MEN’S JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Cabrillo wins 3-point showdown
Seahawks, West Valley combine for 27 baskets behind arc

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APTOS — It might have been just as well if Cabrillo College and West Valley decided to have a 3-point shooting contest on Friday night in Aptos. It might not have looked any different.

Two of the men’s basketball teams combined for 27 3-pointers in their Coast Conference South game. Cabrillo’s 12 were enough for a 75-60 victory in conference play.

Tyler Velasquez of Cabrillo and West Valley’s Anthony Hubbard get pushy in the first half Friday night.

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“We were a little under-manned tonight,” West Valley coach Scott Ettegeorge said. “We had to take the gambler’s choice — jack em up and see what happens.”

After erasing a 14-point deficit in the second half, the Vikings’ risk nearly paid off. But Cabrillo’s Tyler Velasquez scored 13 of his team-high 21 points in the final 10 minutes of regulation to lead to the win.

West Valley’s game of long-distance suited Cabrillo just fine. Velasquez, who scored five straight points for Cabrillo after West Valley tied the game at 47-all with 10:55 remaining, was 4 of 8 from behind the arc. Teammate Aaron Short finished with 10 points behind a 4 of 7 performance from 3-point range.

Those numbers somewhat paled in comparison to West Valley’s Mike Bettramo and Chris Murray, though. Bettramo finished with 10 points on 6 of 8 shooting from long distance, while Murray had a game-high 25 points on 7 of 12 shooting from 3-point land, including 3 points in the second half alone.

The 81 points scored off 3-pointers equaled nearly 60 percent of the teams’ offensive output.

“They shoot the ball really well,” said Cabrillo coach Tony Murcopedes, noting the long-distance prowess of West Valley’s Bettramo, Murray and Anthony Hubbard.

“Well, you had two teams sitting back in the zone (defensive) for a lot of the time,” Ettelgeorge said. “I’ve seen it from Cabrillo. They do that very well.”

It is the 10th straight win for Cabrillo (18-3, 6-0), which has all but wrapped up its fourth conference championship in the last six years. The Seahawks, who haven’t lost a game since falling to Consmans River on Dec. 17, have a three-game lead with four games to play.

Cabrillo will visit San Jose City College on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

CABRILLO AND WEST VALLEY PLAYERS Vie for a rebound under the Cabrillo basketball Friday evening.

7 p.m.

“Yet they take one game at a time,” it’s definitely not over for us,” Velasquez said. “We want to win out and go undefeated in conference play. That’d be the first time in school history.”

So, too, would hosting a playoff game. Only the top eight seeds out of 16 teams earn home playoff games, and a flawless conference record could be the difference for Cabrillo.

“Our eyes are on the prize,” Velasquez said.

The sophomore guard from Colorado kicked-started Cabrillo’s offense in the first half. After the Seahawks shot 1 of 5 from the field with five turnovers to open the game, Velasquez nailed an open 3 and Short followed with a three-point play to ignite the offense.

Cabrillo, which shot 62 percent in the first half, closed out the final 14 minutes by converting 12 of 16 from the field.

“This was one of the first games for us this year where a lot of guys had a good shooting night,” Velasquez said. “We just swung the ball, got open shots and knocked them down.

The Seahawks shot 51 percent from the field in the game, with Frank Rogers chipping in with 12 points. Dalton Noble added 11 and Thomas Pierce contributing 10.