Cabrillo overcomes two red cards to tie Lake Tahoe

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APTONS — Sometimes things are meant to be.

Saturday that rang true for Cabrillo.

Despite being down two men for the final 15 minutes of their home opener against Lake Tahoe, the Seahawks kept attacking and caught a break by way of a penalty kick in added time.

Andoni Trejo’s original attempt was rejected, but the ball somehow landed just feet in front of the net and Trejo came in with the game-tying boot to force a 3-3 tie.

“It was meant to be,” Trejo said. “Some things just go your way and it did this time.”

The final two minutes of the contest was the complete opposite to the first 88.

For the first time in Paolo Carbone’s 10 years coaching with Cabrillo (0-2-3), two players received red cards. The first came in the 44th minute when Alex Jullig was given his second yellow for language and the other was called on keeper Alejandro Carillo for talking back to the official.

Carillo’s ejection left the Seahawks with just nine men on the field and down one score the final 15 minutes of a game that hadn’t gone their way.

But a final flurry of attacks set up the equalizer from Trejo.

“Anything can happen and we need to be able to deal with it,” Carbone said. “We showed we could today.”

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Cabrillo College’s Adrian Vasquez, right, is mobbed after scoring a goal in the first half of their non-conference game against Lake Tahoe College Saturday in Aptos.

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Three other Seahawks had yellow cards and there were a total of eight called in the game.

So what did the Seahawks take away from the final non-conference contest of the season?

“Stop talking to the refs,” said Cabrillo forward Adrian Vasquez. “Our two red cards came from talking. If we can play our game we won’t need to talk.”

They’ll need to start playing their game at the highest level possible, because Tuesday they begin Coast Conference play at Gavilan College at 4 p.m.

Before the first red card the Seahawks were doing a good job of that.

Lake Tahoe scored first on a penalty kick that was warranted by handball inside the box during the the 30th minute, but 13 minutes later Vasquez finished off a beautiful feed from Trejo to tie the game before the half.

Just a few seconds late, however, Jullig received the red card and Cabrillo would have to go the rest of the way down a man.

“That’s stuff we can’t control,” Trejo said. “The only thing we can control is what goes on on the field. We knew coming out of the half we had to put in work to protect this house.”

Lake Tahoe took the lead again just seven minutes into the half, but a header from Seraphim Sparrow in the 68th minute tied the game back up.

In the 80th minute, however, Lake Tahoe once again took the lead as Sam Kitchen booted one past Carillo.

Following the goal Carillo and Kitchen got into a verbal scuffle and both were met with red cards from the official, leaving Cabrillo at a one-man disadvantage for the remaining 10 minutes.

But that didn’t stop the Seahawks from attacking and trying to get the equalizer.

“We never put our heads down,” Vasquez said. “I kept telling everyone that we’re not going to stop playing until that few blows the whistle.”

It seemed like Cabrillo’s never-say-die attitude was going to be rewarded just two minutes into a large chunk of added time, when Lake Tahoe keeper Cameron McConachie inexplicably came out of the box and picked up a ball to set up a free kick just two feet from top of the box.

But the boot was tipped away by Lake Tahoe and the subsequent corner fell short of its intended mark.

On the game’s final play, however, Cabrillo came up big.

A perfect lob from midfield to Trejo’s feet forced a Lake Tahoe defender to get a bit too physical and be called for the foul to set up Trejo with a chance at salvaging a tie and he didn’t miss it.

“Maybe we didn’t play our best today,” Vasquez said, “but we had a lot of our players play hard and for each other. We played as a team.”