



JANE MAVOR SMALL

Members of the Fort Fairfield Tigers celebrate with the Class D North trophy after beating Bangor Christian 2-1 in overtime in the final on Wednesday at Fort Fairfield.



DAVE ALLEN

Ashland's Laura Sturgeon, Alexis Craig, Savannah Flint and MacKenzie Carter celebrate the winning goal in overtime against Madawaska. Ashland won the Class D North regional final on Wednesday night 1-0.

Fort Fairfield boys, Ashland girls win crowns

BY KEVIN SJOBERG
PRESQUE ISLE STAR-HERALD

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

They both needed overtime, but the Fort Fairfield boys and the Ashland girls earned the opportunity to make the short trip to Presque Isle on Saturday to play for Class D state soccer championships.

The Tiger boys spoiled Bangor Christian's chance to advance to the state finals for the seventh consecutive year with a 2-1 victory Wednesday, while the Hornet girls are looking to earn back-to-back state titles thanks to their 1-0 win over Madawaska.

Coming in as the North's top seed, Fort Fairfield (16-0-1) will take on the South division's No. 1 team, Buckfield, at 5:30 p.m. at the Dr. Gehrig T. Johnson Athletic Complex at Presque Isle

Middle School. Ashland has a rematch against South champion Richmond in a 3 p.m. matchup.

In the boys game played Wednesday afternoon in Fort Fairfield, the Tigers found themselves behind just 4:47 into the contest, but battled back with a second-half goal to tie it and the game-winner 3:26 into the second overtime.

For the second consecutive game, freshman forward Jonah Daigle provided the heroics. Five days after scoring the only goal in the semifinal victory over Central Aroostook, Daigle did it again in the final in similar fashion, beating a defender down the right side and from near the end line, toeing in a shot that found the back of the net.

"He's an animal ... he just battles and comes out winning balls," said Fort Fairfield junior center midfielder Ryan Player, who assisted on Daigle's goal.

"[Jonah] was fatigued at the end, but he continued to put the pressure on," said Tiger coach John Ala. "I don't know how many 50-50 balls he won, but his effort definitely helped us get a win."

Johnathan Cormier had given No. 2 Bangor Christian (15-2) the early lead by skimming a beautifully placed corner kick by John Palmeter off his head and into the net.

With 33:46 left in the second half, Fort Fairfield sophomore Isaac Cyr dribbled in and ripped a left-footed shot from the top of the 18-yard line inside the left post and past a diving Austin Keib.

Fort dominated play throughout the second half and the overtime periods, as evidenced by a 16-5 advantage in shots on goal.

Keib finished with five saves on 20 shots, while the Tigers' Dalton Cassidy saved six of 12.

It is the Tigers' first re-

gional title since 1976 and snapped a streak of six in a row for the Patriots, who also won five state championships during the stretch.

"They have no weaknesses anywhere," said Patriot coach Aaron Wilcox, who praised the Tiger defense for its job marking up BC's high-scoring sophomore, Tyler Welch. Fort Fairfield junior Chris Giberson had the assignment.

"We like to possess it as much as possible and we didn't do a very good job of that today," Wilcox added, "but in a lot of spurts they outplayed us and I thought they were more hungry."

In the girls game, played at the same site as Saturday's state game because of the unplayable field in Ashland, the No. 3 Owls and top-seeded Hornets were in a scoreless tie through regulation and the first 3:15 of overtime before Morgan Doughty's free kick from 25 yards out bounced off the

head of a Madawaska defender and into the net.

"We have a set play on that and Morgan hit it hard and where she was supposed to," said Ashland coach Peter Belskis. "We just wanted her to put it in close and see what happens and were fortunate to get somebody's head and it ricocheted in."

The victory, which improved Ashland's record to 17-0, was also made possible due to the strong effort in goal by junior Megan Cote. She made three diving saves, including one off a Hannah Nadeau shot from 10 yards out with 5:40 left in regulation, to keep Madawaska off the scoreboard.

Cote, who collected six saves, came up with a big sliding stop in the first 10 minutes of the match, and she said that got her into the game early.

"I've never played like that before," Cote said. "It just motivates you so much

that you say, 'If I can do it once, I can do it all the time.'"

