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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Chabot's defense shuts down
Cabrillo in NorCal playoffs

By ISAIAH GUZMAN

sports@santacruzsentinel.com

CHABOT 81, CABRILLO 63

HAYWARD — The Cabrillo College men's basketball team came into the Northern California Regional Playoffs with the best 3-point shooter in the state.

But in the first round at Chabot on Friday night, his well ran dry as unlikely freshman Gladiators guard Joshua Dellatorre hurt the Seahawks from behind the arc.

Dellatorre made six 3-pointers, all in the first half, to lead sixth-seeded Chabot to an 81-63 victory over No. 11 Cabrillo.

"Really good defense," said Seahawks sophomore guard Markus

Duran, who led California junior colleges in 3-pointers the past two seasons. "Poor shooting on my part."

Duran was held to just two 3-pointers, one in the first half and one in the second. Dellatorre, meanwhile, was perfect until missing his seventh attempt on an off-balance shot with Duran in his face. Dellatorre and Jacob Noisat led the Gladiators [20-8] with 18 points each.

"It was his teammates that made him a good shooter," Chabot coach Denny Aye said. "He just needed a little time."

Freshman guard Tyler Velasquez

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CABRILLO

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led the Seahawks with 24 points, including two 3-pointers, but his high-energy performance wasn't enough to jump start Cabrillo (20-8).

The Seahawks, who won a share of the Coast Conference South title this year and lost only to San Jose City College in conference play, could find no rhythm. They didn't string together consecutive baskets in the second half until Velasquez hit back-to-back 3-pointers.

"We just had a rough night from the start," Velasquez said. "We didn't come out shooting the ball like our normal selves."

Almost everybody was expecting a closer game. Chabot beat Cabrillo 70-65 earlier in the season, but that was when Duran was out with an injury.

With Duran back, the Gladiators always had a body on him and never gave him an open look.

"We couldn't play defense, we couldn't play offense," Duran said.

Asked where he plans to play next year, Duran, of Salt Lake City, said he had no idea.

He was still trying to stomach Cabrillo's second-consecutive first-round exit.

"I'm at a loss for words," he said. "I don't even know what to say."