

VIA ALL STAR CLASSIC

LVC wins 3 out of 4 Super Saturday games

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BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP - Basketball fans around the country might have been focused on the NCAA Tournament Saturday, but there

were eight teams playing at Northampton Community College that were pretty elite in their own right.

The annual Via All Star Basketball Classic's Super Saturday featured four boys teams and four girls teams

with the top high school senior players from three leagues playing in four games.

The Via games give players one last chance to take the court as high school players. And a chance to play against rivals they've battled for the past few years.

"It's an honor to play with the best in the Colonial League," said Catasauqua guard Corey Huerta. "I've watched the Via game since I was little and I was really happy to play in this all star game."

Like most of the players that take part in the event, Huerta enjoyed joining forces with players he battled against during his high school career.

"I've played against them the last four years in high school," he said. "It's great. These guys are good guys. Great guys to hang out with. Great guys to play with. Great teammates."

"Even though we're rivals," said Catasauqua's Todd Dawson, "we still respect each other."

The first game of this year's Super Saturday saw Colonial League girls take on the Lehigh Valley Conference West (Lehigh County) girls in the first game of the day. The LVC West prevailed, 59-45. Parkland's Sequeena Thomas scored a game-high 13 points in the win.

Northwestern's Alexa Mish and Lauren Gerchufsky played in the game, scoring two points each. Northwestern's Krissa Bollinger participated in Super Saturday as well, taking part in

the Coordinated Health Three-point Shooting Contest.

In the second game of the event, the Colonial League boys were able to stay close to the LVC West before falling 104-101. The CL All Stars were ahead 95-91 with under five minutes to play. But the LVC West closed the game with a 13-6 run.

For Colonial League and Mountain Valley Conference teams, the Via games are a chance to prove they can compete with Lehigh Valley teams. Despite the loss, the Colonial players felt they did their league well.

"In my opinion," Huerta said. "I thought this was the best year the Colonial League's ever had. There was a lot of great players in the league this year. We hung with [the LVC West] tough. I thought we could have won, but hey, it's the LVC. They're always better than the Colonial League. We played really well. I was really happy with our team."

Parkland's Jaleel Clark, a Missouri football recruit, had 22 points in the game, which saw several dunks on both sides.

The Mountain Valley girls took on the LVC East team in the third game of Super Saturday. The LVC East, which included Northampton County schools and Phillipsburg, won 52-34 in a game that saw a lot more defense than a typical all star game.

The LVC East team, which had just seven players, was led by Phillipsburg's Allyson Scerbo with 15 points.

The MVC boys team was

able to keep the LVC from sweeping the event. The Mountain Valley boys team beat the LVC East, 97-94. Pocono Mountain East's Kendall Harris led the MVC with 16 points.

The Via three-point contests, sponsored by Coordinated Health, were won by Freedom's Mike Ceron and East Stroudsburg South's Gina Steakin, with Steakin beating Ceron in the boy-vs-girl three-point shootout final.

Ceron didn't know about the final shootout against Steakin until minutes before he was called onto the court, but he didn't mind. He was just pleased to be part of Super Saturday.

"It was a great thrill to be part of the three-point shootout with the best shooters in the Lehigh Valley," he said. "It was a great opportunity. It was a good experience. I just came out here to have fun, not to win, but to have fun and meet new people. It was great."

BOYS COLONIAL LEAGUE

Huerta 2-0-0-6, Popovice 1-0-0-2, Hughes 5-0-0-12, Davidson 5-0-0-10, Dawson 6-2-3-14, Bonser 3-0-0-6, Grewal 2-3-5-8, Charles 6-0-0-12, Smith 2-1-1-6, Borst 3-0-0-7, Touhey 2-0-0-4, Schmidt 6-1-2-14. TOTALS: 43-7-11-101.