Madawaska (13-3-1) held the 13-12 advantage in shots and Owl coach Dan Cyr's ability to make multiple substitutions throughout made things tough for the Hornets.

"If that one goes another five minutes [in regulation], it would have been theirs because we were running out of gas," Belskis said.

The Owls' senior goalkeeper, Alexis Levesque, also displayed great hands from the start, thwarting several long Hornet shots with grabs in front of the goal.

Ashland defenders Laura Sturgeon, who marked Nadeau throughout, and Micayla Driscoll turned in brilliant performances as the Hornets picked up their 13th shutout. The Madawaska defense was also stellar in holding the high-scoring trio of Savannah Flint, Mackenzie Carter and Caitlin Paradis without a goal.



PETE WARNER | BDN

Bangor back Maddie Symonds (left) looks to clear the ball as teammates Maeve Harrigan (20) and Megan Conner look on during Wednesday's Class A North girls soccer final in Rockport. The Rams beat Camden Hills 3-2.

A Girls

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"I just turned and took a shot on net," Cormier said. "I was like, this is my left (foot), I don't know if it's going to be good or not. It was pretty good, I guess."

Butler, Grace Morris, Sarah Bragg, Libby Spekhardt and Luci Clein provided energy and hustle to help turn the tide. Camden Hills grabbed the

lead 10:03 into the game when Anderson got behind the defense off a pass from Gutheinz and beat Gilmore low to her left from 6 yards out.

Bangor tied it 8:37 later when Morris pounded a 25-yard chip that ricocheted off the crossbar, down off a defender and in.

The 'Jammers went back in front six minutes later as Gutheinz's perfectly placed through-ball sent the speedy Anderson in for a breakaway goal.

Lewiston shuts out Hampden in final

BY JUSTIN PELLETIER
SUN JOURNAL

LEWISTON — It was an all-Blue-Devils-on-deck sort of night for the Lewiston boys' soccer team

BOYS SOCCER

With a second straight regional title on the line, and playing without one of its top players, Lewiston had to rally the troops to earn a return trip to the Class A state championship game.

"They really wanted to do this for [Abdulkarim Abdulle]," Lewiston coach Mike McGraw said. "They stepped it up and filled the gaps the way they wanted to. They played inspired for him, and also for themselves, because they wanted to return back to the state final."

Lewiston earned that return trip and won a second consecutive Class A North championship with a 4-0 win over Hampden Academy. The Blue Devils will face Scarborough at Fitzpatrick Stadium in Portland on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. in the state final.

The Blue Devils were playing without Abdulle, an all-conference and all-regional midfielder after he was issued a red card in a regional semifinal win over Bangor and had to miss the regional final. Lewiston's goal Wednesday was to play well enough without him and earn another game.

"I'm going to be so happy to see [Abdulle] back out on the field and doing what he does," McGraw said. "He's such a smooth and deceptively fast player sometimes. It will be great to see those guys play together one more time. For a coach, that's going to be a nice thing to watch and be there to be part of."

Senior Mohamed Abdulsalan started in place of Abdulle in the midfield. He played poised and steady and did a nice job defending and moving the ball the other way. Meanwhile, Hassah Qeyle and Noralddin Othman filled in on the offensive side. Both had goals while Othman also had an assist.

"Abdulsalan stepping in, he's more of a poised, smooth

and controlled player," McGraw said. "He likes to drift back and be more defensive and opportunistic offensively. He takes the shot when he's got it. Qeyle, he's more of a dynamic, change of pace and direction type of player with a lot of control. Noralddin is somewhere in between. They really did a nice job filling in and playing different roles."

Abdulle's absence forced Lewiston into a more defensive position, but the Blue Devils' potent offense still produced. In addition to Othman's goal and assist, Abdi Shariff had a goal and two assists. Maslah Hassan had a goal and an assist. Lewiston now has 113 goals on the season.

The first two goals came with 4:44 left in the first half and 4:44 into the second half. That combination proved to be a backbreaker for the Broncos (13-4).

"You could say we were almost successful," Hampden coach Josh Stevens said. "The goal was to try to get to halftime and if we're level at 0-0, that could be a springboard for us and maybe build

some momentum. We wanted to put them in a position that they're not used to. That's what it's really all about — try to do something that makes them uncomfortable."

