coach Mike Bennevies to a contract extension through the 2016 season.

EDMONTON Eskimos

Signed RB Kendal Lawrence to the practice roster.

HOCKEY National Hockey League

CAROLINA HURRICANES -- Agreed to terms with D Ron Hainsey on a three-year contract through the 2016-17 season.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

Named Mitch Korn goaltending coach.

ECHL

ELMIRA JACKALS -- Signed F Matt Tassone to a one-year contract.

STOCKTON THUNDER

Signed LW Ryan Howse.

SOCCER Major League Soccer

CHIVAS USA -- Signed D Akira Kaji. FC DALLAS -- Transferred G Richard Sanchez to Tigres UANL (Liga MX).

COLLEGE FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON

Named Grant Billmeier men's assistant basketball coach.

LIU BROOKLYN

Named Alex Trezza baseball coach and Paul Nixon women's assistant basketball coach.

MIAMI

Agreed to terms with baseball coach Jim Morris on a three-year contract extension through the 2018 season.

MONTANA

Named Ken Bone men's associate head basketball coach.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Named Bruce Parker athletic director.

TENNESSEE

Named Beth Alford-Sullivan director of track and field and cross country.

Tennis Wimbledon At London Singles Men First Round

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (14), France, def. Jurgen Melzer, Austria, 6-1, 3-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. Stan Wawrinka (5), Switzerland, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

850 AM: Vanderbilt vs. Virginia

THURSDAY AUTO RACING 10:30 a.m. FS1: NASCAR, Truck Series, UNOH 225, qualifying.

12:30 p.m. FS1: NASCAR, Nationwide Series, John R. Elliott HERO Campaign 300, practice FS1.

2 p.m. FS1: NASCAR, Truck Series, UNOH 225 FS1.

GOLF 2:30 a.m. TGC: TGC: European PGA Tour, BMW International Open, first round, part II.

6:30 a.m. TGC: Champions Tour, Senior Players Championship, first round TGC.

9 p.m. TGC: PGA Tour, Quicken Loans National, first round TGC.

12:30 p.m. TGC: *Web.com Tour, United Leasing Championship, first round TGC.

10:30 p.m. TGC: European PGA Tour, BMW International Open, second round, part I.

HORSE RACING 10 a.m. FS1: Trackside Live!

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 8 a.m. MLB: Atlanta at Houston.

9:30 a.m. FSW: Minnesota at L.A. Angels.

4 p.m. SNLA: St. Louis at L.A. Dodgers.

NBA 1:30 p.m. ESPN: Draft.

SOCCER 5:30 a.m. ESPN: World Cup, United States vs. Germany.

ESPN2: World Cup, Portugal vs. Ghana.

9:30 a.m. ESPN: World Cup, South Korea vs. Belgium.

ESPN2: World Cup, Algeria vs. Russia.

ESPN: Wimbledon, second round.

5:30 a.m. ESPNNEWS: Wimbledon, second round.

2 p.m. ESPN2: Wimbledon, second round.

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College World Series

Virginia stays alive

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. -- A night after one of Virginia's worst pitching starts of the season, the Cavaliers got one of their best to force a winner-take-all game for the national championship.

Brandon Waddell limited Vanderbilt to five hits in his first nine-inning complete game, Virginia knocked out first-round draft pick Tyler Beede in the seventh, and the Cavaliers evened the College World Series finals with a 7-2 victory Tuesday night.

Each team will be playing for its first national title in baseball on Wednesday night.

"I know the bounce back this team has shown all year long," Cavaliers coach Brian O'Connor said. "You know when you go through a season with a team, you start to learn and understand what they're made of and what the fiber of a team is. I told the team after the game last night that there is no panic in this ballclub. Come out tonight and play a great ballgame, and we'd have a chance to win."

Virginia (53-15) forced the third game after Vanderbilt (50-21) rode a nine-run third inning against Nathan Kirby to a 9-8 victory Monday. Projected starting pitchers are Josh Sborz (6-4) for Virginia against Carson Fulmer (7-1).

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on the ASP (Association of Surfing Professionals) World Tour.

Lawrence is still going strong trying to uncover the next local surfing great. The 30th annual Big Island Quiksilver-Big Island Toyota Surfing Trials is his life's work.

