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**Douglas Benton**  
NorCalPreps.com Analyst

It was two familiar programs collecting championship banners on Friday night as Berkeley and De La Salle each down their Deer Valley counterparts in the North Coast Section Division I finals. The wins also signal a likely No. 1 seed in the upcoming NorCal playoffs.

De La Salle used strong defense and timely shooting to keep Deer Valley in check all night for a 54-31 win. The Spartans closed the first quarter on a 12-3 run behind 10 points from **Elliott Pitts**. He added six more points in the second quarter, including an alley-oop finish from **Amadi Udenyi** for a 27-18 halftime lead. It was more of the same in the third quarter from Udenyi for a 39-24 win for the Spartans. The Wolverines tried to use a press in the final quarter, but De La Salle held firm for the 23 point win.

"I think we really (defended) in the second half. The first half we did it to, but to hold them to 13 there in the second half is pretty impressive," De La Salle head coach Frank Allocco said. ""We really brought a lot of energy tonight. A lot of enthusiasm. The kids were ready to play."

Like he was in the quarterfinal win over Heritage, senior forward Remington White was a key contributor in victory especially on the defensive end against **Marcus Lee**. White brings great energy in continuing to fight for position and being able to handle himself at different spots on the floor offensively. He had an offensive rebound and put back at the buzzer to end the third quarter in symbolizing the type of effort he brings.

"I thought the key was really Remington defending the way he did. He did some nice things for us," Allocco said.

While White led the defensive effort, it was Pitts carrying the scoring load with 22 points including 16 in the first half. The 2013 4-star prospect scored points in a variety of ways with a pair of three pointers, a 19 footer and a number of athletic finishes at the rim to avoid the shot blocking presence of Lee. Pitts is becoming one of the most skilled players available in the 2013 class and gives the Spartans an element it didn't have last year. Udenyi also scored in double figures at 12 points in finding his shot more in the second half while playing solid defense against the Wolverines' perimeter talent.

Deer Valley had its lowest scoring output at 31 points and didn't score more than 10 points in any quarter. Lee had six points with six rebounds and six steals. He also showed off his passing skills and made a 19 foot jumper and a three pointer. In addition to his six blocks, he altered a number of other shots. Lee still showed his raw skills as a scorer with a handful of turnovers, but his high ceiling makes him one of the top prospects in the 2013 class. Junior point guard **Kendall Smith** scored a team-high 11 points in getting into the lane and finishing well at the basket. He can improve on his decision making and outside shot, but is a catalyst for the Wolverines.

Deer Valley (31): Smith 11, Lee 6, LaBonte 6, Garner 3, Webster 2, Emran 2, Robinson 1

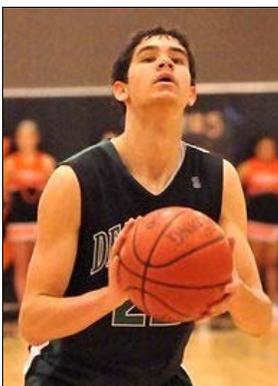
De La Salle (54): Pitts 22, Udenyi 12, White 8, O'Dea 3, Rosselli 2, Hoffman 2, Sullivan 2, Gunder 2, Hill 1

## Berkeley 61, Deer Valley 29

Berkeley was in control of the NCS Division I finals from start to finish in starting the game on a 9-2 run thanks to a strong all-around start from point guard **Elisha Davis**. It led 19-8 over Deer Valley after one quarter and stretched the lead to 35-10 before leading 37-14 at halftime. While the play became more ragged in the second half, Berkeley cruised to a 32 point win. Sophomore **Desire Finnie** had a big second half to finish with a game high 17 points.

It was the tale of new and old for the Yellowjackets in picking up another section title and taking a key step toward a possible second straight NorCal title. It started with Davis, who had nine points, four rebounds and four assists in the first half. She sees the floor well in not holding the ball for too long and showed good shot selection early. Also, her defense on Deer Valley point guard Monique Mulder (2-for-9 in the first half) helped spur the early success. Finnie followed with 17 points and nearing double digit rebounds. The sophomore has good hands and can finish around the basket in also showing an improved mid-range jumper.

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**Elliott Pitts has elevated his game for the postseason title run**

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Deer Valley struggled in this one to generate much of anything in finishing with 29 points. Junior **Sabrea Coleman** was the top playmaker for Deer Valley on Friday in utilizing a strong dribble and getting space inside. She can work on having a couple of moves off her dribble to make her more of a consistent scoring threat. The Wolverines had seemed to find its rhythm over the past six weeks or so, but were overmatched by the Yellowjackets in now looking toward NorCals.

Deer Valley (29): Mulder 8, Coleman 5, Butler 4, Johnson 3, Lawson 2, Keys 2, Fleming 2, Foresberg 2, Williams 1

Berkeley (61): Finnie 17, Guinn 13, Davis 12, Youngblood 8, Howard 7, Welch/Coleman 2, Eskridge 2

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