

Charlestown rolls to sectional title

Jeff Evening

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ELLETTSVILLE- "Yep, they were some badass mudders."

Playing in near swamp-like conditions, Charlestown dominated from the start to nearly the finish as it won the Class AAA, Sectional 23 title with a 32-16 decision over Edgewood Friday.

Charlestown (8-3) will enter regional play next Friday as it hosts Heritage Hills. Heritage Hills also advanced on Friday with a 61-21 victory over Evansville Memorial.

No one in their right mind could have predicted a sectional title for the Pirates at the beginning of the season. So when the final gun sounded the celebration began.

Players started by taking running, head first dives into the muck. Then they gathered around coach John Mastin with the chant of "shave," "shave," "shave."

Mastin then added to his list of sectional victory celebrations, such as the time he dove into an icy swimming pool by having a majority of his beard removed near midfield.

"No I'm not cold, I'm numb," Mastin said afterwards. "I'm not feeling anything. I don't know what to say. But it looks like I've been to the lawn barber. I've had this for 15 years.

"And I'm only as good as my coaching staff, and they're great. They do everything. I just get to sit back and play in the mud.

"But right now, the players believe in themselves, they're not selfish, and

they're playing well. At the beginning of the season, we wondered if we would even win a game."

Believing in themselves could have made all the difference during the game in two big momentum swings.

Edgewood (3-8) had taken the opening kickoff. On their third play from scrimmage, Robert Boltinghouse ripped off a 60-yard run to the Pirates eight-yard line.

But Boltinghouse fumbled on the next play. Mike Prichard recovered for the Pirates, putting the ball in the hands of quarterback John Bowen who responded with a 17 play, 86-yard drive which ended with Bubba Roberts taking the ball in from two yards out.

Bowen then completed a pass to John Fulkerson for the two point conversion, the 8-0 lead stood at the half.

Then, Edgewood forced the Pirates to punt on their first possession after half-time, but Chuck Deaton's kick pinned the Mustangs back at their own seven yard line.

Unable to move the ball, the crowd watched in disbelief as Edgewood decided to go for it on fourth and one from their own 15. Lining up in what people around these parts refer to as 'The Hawk', Mike Diekhoff's pass fell incomplete.

From only 15 yards out, Bowen needed only two plays as he hooked up with Deaton for a 13-yard touchdown pass.

Interceptions by Fulkerson and Roberts led to the Pirates next two scores, a six yard run by Fulkerson and a two yard run by Roberts to give the guests a 32-0 lead.

Edgewood scored two late touchdowns, possibly a result of losing middle line-



Charlestown's Chuck Deaton (48) congratulated a muddy Bubba Roberts after his second touchdown during Friday's high school sectional final.

backer Adam Call to a sprained ankle.

"Hopefully we'll have him back next week," Mastin said. "We've been playing

a lot better since we've had everyone back in their normal positions."

"It'll be ready Friday," Call responded.

STAFF PHOTO BY C.E. BRANNAMAN

Roberts totaled 137 yards on 26 carries. Boltinghouse totaled 199 yards on 29 carries.

Bowen completed 6 of 7 passes for 45 yards and Fulkerson picked up 50 yards rushing. Not outstanding games by either one, but good enough to keep the holes open for Roberts.

"When the pup runs, the dog gets to run," Roberts said. "And it's only appropriate that the 'hogs' (offensive line) got to play in the slop tonight."

"I didn't have a great game and Bowen didn't have to throw much," Fulkerson said. "But that just opened it up more for Bubba. And our offensive line played great."

So the team that's low in numbers, but big in heart will advance to the next round. To Roberts and Call, that's no surprise.

"Our group of seniors got together before the season and decided that this was going to be our year, no matter what," Roberts said.

"I never thought of leaving," said Call. "What we lost: that was just dead weight."

STATISTICS

	Down	Edge
First down	12	10
Yards rushing	275	275
Passes	6-70	0-0
Yards passing	45	0
Fumbles lost	3-1	2-1
Penalties yards	6-20	2-7
Points average	3-50	2-25

CHARLESTOWN	0	0	15	0	32
EDGEWOOD	0	0	0	15	15

Charlestown — Bubba Roberts, 2, run (John Fulkerson pass from John Bowen); Charlestown — Chuck Deaton, 13, pass from Bowen (Roberts run); Charlestown — Fulkerson, 8, run (Roberts run); Charlestown — Roberts, 2, run (Bowen pass); Edgewood — Mike Duckert, 34, run (Robert Boltinghouse pass); Edgewood — Boltinghouse, 4, run (Boltinghouse run).