

# Defending champs seek newly named regional titles

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BDN STAFF

BELFAST — Boys cross-country teams from Hampden Academy, Caribou and Orono hope to use their championship efforts at their respective conference meets as the catalyst for successfully defending regional titles Saturday at the Troy Howard Middle School.

## HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

The Hampden and Mount Desert Island girls also will attempt to defend their 2014 Eastern Maine crowns at the newly named North regional championship meets.

Action gets underway with the Class A girls at 11 a.m., followed by Class A boys at 11:35, Class B girls at 12:10 p.m., Class B boys at 12:45, Class C girls at 1:20 p.m. and Class C boys at 1:55.

The top 50 percent of the teams in each field will qualify for the state championship meet to be held Oct. 31 at the Twin Brook Recreation Area in Cumberland, as will the top 30 individuals in each race.

**Class A:** The Hampden boys won the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class A meet last Saturday, paced by top-10 finishes from Paul Casavant (second), Wyatt Lord (fifth) and Will Webb

(ninth). Bangor was the runner-up, with Mathieu Ract (10th), Gabe Coffey (12th) and Adam Schwendt (17th) leading the way.

Mt. Blue of Farmington and Brunswick, which finished first and second just one point apart at the KVACs, should battle for the girls team title.

**Class B:** Caribou dominated the Penobscot Valley Conference large-school meet with a pack time of 52.8 seconds among its top five runners. They all were among the top eight finishers, led by the 1-2-3 punch of race winner Chathu Karunasiri, Evan Desmond and Tsion Macleod.

Waterville topped Belfast 55-90

for the KVAC Class B crown, with the victorious Purple Panthers sparked by race winner Nick Dall and fifth-place Billy Chambers.

MDI, the girls Class B state champion three of the last four years, edged Caribou and Presque Isle for the PVC title. Sophomore Emma Strong's third-place finish led the youthful Trojans, who had two other sophomores and a freshman among their top five finishers.

Waterville's Lauren Brown is favored to win the individual title after posting the fastest time of the KVAC meet regardless of class. She and runner-up Cecilia Morin led the Purple Panthers to a comfortable 52-75 team victory over second-

place Maranacook of Readfield.

**Class C:** Orono placed five runners among the top 10 while winning the PVC small-school boys title, with Matt Keresey, William O'Neil and Tristan Butterfield finishing 2-4-5.

George Stevens of Blue Hill will be among the Red Riots' top challengers after falling 24-32 to Orono at the PVCs. The Eagles feature junior John Hassett, who won the conference's individual title by nearly a minute last weekend.

Washburn, the Aroostook County small-school champion in both the boys and girls ranks, is among other teams hoping to challenge for top finishes at the regional.

## Orono

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"At first we were a little nervous seeing that they had entered the race the day before," added Orono classmate Tia Tardy, the lone non-LaSalle runner among the top five finishers with her fourth-place effort. "but I think they helped us by pushing us. It was cool to race them."

Coach Lin White's Red Riots should face no such surprises Saturday as the state's North regional championships are held on the same course.

The Red Riots put on a LaSalle-like performance in last year's Eastern C regional, with a 1-3 finish by junior Hannah Steelman and Dill pacing four Orono runners in the top six, along with fifth-place Olivia Fandel and sixth-place Liza Gallandt.

All four runners are back on a roster deepened by Tardy — second to Steelman at last year's regional while competing for Mattanawcook Academy of Lincoln — and freshman Camille Kohtala.

Tardy cited her interest in Orono's music program and related classes for transferring schools, so now instead of battling Steelman and Dill for top finishes, they are pursuing common goals.

"I found out she was com-

ing here and the initial thought was that it was going to be awesome for the team," said Steelman last weekend after Orono won its seventh straight Penobscot Valley Conference small-school girls team title. "It wasn't really focusing on the competition between us because of what we had last year, it was more focusing on that she was going to make our team better and that she's very talented so she was going to make us faster

and better in workouts.

"It was definitely a transition but it's been a transition for the best. She's been a wonderful addition to our team."

Orono's chief challenger at the Class C girls regional should be George Stevens Academy of Blue Hill. GSA placed second at the PVCs with sophomores Eliza Broughton, Zeya Lorio and Mary Richardson finishing 4-5-6 behind Tardy, Steelman and Dill.

