

Edward Little's last-minute rally stuns Cheverus

BY ERNIE CLARK
BDN STAFF

AUGUSTA — Fourth-seeded Edward Little of Auburn outscored No. 5 Cheverus 46-43 in a Class AA boys basketball quarterfinal Thursday evening at the Augusta Civic Center.

Cheverus ended its season with a 9-10 record. Cheverus took the lead midway through the fourth quarter and seemed on its way to victory, up 43-36 after an inside basket by Andrew Roberts with 1:08 remaining. But the Stags, who were hampered by 20 turnovers during the contest, struggled to maintain possession during the final minute against full-court defensive pressure Edward Little applied in an effort to come back.

C.J. Jipson made two free throws for Edward Little after grabbing an offensive rebound to cut the gap to 43-38 with one minute remaining, and Jared Norcross Plourde followed in his own miss after a Cheverus turnover to make it a one-possession game with 38.2 seconds to play.

Norcross Plourde then stole an inbound pass after a Cheverus timeout — his fifth steal of the game — and scored uncontested to narrow the deficit to 43-42 with still 33 seconds left.

After Cheverus forward Jack Casale missed the front end of a one-and-one with 19.9 seconds to go, Norcross Plourde scored on a drive to give Edward Little a stunning 44-43 lead.

Cheverus had one last possession, but Jipson stole an inbound pass from midcourt with 6.9 seconds left and drove for an uncontested layup for the game's final points.

Norcross Plourde finished the game with 20 points, 10 in the fourth quarter, and guard Samatar Iman added nine points and Jipson dished out five assists.

Casale led Cheverus with 16 points and 15 rebounds. Roberts had 11 points and seven rebounds, and Austin Boudreau scored six points and had six assists.

Darby Shea's buzzer-beating 3-pointer from the left corner kicked off a 15-4 Edward Little run that gave the Red Eddies a 21-15 advantage.

Edward Little had early trouble getting inside Cheverus' 2-3 zone, but two 3-pointers by Shea and a similar long-range shot by Iman made the difference during a first half when each team's offense was hindered by nine turnovers.



AMBER WATERMAN

Edward Little's C.J. Jipson (right) tries to steal the ball from Cheverus' Jack Casale early in the fourth quarter of their Class AA boys quarterfinal basketball game on Thursday at the Augusta Civic Center. Edward Little won 46-43.

Hampden

Continued from Page B4

Conor Moore, Nick Chasse and Zach Boss provide Hampden a physical, veteran presence with tons of postseason experience.

"The big things for us as a staff was making sure to find things to keep the kids very motivated, and also managing injuries," said Bartlett. "Getting everything in and being careful with the guys who have to play a boatload of minutes have been the big things, and so far we've managed."

Hampden's biggest challengers in Class A North figure to be Brewer and Medomak Valley of Waldoboro, the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds, respectively.

Brewer (14-4) boasts one of the state's most versatile big men in senior Matt Pushard, a 1,000-point scorer who ranks among the top scorers and rebounders in the region. Senior guard Carter Smith has teamed with Pushard to provide coach Clayton Blood's Witches a potent 1-2 scoring punch.

Medomak Valley (15-3) has won two Class B regional titles in the last

three years and came within a split second of winning the state crown last winter. Senior forward Nicholas DePatsy leads the Panthers with a diversified all-around game that has pushed him past 1,000 career points. Junior center Cameron Allaire is a top inside threat for veteran coach Nick DePatsy, who recently secured his 300th career victory.

"There will be an upset in the first round," said Bartlett. "You just hope it's not you."

While Hampden looms as the consensus favorite in Class A North, the B North race has been unpredictable since early December.

Old Town, 43-5 in its last 48 games overall with a state championship run in 2014, finished 15-3 to emerge as the No. 1 seed for the tourney, which begins Friday at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor.

But No. 2 Ellsworth (14-4) is the hottest team in the division, as its seven-game winning streak includes victories over No. 3 Washington Academy (16-2) of East Machias, No. 4 Orono (14-4), No. 5 Mount Desert Island of Bar Harbor (14-4), No. 6 Caribou (10-8) and Class C North top seed George Stevens Academy of Blue Hill (17-1).

"I think that with the teams that

are left at the top, it's going to be hard for any team to win three in a row," said Old Town coach Brian McDormand. "The team that wins three games in Bangor is going to have to work and be on top of their game because there's not going to be any easy games."

George Stevens hopes to avenge its unfulfilled postseason of a year ago when the Eagles won their last 15 regular-season games before being ousted in the Eastern C quarterfinals.

