Canada squeaks by Cabrillo in final

By JIM SEIMAS
jseimas@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — For the second straight night, Cabrillo College’s men’s basketball team sleep-walked through the first half with a medley of errors, staged a furious rally and made things exciting down the stretch. This time around, it wasn’t a formula for success as the Seahawks fell to unbeaten Canada 75-73 in the championship game of the Cabrillo Tournament on Saturday night.

“Winning league is what it’s all about,” said Seahawks coach Tony Marcopulos after the loss. “They don’t give you a trophy for being 12-0 in preseason. We want to get better and peak at the right time. That’s what it’s all about.”

They did hand out trophies Saturday night, however. And Canada [8-0 overall] — led by tournament MVP Peter Pappageorge — seemed pretty happy to be holding the biggest one. The Seahawks also received a runner-up trophy.

No player was more excitable than the

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CABRILLO

Continued from C1

Colts’ Ibrahim Ali, who was uncontested in pulling down a clutch rebound with 20 seconds left after teammate Steven Sanders missed a pair of free throws.

Marcopulos called a timeout after Sanders’ first miss. And the Seahawks returned to the court having forgotten that fact, thinking Sanders still had two shots.

It was one of the late errors, but not the only one. Marcopulos said the Seahawks didn’t execute well and shot poorly. He also credited the Colts for busting his team’s press and finding offensive openings in Cabrillo’s normally tight zone defense.

“We’re going to regroup,” said Cabrillo forward Daniel Johnston. “We need to forget about it and come back Monday. It’s not just one play. It was a series of plays. We need to play better in the first half.”

As for no one going for the rebound on Canada’s late free throw miss, Johnston said: “You gotta know [and go get it].”

With Canada’s Pappageorge and Isaiah Tueta lighting things up early, the Seahawks found themselves trailing 32-27 at the half.

They trailed by as much as 15 points in the first half before rallying.

Johnston made a shot early in the second half to give Cabril-