## Ponies

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more aggressive offensively, we had an extra offensive player," she said. "In the second half we did the reverse. We put a defensive player back.

"What was happening in the first half was they had a player up and we kept getting beat, but we eliminated that, and it also gave more free rein to our center mid [Becca Anderson] to play more offensively minded."

Sophomore Emily Curtis got Foxcroft on the board after a restart with 19:10 left in regulation. Abbi Bourget sent a long pass across the field to Alli Bourget, and she stick-handled past two defenders before centering the ball to Curtis, who one-timed it inside the left post.

"All I was thinking was that I saw Alli on the other side, and it was coming across, and I just had to be there on the post like I always am," said Curtis. "I was thinking to myself that if I miss this I'm going to be so upset, but I was happy."

The equalizer came with 4:31 left when freshman Kylie Dow redirected a shot by Alli Bourget home from just in front of the cage.

"We just had to stay strong and keep the intensity up and keep pushing and pushing," said Abbi Bourget. "We really wanted this one."

## UMaine

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Shereesha Richards of UAlbany and AE Sixth Player of the Year Imani Tate, along with Elizabeth Belanger of New Hampshire.

Barron, the AE Coach of the Year, directed UMaine to a 23-9 record (14-2 in AE) during 2014-15. The Black

Bears reached 20 victories for the first time since the 2004-05 team, which advanced to the NCAA tournament.

UMaine, which was ranked as high as No. 19 in the College Insider Mid-Major Top 25 poll, also earned a spot in the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

UMaine's bid for an NCAA tourney berth ended with a loss to host Hartford

in the America East semifinals. The Black Bears build their success around their matchup zone defense, holding opponents to a league-low 54.5 points per game.

Wood, who is coming off recent knee surgery but is expected to be ready for the regular season, was named to All-America East First Team, the All-Defensive Team and was honored as the America East Co-Defen-

sive Player of the Year. She started all 32 games and averaged 13.8 points, 7.7 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 2.7 steals.

Koizar, who played her junior season of high school at Stearns High in Millinocket, continued her emergence while claiming All-America East First-Team recognition last season. She started all 32 games, posting double-figure scoring efforts

in 26 of Maine's 32 contests and averaging a team-high 14.3 points with 4.2 rebounds and 2.7 assists.

UMaine plays an exhibition game against Vanguard University on Nov. 6 in Gorham, then hosts Division II Stonehill in a Nov. 8 exhibition contest at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor.

UMaine opens the regular season Nov. 13 at Harvard of the Ivy League.

## ALCS

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Right fielder Jose Bautista fouled off four 97 mph fastballs on a full count before walking to load the bases. Designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion walked on a full count to force in a run and give Toronto a 2-0 lead.

Herrera replaced Volquez,

who was not pleased with some of the calls. Herrera struck out Colabello, but Tulowitzki cleared the bases with a double to center and Toronto led 5-0.

Estrada allowed his second runner of the game when he walked center fielder Lorenzo Cain with two outs in the seventh but ended the inning when first baseman Eric Hosmer flied out to left.

Cain was 0-for-3 to end a 13-game postseason hitting streak.

The Blue Jays added a run in the seventh on doubles by Donaldson and Bautista against left-hander Danny Duffy. Toronto scored again in the eighth on a single by Tulowitzki and a double by Pillar, who was out trying for a triple.

**NOTES:** With 15 hits in each of Games 3 and 4, the

Royals became the fourth team in postseason history to have 15 or more hits in consecutive postseason games and the first since the Los Angeles Angels in Games 2 and 3 of the 2002 World Series. ... The Royals' four sacrifice flies in their 14-2 win on Tuesday set a postseason record. SS Alcides Escobar became the sixth player with two sacrifice flies in a postseason

game. ... The 14-2 loss in Game 4 marked the second time the Blue Jays have allowed 14 runs in a postseason game. In Game 4 of the 1993 World Series, they defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 15-14. ... Blue Jays INF Cliff Pennington became the first position player to pitch in the postseason in the ninth inning on Tuesday when he allowed two hits in one-third of an inning.



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