

# Cushingberry leads Bulldogs past Troy

By George Pohly

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**ROCHESTER** — Is Blake Cushingberry Mr. Basketball?

No player from Macomb County has ever won the award that is presented to the top senior in Michigan, but Romeo's 6-foot-4 star gave a performance Wednesday night that got the attention of Troy coach Gary Fralick.

"He's a solid player. He's a great Mr. Basketball candidate," Fralick said after Cushingberry scored 29 points and took five re-

## Class A Boys Basketball

bounds to lead the Bulldogs to a 55-48 victory over Fralick's turnover-prone Colts in a Class A district semifinal game at Rochester Adams.

"He's absolutely a (rival) coach's worst dream ever," Fralick said. "We went 2-3 zone, 1-2-2 zone. We went man to man. I don't think too many people can cover him man to man.

"He goes down low, he goes outside. He's a great passer. It will be interesting to see how he does the rest of the tournament. Maybe somebody else has a better idea about defending him than I did."

Cushingberry, an Oakland University recruit, showed the full range of his ability against Troy.

He scored on a pair of dunks and made two 3-point field goals. He had a hand in the Bulldogs' first 10 points, scoring eight and assisting on a bucket.

A right-handed shooter, Cushingberry showed he can dribble with either hand and that he's strong enough to clear out for rebounds or back his way down the lane for offensive opportunities.

"He's a handful for anybody," Fralick said. "We needed to hold him under 20."

Cushingberry's second 3-pointer of the game barely beat the third-quarter buzzer, capped an 18-4 surge and gave Romeo a 41-23 lead that the Bulldogs built without the benefit of a single free throw attempt.

But Troy, led by senior guard Vance Kirkwood, went on a 16-5 run in the first 3:54 of the fourth quarter to cut the Bulldogs' lead

to 46-39.

Again, Romeo turned to Cushingberry. He scored on a double-clutch layup and was fouled, adding the free throw to give the Bulldogs a 49-39 lead with 3:40 to go.

Cushingberry then scored the Bulldogs' next three points on foul shots as Macomb Area Conference Red Division champion Romeo raised its record to 18-3 and moved into Friday's district final against Rochester.

Kirkwood finished with 18 points. He made four triples in the fourth quarter. Kirkwood and Will Schwarz had six rebounds apiece for the Colts, who finished with a 16-6 record.

Cushingberry dunked off an alley-oop pass by Nick Kosovich and added a two-handed dunk off a breakaway in the second quarter.

Kosovich chipped in with seven points in the second quarter as Romeo took a 23-19 lead into halftime.

Nate Saliga, a 6-7 junior, scored six points in the third quarter to help Romeo build what looked like a comfortable 18-point lead.

Dylan Kanagas, however, started the fourth quarter with a 3-pointer for Troy and then Kirkwood got hot as the Colts made a charge.

"We had to get back to guarding who we were supposed to guard," Cushingberry said, recalling the Bulldogs' adjustment to Troy's rally. "We were guarding (Kirkwood) all game and then the person who was supposed to guard him didn't stay with him."

The Bulldogs got too careless in the fourth quarter, coach Dale Teller said.

"Part of that is their style," he said. "And I guess it has something to do with my coaching. I try to let them go from time to time, but with an 18-point lead there are certain offenses we have to run. In that situation, we don't want to take a shot unless it's a layup."

"We talk about it, we talk about it and we talk about it some more. But you know how kids are."

And they've got Cushingberry, a four-year varsity player, as a fall-back plan.

**Romeo 55, Troy 48**  
 Romeo 10 13 18 14 - 55  
 Troy 8 11 4 25 - 48  
**ROMEO (18-3):** Nathan Saliga 8, Blake Cushingberry 29, Rick Roth 3, Nick Kosovich 11, Kyle Maxwell

4. Totals: 22 (5) 6-8 55.

**TROY:** Drew Fairless 4, Alex Dorsey 8, Vance Kirkwood 20, Larry Lindsey 7, Dylan Kangas 5, Eric Cotton 5, Will Schwarz 4.

**CLASS A (Host Utica)**  
**UTICA 68, L'ANSE CREUSE 65:** Junior Mike Hollingsworth nailed seven triples on his way to a season-high 35 points to lead Utica (12-10).

With nine seconds left in the game, Chris Robinson grabbed a rebound off a missed free throw and was fouled. He proceeded to nail both attempts from the line to put Utica up one. Hollingsworth made a couple more free throws with less than a second to play to end the scoring.

