

## Carpenter

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Yards Wednesday for the first time since August 2002 and wouldn't leave until he had finished a game the Cardinals led early and he controlled late for a 5-1 win over the Baltimore Orioles before a crowd of 17,405.

Carpenter — raised in Raymond, N.H., graduated from Manchester's Trinity High School and now a resident of Bedford — may not have pitched entirely without a safety net. But if he had one it couldn't have been much larger than a throw rug.

Capping a day when almost every right-handed reliever had either been released or was physically diminished, Carpenter (3-7) put down the Orioles with 132 pitches.

For good measure Carpenter escaped a bases-loaded, none-out jam unscathed in the fifth inning, then allowed only one hit the rest of the way.

"It was strong," said manager Tony La Russa. "It was impressive."

It was the vintage Carpenter that the Cardinals have seen increasingly in his last several outings. "I controlled counts. I controlled the game. I felt like I did it the whole game," Carpenter said.

Carpenter has now thrown 382 pitches in his last three starts combined. Each has come with an additional day's rest. But each has also included a more consistent performance than those he produced during the season's first two trying months.

"The reason you didn't worry about (pitch count) was he was really pitching at the end," La Russa said.

Wednesday offered all the elements missing from most of Carpenter's early work:

The Cardinals grabbed an early lead when center fielder Colby Rasmus crashed a two-run, second-inning home run off Orioles starting pitcher Chris Jakusbasukas (2-1). They expanded it to 4-0 with three more hits in the third inning.

Often betrayed by his defense in April and May, Carpenter enjoyed a strong game from second baseman Skip Schumaker and a pivotal sliding catch by right fielder Jon Jay to end the sixth inning.

"We kept pressure on their guy," Carpenter said. "That makes it easier when you have guys diving all over the place making great plays and scoring runs for you early, it makes you go out there with some confidence and stay aggressive."

The night's tipping point occurred in the fifth inning after Felix Pie, Blake Davis and J.J. Hardy opened with consecutive singles. With the tying run at the plate, Carpenter escaped via a fielder's choice, a lob shot to shallow left field and a fly ball to right field.

A night after going 0 for seven with runners in scoring position, the Orioles were one

for nine in the same situation Wednesday.

The Cardinals received a two-out RBI single from third baseman David Freese, a sacrifice fly from first baseman Lance Berkman and Schumaker's RBI single off the right field scoreboard.

The win represented several other personal and team milestones.

Carpenter, originally a Toronto Blue Jay, achieved his 50th win against American League competition, evening his career record against his former league. The complete game was the 31st of Carpenter's career and his second of the season.

The Cardinals (43-38) enjoyed their first back-to-back road wins since May 23-24 in San Diego. They stretched their NL Central lead to 3½ games in that series; Wednesday allowed them to return to a game behind the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Cardinals reached the season's midpoint on the day they released former closer Ryan Franklin while missing three-time NL MVP Albert Pujols.

Last year's Cy Young Award runner-up, Adam Wainwright, threw a baseball Monday for the first time since elbow ligament replacement surgery. The Cardinals have already used the disabled list more in less than three months this season than they did in all of 2010.

A dominant Carpenter offers hope to a pitching staff that entered Baltimore ranked last in the major leagues in June ERA. La Russa could not turn to Lance Lynn (two innings Tuesday) and Mitchell Boggs (back stiffness) and was leery of calling upon closer Fernando Salas, who got Tuesday's final five outs.

Jason Motte offered the righthanded option free of complications.

"I do what I need to do," said Carpenter, who claimed to pitch without concern for who was or wasn't available in relief. "I do everything I can to go as long as I can every time out."

"If I go out there trying to go deep because the bullpen is short, that's a wrong thought. That's a distraction from what your goals are that game."

Carpenter lowered his ERA to 4.00 while striking out five against one walk. Schumaker, who declared Carpenter the staff's most dominant pitcher last week, had no reason to offer a retraction after this start.

"It's one thing if all of a sudden he's 88 (miles per hour). He's not. He's mid-90's still with movement. It's not like he's throwing straight," Schumaker said. "He's as prepared as anybody. His secondary pitches are as good as anybody's in the game. When you see all that, you know it's going to come together eventually. And it has."

