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High school roundup: St. Joseph boys stumble in BSAL basketball playoffs

By Stephanie Hammon Oakland Tribune

Posted: 02/17/2011 10:25:41 PMPST Updated: 02/17/2011 11:33:34 PM PST

With the North Coast Section playoffs a few days away, the St. Joseph Notre Dame High boys basketball team is enduring a rough patch.

Plagued by turnovers and a stalled offense against visiting St. Patrick-St. Vincent, the Pilots lost their third straight game, this time 54-53 in a Bay Shore Athletic League semifinal Thursday.

The Bruins' Robbie Herndon hit the front end of a one-and-one with 1 minute, 33 seconds left to break a 53-53 tie, and St. Joseph was held scoreless in the game's final four minutes. The Bruins will play Salesian in the league championship on Saturday at 5 p.m. at Albany High.

"In the second half we had to settle for some outside shots and they did a good job of double-teaming our big guy (Brendan Keane)," St. Joseph coach Don Lippi said. "We didn't share the ball in the fourth quarter and didn't take good shots."

The Pilots had the ball with four seconds left, but Nick Lacy's contested 3-pointer wasn't close.

St. Joseph (19-8), the top seed in the BSAL playoffs, led by as many as 13 points in the third quarter before the Bruins (22-6) went on a 15-3 run to close out the period.

Jacari Whitfield and Evander Woods had 12 points each to lead St. Joseph. Keane had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Salesian 78, St. Mary's 62: Guard Dominic Artis awoke from a quiet first half, scoring 13 third-quarter points to lead the visiting Pride to a victory in the semifinals of the BSAL

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playoffs. Artis scored six points in the first half as Salesian went into halftime with a 35-34 lead. Artis and forward Jabari Bird formed an unstoppable duo for Salesian after intermission, scoring 26 second-half points.

St. Mary's had no answer for Artis, who knocked down five consecutive field goals to begin the second half. He finished with 20 points and five rebounds.

Bird scored 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead the Pride in both categories.

The Panthers kept pace with Salesian in the first half largely because of guard Isaiah Taylor, who scored 10 first-half points.

The Pride forced St. Mary's into eight turnovers and took advantage, scoring 17 points off Panthers miscues.

-- Jeff Carillo, correspondent

Girls basketball

James Logan 40, Mission San Jose 23: The host Colts blew open a close game with a 12-0 third quarter run and proceeded to earn a co-Mission Valley Athletic League title for themselves with the Warriors.

"We kept fighting and we were just there for each other the whole game," said James Logan's

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Chelsea Salom, who scored four points in the run and eight of her game-high 12 points in the second half.

The teams will play again on Saturday (7 p.m., Washington High) to decide the league's automatic berth into the NCS playoffs.

James Logan (21-5, 11-1 MVAL) had an 18-14 lead at halftime. After a 3-pointer by Mission San Jose's Ilene Tsao cut the lead to 18-17 in the first minute of the second half, the Colts went on their game-deciding run.

The co-championship is the Colts' first league title since the 2002-2003 season. It was the first time since the 1994-95 season that the Warriors (24-2, 11-1) won a share of the league title.

-- Phil Jensen

St. Joseph Notre Dame 53, Salesian 48: Monina Cuyugan hit a long 3-pointer with 1:29 remaining to break a 48-48 tie and earn a spot in Saturday's (8 p.m.) BSAL championship at Albany. The Pilots (19-3) will play St. Mary's, which beat St. Patrick-St. Vincent 71-44 in its semifinal.

Salesian (23-5) led 48-43 in the fourth quarter after an Arienne Johnson 3-pointer, but St. Joseph scored the game's final 10 points. Desiree Harris had 16 points for the Pilots.

Salesian freshman Mariya Moore finished with 19 points, 12 rebounds, five steals and four blocks. Teammate Leticia Ocegüera led all scorers with 20 points.

-- Stephanie Hammon

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