The Chieftains, who lost two regular season meetings to the Lancers by eight points each time, found themselves behind 24-2 early in the second quarter.

**Utica 68, L'Anse Creuse 65**  
 L'Anse Creuse 16 13 15 21 - 65  
 Utica 2 18 18 30 - 68  
**L'ANSE CREUSE (13-8):** Alonzo Chambry 5, Martell Betts 6, Nick Kuczynski 2, Nick Carreri 16, Ryan Kennedy 5, Willie Cruz 27, Jimmy McKee 2, Herman Washington 2. Totals: 22 (3) 18-25 65.

**UTICA (12-10):** Jason Palazzolo 6, Chris Robinson 5, Bryan Garbarino 12, Mike Hollingsworth 35, Jared Williams 6, Zef Berishaj 4. Totals: 23 (8) 14-27 68.

**EISENHOWER 58, STEVENSON 41:** Eisenhower took command of this district semifinal from the outset, outscoring Stevenson 16-3 in the first quarter. John Orlando led the Eagles with 14 points while Chuck Barone added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Jeff Roegner filled in admirably at point guard after starter Justin Brege got into foul trouble, contributing five assists and two steals. Corey Petros and Dragan Bijelic both had eight rebounds for Ike.

**Eisenhower 58, Stevenson 41**  
 Stevenson 3 10 14 14 - 41  
 Eisenhower 16 10 19 13 - 58  
**STEVENSON (2-19):** Jimmy Portell 10, Chason Yalley 4, Jerome Rucker 9, Nick Bennett 2, Jon Irons 8, Corey Stone 1, Mike Puzzuoli 7. Totals 14 (4) 9-16 41.  
**EISENHOWER (12-10):** Jeff Roegner 3, John Orlando 14, Justin Brege 4, Ryan Tomayko 6, Corey Petros 8, Michael Pandy 6, Dragan Bijelic 7, Chuck Barone 10. Totals: 20 (4) 14-23 58.

**(Host L'Anse Creuse North)**  
**ANCHOR BAY 59, PORT HURON NORTHERN 55, OT:** Matt DeSmet scored the first four points in overtime to lead the Tars to victory. DeSmet stole the tip off the jump ball and hit a foul-line jumper. On PHN's next possession, DeSmet jumped the passing lane and converted a layup.

DeSmet finished with 13 points to go with seven steals and three assists, while Adam

DeSmet pumped in 28 points, grabbed seven rebounds and had two steals.

**Anchor Bay 59, Port Huron Northern 55 (OT)**  
 Anchor Bay 6 15 16 14 9 - 59  
 Port Huron Northern 9 14 17 11 4 - 55  
**ANCHOR BAY (9-12):** Ray Dolman 8, Blair Montgomery 5, Adam DeSmet 28, Matthew Johnson 3, Rich Carlisi 2, Matt DeSmet 13. Totals: 21 (3) 14-23 59.

**PORT HURON NORTHERN (14-8):** Don Caluya 8, Spencer Thomas 17, Alex Hawkins 2, Jay Thames 15, Lance Cusac 13. Totals: 21 (3) 10-15 55.  
**L'ANSE CREUSE NORTH 75, PORT HURON 31:** Mike Nieman scored a game-high 18 points, and Erik Thompson added 13 points and five assists. Jacob Czarnecki grabbed eight rebounds for the Crusaders.

**L'Anse Creuse North 75, Port Huron 31**  
 Port Huron 7 9 11 4 - 31  
 LC North 19 28 13 15 - 75  
**PORT HURON (8-13):** Sampson Culpepper 2, Sam Seppo 8, Drake 8, Mike Page 4, Steve Sawher 1, David Foster 2, Chris Cotton 6. Totals: 13 (2) 2-8 31.

**L'ANSE CREUSE NORTH (16-6):** Erik Thompson 13, Mike Nieman 18, Calvin Curry 2, Erik Warren 1, Tracy Jackson 6, Josh Brogan 6, Jeff White 2, Seth Martin 3, Jacob Czarnecki 9, John Barrett 9, Jesse Schienke 4, Jesse Jakubowski 2. Totals: 27 (7) 14-25 75.

**CLASS B (Host Marine City)**  
**MOUNT CLEMENS 53, ST. CLAIR 41:** Zachary Arnold made three 3-pointers, including two in the first quarter to help Mount Clemens open up an early nine-point lead. Markell Harris also scored for nine points for the Bathers.