# NBA locks out players as talks collapse

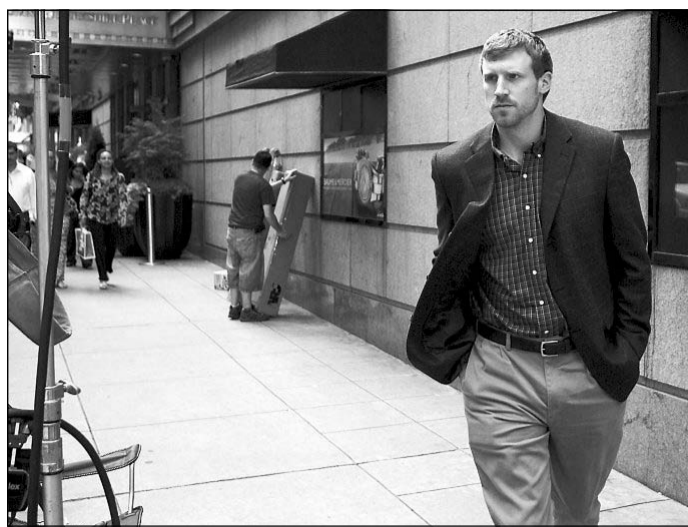
**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — The NBA locked out its players at midnight on Thursday as last-ditch negotiations for a new labor deal collapsed, sending the league into its first work stoppage in 13 years.

Following a three-hour bargaining session between the NBA and National Basketball Players Association, both sides walked away from the table far apart on several financial issues and the players opposed to a new salary cap system.

"It's with some sadness that we're going to recommend this to the (labor relations) committee because a lockout has a very large impact on a lot of people, most of whom are not associated with either side," NBA Commissioner David Stern told reporters after meeting with the union at a midtown Manhattan hotel.

The lockout threatens the start of the 2011-12 season in late October and marks the NBA's first work stoppage since the 1998-99 season was reduced by 32 games to 50.

It also marks the second major North American sports league to shut down its operations, following the National Football League, which in-



Concord's Matt Bonner, of the San Antonio Spurs, leaves after contract negotiations between the NBA and the players association collapsed in New York on Thursday.

REUTERS

stalled a lockout in March that is ongoing.

NBA officials have said 22 of the league's 30 clubs are losing money and that they are seeking contract changes to offset net losses they claim run to some \$300 million.

The current agreement calls for 57 percent of basketball related income be distributed to the players under a \$58 million per team cap system.

The owners have asked for

the revenue split of the \$4 billion pie to be 50-50, while the players reduced their counter proposal to 54.3 percent, or \$100 million a year of additional revenue to the owners over a five-year term.

The players offered an amended proposal at the meeting but the gulf between the sides was so wide that even union chief Billy Hunter termed it "a baby step."

The NBA did not offer a new

proposal of its own.

"We took a baby step, they didn't take any at all," said Hunter, who would not discuss his proposal. "They started from what we considered an extreme number (initially) and trying to get to where we are, or us get to get to them, is mammoth."

Hunter, accompanied by NBA players Derek Fisher, the union president, Maurice Evans of the Washington Wizards and Matt Bonner of the San Antonio Spurs, said he felt the lockout was inevitable and that he hoped it might spur on serious talks.

"We just haven't been able to find that happy medium," said Hunter. "They are going to lock us out and now maybe we can really begin to negotiate."

The two sides have met twice a week for most of the past month and Hunter said the talks were much more professional than in 1998 when there was a lot of acrimony.

Stern said discussions were more civil but he remained concerned. "We're not closer," Stern said, when asked how these negotiations compared to the 1998 ones at this point. "In fact, it worries me that we're not closer."

## Bonner

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players out and negotiations still ongoing weeks before training camps are scheduled to start, Bonner knows a prolonged lockout in the NBA could have severe consequences. During the 1998-99 season, the

NBA had a work stoppage resulting in a shortened 50-game season.

"As players, I can tell you that we want to play basketball," said Bonner. "Unfortunately, the owners have decided to lock us

out. I guess sometimes a thing like that has to happen to get a deal done. We're going to do our best to get a fair deal."

Bonner said he'll be back at his camp today at the Rundlett Middle School.

## Golf

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the group on the 17th hole that he thought Thibodeau was two ahead. She wasn't fazed, paring the final two holes.

The pressure didn't weigh on Thibodeau, but the trophy she received at the awards' ceremony did. "When she gave it to me, I was like, 'It's a little heavy.' And the flowers were, too."

The trophy and flowers came five years after Thibodeau took her first golf lesson at Atkinson Resort and Country Club. A family friend who saw talent in Thibodeau during a round of miniature golf suggested the lesson. Thibodeau didn't want to go, neither did her father, and her mother had a hair appointment, Thibodeau remembers.

