

# First round of basketball playoffs brings out the best

## Wootton, Coyotes out defensive

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Wootton scored 27 points to outpace Wootton past Bethesda Chase on Saturday, 56-40, in the first round of the 4A West

Wootton's senior season-high point total, 12 higher than his previous best, but illustrates what makes the Patriots a title contender. Six rotational players have been the team's scoring leader, with one player leading this season. Five of them are 6-foot-3 or

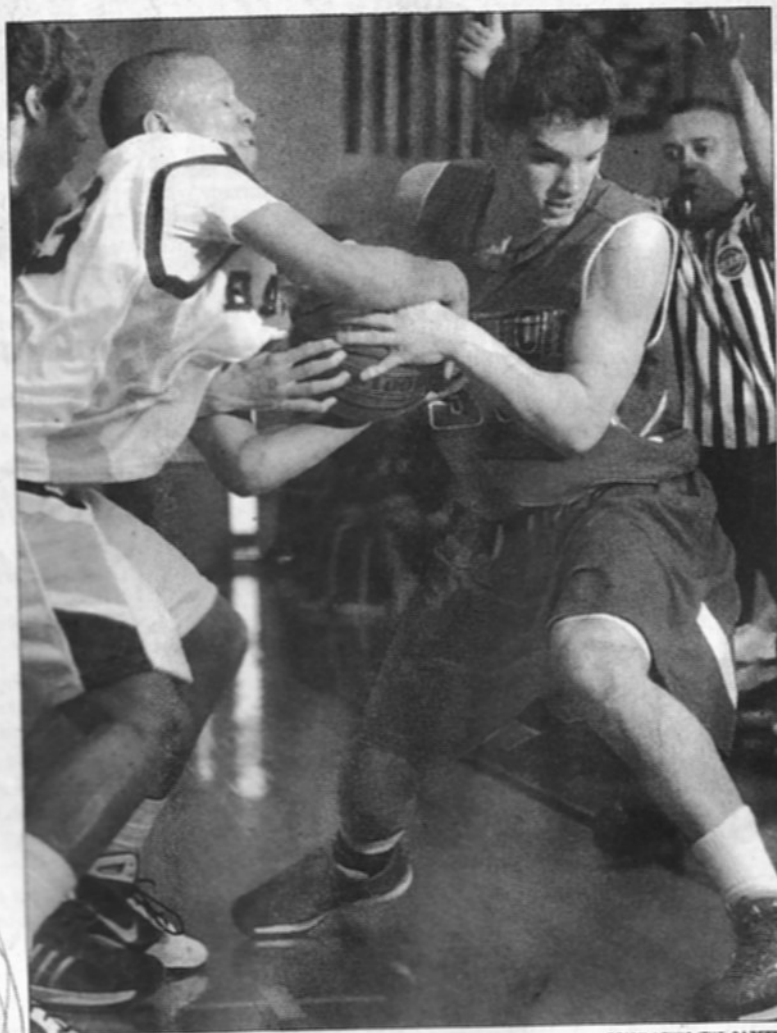
HOOPS.NET

Web site offers daily playoff coverage. See Page D-3.

"a really scary team to play," said point guard Freddy Johnson. "We play all five positions. We can do everything... one we can't beat if we're not ready for the game."

Johnson scored 10 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter Saturday as Wootton flipped an eight-point deficit into a 59-49 victory over Blair Johnson.

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BRIAN LEWIS/THE GAZETTE

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

## Unheralded heroes emerge in Class 4A

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Arguably the hottest team in Montgomery County got a big finish from one of the 4A West Region's hottest players.

Junior Gabby Flinchum scored eight of Wootton's final 11 points in her team's come-from-behind, 56-52 victory over Blair on Friday. All told, she finished with 14 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks.

"In the first half, I could not make a layup to save my life," Flinchum said. "I was so frustrated. But I knew

### PLAYOFF COVERAGE

The quarterfinal round was played too late for this edition. Coverage is available online.

we had to win this game. We have one senior [Danielle Khattar] and we had to win this for her. ... I had that mindset. 'We are not going to lose.'"

Flinchum has been the driving force behind the Patriots' late surge. They have now won five of their last six, beginning with an upset of Gaithersburg. During that span, the 6-foot-3 center has averaged 18 points per game.

Magruder's Amanda Witmer

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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' 87-67 victory over Magruder on Sat-

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 — in the final three minutes, to carry the Gladiators past Einstein, 67-

## GIRLS

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scored her 1,000th point as a high-schooler Friday, but it was her supporting cast that eventually pushed the Colonels past Richard Montgomery, 59-55.

With her school's fans paying homage with "Witmer Maniac" T-Shirts, the junior guard scored 32 points to keep Magruder in the game. Freshman Jen Gruber provided the winning points, however, with two free throws to put her team up for good. Gruber and forward Toya Thompson combined for 18 points and 20 rebounds.

"They turned a corner this week," said Magruder coach Erin Borsody. "And I think they finally found it, and they finally get it."

Little-used Delilah Berhane was averaging just more than two points

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