**Mount Clemens 53, St. Clair 41**  
 St. Clair 4 11 3 23 - 41  
 Mount Clemens 13 12 8 20 - 53  
**ST. CLAIR (7-14):** Joe Jepson 3, Alex Freeman 2, Troy Walker 2, A.J. Magee 17, Joe Seddon 5, Dan Etz 7. Totals: 13 (4) 11-16 41.

**MOUNT CLEMENS (14-8):** Charlie Mason 2, Timothy Dobner 2, Eric Williams 8, Jason Mork 6, Markell Harris 9, Austin Cook 1, Joshua Robinson 6, Zachary Arnold 9, Leonard Perry 8, Kristfer McGee 2. Totals: 21 (3) 6-13 53.

**(Host Capac)**  
**ARMADA 60, IMLAY CITY 55:** Juniors Damon Szafranski and Jared Wozniak each scored 16 points to help Armada advance to the district finals for the second straight year. Senior Jordan Krause scored 12 points, and sophomore Jake Moegle had 10 for the Tigers.

**Armada 60, Imlay City 55**  
 Imlay City 11 19 13 12 - 55  
 Armada 16 13 15 16 - 60  
**IMLAY CITY (9-12):** Ben Deppong 11, Adam VanDyk 8, Maldonado 3, Chris Coleman 9, Darren Saunders 15, Chris Walters 2, Mason Duke 4. Totals: 21 (4) 9-12 55.  
**ARMADA (13-9):** Jordan Krause 12, Tom Moore 2, Jake Moegle 10, Damon Szafranski 16, Adam Duncan 4, Jared Wozniak 16. Totals: 21 (4) 14-19 60.

**(Host Center Line)**  
**MADISON 62, DETROIT CROCKETT 58:** Mario Graham had a big night for Madison, putting up 18 points and 10 rebounds, and making a critical

block in the final seconds. Duane Marcellis added 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the MAC Gold champs, who take on Fitzgerald for the district championship on Friday.

**Madison 62, Detroit Crockett 58**  
 Madison 16 20 6 20 - 62  
 Detroit Crockett 12 13 13 20 - 58  
**MADISON (20-1):** Damion King 5, Duane Marcellis 15, Mario Graham 18, DeAndre Johnson 5, Dajuan Marcellus 2, Briahn Smith 11, Gerald Martin 6. Totals: 25 (1) 11-16 62.

**DETROIT CROCKETT:** Daniel Price 23, Tevin Fields 2, Jeremy Slaughter 2, Tony Lippett 10, Kiedez Foster 11, Bryan Jefferson 8, Darnell Campbell 2. Totals: 23 (5) 8-10 58.

**CLASS C (Host New Haven)**  
**DETROIT COMMUNICATION MEDIA ARTS 76, NEW HAVEN 37:** Devonier Braswell scored 21 points for CMA, which will play Detroit Loyola on Friday at 7 p.m. at New Haven. Eric Crayton led New Haven with 12 points.

**Detroit Communication Media Arts 76, New Haven 37**  
 Detroit CMA 16 25 19 15 - 76  
 New Haven 8 13 10 8 - 37  
**DETROIT CMA (9-8):** Devonier Braswell 21, David Alexander 10, Clark 8, Lamaun Scott 14, Tedford 5, Tim Bates 14, Page 4. Totals: 23 (5) 15-23 76.

**NEW HAVEN (5-17):** Tyler Smith 5, Darius Harris 6, Adam Berger 3, Michaelangelo Lee 5, Curtis Knox 2, Desmond Clark 4, Eric Crayton 12, Ricky Crayton 2. Totals: 11 (4) 3-11 37.

**CLASS D (Host Roeper)**  
**CONNER CREEK EAST 64, MACOMB CHRISTIAN 53:** Torell Holt led Conner Creek East with 14 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds. Brandon Brown scored 19 points, and Donavin Reed had 15.

**Conner Creek East 64, Macomb Christian 53**  
 Macomb Christian 6 15 17 15 - 53  
 Conner Creek East 11 11 25 17 - 64  
**MACOMB CHRISTIAN (4-17):** Christian Damell 7, Joel Battjes 7, Will Dillon 8, Tucker 25, Chris Moore 6. Totals: 21 (1) 10-14 53.  
**CONNER CREEK EAST (8-13):** Torell Holt 14, Donavin Reed 15, Tyrez Bush 11, Brandon Brown 19, Devens Williams 4, Elroy Danffin 2. Totals: 27 (5) 6-10.

**PARKWAY CHRISTIAN 51, ROEPER 50:** After Mitch Michalski made two free throws to put the Eagles up by three points, Roeper cut the lead to one with six seconds remaining and nearly escaped with a victory but missed two point-blank attempts right before the final buzzer.

