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The Eagle bench erupts in the final seconds of a 74-72 victory over Vallivue on Friday night at Meridian High. Eagle won the 5A District Three boys championship, but both teams will play in the state tournament next week. **GO TO IDAHOSTATESMAN.COM/HIGHSCHOOLSPTS TO DOWNLOAD THIS PHOTO OR OTHERS AS YOUR COMPUTER'S WALLPAPER**

Eagle boys rally to upset Vallivue for district title

Mustangs erase an eight-point fourth-quarter deficit to defeat the top-seeded Falcons

BY JESSE ZENTZ

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Eagle High overcame an eight-point fourth-quarter deficit and stunned top-seeded Vallivue 74-72 to win the 5A boys basketball District Three championship Friday night at Meridian High.

The Mustangs (18-5), who lost twice to Vallivue during the regular season, beat the Falcons (20-3) with balance and the bench. Four players scored in double figures and backups contributed a combined 28 points.


"I think it was all just adrenaline," said junior forward Ben Van Lith, who led Eagle with 17 points and eight rebounds off the bench. "We just wanted to win really bad

and a lot of guys stepped up to make it happen."

Vallivue's Will Bogan, meanwhile, tortured Eagle with 31 points, but the heralded senior point guard couldn't save the Falcons with 2 seconds remaining. Bogan, who signed with Ole Miss in February, forced a 3-pointer between two defenders that fell short and into the hands of Eagle guard Dallas Yorgason.

The junior held the ball for a moment, and then tossed it toward the rafters as Mustangs fans, players and coaches erupted at the sound of the final buzzer.

"That was the best feeling," said Yorgason, who scored 14 points. "I looked at the

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clock and it was double zeroes. Oh that was so awesome."

The Mustangs play Centennial (11-12) at 3 p.m. Thursday in the opening round of the state tournament at the Idaho Center in Nampa. Vallivue will play either Lewiston (14-7) or Lake City (17-5) at 8 p.m.

"I think earning the right to play Centennial is a big advantage for us," Yorgason said. "We know what they do and we match up well against them."

Eagle beat Centennial in the district