Lewiston (17-0) outshot Hampden 11-2 in the first half but missed a number of good opportunities, including a post that Maslah Hassan hit 30 seconds into the game. With Abdi Shariff playing back in the middle, he attacked less, but Lewiston still produced a steady pressure.

Late in the opening half, Shariff sent the ball ahead and sprung Othman for an open look.

Lewiston poured it on in the second half, outshooting Hampden 16-0. A free kick by Shariff produced a rebound that was buried by Qeyle. That 2-0 lead was tough for the Broncos to overcome.

Lewiston added two more goals 3:28 apart. Maslah Hassan did a nifty tip of the ball toward a breaking Shariff for a goal with 26:58 left. Then Othman made a nice pass to Maslah Hassan for a goal with 23:30 left.



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

Bucksport's Meaghan Goodine (left) gets tripped up while trying to stop a pass from Orono's Brinsley Chasse during their Class C North girls soccer championship game at Orono on Wednesday.

C Girls

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Lopez-Anido made it 4-0 with a low 16-yard shot off a Fridtun pass and Murphy capped the scoring after Fridtun chested a Lopez-Anido cross into her path.

"They were a lot more organized than they were in our regular season games (6-1, 4-0

wins). They made it more difficult. We had to work hard together and get passes to feet," said Lopez-Anido.

Dyjak said Riots junior midfielder Lizzie White was "spectacular. She won balls everywhere and passed really well."

Coombs finished with 11 saves and Bennett, sweeper Emily Hunt and back Mackenzie Smith turned in impressive performances for the Bucks.

Pacers rally past Celtics in final seconds

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

INDIANAPOLIS — Guard Monta Ellis made two free throws with 13.7 seconds remaining, breaking a tie, and the Indiana Pacers rallied for a 100-98 victory against the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night in Bankers' Life Fieldhouse.

Boston had an opportunity to win on its final possession, but guard Avery Bradley missed a 3-pointer, closely guarded by Paul George.

George, who had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Jordan Hill, who added 16 points, led a fourth-quarter comeback.

A basket from Jonas Jerebko and a 3-pointer from Thomas gave Boston a 79-78 lead with 8:51 remaining. An Evan Turner 3-pointer at the 7:44 mark pushed the Celtics' lead to 82-78.

Indiana (2-3) took an 83-82 lead on a Rodney Stuckey 3-pointer at the 7:08 mark, and two George Hill free throws at 6:44 put the Pacers up 85-82.

Guard Isaiah Thomas led Boston (1-3) with 27 points, and Bradley added 21.

A 3-pointer from George with 10:08 remaining in the third quarter pushed the Pacers into a 55-46 lead, but Boston countered with an 8-2 run to pull within 57-54 with 8:39 left in the period.

David Lee's three-point play with 45.4 seconds left in the quarter cut Indiana's lead to 73-72 through 36 minutes. Boston outscored Indiana

29-24 in the third quarter. Thomas had 14 second-quarter points for Boston, which outscored Indiana 27-26 in the period to close within 49-43 through 24 minutes.

Indiana, which got 15 first-half points from George, shot only 32.1 percent (17 of 53) during the first two quarters, but the Pacers rebounded Boston 32-27 in the opening half while forcing 13 turnovers, which Indiana converted into 15 points.

scoring chances.

A long throw-in by Reed led to Erskine's first goal of the match, as his entry from the left wing reached the near post where it bounced before teammate Tristan Hubbard — the coach's son — was able to direct it into the net with 35:47 left in the first half.

Play remained largely even until Erskine doubled

its lead midway through the second half when Peabody tracked down a long kick from the Eagles' defenders and scored from the right side with a sharp-angled shot that eluded Ellsworth goalie Bruce St. Peter and rolled inside the far post.

"It was just a missed kick by the defense and it happened to roll right where I wanted it

to go," said Peabody. "I scuffed it a little bit, I was lucky it got into a corner."

Colby Clarke halved the deficit on a penalty kick with 12:19 left, but Ellsworth was unable to generate any subsequent chances in the final minutes.

Erskine outshot Ellsworth 12-10, with Cullivan making five stops and St. Peter four.