

Sox Can't Make Comeback

With Unlikely Help, Mariners Win in 11

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Rob Johnson doubled home two runs in the 11th inning and the Seattle Mariners beat the Boston Red Sox 7-6 last night.

George Kottaras hit his first major-league homer in the bottom of the 11th for the Red Sox, who tied the game at 5 with two runs in the eighth inning.

Seattle's Ronny Cedeno hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer in a three-

run fourth, three batters after a fan in the front row snatched a foul pop that third baseman Kevin Youkilis was attempting to make catch.

Tim Wakefield made his 383rd start for the Red Sox, surpassing Roger Clemens for the top spot on the team's all-time list.

Jose Lopez added a solo homer for Seattle, which won for the 11th time in 16 games.

J.D. Drew hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, who saw their major league-best home record fall to 25-11.

Franklin Gutierrez opened the 11th

with a single against Ramon Ramirez (5-3) and Ryan Langerhans walked. Chris Woodward sacrificed the runners before Johnson hit his third double of the game, a line drive the right-field line.

Chris Jakubauskas (5-5) pitched two hitless innings for the win and Mark Lowe, despite giving up the homer to Kottaras, earned his first save.

The Red Sox rallied in the eighth against two relievers. Nick Green had a two-run double high off the left-

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INSIDE



■ He's baaaack! Manny Ramirez returns to the Dodgers.

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two-run home run last night. The as. AP — MARY SCHWALM

FOCUS ON OUTDOORS & RECREATION



Ian Tally, 18, left, of Wallingford, Vt., and Chris Perkins, 20, of Newport, Vt., struggle to move a large rock more than 100 yards down trail where it will be used to channel rain runoff away from the foot path. The two are part of a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps team spending two weeks upgrading the Ballard Trail in Norwich. VALLEY NEWS — JASON JOHNS

Young Trail Savers

Vt. Group Works to Preserve the Land

BY GREG FENNEL
Valley News Staff Writer

NORWICH — Clay Adams has heard of it, but not often: The recreational hiker who might light out from the Gile Mountain fire tower and negotiate the town's trail system the 10 or so downhill miles to the Connecticut River.

To do so would require a traverse of the picturesque Bill Ballard Trail, a shaded route paralleling Beaver Meadow Road

and rumbling Charles Brown Brook, its southern terminus at the town pool.

To do so this week would likely require flippers and a wetsuit if Adams didn't have an effective backup plan: Put the kids to work.

The sight of a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crew in Norwich is as regular a feature of summer life here as pollen and politics. It's a mutually beneficial relationship: The crews, consisting of young adults between the ages of 16 and 25, get the experience of working out-

doors in a close group, while the town gets help maintaining public lands it might otherwise have difficulty keeping in shape.

"It's a wonderful organization for a couple of reasons," said Adams, a member of Norwich's land management council, which oversees the use of 917 acres of town-owned fire district property. "One, it's a benefit to our town because our trail network gets quite a bit of use in Norwich. Two, it's a great way for people to have a

See YOUNG—B4

LEGION BASEBALL

Works Hard in Unbeaten

able to drive the ball farther." Woodward might be on to something. Post 22 is a perfect 6-0 and is



Federer Seeks Slam No. 15 Against Roddick

WIMBLEDON

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

can be reached at
com or (603) 727-

Young Trail Savers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

very convenient resource that will allow them to be physically active.

"I think the VYCC is great because it does a lot for its crew members. It's teaching them about themselves and stewardship of the land. For a lot of members, it's their first physically challenging project, trail work for a week or two weeks, for eight hours a day. A lot of high school kids learn a lot about themselves."

The seven-member crew assigned to Norwich wrapped up two weeks of work on the Ballard Trail yesterday. The highlight: Construction of a 15-foot wooden bridge that spans one of many hillside streams that cross the lower two miles of the four-mile route.

The crews also erected an information kiosk at the southern trailhead and installed several water bars. The latter have proven crucial for a route that — thanks to two weeks of rain — was still frequently marked by standing water and mud even as the crew's assignment was wrapping up.

"I really enjoy manual labor and playing in dirt and getting muddy, as well as living and working in a small group," confessed Becky Pinkus, 24, a self-described "vagabond" from Illinois who has worked on multiple trails projects in multiple states. "I learn about people and like to share my knowledge."

