

LVC wins three of four all-star games vs. MVC, Colonial

West is best: Clark, Ayala lead late rally in boys game.

By Tim Shoemaker

Special to The Morning Call

Angel Ayala knew the ramifications of his team's performance Saturday in the Via All-Star Basketball Classic.

"We knew we had to win, because if they won,

the big story would have been, 'The Colonial League beat the LVC,' " he said. "In the second half, we came out a little more intense on defense."

Ayala, a senior at Allen and member of the Lehigh Valley Conference's West team, was one of three West players in double digits in scoring with 15 points in a 105-101 win over the Colonial League boys.

The LVC, which split into East and West divi-

sions for the boys and girls portions of the annual fundraiser, won three of four games at Northampton Community College.

In the girls' games, the LVC West defeated the Colonial League 59-44 and the LVC East beat the Mountain Valley Conference, 52-34. Only the Mountain Valley boys beat an LVC team — barely — 97-94 over the LVC East.

Despite being tied eight times with the Colonial, the

"In the second half, we came out a little more intense on defense."

ANGEL AYALA

Allen

LVC West boys team led for the first 35-plus minutes of the 40-minute game.

The Colonial took its first lead, 92-91, on a free throw from Northern Lehigh's Hadyn Charles with 5:29 to go, and led by 95-91 after Bangor's Brian Smith made a 3-point play with 4:44 left.

But the LVC West ran off the next eight points — including three from Ayala and three from Parkland's Jaleel Clark — to go up 99-95, and did not lose the lead again.

Clark led the LVC West

with 22 points and Central Catholic's Shae McPherson scored 17.

Ayala played in only about half of his team's games this season because of a sprained ankle, but enjoyed the chance to end his high school career on a winning note. Ayala played with or against everyone on his Via team either in high school or in AAU season.

"It's exciting," Ayala

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LVC wins three of four games

said. "We're all in the same area, so we know each other pretty well. The coach (Parkland's Andy Stephens) just told us to go out there and have some fun. It's exciting to be out there in front of these fans and give them a little show."

The LVC East girls had no trouble defeating the Mountain Valley Conference. The MVC trailed 31-16 early in the second half, but scored the next five points — three from East Stroudsburg North's Erica Durant — to make it 31-21.

The LVC responded with a 15-4 run to go up 46-25, and the MVC never threatened again.

Allysa Scerbo of Phillipsburg led the LVC East with 15 points. Northampton's Megan Bowen scored 12.

"It's an honor for all of us to be picked for an all-star game, especially for such a good cause," said Bowen, who will play at Princeton next year. "Via is a great program."

Bowen said she had little trouble assimilating with her new teammates.

"The key was sharing the ball, working it around and making the most of each girl's play," she said.

"There's a big competition between the Mountain Valley Conference and Lehigh Valley Conference. If they're not knocking us off in the playoffs, we're knocking them off. We definitely wanted to come out representing the LVC."

Note: Freedom's Mike McCready, who scored eight points, was inadvertently omitted from the LVC East roster in Saturday's Morning Call Via preview.

GIRLS GAMES

LVC WEST (59)

Taylor (Parkland) 1 6-6 8, Heckman (Whitehall) 0 0-0 0, Guman (Central Catholic) 1 2-2 5, Smith (Allen) 4 0-2 8, Hoover (Emmaus) 1 1-2 3, Flamm (Central Catholic) 5 2-2 12, Hassler (Parkland) 0 1-1 1, Koren (Allen) 1 0-2 2, Jackson (Allen) 1 0-2 2, Blake (Dieruff) 0 0-0 0, Van Natten (White-



LVC WEST'S ANGEL AYALA (left), from Allen, blocks the shot from the Colonial League's Hadyn Charles, of Northern Lehigh, during Saturday's Via All-Star Basketball Classic.

hall) 2 1-5 5, Thomas (Parkland) 5 3-7 13. Totals: 21 16-31 59.

COLONIAL (45)

Gerchufsky (Northwestern) 1 0-2 2, Follweiler (Northern Lehigh) 0 0-0 0, Demko (Notre Dame-GP) 1 0-1 2, Colton (Bangor) 4 0-2 9, Muschlitz (Wilson) 5 1-2 11, Lacey (Catasauqua) 0 0-0 0, Parsons (Palmerton) 0 0-0 0, Ellis (Bangor) 2 0-0 4, Mish (Northwestern) 1 0-0 2, Zabrecky (Southern Lehigh) 3 1-2 8, Arndt (Northern Lehigh) 1 0-0 3, Degenhart (Notre Dame-GP) 2 0-0 4. Totals 20 2-9 45.

LVC West 29 30 — 59

Colonial League 20 25 — 45

3-point goals: LVC West 2 (Guman, Van Natten), Colonial 5 (Colton, Muschlitz, Zabrecky, Arndt, Degenhart).

