

# Devils two wins from a landmark

## ■ Springbrook has tough road to repeat

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STAFF WRITER

The Springbrook boys basketball team (25-0) has a chance this week to do something that has not been done since the state's reclassification in 1989: win back-to-back Class 4A state titles. In fact, only twice before has a team repeated in the state's largest school grouping, and not since Prince George's Northwestern did it in 1967 and '68.

Winners of 35 in a row dating back to last season, the Blue Devils have almost no weaknesses. They have size, athleticism, shooters and ball-handlers, not to mention the best defense in Montgomery County. They looked in championship form on Saturday, rolling Montgomery 4A East Division champion Quince Orchard, 65-51, in a regional-final matchup.

Springbrook coach Tom Crowell only sees one Achilles' heel.

"I was so mad at our free-throw shooting," he said, after the Blue Devils shot just 18 of 39. "We get after them all the time. I tell them, 'You can't win in the playoffs if you don't knock them down.'"

In truth, Springbrook might have bigger fish to fry. Its opponent on Thursday will be 4A North champion Walbrook (22-3), arguably the first Blue Devils opponent this season who can match their athleticism.

The Baltimore County school features two of the state's best players. Six-foot-4 all-everything senior Donte Stuckey is the leader, a combo guard who scored 17 points in the Warriors' 73-

## 4A STATE SEMIFINAL

Thursday, 9 p.m. at Comcast Center

### ■ Springbrook

Location: Silver Spring

Head coach: Tom Crowell

Players to watch: F

→ Jamal Olasewere, G  
→ Jeremy Williams, G  
→ Chris Carter

### ■ Walbrook

Location: Baltimore

Head coach: Kevin Bridges

Players to watch:

G Donte Stuckey, F  
Roscoe Smith

44 victory over North Carroll in Friday's 4A North Region final.

The other is a player the likes of which Springbrook has never seen: Roscoe Smith. Recruiting database Rivals.com lists the statuesque junior as the No. 11 player in the entire Class of 2010. Despite a 6-8 frame, he's got guard skills and exceptional athleticism, seen in numerous online videos.

"Walbrook is a good team, man," said Crowell. "I know they've got those guys Stuckey and Smith, I think it is? That's going to be a tough, tough game."

Of course, Springbrook has some rare talent of its own. Power forward Jamal Olasewere (19.1 points per game) is the most agile big man in the county, and was dominant against QO (25 points, 18 rebounds, five blocks, four steals).

The winner of Thursday's game will take on either Thomas Stone or Prince George's County's Wise, who square off in the state's other semifinal.