"I can't think of a better way to spend a summer than being outside, working with my hands and being with a great bunch of people," added 25-year-old Paul Schwartzkopf, Pinkus' crew leader counterpart, a St. Louis native now living in Burlington.

The VYCC has been an annual thing in Norwich for at least seven years.

The town stars with an application to the VYCC, checking off criteria required for hiring a crew. According to the corps' Web site, the cost of a crew — which can run from seven to 12 people — is around \$5,500 and \$7,000 per week, but a variety of cost-sharing options, including enhancement grants through the Vermont Agency of Transportation, can effectively bring the town's outlay for a project to nil.

In the case of the latest Ballard Trail work, Norwich's conservation commission picked up a bill of a couple of hundred dollars for the timber to make the bridge and kiosk. Everything else — tools, plans, hard hats, uniforms, tents, food — comes either from VYCC or the youths themselves.

Participants can choose the type of crew on which they wish to work, but the corps decides their destination. Aside from the wood for bridges — which they carried to the Ballard Trail construction site by hand — the workers will find or create the materials they need from what's in the forest, crushing rock for gravel, moving boulders or slabs into place for water bars.

"I call it trail hardening," Adams said. "The name of the game is finding ways to keep water off the trail so it doesn't erode. ... There's a lot of water crossing the trail, running more than at other times this year. One of

our goals the last few years has been to get to a lot of those stream crossings with small footbridges to make it more accessible to a greater portion of our population."

Heading uphill from the pool parking lot, the new bridge is the third to be built within the first mile of so of the Ballard Trail and the second to be erected by a VYCC crew. (The other was the work of a local Boy Scout troop.) Even if the faces are new, the green shirts and blue VYCC logos have become familiar to Norwich residents who have crossed paths with the crew the past two weeks.

"We made it a goal of trying to learn the names of everyone's dogs," joked crew member Anna Houston, 19, of Bakersfield, Vt.

While it's a summer job for all, it's also a lifestyle.

"We do work an eight-hour day on the trail, but then we go back (to the tents)," Pinkus said. "There's some down time, too. All crew members have chores, either filling up water, making dinner, laying out breakfast. Then there's the community part; we're still living and working with the same people, we eat dinner together, having evening activities. We have our weekends off; we've been to the Montshire Museum, gone out on a hike."

Town residents have become accustomed to seeing VYCC workers at this time of year, to the extent that they open their arms to their visitors.

The family of Peter Griggs and Sydney Smith provided a portion of their property as a tent site for the crew. On Tuesday, the town officially feted the group with a picnic, a welcome sight for 18-year-old Ian Tally of Wallingford, Vt., because it gave the group a rare chance to "stock up on meat and dairy."

"I thought the town was awesome, I was surprised that they would throw us a barbecue," said 18-year-old crewman Timo Green of St. Johnsbury, who did VYCC work on the northern end of the Ballard Trail two years ago. "I'm happy they were so welcoming and all really friendly. It's really cool."

And still there's work to do. The group is due in Shaftsbury on Monday to begin a two-week trail maintenance project there. Some will continue on to another four-week work session through the end of August.

"I think excitement is the best word to put it; people are so enthusiastic to have us," said Rebecca Saenz, a 20-year-old VYCC crew member from Royalton. "They definitely get to see the results and appreciate it. I don't think I've ever had a bad reaction."

"I love the experience. I love the awareness that you get from being on a crew like this. You're living in such a close community that you get to learn about people, how they interact. You get to really get to practice leadership skills, following skills. This will be really great in the real world, whatever you apply them to."

Greg Fennell can be reached at gfennell@vnews.com or (603) 727-3226.

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VYCC team leader Becky Pinkus tests the stability of a stepping stone at Norwich's Ballard Trail. VALLEY NEWS — JASON JOHNS

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crew that has been working on projects on Norwich's Bill Ballard Trail the past two weeks:

Crew Leaders

Paul Schwartzkopf, 25, Burlington
Becky Pinkus, 24, Illinois

Crew Members

Chris Perkins, 20, Newport, Vt.
Ian Tally, 18, Wallingford, Vt.
Anna Houston, 19, Bakersfield, Vt.
Timo Green, 18, St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Rebecca Saenz, 20, Royalton

On the Web

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