Cabrillo wins home opener

Seahawks struggle early, top Napa

By ANDREW MATHESON
amatheson@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — Forgive the Cabrillo College women’s basketball team if, in the first half, it lacked much offensive power, so to speak.

The team’s home opener with visiting Napa Valley College was actually canceled for roughly 20 minutes Wednesday night after an electrical outage left the junior college without power prior to the 7 p.m. tip.

“But then,” Cabrillo head coach Kristy Netto said, “the lights came on.”

APTOS — Forgive the Cabrillo College women’s basketball team if, in the first half, it lacked much offensive power, so to speak.

The team’s home opener with visiting Napa Valley College was actually canceled for roughly 20 minutes Wednesday night after an electrical outage left the junior college without power prior to the 7 p.m. tip.

“But then,” Cabrillo head coach Kristy Netto said, “the lights came on.”

So, too, did Cabrillo’s offense.

After a sputtering first half in which it shot just 27 percent from the field, the Seahawks exploded in the second half behind 43 percent shooting and a game-high 28 points from Laura Johnston as Cabrillo routed Napa Valley 64-43 in nonconference play.

Isabel Concha-Foley contributed a double-double effort with 17 points and 20 rebounds while Cristina Locatelli added 11 points.

Johnston paced the team’s second-half effort, though, scoring 22 of the Seahawks’ 39 points. Cabrillo (2-2) led by as many as 22 points late in the contest after narrowly leading 25-16 at halftime.

“I think everything just clicked,” said Johnston, a 5-foot-10 sophomore from Aptos. “It was our first [home] game and we had the jitters in the first half.”

And — for a brief moment — the Seahawks believed they weren’t even going to play. The game was officially canceled at about 5 p.m., after the Cabrillo campus lost power due to high winds.

Napa Valley began to turn around on the highway and the refs were about to leave the gymnasium when power was restored.

“Everyone went to go get taped. I went to go get the refs. It was crazy,” Netto said. “It was an emotional roller coaster.”

Napa Valley didn’t arrive until about 6:30 p.m., and the game was pushed back to 7:10 tip. The