

# SPORTS

FINGER LAKES TIMES  
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008

Also Inside: Entertainment • Comics & Puzzles • Classifieds

## MORE SPORTS INSIDE

**PAGE 12:** Major League Baseball boxscores, standings  
**PAGE 13:** Area, TV and radio schedules  
**PAGE 14:** Scoreboard

# Rosa completes weekend sweep



LaFayette triathlete bests Neary in a dramatic conclusion

By **JOSHUA DeSAIN**  
FINGER LAKES TIMES

GENEVA — Following a terrific day of racing and weather to kick off this year's Musselman Triathlon weekend, Sunday's signature event produced a scintillating finish in weather better suited for waterfowl.

The fifth annual Musselman Half-Iron began early yesterday morning under bright skies. However, a torrential downpour greeted the competitors near the end of the 56-mile bicycle ride and beginning of the 13.1-mile run.

The changing conditions didn't bother Doug Clark or Julie Rosa too much.

Clark, 40, of Morristown, N.J., collected the men's Half-Iron victory in his first attempt, finishing the swim-bike-run triathlon in 4 hours, 22 minutes, 5 seconds, 4:59 ahead of runner-up Erik Grimm, 43, of Rochester.

■ See SWEEP on Page 13

Julie Rosa and Alaina Neary were even (inset) as they approached the finish line of the Musselman Half-Iron. Rosa wound up winning by 4 seconds after Neary fell to the grass.

Gabrielle Plucknette / Finger Lakes Times



Runners made their way up Seneca Street in Geneva Sunday during the Musselman Half-Iron triathlon.

Gabrielle Plucknette / Finger Lakes Times



Musselman Triathlon volunteers (from left) Rachel Deptula, 9; Tess Gage, 5; and Brynn Gage, 7, passed out water and sponges to Musselman Half-Iron competitors making their way along Main Street in Geneva.

Gabrielle Plucknette / Finger Lakes Times

## Busch's remarkable season continues

By **RICK GANO**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOLIET, Ill. — The only place Kyle Busch got stuck was in the infield grass, his tires spinning as he celebrated his seventh — and perhaps most impressive — victory of the season in NASCAR's Sprint Cup Series.

After Busch led most of Saturday night's race at Chicagoland Speedway, two-time defending champion Jimmie Johnson went by him on the 251st lap.

The confident 23-year-old Busch was nearly ready to concede. "Race over," he was

heard saying over his radio after Johnson, his former Hendrick Motorsports teammate, went in front.

But, a ninth and final yellow caution flag led to a restart with two laps remaining. And just like that, Busch had one last chance for his second consecutive victory.

Staying on Johnson's bumper at the restart, he went high on Turn 4 and back into the lead on the next-to-last lap. He then led the most important lap of the night, the 267th and final one.

"I really don't believe how

good things are going," said Busch. "It's just been a phenomenal year. Something just so special."

Busch got rolling Friday night by winning the Nationwide Series on the same track, a much easier victory but one that gave him a feel for the track which hosted night racing in a major competition for the first time.

He now has 14 victories this season when you count all three of NASCAR's divisions. And he leads the Sprint Cup Series by 262 points over second-place Dale Earnhardt, Jr.

## Mets take 9-game streak into break

By **DAVE SKRETTA**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Jerry Manuel insisted that the All-Star break was coming at a good time for the New York Mets, a chance to rest a tired bullpen and maybe get some banged-up guys back.

That was before Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer Sunday night and Mike Pelfrey was dominant for eight innings in New York's 7-0 win over the Colorado Rockies, extending the Mets' winning streak to nine.

Care to reconsider, Jerry?

"I'm really looking forward to getting the second half going," Manuel said, smiling. "The way our pitching staff is going right now, I'm very excited about what's to come."

The Mets were 5½ games back in the NL East on July 4. But, after a tumultuous first half that included Manuel replacing the fired Willie Randolph, they'll resume play Thursday at Cincinnati trailing division-leading Philadelphia by just a half-game.

New York's nine-game run is its best since April 16-25,

2000.

"The confidence that the team has right now is just kind of permeating through the clubhouse," Manuel said. "We're playing good baseball."

A big reason is pitching. The Mets have allowed just four runs over their last six games, capped by Pelfrey's sixth straight win and second straight shutout.

Mixing a four-seam fastball with a sharp sinker, Pelfrey (8-6) allowed only six hits and didn't walk a batter for the second consecutive game.