LVC WEST

McPherson 7-1-3-17, Gumbs 2-4-4-8, Muhr 2-0-0-5, Clark 8-6-14-22, Hartwell 0-0-3-0, Miorelli 0-0-1-0, Madouse 3-0-0-6, Ayala 6-3-4-15, Wisley 1-0-0-2, Talib 4-2-4-10, Ward 6-0-1-12, Odom 3-0-2-7. TOTALS: 42-16-35-104.

Colonial League 44 57 - 101
LVC West 49 55 - 104

Three-pointers: CL - Huerta 2, Hughes 2, Grewal 1, Smith 1, Borst 1, Schmidt 1; LVC - McPherson 2, Muhr 1, Odom 1.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY

Strayhorn 5-4-4-15, Gonsky 1-0-0-3, Vargas 5-0-1-11, King 3-1-2-7, Scott 5-3-4-13, Halicki 2-1-1-5, O'Malley 2-3-6-7, Harris 5-5-5-16, Maye 3-3-6-9, Johnson 4-0-0-9, Ackerman 0-2-2-2. TOTALS 30-22-31-97.

LVC EAST

Larks 2-2-2-6, Rodriguez 0-1-2-1, Perez 3-4-6-10, Farkas 1-0-0-3, McCready 4-0-0-8, Duffy 3-3-4-10, McDermott 3-0-1-7, Thieme 1-2-2-4, Squires 5-0-0-11, King 3-0-0-7, Hankerson 5-1-2-13, Padilla 6-2-3-14. TOTALS: 29-15-22-94.

Mountain Valley 39 58 - 97
LVC East 47 47 - 94

Three-pointers: MVC - Strayhorn 1, Gonsky 1, Vargas 1, Harris 1, Johnson 1; LVC - Hankerson 2, Farkas 1, Duffy 1, McDermott 1, Squires 1.

GIRLS

COLONIAL LEAGUE

Gerchufsky 1-0-2-2, Follweiler 0-0-0-0, Demko 1-0-1-2, Sarah Colton 4-0-2-9, Muschlitz 4-1-2-10, Lacey 0-0-0-0, Parsons 0-0-0-0, Ellis 2-0-0-4, Mish 1-0-0-2, Zabrecky 4-1-2-10, Arndt 1-0-0-3, Dagenhart 1-0-0-3. TOTALS 19-2-11-45.

LVC WEST

Taylor 1-6-6-8, Heckman 0-0-0-0, Guman 1-2-2-5, Smith 4-0-2-8, Hoover 1-1-2-3, Flamm 5-2-2-12, Hassler 0-1-1-1, Koren 1-0-2-2, Jackson 1-0-0-2, Blake 0-0-0-0, VanNatten 2-1-5-5, Thomas 5-3-7-13. TOTALS: 21-16-29-59.

Colonial League 20 25 - 45
LVC West 29 30 - 59

Three-pointers: CL - Colton 1, Muschlitz 1, Zabrecky, Arndt 1, Dagenhart 1; LVW - Guman 1.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY

Battle 1-2-4-4, Walters 3-0-0-6, Rosario 0-0-0-0, Taylor 0-0-0-0, Yozwiak 1-0-2-3, Roberts 1-0-3-2, Perez 3-3-5-9, Durant 3-0-0-6, Steakin 0-2-2-2, Briggs 1-0-2-2. TOTALS: 13-7-18-34.

LVC EAST

Cancelliere 4-0-0-8, Gunter 0-2-4-2, Silfies 3-0-2-7, Scerbo 5-3-5-15, Schultz 2-1-2-5, Knipe 1-1-3-3, Bowen 5-1-2-12. TOTALS: 20-8-18-52

Mountain Valley 16 18 - 34
LVC East 29 23 - 52

Three-pointers: MVC - Yozwiak 1; LVC - Scerbo 2, Silfies 1, Bowen 1.



PRESS PHOTO BY STEVE SHINKO

Northwestern's Lauren Gerchufsky lines up a shot at the Via All Star Classic last weekend at Northampton Community College.