

SPORTS

# Pioneers prevail in preseason match

BY TIM PETERSON  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—With only a handful of returning players, it'll probably take a couple of matches for the Western Mass. Pioneers players to jell.

The Pioneers kicked off the 2023 campaign with a 5-1 victory in a friendly match against KO Elites FC before a large gathering at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, last Friday night.

"We had a lot of turnover from last year's team, so we're in the rebuilding process this year," said Federico Molinari, who's beginning his 12th season as the Pioneers head coach. "We do have some youngsters players and a couple of returning players. It's probably going to take us some time to jell."

A year ago, the Pioneers finished in second place in the Northeast Division table with an 11-3 regular season record. They lost to the Seacoast United Phantoms, 1-0, in extra time at home in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

It marked the second year in a row that the Pioneers (11-3) faced Seacoast United, who finished at the top of the Northeast Division table, in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Pioneers were scheduled to play their first regular season match at the Boston Bolts on Tuesday night before hosting the Pathfinder FC in the home opener at 7pm on Saturday night.

The first meeting of the regular season with league rival Seacoast United will take place away from the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium on May 25. The second meeting between the two squads is slated to take place in Ludlow on June 23.

The Pioneers other home matches this season will be against Black Rock FC (June 3), Boston Bolts (June 7), Albany Rush (June 30), Vermont Green FC (July 7), and AC Connecticut (July 15). All of their home matches are scheduled to start at 7pm.

One of the returning players is Khalid Rose, who has been a member of the Pioneers squad since 2018.

"I have the most service time on this year's team," said Rose before signing some autographs following the match. "I always come back here every year for the fans. I just love playing this beautiful game."

Rose, who played college soccer at Central Connecticut State University, assisted on the Pioneers first two goals in last Friday's friendly match. Newcomer Alec Hughes scored both goals during the first ten minutes of the first half. Hughes came out of the match with a minor injury during the 25th minute.

"Alec is a new player this year," Molinari said. "Hopefully, he'll be able to play in our first game on Tuesday night."

Hughes, who's a forward from Glastonbury Conn, is also a member of the UMass men's soccer team. He fin-

ished his junior season last fall with a total of 10 goals, including a hat-trick in a 4-1 victory at George Washington. He also had two assists and led the A-10 conference with a total of 22 points.

Following the 2022 college season, Hughes was selected to the United Soccer Coaches All-Region Second-Team squad.

Hughes is one of the players looking to replace Braudilio Rodrigues, who led the Pioneers with ten goals last summer. Rodrigues recently signed with the Tacoma Defiance, which compete in the MLS Next Pro league. The Defiance is the reserve team for the Seattle Sounders FC.

The other returning players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers roster are Chaney Nash-Gibney, Jared Smith, Ignacio Albo, Lucio Berron, Tomas Duben, Nicholas Oberrauch, and Connor Hicks, who graduated from Monson High School six years ago.

Hicks, who graduated from AIC, didn't play in the friendly match because of an injury.

Oberrauch is the Pioneers captain and he assisted on the third goal, which was scored by Duben during the 21st minute.

"It's an honor for me to be the team captain again this year," Oberrauch said. "I really enjoy being the team leader."

Thomas Quiterio, who's wrapping up his junior year, and Thomas Wadas, who's finishing his sophomore year at Ludlow High School, saw some playing time during the second half. They'll be practicing with the Pioneers and be playing games for the USL Academy team.

"The academy team prepares the players to play for the USL team," Molinari said. "A couple of them had an opportunity to play in tonight's game, but they just need to continue working hard."

Wadas had the chance to play in a couple of regular season matches for the Pioneers a year ago.

"I normally play for the USL Academy team and it's a big jump playing for the men's team. The game is much quicker at this level," Wadas said. "It's also a lot of fun playing with one of my high school teammates."

Quiterio, who's also a member of the Ludlow boys' volleyball team, played for the Pioneers for the first time in last Friday's match.

"I was a little bit nervous at first, but I did feel comfortable after a few minutes," Quiterio said. "I grew up watching the Pioneers play and it's a dream come true to have an opportunity to play for them. It just feels amazing."

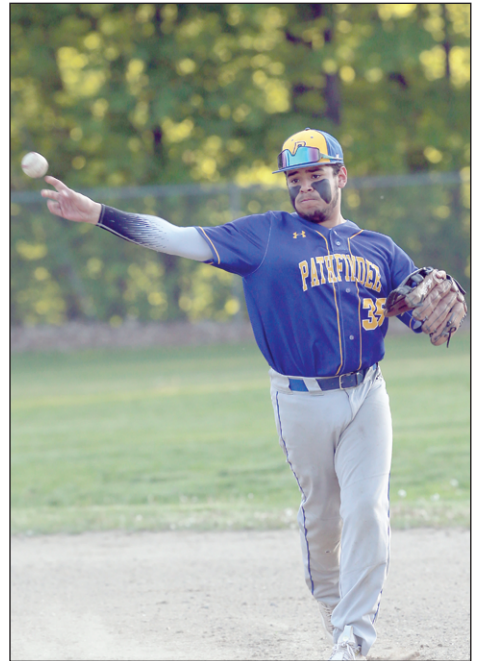
The Pioneers scored two more goals during the second half, including a penalty kick by Simba Pelltier.

The Pioneers assistant coaches are Dennis Gomes, Jay Willis, and John Voight.

The Pioneers faithful supporters are hoping to have a lot more enjoyable evenings at Lusitano Stadium during the next couple of months.



Jesse Cygan pitches for the Pioneers.



Tage Valliere throws to first for an out.

## Pioneers likely to make tournament

PALMER – With an 11-3 record entering the week, Pathfinder baseball is looking making tournament in Division 5 this season. The Pioneers are currently ranked No. 23 and have a few games this week to close out the regular season. The Pioneers could also qualify for the Western Mass. tournament as well, which gets underway next week.



Brayden Mega tries to avoid a tag.



Trevor Millet fields a throw to third.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETODGPHOTOS.COM

RIGHT: Edward Szoszyk makes the catch in left.



## Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual "Run for Rice's 5K Road Race" will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt fea-

turing the "Running Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at RunSignUp.com, and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website www.minnechauglandtrust.org .

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampshire Probate and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No. HS23C0058CA  
In the matter of:  
Ares Santana  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Ares Santana of Belchertown, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Ares Franz  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampshire Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/14/2023.  
This is NOT a hearing

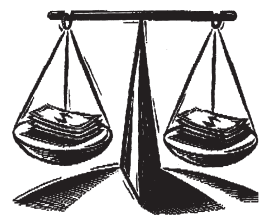
date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Linda S Fidnick, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 01, 2023  
Michael J. Carey  
Register of Probate  
05/18/2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION  
SNOW'S SELF STORAGE LLC, will sell the contents of the following sheds online at www.aarbids.com. The online sale will end on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Rahji Vickers – OutBk1  
Snow's Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids, or to cancel the auction at any time for any reason.  
05/11, 05/18/2023



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.