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## Fortune favors the MVC stars

### Pocono Mountain West senior's double-double leads team to victory over LVC.

By Michael Blouse, SPECIAL TO THE MORNING CALL

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Tynell Fortune is a relative newcomer to the District 11 basketball scene. But the slight player with the big game thinks he knows how the Mountain Valley Conference is viewed by the coaches, players and fans in the Lehigh Valley.

"They don't respect us," said the talented Pocono Mountain West senior. "And that was all the motivation I needed."

Fortune put on a show during the quadruple-header finale of Saturday's Via All-Star Basketball Classic at Northampton Community College. The 5-foot-9, 145-pound guard scored 35 points and added 10 assists to lead the MVC stars to a 97-82 victory over the LVC East elite.

His performance overshadowed the closing high school basketball chapters for two of the Lehigh Valley's top standouts. Liberty's Darrun Hilliard, who is Villanova-bound, scored 20 points and Nazareth's Chuck Dibilio, who will play football at Princeton, totaled 14.

Ironically, it was a pair of Fortune's LVC buddies who provided most of the motivation.

"My good friends Jalen Cannon and Daquan Holiday [of Allen] texted me after their game and told me we were going to get smacked," Fortune said. "Well, we smacked them instead."

The fast-paced, offensive-friendly format was the perfect stage for Fortune.

Not only did No. 4 fill up the stat sheet, he did it with style — drilling seven 3-pointers, including some from well beyond the arc, and making several acrobatic shots in the lane. Many of his 10 assists went to former Pocono Mountain East rival Lamont Tillery, who scored 22 points.

Fortune plans to continue his basketball career at California (Pa.).

"I was used to playing games like this on the playgrounds in Harlem," said Fortune, who moved into the Pocono Mountain School District during 10th grade. "I was a crowd favorite."

"Tynell's a very good player," said Pocono Mountain West coach Brad Pensyl, who served as an assistant to Pleasant Valley's Ken Piontkowski for the Via game. "He likes this stuff too, the hoopla. If he was three or four inches taller, he'd be a Division I player."

The MVC team used an 11-0 run — Fortune connected on three straight 3-pointers — midway through the first half to open a 10-point lead. The LVC stars closed within 81-79 on Hilliard's dunk with 4:05 left, but Tillery exploded for eight points in a 90-second span to close it out for the MVC.

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"We wanted to win," Dibilio said, "but it was more for fun than just trying to win. It was a great time. And when I see Darrun playing on TV in a couple years, I can tell everyone I played in an all-star game with him."

Dibilio also complimented Fortune.

"I was out there thinking, 'will this guy ever miss?' " he said. "He didn't. He went off, and there are nights kids do that and you can't do anything about it."

In the other Via all-star games:

- In the closest contest of the day, the Colonial League boys' stars outscored LVC West 60-48 in the second half to prevail 97-95. Notre Dame's Adam Ambielli scored a game-high 24 points for the Colonial League. Eric Frans of Saucon Valley totaled 17 and Palisades' Josh Parris added 15. Whitehall's Javier Rivera led the LVC West squad with 24 points while Allen's Branden Harrington and Jalen Cannon each scored 16.
- The Colonial League girls' team dominated its game against the LVC West throughout and won 77-58. Southern Lehigh's Eleni Dimou led the way with 16 points. Danielle Van Buren of Saucon Valley and Sara Vough of Pen Argyl added 14 and 11 points, respectively. Allen's Cassandra Church scored 17 points for the LVC West.
- The LVC salvaged one of four games thanks to the East girls, which prevailed over the MVC stars 76-47. Nazareth's Erika Livermore led a balanced attack with 14 points for the LVC squad. Tiara Aziz of Easton contributed nine points and Torrie Weller of Phillipsburg scored eight. Pleasant Valley's Kasey Meckes and Pocono Mountain West's Katie Schickling both had 10 for the MVC.

## GIRLS

### COLONIAL LEAGUE RED (77)

Dimou 6 2-2 16, Gibson 1 0-0 2, Steen 3 0-0 6, Oertner 3 0-0 6, Reimer 0 0-0 0, Rinfret 2 1-2 5, Cinelli 2 0-0 4, Lively 1 0-2 2, Doell 4 0-0 8, Josephson 0 3-3 3, Van Buren 6 2-6 14, Vough 3 4-4 11. Totals 31 12-19 77.

