Cabrillo rallies for win

Seahawks will face Canada in championship

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APTONS — The Cabrillo College men's basketball team knew that pressing on defense is a good thing. In the first round of the Cabrillo Tournament on Friday night, the Seahawks realized that pressing on offense isn't such a good idea.

Luckily for the Seahawks, they were able to rebound from a dismal first half and rally for a 62-58 win over Porterville.

Sophomore guard Markus Duran drained five of his six 3-pointers in the second half, including the go-ahead basket with 1:19 left. He finished with a team-high 18 points.

Duran's sixth 3 gave Cabrillo its first lead of the game after it trailed by as much as 16 points early in the second half.

"We only did one or two passes and then jack a shot up," Seahawks coach Tony Marcopulos said of the

RALLY

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george's 23 points, were a 71-47 winner over Butte in the first round Friday.

While Cabrillo needed some time to find itself on offense, it shined on defense against a Porterville team averaging 90 points a game. The Seahawks pressed Porterville so well that it would have less time in its half-court set and played a tight 2-1-2 zone throughout.

"A win is a win," Duran said. "We held them to 26 points. That's some good defense. We pressed really well there. When we do that it takes about 8 seconds, on average, off the shot clock, and forces them to rush things."

Porterville, like Cabrillo, boasts plenty of good shooters and an inside presence with 6-foot-6, 280-pound center Nate Brown.

Brown was sent to the bench with foul trouble with 13 minutes left in the game, and shortly after Cabrillo went on a 22-5 run to pull within one point, 40-39.

In addition to Duran, Seahawks forward Trevor English made some key baskets in the run.

Porterville caught its breath and pushed its lead back to nine, 56-47, but Darrell Espy and Duran keyed another run.

After Duran drained his go-ahead shot, Tyler Velasquez gave the Seahawks an insurance basket that helped ice the win.

"They didn't shoot well in the first half, but you have to figure they're at their gym," Porterville coach T.J. Jennings said. "So, of course, they're going to find it."

Espy finished with 15 points for Cabrillo, Guard Aliun Williams led Porterville with 13 points.