Sports

UNION LEADER

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me on NESN.

NBA: The Celtics visit the wks at 7:30 p.m. on CSNNE.

For a full schedule of TV d radio listings, see What's ppening, Page D4.

TENNIS

ussie Open finalists

Novak Djokovic installed mself as favorite for a third raight Australian Open title ith a semifinal demolition of wid Ferrer on Thursday. In the omen's semifinals, Victoria zarenka beat American oane Stephens, 6-1, 6-4, id China's Li Na beat Maria iarapova, 6-2, 6-2.

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BASEBALL

ed Sox hire Pedro

Former Red Sox ace Pedro lartinez, whose virtuoso erformances and colorful ersonality made him one of le most beloved pitchers in anchise history, rejoined the lam on Thursday as a special sistant to general manager en Cherington.

A three-time Cy Young ward winner, Martinez spent even seasons with Boston and helped lead the Red Sox the 2004 World Series title. his final game with Boston, e worked seven scoreless inings to defeat the Cardinals Game 3 of the 2004 World eries.

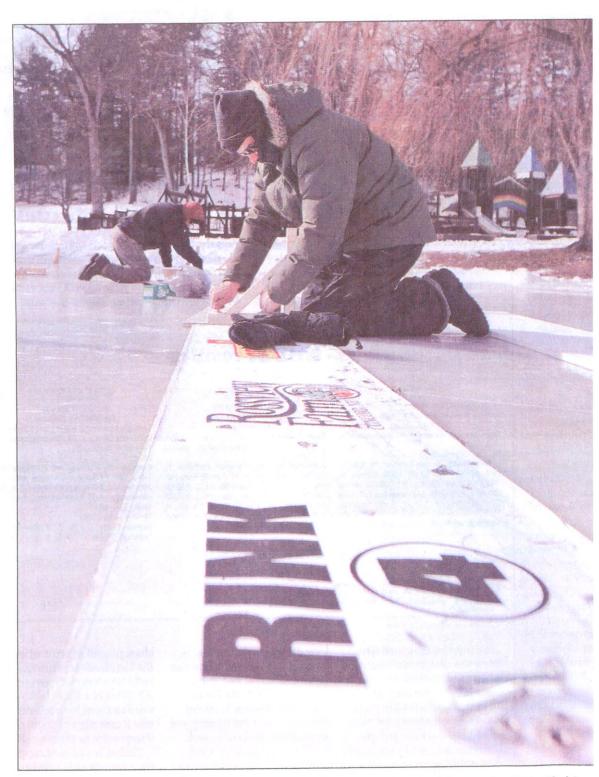
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BASKETBALL

inicks topple Celtics

Carmelo Anthony scored 28 oints and visiting New York eld off a late rally to beat ne Boston Celtics, 89-86, on hursday night to halt a 13-ame losing streak in Boston. Amar'e Stoudemire added 5 points and nine rebounds ff the bench, including a key p-in down the stretch, as the nicks sent the Celtics to their

THE WEATHER IS ... GREAT FOR HO



Volunteers Bob Graffy, right, and Doug Davis, both of Concord, put together boards while preparing for the Black Ice Pond Hockey Championship at White Pond in Concord. **Story, Page D3.**

DAVID LANE/UNION LEAD

Pond hockey set for weekend at White Park in Concord

Over 600 players competing:

Tourney begins today and runs through Sunday's semifinals and finals.

Staff report

The third annual Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament will be held this weekend in Concord.

Starting today at 9 a.m. at the White Park pond, there will be 85 teams competing from throughout the country.

"There will be over 600 players competing in the tournament Friday and Saturday, ages 18 up to people in their mid to late 60s," said Chris Brown, organizer of the tournament. "This is a park that local people have a lot of history with, whether it was learning how to skate, play baseball, or even snowboard at an early age. It's a park in town that has a lot of connections to people's upbringing. This is a weekend tournament where you can bring your entire family and have fun."

Brown said there will be 85 games today, made up of two 15-minute periods.

The games are running time and there are no referees.

There will be eight 64-by-120 rinks to play on. There are no goalies and no goal.

Each team will have seven players on the roster and only four can play on any shift.

On each end of the rinks there is a 6-by-2 size box where teams attempt to shoot the

puck through a slot for a score.

"It's a tournament run by gentlemen's and ladies' rule," said Brown. "There's no hard checking or physical hits allowed in the games."

Minor penalties like tripping and pucks shot out of bounds result in a change of possession.

After each goal the team scored upon takes the puck out of the box and drops it to the ice to resume play.

On Saturday, action continues at 8 a.m. and runs throughout the day to 7:20 p.m. On Sunday, starting at 9 a.m. the semifinals in each division will be held, followed by the finals.

There are six overall divisions: 18-and-over Open, 18-and-over recreational, women's division, 35-and-over A Divison, 35-and-over B Division and, 50-plus division. A brief ceremony following the championship games will be held around noon.

Brown said the Jack Edwards Teeth/Cheer team of Concord will return as the two-time open division champion.

Former New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch, as he did last year, will be competing in the 50-plus division.

The public is welcome and admission is free.

Fireworks will start tonight at 7:15 at White Park, which is on the corner of Washington Street and Centre Street.

For more information on Friday's and Saturday's scheduled games, visit www.blackice-pondhockey.com.