

## SPORTS

## BRIEFS

## GOLF

## Matsuyama, Van Pelt tied at Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio — Defending champion Hideki Matsuyama ran off four straight birdies on the back nine for an 8-under 64 and shared the lead at the Memorial on Thursday with rejuvenated Bo Van Pelt.

Matsuyama was surprised to make so many birdies. He said he was driving, chipping and putting poorly going into the first round.

Tiger Woods was surprised for other reasons. He felt he was hitting the ball well on Wednesday. When the tournament started, he was all over Muirfield Village. Only a scrambling finish — bogey-free for a 33 on the front nine — kept it from being worse. Woods had a 73 and was nine shots behind.

Jason Dufner made double bogey on the 18th hole and joined Russell Knox at 66.

## COLLEGES

## NCAA hits UNC with 5 violations

North Carolina's long-running academic fraud scandal now includes five

NCAA charges, including a lack of institutional control for poor oversight of an academic department popular with athletes and the counselors who advised them.

The school released a 59-page notice of allegations Thursday from the NCAA, which uses the document to specify violations uncovered during an investigation. The charges were more broad-based than focused on individual sports, with the NCAA regarding academic irregularities in the formerly named African and Afro-American (AFAM) Studies department as potential improper benefits by saying athletes received access to courses and other assistance generally unavailable to non-athletes.

No coaches were named in the five allegations, though one dealt specifically with the conduct of a women's basketball adviser for providing too much help on research papers.

UNC must file a response to the NCAA within 90 days of receiving the notice, which would likely lead to a hearing with the infractions committee followed by a ruling weeks to months later.

—The Associated Press

## Mile adding juice to The Classic

New event Saturday kicks off race weekend

By Josh Bakan  
Times Herald-Record

Sparking the first Orange Classic in 1981 involved the appearance of Olympic gold medalist and former Middletown native Frank Shorter. Perhaps the key to increasing participation in the 10th annual Classic, an offshoot of the Orange Classic, is a shorter race.

Interest in 10Ks has declined with the new millennium's emergence of alternative racing events such as triathlons and obstacle courses. But inclusion of the Classic Mile on Saturday makes race director Frank Giannino optimistic.

"The mile is going to get a nice introduction this year," he said while energetically but efficiently aiding customers at his store, Frank's Custom Shoe Fitting. "The buy-in is that mile-fit is 5,000-meters-fit, and if you want to be fit to run obstacle races, triathlons and 5Ks."

John Trautmann, a Monroe-Woodbury High graduate and 1992 Olympian, inspired the new mile race. Greater enthusiasm to actualize it came after Trautmann earned a Masters world record in the mile with a clocking of 4 minutes, 12.33 seconds on Feb. 15.

The first Classic Mile almost came about last year. But Trautmann injured his plantar fasciitis in March 2014.

"I wasn't able to run the race, so that kind of pulled the whole idea," he said. "But the idea was born from that. And then they said, 'Next year, let's put it on and open it up to everyone to run a mile.'"

Several accomplished athletes will appear at the weekend's events, including Trautmann, Shorter and



Former Olympic marathon champ Frank Shorter, right, and former Olympic long jump gold medalist Bob Beamon, shown promoting last year's event, will return to the 10th Classic this weekend. RECORD FILE PHOTO

Bob Beamon. Trautmann says he's not fit enough to race the mile, but he will come to cheer Saturday. He thinks the mile's inclusion is integral in curbing waning participation in 10Ks.

"The mile is a distance that everybody understands," he said. "We start talking metrics, kilometers, 10Ks, people always go, 'What's that in miles?' But with the mile, nobody asks that question."

The exact number of participants won't be calculated until Sunday because of last-minute entries in the day's 10K and 5K. But more than 1,000 runners and walkers are expected in the 5K and 10K. While the inaugural mile contributes to adding participants, Giannino says that 10Ks remain essential for distance runners.

"Use 10K fitness for your marathon, and you'll be good," Giannino said. "Too many marathoners train too much. They run too many miles and they get hurt. They're constantly in recovery. That's why I believe you can train effectively for a marathon with 45, 50 miles a week."

The decline in purse total

## The Classic race weekend

**Saturday:** Junior Classic, 9 a.m. (free); Classic Mile, 11 a.m.

**Sunday:** Classic 10K, 7:45 a.m.; Rowley 5K Race & Walk, 8:30 a.m.; community health expo, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.; Nick's Restaurant breakfast, 9 a.m.

**To enter:** \$30 for 5K and 10K; \$35 for Classic Mile plus 5K or 10K. The Junior Classic is free.

Registration and packet pickup at Middletown High; 4 p.m.-7 p.m. on Friday; 8 a.m.-noon Saturday; 6:30 a.m.-8 a.m. Sunday

**For more information:** www.classic10k.com

has affected the number of elite runners. Three purses are available each for men and women. First place wins \$1,000, second place earns \$900 and third gets \$800. Masters participants and those in the Local Club Classic 10K Challenge can also win smaller purses.

Giannino said the amount of purses and their values have decreased over the years. Running agent Mike Barnow said that although he supports the race and remains close to it, he will only send a few of his runners.

"If I had six or seven good guys," Barnow said, "I wouldn't want them all to go to the race Sunday and kill themselves over money for three places. It just wouldn't make sense."

But elite runners represent only a fraction of the race's significance. When the Times Herald-Record stopped sponsoring the Orange Classic in 2005 and the Middletown run was on the brink of being disbanded entirely, something more powerful than elite runners kept it alive.

The community did. Giannino had no doubt it would.

"There's a lot of passion for this event in our community," Giannino said, "and that there is no better way than a running and walking venue to bring the masses together and to draw attention to different causes and different highs and lows in our community, and tell the stories that make us a community."

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