"I was probably not going to be patient, but I came home and said to my daddy, 'I want to be a golfer,'" Thibodeau said.

Her parents don't golf, but Thibodeau is a natural. Since that first lesson, Thibodeau has played in many U.S. Kids Golf tournaments. She finished third in a regional tournament

in Florida at age 9 and 38th out of 70 at the World Championships in North Carolina last year. Thibodeau enjoys traveling on her own when she plays in Florida. She stays with her grandparents and her caddie is her uncle.

Her coach is Joanne Flynn, the head professional at Windham Country Club.

"She just loves the game," Flynn said. "Very, very dedicated. Loves to practice. She's very focused, and you don't see that a lot. She knows what she wants."

The love of the sport comes from her alone. "This wasn't something someone wanted her to do," Flynn said. "I see a lot of people who play golf and they want their son or daughter to be a golfer."

A whirlwind summer of golf continues for Thibodeau later this month when she travels to Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., to play in the Optimist International Junior Championships, one of the top junior golf events in the world.

"I like competing a lot," Thibodeau said. "It's fun just to play, too."

## Swimming

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continue Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event is sanctioned by the United States Swimming Association.

Manchester Swim Team will also be hosting a three-day swim meet, July 15-17 at Raco Theodore. "As the popularity of our swim meets has grown, so has the number of swimmers attending," said Donovan. "This year the meets are New England-sanctioned and on the New England swimming calendar, which draws swimmers from New Hampshire, Greater New England area as well as Canada."

The third meet, sanctioned by the Granite State Swim Association, is set for Aug. 5-7 at Raco. "This is the state championship drawing 500 swimmers from as many as 14 teams," said Donovan, who said most of the credit of hosting three meets this summer goes to longtime coach Steve VanDerBeken.

"Steve has an unbelievable reputation for doing quality work with swimming meets," said Donovan. "When people see his name attached to a meet, they know it will be running efficiently. I can't say enough good things about the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department, which has helped us immensely with these meets. We also have Sara Aldrich of Manchester, who will serve as the premier official at Raco. These three meets are all family events too. Thanks to the city and the

community surrounding the pool, families can spend part of this holiday weekend watching many good swimmers compete in a comfortable and safe setting."

This weekend Donovan said there are over 260 swimmers entered from 13 teams, including many outstanding local entrants.

Local swimmers to watch are Cole Hogg of Manchester, Kelsey Ewing and Kathleen Bolton, both of Bedford.

Last year, Hogg dominated the invitational with wins in the 50-, 100-, and 1,500-meter freestyle, 200- and 400-meters IM, 100 and 200 fly, 200-meter breaststroke, 200-meter backstroke and a second-place finish in the 100-meter breaststroke.

A student at Manchester Memorial, Cole was ranked in the Top 10 New England swimmers for both short course and long course events in 2009-2010. He was a double winner in the NHIAA championships and placed in the top 10 at the New England Senior champs meet last winter. In March, Cole placed 12th in the 200-yard freestyle at the Speedo Championships against some of the best swimmers in the country.

Ewing, a student at Bedford High, is a top female swimmer in the open category. Last year she won six events: 100-, 200- and 800-meter freestyle, 200- and 400-meter IM, and

100-meter breaststroke. Bolton will compete in the breaststroke and IM events. She recently placed sixth in the NHIAA Division 1 championships.

In the 13-14-year-old group, Lizzie Aldrich and Alaina Pribis, both ranked by the New England Swimming Outstanding Swimmers (NESOS) for short course in 2009-2010, are expected to make an impact. Aldrich should do well in the 100 butterfly, 100-meter freestyle and 200-meter IM. Aldrich won a gold medal in the recent New Hampshire Swimming Association's champs meet last March. Pribis' specialties include the 200-meter freestyle and the 1,500 meters.

For the younger swimmers, Kathleen Golding from Concord will be watched closely. In the NHSA's champs meet, she placed first in the 9-10-year-old girls' 100-yard freestyle, breaking the 1984 record by over two seconds (59.89). Her winning times in 100-yard IM and 50-yard freestyle broke longstanding records.

The Hooksett brother-sister dynamic duo of Christina and Zach Denbow, who both won gold medals in their age group for breast stroke, will compete this weekend. Zach was awarded the Outstanding New England swimmers award for 2009-2010 short course yards. Laconia's Antony Hubbard, ranked in the Top 10 New England swimmers for long



Two-time defending champ Faith Jenkins tees off on the 14th hole during the NHWGA Junior Championship Thursday at Intervale Country Club in Manchester.

