



MICHAEL GALVIN/The Independent

Maryanne Bradley is safe at third, and soon to score the tying run on a Molly Lentowski sacrifice fly.

Lady Whalers advance after extra inning classic with Provincetown

BY STEVE SHEPPARD
INDEPENDENT SPORTS EDITOR

If you had to be anywhere on island Sunday afternoon, the place to be was the softball diamond, where the Lady Whalers advanced in state tournament play in an extra inning comeback gem that is worthy of all-time Nantucket High School status.

This is what high school athletics are all about, as the gallant island team overcame a late inning deficit to tie the contest after six, and finally outlast the plucky visitors in eight innings, 4-3.

For drama, this contest will be hard to top. As for clutch performances, there were several.

Let's begin at the finish, when Lauren Fry delivered the two out single that scored Jess Guevara with the game winner. There was also the dramatic running stab behind first base by second baseman Grace Anne Tornovich, who saved further damage in the fifth inning after P-town had scored twice to take a 3-2 advantage.

There was the clutch sacrifice fly of Molly Lentowski, who drove home Maryanne Bradley with the tying run in the bottom of the sixth.

And let's not forget the true grit pitching performance of Olivia Hull, who went the distance for her ninth win of the season, and her most important victory to date.

It was the longest game of the year so far for the Lady Whalers, whose MO during their 18-0 regular season run was such domination that games were regularly called after five innings. They had faced P-town twice before this year, but as the Whalers knew, the playoffs are a whole different animal.

"All teams improve as the season goes on," Hull, who struck out seven Fishermen, said when it was over. As for pitching in the team's first extra inning contest of the year: "I didn't realize it was actually the eighth inning," the focused junior noted. "We knew it was going to be a tough match."

Indeed. Provincetown hurler Melissa Lomba was baffled.

See *SOFTBALL*, page 37

ISLAND SPORTS

Lacrosse advances with victory

BY STEVE SHEPPARD
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For a young program, last Thursday's overtime win by the boys' lacrosse team can be viewed as downright historic.

"That was the first time we've ever won a playoff game on the road, ever," an understandably happy coach Rick Blair said of the come from behind victory over Norwell. Mark Dwyer

scored both the tying goal and the game winner in overtime.

Nantucket trailed 5-0 as late as the second quarter, although Blair noted that the score was not indicative of the Whalers' play. "We started out possessing the ball the same amount of time that they were," he said. "Once we settled down and got longer possessions, things started to work for us."

See *LACROSSE*, page 36



ROB BENCHLEY/The Independent

Nantucket High School sophomore River Bennett paddles from Monomoy to Coatue during Sunday's Iron Teams Relay. Bennett was part of the team Hang Ten, an under-18 group of athletes that also included Caroline Stanton, James Lewis, Meghan Lynch, Justine Paradis and Caroline Powers.

Iron Teams Relay a celebration of athleticism

BY STEVE SHEPPARD
INDEPENDENT SPORTS EDITOR

In a celebration of athleticism in which competitors of all ages take part, the 27th annual Iron Teams Relay once again attracted scores of island participants Sunday.

The annual event that helps raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nantucket, puts less emphasis on competition and more on the spirit of teamwork, as entrants run, paddle, swim and bike to the finish line. As Anita Nettles, who ran the 6.5 mile road race as part of the Wahines team said Sunday afternoon, "It's the tenth time I've taken part, and we never train."

Smiles were the order of the day at the finish line on Daves Street, as competitors checked the leader board and congratulated one another. Nantucket High School aquatics director Jim Pignato, who paddled a surfboard from Monomoy to Coatue as a member of the third place Triple Eight Vodka team, said his team's goal was all in the timing. "We wanted to break

three hours this year, and we did."

High school swim team member Beau Garufi, meanwhile, who was enlisted for the swimming leg just days before the race, finished in second place overall in that particular event. He said the late spring harbor water temperatures weren't too bad. "It wasn't as cold as I thought it was going to be," he said. "And I wasn't wearing a wetsuit."

It's all for a good cause, and the festive atmosphere underscored the camaraderie.

For the record, the top four finishing teams were: A Taste of Nantucket; Hatch And Burns; Triple Eight Vodka and Power Toole Plus.

The top individual participant was Nicholas Wispelwey, who also finished fifth overall. Coming in second was Bill Driggs, who finished ninth overall, followed by Joe O'Leary (12th overall), Levy Barna (18th overall) and Douglas Armstrong (20th overall). Rounding out the top ten individuals were John Cavanaro, Kyle Campbell, Sarah Riley, Adam Ross and Seth Moskos. ■