### LEHIGH VALLEY WEST BLACK (58)

Abreau 1 1-2 3, Goodwin 0 5-8 5, Smith 1 0-0 2, Hess 1 4-6 6, Hagenauer 3 0-0 6, Stefanyak 1 0-0 2, Styles 6 1-2 13, Gilley 1 2-4 4, Church 8 0-2 17, Fritsche 0 0-0 0. Totals 22 13-24 58.

**Colonial League Red 48 29 – 77**

**Lehigh Valley West Black 27 31 – 58**

**3-pointers:** Dimou 2, Vough; Church. **Officials:** G. DeGerolomo, J. DeGerolomo, Celin.

### MOUNTAIN VALLEY GRAY (47)

Lipe 0 2-3 2, Williams 0 0-0 0, Myles 0 0-0 0, McLean 1 3-3 5, Marshall 1 1-2 3, Homyak 3 2-2 8, Meckes 3 1-2 10, Schickling 3 2-2 10, Drodz 0 2-3 2, Hicks 1 0-0 2, Hardy 1 2-4 5, Green 0 0-2 0. Totals 13 15-23 47.

### LEHIGH VALLEY EAST BLUE (76)

Carpenter 1 2-4 4, Kessler 2 1-2 5, Gary 2 0-0 4, Taylor-Bay 2 3-4 7, O'Connell 2 1-2 6, Aziz 4 1-3 9, Smith 2 0-0 4, Livermore 7 0-0 14, Owens 1 0-0 2, Braithwaite 3 1-2 7, Weller 3 2-6 8, Bonenberger 3 0-0 6. Totals 32 11-23 76.

**Mountain Valley Gray 20 27 – 47**

**Lehigh Valley East Blue 40 36 – 76**

**3-pointers:** Meckes 3, Schickling 2, Hardy; O'Connell. **Officials:** Haas, Mack, Lutz.

## BOYS

### COLONIAL LEAGUE RED (97)

Carey 1 0-0 2, Mulitsch 3 0-0 8, Scott 0 0-0 0, Bouch 4 0-0 8, Waylen 3 0-0 6, Ambielli 9 3-4 24, Parris 7 1-3 15, Bernard 2 0-0 6, Baker 1 0-0 3, Schantz 1 2-2 4, Clark 1 0-0 2, Frans 7 2-3 17. Totals 39 8-12 97.

### LEHIGH VALLEY WEST BLACK (95)

Kinek 0 0-0 0, Perry 5 0-0 11, Rivera 9 3-5 24, McKellick 1 0-0 2, Sullivan 1 0-0 3, Harrington 7 2-3 16, Allende 1 0-0 3, Adams 1 3-6 5, Brochu 0 2-2 2, Howard 2 1-1 6, Holiday 4 1-4 9, Cannon 7 2-3 16. Totals 37 14-24 95.

Colonial League Red 437 60 – 97

Lehigh Valley West Black 447 48 – 95

**3-pointers:** Mulitsch 2, Ambielli 3, Parris 2, Bernard 2, Baker, Frans; Perry, Rivera 3, Sullivan, Allende, Howard. **Officials:** Harris, Sipel, Hoffstetter.

### MOUNTAIN VALLEY GRAY (97)

Long 1 0-0 3, Wild 0 1-2 1, Pacheco 3 3-3 9, Fortune 11 6-8 35, Poorman 0 0-0 0, Fabian 1 0-0 2, Escobar 3 2-6 8, Sharpe 2 1-1 5, Cooper 5 0-0 12, Tillery 10 1-1 22, Anema 0 0-0 0. Totals 36 14-21 97.

### LEHIGH VALLEY EAST BLUE (82)

Hungarter 3 0-0 6, Rivera 4 0-0 9, Dally 1 0-0 3, Giovarelli 4 0-0 8, Hilliard 8 2-3 20, Holmes 4 0-0 9, Dibilio 6 2-7 14, Higgs 2 1-5 5, Kent 1 0-0 2, Sullivan 0 0-0 0, McDonald 3 0-1 6, McCutcheon 0 0-2 0. Totals 36 5-16 82.

Mountain Valley Gray 46 51 – 97

Lehigh Valley East Blue 30 52 – 82

**3-pointers:** Long, Fortune 7, Cooper 2, Tillery; Rivera, Dally, Hilliard 2, Holmes. **Officials:** Kohler, Noack, Sands.xx

*Michael Blouse is a freelance writer.*

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