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MEN'S JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Cabrillo beats Skyline in nailbiter

Seahawks make home debut a success by holding off charging Trojans, stay undefeated

By RYAN MOSES

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APTOS — The Cabrillo College men's basketball team slipped but didn't fall in its first game on home court this season.

The Seahawks held a 25-point lead in the second half over winless Skyline and appeared well on their way to a 3-0 start. But the Trojans came storming all the way back before Cabrillo held on with a last-second stop for a 74-72 victory Friday night.

The Seahawks, who were so sharp in the first half, played sloppy after the break. They committed 10 turnovers in the second half, and Skyline opened up its fast-break attack to climb back in the game with a 33-8 run. The Trojans briefly tied the game at 72-72 on Nate Gartrell's 3-pointer with 2:13 remaining. However, Cabrillo guard Aaron Short gave the Seahawks the lead right back with a put back on the following possession.

"I thought we stopped playing," Cabrillo coach Tony Marcopulos said. "I thought

we fatigued as the game went on. You have to give Skyline credit, too. They've got pride and they're well coached, and they didn't quit. When they raised the level of play and the level of energy and intensity, we couldn't do it. We thought the game was over."

Cabrillo used its size advantage to build its big lead with 6-foot-9 freshman forward Frank Rogers leading the way with 19 points and seven rebounds. Just six of

SEE CABRILLO ON B5

CABRILLO 74,
SKYLINE 72WEDNESDAY'S
GAME: Cabrillo
at Ohlone in
Fremont, 5 p.m.

CABRILLO

Continued from B1

those points came after half-time, however, and Skyline [0-3] found a way to get to the boards with a 14-10 rebounding advantage in the second half.

"I felt like we lost our motivation to play," Rogers said. "We came out flat and were just going through the motions. We didn't have that motivation that we needed to keep our lead and put them away."

Kyle Wong led Skyline's surge with 19 points and Anthony Smith added 18.

The Trojans had the ball twice in the last minute with the chance to take the lead, but Short blocked Gartrell's 3-point attempt with 22.4 seconds left, and Wong's layup rimmed out in the final seconds to preserve Cabrillo's victory.

"I think we set the pace and set the tone a little bit better in the second half," Skyline coach Justin Piergrossi said.

"We got ourselves some easy baskets with our defense and increased the tempo of the game by our defense, which is how we want to play."

Early on, nobody on the Trojans could stop Cabrillo freshman Joe Saarem, who sank 4-for-5 from 3-point range in the first half and made five in the game for all of his 15 points. Seahawks sophomore point guard Tyler Velasquez also scored 15.

Marcopulos said his team's played well when his guards played well, and said the Seahawks would have to get better backcourt play from the bench.

Cabrillo next plays on Wednesday at 5 p.m. at Ohlone, when the team will try to apply the lessons learned in its near letdown.

"I like that we didn't panic when it got close," said Marcopulos, who is trying to lead Cabrillo to a second straight Coast Conference South title. "We didn't hang our heads. We were just kind of dealing with the situation. It was good growth for us. I thought we handled ourselves well."

CABRILLO IN PLAYOFFS



BILL LOVEJOY/SENTINEL

APTOS — Frank Murillo, a freshman out of Pajaro Valley, leads the Cabrillo men's soccer team in an attack against Hartnell last month. The Seahawks men and women will play in the first round of the NorCal playoffs today at Cabrillo College.

IF YOU GO

TODAY'S CCCAA NORCAL
SOCCER PLAYOFFS

WOMEN, FIRST ROUND: No. 10
Foothill [9-5-4] at No. 7 Cabrillo
[15-3-0], 11 a.m.

MEN, FIRST ROUND: No. 10
Evergreen Valley [12-6-2] at No. 7
Cabrillo [12-7-2], 2 p.m.

COST: \$8

DETAILS: Games will be played at the backfield on Cabrillo College Drive. Park in Parking S near the stadium. Bring your own chair.