"I've done it for 30 years and want to help these kids out," he said. "It's something they really look forward to every year. It's the one contest that they might break into the pro surfing world."

"That's why I do it. It's why a bunch of us do it, volunteer and nobody makes any money. We do it for the youth. The whole idea of this contest is to springboard our top Big Island surfers to Oahu and give them a chance to compete with the best surfers in the world and in the best surf in the world, the North Shore."

On June 14 in 4 to 6 feet surf at Honolii Beach, Theo Landt won the men's open, Shruti Greenwood the women's open, Puna Moller the long-board open, and Sean Harvey the bodyboard open.

They all received airfare and entry fees to a pro surfing contest on Oahu, likely the Hawaiian Island Creations Pro in October.

Other top finishers also got the airfare-and-entry-fee gravy ticket: men's open, Sean Obrero, second place; Ian Soutar, third; Lance Gruver, fourth; women's open: Manu Napeahi, second; Longboard: Ulu Napeahi, second; bodyboard: Joey Salvador, second.

Elite surfers Tune in for the latest surfing report on TV and you'll likely hear the name of John John Florence or Freddy Patacchia. They're 12th with \$62,000 in earnings, and 19th with \$50,500 in earnings, respectively, in the ASP rankings.

Both also had the good fortune of being born on the North Shore, surfing's mecca with Pipeline, Sunset Beach and Waimea Bay as backyard training grounds.

Carissa Moore's name is, by far, the most popular. She's No. 1 on the women's ASP Tour with \$172,250 in earnings, so far.

Like the other two ASP pros, Moore was born on Oahu. The 2010 Punahou graduate was the ASP World Champion in 2011 and '13.

If someone were to play the word association game, "pro surfing" and "Big Island" would probably be behind "pollution" and "fun times."

However, Lawrence would drop in

on the conversation and disagree.

"Per capita, we've got just as many good surfers as Oahu: Padaca, Johnson, Skipper and Dorian," he said. "Those four are elite. Per capita for us, that's a lot."

Surfer's dream

It's absolutely brutal to make it as a local pro because it's a shark-like feeding frenzy with so many young and talented surfers emerging virtually every week.

They're all chasing titles and sponsorships, and the Oahu surfers have the best surf spots in the world, as far as range of menu options from the big breaks of the North Shore to the glassy waves in town, the locals' nickname for the Honolulu beaches.

What's an aspiring Big Island surfer to do?

"There are so many young surfers who are competing at surf events on Oahu," Lawrence said. "About three or four years ago, they started a point system. If you don't have points, you can't get in to the bigger events."

"Last year, Robert Patterson and Ulu Boy had points and got into surf events. Theo had no points for the qualifying series. The QS is sponsored by Vans, and Town and Country. We'd like to get them into that. If they win, they'd get points. Unfortunately, it's hard to get guys in the North Shore events."

"That's the biggest drawback. I feel they (ASP) should give us some leeway. Being on the outer island, we don't have funds to travel. It's been hard the last few years. All of the kids (Padaca, Johnson, Dorian, Skipper) moved to Oahu. They knew they couldn't do it from here, with the air fare and travel."

Still, Lawrence always remembers the story of Skipper, and how his sponsorships — the financial leash and lifeline for a surfer — blossomed with one iconic picture.

"There's money to be made if you can get a sponsor," Lawrence said. "That's what happened to Skipper. He was sent to a contest, didn't place but had some really good waves."

"He was on the cover of an Australian bodyboard magazine and all of a sudden he got sponsored, and he's been sponsored ever since for over 10 to 15 years. It's a pretty amazing story, from one cover shot. It's every surfer's dream to surf and get paid."

Hawaii Tribune-Herald

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

WILL BE CLOSED ON

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2014

in observance of

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The following deadlines will be in effect for Display Advertising:

Publication Day Space Deadline

Fri. July 4 Tues. July 1, 4pm (office closed)

Sat. July 5 Tues. July 1, 4pm

Sun. July 6 Tues. July 1, 4pm

Mon. July 7 Wed. July 2, 4pm

Tues. July 8 Wed. July 2, 4pm

Wed. July 9 Thurs. July 3, 4pm

