

Camacho's layup gives LVC East win at Via Classic

Ally Blair lifts LVCE girls, helping conference sweep four games.

By John Heilig

Special to The Morning Call

March 30, 2008

Sergio Camacho made a driving layup a split second before the final buzzer to lift the Lehigh Valley Conference East boys over the Mountain Valley Conference in the final game of the Via All-Star Basketball Classic at Freedom High School on Saturday afternoon.

The 70-68 win also gave the LVC a clean sweep of four games. In the opener, LVC West topped the Colonial League, 36-35, by holding the CL girls to just three third-quarter points.

In the second game, the LVC West boys beat the Colonial League, 74-61, negating a second quarter in which the CL took the lead after being down 14 points.

In the LVC East-MVC girls game, Ally Blair of Bethlehem Catholic hit a basket with 32 seconds left, then sank the ensuing foul shot to give the girls a 37-36 win. Blair was the only player in double figures for the LVCE.

Camacho, from Liberty, was relatively quiet through the first 38 minutes of the 40-minute game, hitting only two foul shots. But with two minutes to go and LVCE trailing 66-59, he scored his team's next 11 points, including the tying bucket with 26.9 seconds remaining and the winning score. He was aided by a turnover with 9.1 seconds left.

"I wasn't playing well the whole game, so I decided to pick it up," Camacho said. "I didn't want to lose my last high school game."

Camacho had to overcome outstanding games by the representatives of Pius X, who were playing for a rare time on a big stage. Anthony Hargrove scored 14 points, including several thunderous dunks, and Wade Williams led all scorers with 16. Martrell Terrell of Stroudsburg added 10 for the losers.

Jameel Seymour (Northampton) and Stein (Freedom) led the LVC East squad with 15 points.

In the LVC East-MVC game, Blair helped earn a win in her final game. "The game was fun, but winning's fun," Blair said. "Every school wants to win but have fun doing it."

For the MVC girls, Amanda Riley (Pocono Mountain East) and Kelsey Gallagher (East Stroudsburg North) played the entire game with broad smiles on their faces.

"It's a blast playing with girls you never thought you'd get along with," Riley said.

Gallagher added: "We've known each other forever, and we've talked about how it would be to play together. Now we had a chance."

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Kelly Sauerzopf of Saucon Valley led all scorers in the first game with 10 points. Allen's Jordan Wenner scored 15 points for Tom Stoudt's LV West squad, while Kevin McKeegan of Emmaus had 14, including four 3-pointers. For the Colonial League, Jimmy Hoffman (Northwestern) had 13 and Catty's Doug Case 11.

In the 3-point contest, Gallagher was the girls winner with 13 of 25 treys and 19 points. Easton's Andrew Miller hit 16 of 25 for 21 points and the boys title.

Besides fans and families, the stands also held a couple of college coaches who were scouting and recruiting. Scott Coval of DeSales said he was there to check a number of players he was interested in. "This is one of the last chances we're going to get to see them play and talk to them a bit," he said.

Jeff Wilson of East Stroudsburg University echoed Coval's sentiments.

"We were outplayed for 35 minutes, and they decided to play the last five," LVC East coach Todd Rothrock said. "Not a one of them has touched a basketball since the end of the season. It's a great day for a good cause. It's a fundraiser for Via, so just participating in it is a good thing."

John Heilig is as freelance writer.

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