LOCAL DIGEST: MJC men’s basketball falls to Cabrillo

Bee staff reports January 4, 2014

The Cabrillo College men’s basketball team camped in its zone defense Saturday and dared Modesto Junior College to shoot them out of it.

The Pirates couldn’t.

That’s why Cabrillo (9-6), ranked ninth in Northern California, returned to Aptos with an 87-51 non-league victory at MJC Gym. The Pirates (7-8) hoped for a better tuneup for their Big 8 Conference opener Tuesday night at home against Santa Rosa.

All Modesto could manage, however, was seven made triples in 33 attempts. It wasn’t enough to stay close.

“They did what they wanted against us. We couldn’t guard anybody and got out-hustled,” coach Paul Brogan said. “We may see a lot of zones in league if we shoot like tonight.”

Modesto fought to a 23-23 tie until Cabrillo’s 25-5 run during the final seven minutes of the first half. David Abittan of Cabrillo collected 14 of his 15 points during that rally. The Pirates couldn’t cut the deficit inside 15 points during the final 20 minutes.

Guard Warren Jackson strafed the Pirates for a game-high 23 points and teammates A.J. Wright and Allen Wilcher had 15 points apiece. Modesto was led by guard Edwin Castellanos with nine points, including a trio of 3-pointers, all in the second half.

Tuesday’s league opener is a doubleheader with the women starting at 5:30 p.m. and the men at 7:30.