Coach Dwayne Carter's club extended its regular-season win streak to 31 games this winter before a 60-58 loss at Ellsworth on Feb. 2, and with two wins over both No. 3 Bucksport (14-4) and No. 4 Lee Academy (15-3), the Eagles loom as a top choice to win their first regional title since 2003.

Fort Fairfield, the reigning Eastern D title holder, made a nearly seamless transition to Class C this winter under second-year head coach Logan McLaughlin.

The Tigers, led by guards Chris Giberson and Isaac Cyr, rebounded from a 1-3 start to finish second at 14-4 — with those four losses coming by a combined 11 points. Fort Fairfield must be wary of its quarterfinal with No. 7 Hodgdon, which handed the Ti-

gers two narrow defeats during the regular season.

Class D North looks like a four-team battle. Top-seeded Easton (16-2) leads three top Aroostook County contenders, with first-year coach Manny Martinez's Bears joined by No. 3 Southern Aroostook of Dyer Brook (14-4) and No. 4 Washburn (13-5).

Easton is 3-1 against those teams so far this season, sweeping two games from Washburn and avenging an opening-night loss at Southern Aroostook with a 66-43 win over the Warriors on Jan. 7 at "The Barn."

Leading the Down East Class D contingent is Machias, the second seed at 16-2. Coach Jim Getchell's Bulldogs feature a formidable front-line pairing in 6-5 sophomore Jacob Godfrey and 6-3 junior James Mersereau.

Greenville (13-5) earned the No. 4 seed in Class D South, with coach Bill Foley's Lakers matched up against No. 5 A.R. Gould (10-8) of South Portland in the quarterfinals. No. 1 Valley of Bingham, at 17-0 and one of two unbeaten boys basketball teams left statewide along with Hampden, looms as the favorite in the division.

Biathlon

Continued from Page B4

"Biathlon is important to the region in many ways," she said.

The event brings an influx of customers to hotels, shops and eateries while also reminding residents that cross-country skiing in the U.S. started in the region, when the Swedes settled here in the late 1800s.

It also is a largely volunteer effort led by the Nordic Heritage Center, a four season recreational park, with more than 500 people from near and far chipping in with everything from security to food preparation.

"The region's ability to provide the volunteers speaks highly of The County's can do mentality," said Martin Puckett, Presque Isle's city manager. "It's also inspirational to see these world class athletes and the dedication it takes to perform at such high levels. I hope to see some of the children watching today become future participants."



Earn Up to \$500 Off!

Plus!

BUY ANY CAR AND EARN YOUR OWN FREE THROW REBATE!

Buy any car between now and Saturday, February 27th and shoot to earn your Free Throw Rebate! Each successful foul shot is worth \$100 off the previously agreed upon price.

FOR EVERY VEHICLE PURCHASE DURING THIS SALE WE WILL DONATE \$100 TO A HIGH SCHOOL OF YOUR CHOICE FOR PROJECT GRADUATION!

Brand new 2015 Ram 1500 Tradesman ST 4X4 w/Protection Group, UConnect, Back-Up Camera, HEMI

Buy for \$33,638

22% off MSRP!

Price includes \$5,987 Discount, \$3,000 in Rebates, \$500 Chrysler Capital Rebate (must finance with Chrysler Capital. Must qualify). Buy for price includes doc fee. Tax, title extra. MSRP \$43,125, Stock #606264



RAM

Brand new 2015 Ram 1500 SLT Quad Cab 4X4 w/5.7L V8 HEMI, Remote Start

Buy for \$32,352

Price includes \$6,783 Discount, \$3,500 in Rebates, \$500 Chrysler Capital Rebate (must finance with Chrysler Capital. Must qualify). Buy for price includes doc fee. Tax, title extra. MSRP \$43,135, Stock #606437

25% off MSRP!

Brand new 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan SE 3.6L 7 Passenger 2nd Row Bucket Seats w/Fold-in-the-Floor, UConnect, Power Windows

Buy for \$17,999

Price includes \$3,426, Discount, \$3,500 in Rebates. Buy for price includes doc fee. Tax, title extra. MSRP \$24,725, Stock #605700



DODGE

DARLING'S CHRYSLER DODGE RAM
439 WESTERN AVENUE • AUGUSTA
DARLINGS.COM | 1-877-457-3715

Darling's
www.darlings.com

DARLING'S AUTO MALL • RAM DODGE
16 KINGSLAND CROSSING • ELLSWORTH
DARLINGS.COM | 1-877-457-3730