

First round of basketball playoffs

Cavaliers, Coyotes get a bit defensive

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Casey Welty scored 27 points to push red-hot Wootton past Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Saturday, 56-40, in the first round of the 4A West Region.

The senior's season-high point output was 12 higher than his previous season-best, but illustrates what made the Patriots a title contender. Their top six rotational players have each been the team's scoring leader in at least one game this season, with five of them going 6-foot-3 or more.

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"We're a really scary team to play right now," said point guard Freddy Vance after the game. "We play all five positions. We can do everything. ... There's no one we can't beat if we're playing our game."

• Jake Eskin scored 10 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter Saturday as Churchill flipped an eight-point second-half deficit into a 59-49 victory over Walter Johnson.

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Wootton's Jack Weis (right) tears the ball away from B-CC's during the Patriots' 4A West Region first-round playoff win S

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BOYS

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The senior guard did it in front of his future college coach at Susquehanna (Pa.) University, while not at his physical best.

"I didn't know he was sick until after the game was over and he was throwing up in the toilet," Churchill coach Matt Miller said. "To see him after the game just shows the kid is real tough."

• Before the season, Northwest head coach Jesse Irvin declared his team had "regional championship potential," based on its returning pedigree and the way the 2008-09 season ended. Though Myles Petretti was a senior on that team, the Montgomery College freshman texted Irvin days before the Jaguars'

30 football game. That loss essentially knocked Clarksburg out of the playoffs, and pushed its archrival in.

"It's the only team we wanted to beat this year," said senior Sam Collins, an All-Gazette first-team cornerback during the fall. "To beat them three times ... it's the best feeling."

Through the weekend, the Coyotes have won 12 games this season, three more than their previous three seasons combined. Their defense keyed their two latest defeats of Damascus, allowing just one fourth-quarter point Feb. 17 and two in their playoff matchup until the final 30 seconds.

• Northwood's Ed Dyson put his team on his back Friday, just as he has all year. The county's fifth-leading scorer put in 30 points, accounting for 10 — including several assists