JOSH GIBNEY/UNION LEADER

### NHWGA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

**At Intervale Country Club, Manchester Junior (ages 11-14)/Senior (15-17) divisions**  
 Lauren Thibodeau 77 (j); Faith Jenkins 79 (s); Annamarie Mallat 81 (s); Colette Schmidt 84 (s); Jocelyn Ojala 87 (s); Kirstin Bergen 89 (s); Morgan Delapena 96 (s); Shelby Reed 97 (s); Samantha Reed 98 (j); Hayley Reed 119 (j)  
**Junior Division (ages 11-14, 9 holes)**  
 Micaela Griffin 50; Juliana Noce 60; Kate Whittier 75; Madeline Swansburg 95  
**Mini Division (ages 9-11, 9 holes)**  
 Charlette Whittier 57; Aislinn Low 58; Rowan Perkins 59; Elizabeth Guertin 63; Meghan Rocha 70; Katelyn Devine 72  
**Pee Wee Division (ages 8-9, 9 holes)**  
 Hannah McCain 55; Kaitlyn Ford 61; Lauren Barry 62; Lilly Bogue 63; Hope Driscoll 65; Barrie Guertin 66; Anna McCloskey 72  
**Cricket Division (ages 6-7, 4 holes)**  
 Serena Gerome 28; Alanna Brunelle 28; Caroline Driscoll 29; Katherine Steele 29; Layne Leddy 32  
**Munchkin Division (age 5, 4 holes)**

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course, will compete in the open events.

Admission is free, but programs, along with food and soft drinks will be sold at Raco, which is a 10-lane, 50-meter pool. Fully automatic electronic timing with touch pads are used to ensure quick and accurate results.

### TODAY'S EVENTS

Girls' Open 400 Freestyle, 4 p.m.; Boys' Open 400 Freestyle 4:33 p.m.; Girls' 12-and-under 200 IM 5:05 p.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 200 IM 5:26 p.m.; Girls' Open 400 IM 5:36 p.m.; Boys' Open 400 IM 5:59 p.m.; Girls' Open 800 Freestyle 6:12 p.m.; Boys' Open 800 Freestyle 6:54 p.m.; Girls' Open 1500 Freestyle 7:18 p.m.; Boys' Open 1500 Freestyle 7:42 p.m.  
 Saturday's events  
 Girls' Open 200 Freestyle 9 a.m.; Boys' Open 200 Freestyle 9:21 a.m.; Girls' 12-and-under 200 Freestyle 9:32 a.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 200 Freestyle 9:43 a.m.; Girls' Open 100 Breaststroke 9:51 a.m.; Boys' Open 100 Breaststroke 10:02 a.m.; Girls' 12-and-under 100 Breaststroke 10:05 a.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 100 Breaststroke 10:17 a.m.; Girls' Open 100 Backstroke 10:26 a.m.; Boys' Open 100 Backstroke 10:39 a.m.; Girls' 12-and-under 100 Backstroke 10:44 a.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 100 Backstroke 10:54 a.m.; Girls' Open 200 IM 10:59 a.m.; Boys' Open 200 IM 11:19 a.m.; Girls' 12-and-under 100 Freestyle 11:29 a.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 100 Freestyle 11:41 a.m.; Girls' Open 100 Freestyle 11:48 a.m.; Boys' Open 100 Freestyle, noon; Girls' 12-and-under 50 Butterfly 12:05 p.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 50 Butterfly 12:11 p.m.; Girls' Open 100 Butterfly 12:23 p.m.; Boys' Open 100 Butterfly 12:26 p.m.; Girls' 12-and-under 50 Backstroke 12:26 p.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 50 Backstroke 12:35 p.m.; Girls' Open 200 Backstroke 12:40 p.m.; Boys' Open 200 Backstroke 12:51 p.m.; Girls' 12-and-under 50 Breaststroke 12:58 p.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 50 Breaststroke 1:06 p.m.; Girls' Open 200 Breaststroke 1:09 p.m.; Boys' Open 200 Breaststroke 1:25 p.m.; Girls' 12-and-under 50 Freestyle 1:29 p.m.; Boys' 12-and-under 50 Freestyle 1:37 p.m.; Girls' Open 50 Freestyle 1:43 p.m.; Boys' Open 50 Freestyle 1:49 p.m.

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