LVC EAST (52)

Cancelliere (Nazareth) 4 0-1 8, Gunter (Easton) 0 2-4 2, Silfies (Northampton) 3 0-2 7, Scerbo (Phillipsburg) 5 3-5 15, Schultz (Northampton) 2 1-2 5, Knipe (Liberty) 1 1-3 3, Bowen (Northampton) 5 1-2 12. Totals 20 8-18 52.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY (34)

Battle (Stroudsburg) 1 2-4 4, Walters (Pocono Mountain West) 3 0-0 6, Rosario (Stroudsburg) 0 0-0 0, Taylor (Pleasant Valley) 0 0-0 0, Maloney (Lehigh) 0 0-0 0, Lunney (Pleasant Valley) 0 0-0 0, Yozwiak (Pleasant Valley) 1 0-2 3, Roberts (Pocono Mountain West) 1 0-3 2, Perez (Pocono Mountain West) 3 3-5 9, Durant (East Stroudsburg North) 3 0-0 6, Steakin (East Stroudsburg South) 0 2-2 2, Briggs (East Stroudsburg North) 1 0-2 2. Totals 13 7-18 34.

LVC East 29 23 — 52

MVC 16 18 — 34

3-point goals: LVC East 4 (Silfies, Scerbo 2, Bowen), MVC 1 (Yozwiak).

All-Via team: Megan Bown (Northampton),

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Becky Guman (Central Catholic), Tanejha Smith (Allen), Sequeena Thomas (Parkland), Alita Zabrecky (Southern Lehigh). **Via Player of the Year:** Guman. **3-point contest (top three):** Gina Steakin (ES South) 15, Julissa Muschlitz (Wilson) 14, Tory Lacey (Catasauqua) 13. **Note:** Steaken defeated boys winner Mike Ceron (Freedom) 9-4 to win overall title.

BOYS GAMES

LVC WEST (104)

McPherson (Central Catholic) 7 1-3 17, Gumbs (Allen) 2 4-4 8, Muhr (Parkland) 2 0-0 5, Clark (Parkland) 8 6-14 22, Hartwell (Dieruff) 0 0-3 0, Miorelli (Parkland) 0 0-1 0, Madouse (Whitehall) 3 0-0 6, Ayala (Allen) 6 3-4 15, Wiseley (Emmaus) 1 0-0 2, Talib (Allen) 4 2-4 10, Ward (Parkland) 6 0-0 12, Odum (Dieruff) 3 0-2 7. Totals 42 16-35 104.

COLONIAL (101)

Huerta (Catasauqua) 2 0-0 6, Popovice (Bangor) 1 0-0 2, Hughes (Notre Dame-GP) 5 0-0 12, Davidson (Wilson) 5 0-0 10, Dawson (Catasauqua) 6 2-3 14, Bonser (Salisbury) 3 0-0 6, Grewal (Southern Lehigh) 2 3-5 8, Charles (Northern Lehigh) 6 0-0 12, Smith (Bangor) 2 1-1 6, Borst (Pen Argyl) 3 0-0 7, Touhey (Wilson) 2 0-0 4, Schmidt (Southern Lehigh) 6 1-2 14. Totals 43 7-11 101.

LVC West 49 55 — 104

Colonial League 44 57 — 101

3-point goals: LVC West 4 (McPherson 2, Muhr, Odum), Colonial 8 (Huerta 2, Hughes 2, Grewal, Smith, Borst, Schmidt).

LVC EAST (94)

Larks (Easton) 2 2-2 6, Rodriguez (Liberty) 0 1-2 1, Perez (Bethlehem Catholic) 3 4-6 10, Farkas (Northampton) 1 0-0 3, McCready (Freedom) 4 0-0 8, Duffy (Phillipsburg) 3 3-4 10, McDermott (Northampton) 3 0-1 7, Thieme (Liberty) 1 2-2 4, Squires (Nazareth) 5 0-0 11, King (Phillipsburg) 3 0-0 7, Hankerson (Easton) 5 1-2 13, Padilla (Freedom) 6 2-3 14. Totals 36 16-22 94.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY (97)

Strayhorn (Pocono Mountain East) 5 4-4 15, Gonsky (Notre Dame-ES) 1 0-0 3, Vargas (Faith Christian) 5 0-1 11, King (East Stroudsburg North) 3 1-2 7, Scott 5 3-4 13, Halicki (Pocono Mountain East) 2 1-1 5, O'Malley (East Stroudsburg South) 2 3-6 7, Harris (Pocono Mountain East) 5 5-5 16, Maye (Stroudsburg) 3 3-6 9, Johnson (Pocono Mountain West) 4 0-0 9, Ackerman (Stroudsburg) 0 2-2 2. Totals 35 22-31 97.

Lehigh Valley Conf. East 47 47 — 94

Mountain Valley 39 58 — 97

3 point goals: LVC East 7 (Hankerson 2, Duffy, McDermott, Squires, King, MVC 5 (Strayhorn, Gonsky, Vargas, Harris, Johnson).

All-Via team: Jaleel Clark (Parkland), Zach Hankerson (Easton), Terrance King (East Stroudsburg North), Cory Schmidt (Southern Lehigh), Kyrell Scott (Pocono Mountain West). **Via Player of the Year:** Clark. **3-point contest (top three):** Mike Ceron 15, Corey Huerta 14, Cory Schmidt (Southern Lehigh) 12.

Tim Shoemaker is a freelance writer.



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COLONIAL LEAGUE'S CORY SCHMIDT (12) goes up for a shot as the LVC West's M.J. Miorelli tries for the block.



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LVC WEST'S JESS FLAMM (6), from Central Catholic, tries to pass as Colonial League's Liz Demko (3), of Notre Dame-GP, defends.