

MEN'S JC BASKETBALL

Cabrillo thrills in OT win

Velasquez, Short lead Seahawks to tourney title

By JIM SEIMAS

jseimas@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — Guard Tyler Velasquez and the Cabrillo College men's basketball team got off to a slow start against Butte in the championship game of the eighth annual Cabrillo Tournament on Saturday night.



CABRILLO 69, BUTTE 66, OT

FRIDAY'S GAME: Skyline Tournament: Cabrillo vs. Napa
TIME: 4 p.m.

It merely set up the Seahawks for a rousing finish — much to the delight of a small but enthusiastic crowd.

Velasquez, a sophomore, finished with 21 points and tournament

SEE RALLY ON D3



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Thomas Pierce looks to pass for the Seahawks on Saturday against Butte.

RALLY

Continued from D1

MVP Aaron Short added 18, as Cabrillo rallied from a 10-point deficit in the first half and prevailed in overtime for a 69-66 win.

"We did a nice job of executing down the stretch," Seahawks coach Tony Marcopulos. "In overtime, the team that doesn't turn the ball over and executes in half court usually wins. And we did that."

The Seahawks [6-1] hope to continue their two-game win streak when it is slated to face Napa in the opening round of the Skyline Tournament in San Bruno at 4 p.m. Friday.

Cabrillo trailed 31-24 at the half, staying close by sinking all nine of its free-throw attempts.

While the Seahawks focused on shutting down sophomore guards Maazin Butler and Tyler Randolph, Butte's Josh Rolls-Tyson went off for 20 points, including two dunks — one of them the thunderous, slam-down variety. Randolph also finished with 20 points, including all 10 of his team's points in overtime.

"He's a big, long athletic guy," Marcopulos said of Rolls-Tyson. "We focused on shutting down [Butler and Randolph]. [Randolph] shot the [heck] out of the ball in the second half. I don't know if we could've guard him any better than that."

Rolls-Tyson said he felt as though Cabrillo converted on the more difficult looks down the home stretch.

"They made some tough baskets," he said.

The Seahawks also made some easy ones. They finished 18-of-26 shooting from the free-throw line — an area that has given the team fits early on, Marcopulos said.

"We got some good performances from guys who haven't played well for us," he said.

Cabrillo was cold on long-distance shots early, making just one 3-pointer in the first half, but it finished with seven, including huge buckets from Short and Velasquez.

"Early on, the team wasn't in the game," Velasquez said. "We came out soft and not ready to play — on defense especially. But we knew the offense would eventually come. Our main focus is defense. It leads to offense."

The Seahawks got a spark from forward Erik Witzig early in the second half. He made a handful of defensive rebounds and helped Cabrillo produced some quick transition points.

Marcopulos credited a switch to a 1-3-1 zone to help stifle the Roadrunners [3-5], who entered the final with three straight wins.

"This was a big win," Velasquez said. "We hadn't won our tournament in a couple of years. Every game is big."



Cabrillo's Tyler Velasquez has his shot blocked by a Butte defender in the first half.

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