

BDN FILE

Brewer's Danny Davis runs the ball up field past Brunswick's Will Bessey during a football game at Doyle Field in Brewer in October.

Triplets

Continued from Page B4

"I think it's just that we have a different relationship, just like I think we have a different relationship between us than we have with our older brother (Joe)," said Meg Davis, who recently received the Maine McDonald's Spirit of the Game Award as a high school senior who embodies the spirit of basketball, exemplifies sportsmanship and supports and inspires her teammates and coaches.

"It's like we've never done anything separately and not been together because we're the same age and we've just always done the same things."

Flames and relocation

The Davis triplets were within a few weeks of completing their first year of high school when fire broke out at the family's home on a Friday afternoon in late May 2013.

The home was not destroyed, but it wasn't in liveable condition.

"It was a lot of temporary for a while," Reed Davis said.

The family was divided among several locations in the immediate aftermath of the blaze, then for the next two years lived in family owned camps on Lucerne Lake during the summers and in the triplets' grandfather's home in Brewer during the next two school years while he spent winters in Florida.

The Davis family finally moved back into their own renovated home this past winter

"The hardest part was not being able to find stuff," Meg said. "The people who own Lucerne Storage, we've known them for quite a while and they let us use one of their storage units, and we'd put our winter stuff there and then we'd put our summer stuff there because we just didn't have room to have everything with us all the time."

Illness and injury

Coming off his sophomore season of football at Brewer, then-15-year-old Danny Davis left school briefly one Monday afternoon to retrieve his basketball gear for the opening day of tryouts in late November 2014.

"I was feeling completely normal," he recalled. "Then my leg started giving out on me — the whole left side of my body. I couldn't walk. And my arm started to feel weird, and my mouth started to feel weird. And I started seeing double, and my whole body was aching.

"I had no idea what was going on, but the symptoms made sense when I found out it was a stroke.'

Davis was hospitalized for the next two days, eventually learning his stroke stemmed from a blood clot in his left cerebellum caused by a blood protein deficiency.

"It turns out it was genetic because we all got tested afterward to see if we all have the same deficiency," Reed said. "I do. Joey and Meg don't. But I just don't have it as severe as Danny does so I'm not as much at risk.'

Danny was prescribed blood thinners for several months and missed the entire basketball season before returning to the school's outdoor track team the following spring

"I didn't think I was going to be able to play football or basketball again," he said. "My doctor didn't think so, either, because she thought I would be on blood thinners for years — for quite a while. But we got the protein back in the healthy range, so now I just take a baby aspirin every morning.

Danny was barely into his recovery phase that winter when Meg, his older sister by one minute, suffered her own significant setback during an early season basketball game in Skowhegan.

away, and I was running next to the girl who had the ball. And she slowed down, and I stepped just right when I slowed down," she said. "I really didn't know what happened. I just fell because it hurt.'

Meg went home on crutches that night. By the end of the week, the pain hadn't subsided so she saw an orthopaedist. A magnetic resonance imaging test conducted Christmas Eve revealed the ACL tear and surgery followed in January, leaving both basketball-playing Davis siblings to watch the rest of the season from their respective benches.

The medical concerns didn't stop there. During the same time, older brother Joey now a student at the University of Maine — suffered what Meg described as a "bad concussion" that left him at less than 100 percent.

"We began to joke that Reed was the only safe one left, so he better be careful with what he was doing, Meg said.

Return to normalcy

The 2015-2016 school year has been injury-free and quite productive for the Davis trip-

Meg received medical clearance for athletic competition last July and played a full soccer schedule for the Witches before captaining coach Chris Horr's girls basketball team to a Class A North post-season berth.

"I was definitely excited," Meg said of her return to basketball. "We went 1-17 last year. It was a tough season to have to sit and watch. This vear we were much more successful. It was definitely an improvement and said we were going in the right direction. It was nice to be able to play.

Danny Davis was one of the top defensive players in the Pine Tree Conference last fall and helped the Brewer football team reach the Class "We had thrown the ball B North championship game.

BDN FILE

Brewer High School's Meg Davis pitches against Skowhegan Area High School in May 2014.

He then returned to basket- kids it was the first time they ball after a year off, coming off the bench to help the Witches finish 15-5 and advance to the regional semifinals.

"The little things really meant a lot more to me, for sure," he said. "I didn't play much my sophomore year, and then I didn't play last year, so this year was really my only chance. My first varsity points came this year. I had eight points against Skowhegan and I never score, so to have eight points in a game was huge for me.

Danny and Meg also helped coach the school's unified basketball team from January to March. Unified basketball matches athletes with developmental disabilities with nonvarsity teammates.

'They're kids you'd see in the hallway, but we didn't really know them and they never had the chance to play before," Meg, who began softball pitcher-and-catcher tryouts this week, said. "But they love to play, and now you see them in open gym playing with us when they can. I know with a couple of

were able to be on a team, so it was a really great experience to be part of that."

And Reed Davis, often the glue among the triplets as they coped with their individual adversities, ran his first sub-five-minute mile during indoor track season and is playing the lead role in the Brewer High School Drama and Brewer Youth Theatre production of "The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza."

"It was definitely hard to get through all of it," he said. "Nothing was constant in our life at that point, and being triplets we had been always going through the same things our whole lives. I don't think any of us would have been able to get through it like we did if we didn't have each other to lean on whenever things got hard — which they did a lot.

'But we had each other, he continued. "I think it would have been different if we weren't triplets but just siblings, because I do think we have a different connec-

Cooper

Continued from Page B4

all draft pick in 2013. "They were really, really happy with him. The D-line coach Brentson Buckner I kind of knew and was full of praise. He said he was already a leader. He was dominating in practice. They were really high on him. He was performing at a high level in the preseason. Then he breaks his leg. And this is something he never had to deal with.