Zurlon Tipton was stellar for the Eagles, scoring 25 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

**Parkway Christian 51, Roeper 50**  
 Parkway Christian 9 11 17 14 - 51  
 Roeper 16 11 5 18 - 50  
**PARKWAY CHRISTIAN (16-5):** Pat Lubeck 6, Larry Hauser II 9, Mitch Michalski 2, K.C. Bidingger 3, Zurlon Tipton 25, Matt Cooper 6. Totals: 17 (3) 14-17 51.

**ROEPER (14-8):** Ryan Zinser 13, Jake Micklely 11, Eddie Ewell 16, Dave Lauer 3, John Parker 2, Joel Kimpson 3, Cole Stason 2. Totals: 20 (5) 5-10 50.

## Girls Basketball Regionals

**CLASS A (Host Dakota)**

Feb. 26: Semifinals - Chippewa Valley 43, Fraser 40; Grosse Pointe North 62, Ford 46  
 Feb. 28: Championship - Chippewa Valley vs. Grosse Pointe North, 6 p.m.

**CLASS B (Host Detroit Renaissance)**

Feb. 26: Semifinals - St. Clair 66, Fitzgerald 41; Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day 54, Detroit Renaissance 43  
 Feb. 28: Championship - St. Clair vs. Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day, 7 p.m.

## Boys Basketball Districts

**CLASS A (Host Grosse Pointe North)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Grosse Pointe South 70, Lakeview 36; Grosse Pointe North 69, East Detroit 46  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals - Detroit Finney 52, Grosse Pointe South 29; Grosse Pointe North 93, Lake Shore 61  
 Feb. 29: Championship - Detroit Finney vs. Grosse Pointe North, 7 p.m.

**(Host Fraser)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Warren Woods-Tower 53, Warren-Mott 41; Roseville 63, Fraser 61  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals - Cousino 78, Warren Woods-Tower 59; De La Salle 58, Roseville 56  
 Feb. 29: Championship - Cousino vs. De La Salle, 7 p.m.

**(Host Rochester Adams)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Troy 59, vs. Rochester Hills Stoney Creek 46; Rochester 35, Rochester Adams 34  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals - Romeo 55, Troy 48; Rochester def. Troy Athens  
 Feb. 29: Championship - Romeo vs. Rochester, 7 p.m.

**(Host Utica)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Utica 70, Sterling Heights 56; Eisenhower 72, Ford 68 (OT)  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals - Utica 68, L'Anse Creuse 65; Eisenhower 58, Stevenson 41  
 Feb. 29: Championship - Utica vs. Eisenhower, 7 p.m.

**(Host L'Anse Creuse North)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Port Huron Northern 65, Chippewa Valley 51; L'Anse Creuse North 49, Dakota 46  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals - Anchor Bay 59, Port Huron Northern 55, OT; L'Anse Creuse North 75, Port Huron 31  
 Feb. 29: Championship - Anchor Bay vs. L'Anse Creuse North, 7:30 p.m.

**CLASS B (Host Center Line)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Fitzgerald 66, Center Line 50; Detroit Crockett 63, South Lake 61  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals - Fitzgerald 68, Lincoln 67; Madison 63, Detroit Crockett 58  
 Feb. 29: Championship - Fitzgerald vs. Madison, 7 p.m.

**(Host Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinal - Detroit Country Day 74, Clintondale 49  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals (At Bloomfield Hills Andover) - Detroit Country Day 59, Lamphere 25; Andover 59, Cranbrook Kingswood 44  
 Feb. 29: Championship - TBD, 7 p.m.

**(Host Marine City)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Mount Clemens 67, Richmond 58; Marysville 69, Marine City 53  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals - Mount Clemens 53, St. Clair 41; Marysville 50, Algonac 36  
 Feb. 29: Championship - Mount Clemens vs. Marysville, 7 p.m.

**(Host Capac)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Armada 76, Almont 63 (OT); Notre Dame Prep 56, Capac 54  
 Feb. 27: Semifinals - Armada 60, Imlay City 55; Notre Dame Prep def. Lutheran North  
 Feb. 29: Championship - Armada vs. Notre Dame Prep, 7:30 p.m.

**CLASS C (Host New Haven)**

Feb. 25: Quarterfinals - Detroit Loyola 62, Academy of Oak Park Mendota 55; Detroit Communication Media Arts 60, Harmer Woods 62; New Haven 51, Easton Academy 47