"And when he came back, it just seemed to me that whether he rushed back or not, but that he mentally was having a hard time just cutting loose. He was favoring the leg, whatever you want to say it is, and that bothered people there.'

Just as soon as he healed from the broken leg, he came down with turf toe in 2014.

Already burdened with the expectations of being a high draft pick, Cooper's struggles to stay on the field drew an extra level of criticism.

"That's when you have people questioning things," Kapilovic said. "I even saw they put some articles out about him underachieving. To be honest, in my opinion, that's not the way to reach or motivate Jonathan. He already ridicules himself enough. That's just not the way to motivate the guy, but I understand it's the business there. So it seemed like it just got on the wrong side over there. The injuries were creeping up.

Every time he recovered from one injury, there was another one around the corner. Whether it was a wrist or a knee, the 6-foot-2, 311-pounder just couldn't stay on the field.

It took a mental toll.

'When he was here with us, he was never hurt, so it was something he never experienced," Kapilovic said. "I think the other ones were bad luck-type injuries. Just knowing him, his care factor is very high. And I could just see it was crushing him that he's hurt, that he's letting them down and just being a lot on his shoulders, if that makes sense.'

गेरोरिं छेर्जं THE CONTEST YOU WAIT ALL WINTER TO ENTER Win the **BDN Outdoors Drift Boat Trip with** the BDN's own John Holyoke and Dan Legere of the Maine Guide Fly Shop. Enjoy an all day drift boat trip down the Kennebec River on Sun., June 19, 2016. (Father's Day) ENTER TO WIN Fill out this form to enter. For complete contests rules visit http://tinyurl.com/jys6pdp Name Address: Zip: DRIFT BOAT Telephone: Do you currently subscribe to the Bangor Daily News? ☐ YES ☐ NO Return to: Win a Fishing Trip with JOHN HOLYOKE c/o Bangor Daily News, P.O. Box 1329, Bangor, ME, 04402 or drop at the Bangor Daily News.

*contact info may be used for marketing/BDN promotions in the future

UMaine

Continued from Page B4

matchup on the second day by being able to utilize its top starting pitcher in addition to being more well-rest-

Teams coming out of the Nos. 3-6 positions also are likely to have to demonstrate considerable pitching depth to survive the extra first-round game.

The seven-team America East also conducts an unbalanced regular-season schedule of 24 games. Teams play four of the six other schools once apiece, either home or away, then face two of the other squads twice each, home and away, for a total of six games.

That means that if a team's schedule happened to include six games against the two weakest programs in a given season, it would have an advantage in terms of qualifying for the tournament and receiving a higher

Including all six teams helps reduce that dynamic somewhat.

The new tourney format falls more in line with what's going on in Division I according baseball. Trimper.

'Most of the conferences in the country do exactly

College Baseball MAINE vs. BINGHAMTON

Time, site: 1 p.m. Saturday (2), 1 p.m. Sunday; Mahaney Diamond, Orono Records: Maine 5-15 (0-0 America East), Binghamton 4-14 (0-0) Series, last meeting: Maine leads 32-24, Maine 9-0 on 5/9/15

Key players: Maine — 3B Danny Casals (.303, 1 home run, 5 runs batted in, 5 stolen bases), CF Brett Chappell (.289-2-11-4), LF Colin Ridley (.288-2-11), RF yler Schwanz (.276-3-13), C Kevin Stypulkoski (.267-0-5); Binghamton Eddie Posavec (.317-0-8), 3B David Schanz (.310-0-10), C Jason Agresti (.295-0-7), 1B Brendan Skidmore (.288-3-11)

Pitching matchups: Maine — RH Jonah Normandeau (0-1, 3.66 earned run

verage), RH Justin Courtney (1-1, 1.44), RH John Arel (0-3, 5.04); Binghai - RH Rob Hardy (0-2, 6.35), RH Jake Cryts (0-3, 7.04), RH Mike Bunal (0-3

Game notes: The Black Bears hope to build on lessons learned during a rigorous early-season schedule as they open conference play against the Bearcats. UMaine crews cleared the snow off the diamond earlier in the week and Friday's icy coating was expected to melt off by Saturday afternoor UMaine has lost three straight and seven of its lost eight, including Sunday's 4-2 setback against Dartmouth in Florida. The Bears head into the series batting a paltry .239 and are averaging only 3.8 runs per game. Binghamton has won two of three after a six-game skid, most recently beating Bucknell 14-2 on Tuesday in its home opener. The Bearcats are hitting .278 (5.6 rpg), but have struggled on the mound. Binghamton has a bloated team ERA of 7.37 while allowing opponents to bat a combined .321

ences that had still kept the concept of a four-team tournament.'

Trimper pointed out that during the last 10 seasons, the America East regular-season champion had only claimed the tournament title on three occasions — securing the league's bid in the NCAA tournament.

Binghamton and Stony Brook each won three America East crowns in that span. UMaine owns two (2006 and 2011).

Trimper compared the setup to the major league's postseason that includes wildcard games and to the p.m. Sunday.

what we're doing," he said. NFL, which awards first-"We're one of the few confer- round playoff byes as incentive to the divisional win-

UMass Lowell, which is going through its fouryear transition to Division I athletics, is not eligible for postseason play or conference tournaments until 2017-2018. However, the America East tournament will be contested on the River Hawks' home field for the third time as part of a four-year arrange-

The Black Bears play their home opener against Binghamton in a doubleheader at 1 p.m. Saturday, followed by one game at 1