

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Crean Lutheran wins, Beckman loses at Tip-off Classic

By [TIM BURT](#)

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Crean Lutheran's boys basketball team wound up with a decisive victory over San Juan Hills in the opening round of the Chick-fil-a Tip-off Classic.

But there were some struggles along the way for the Saints, who led, 38-31, at halftime before they took control in the second half to win, 88-65.

The game didn't have a lot of flow with 72 free-throws. Crean Lutheran shot 39 free throws, making 27; San Juan Hills attempted 33, connecting on 24.

"We kind of broke it open in the third quarter," said Crean coach Josh Beaty. "We just got to get a lot better. We have some good individual players, but we don't play like a team right now."

"We have to keep our attitudes in check and stay in control of our emotions. We have some good teams (in the tournament). We're going to play (teams) a lot better than (San Juan Hills) in this tournament, and we're certainly going to have a better effort than we had tonight."

Crean Lutheran was led by senior Tim Ghita, who scored 28 points, and senior Michael Bagatourian, who had 24 points. Maximus Bo and Tommy

Knott had 11 points each for the Saints.

Beckman is also competing in the Crean Lutheran tournament.

The Patriots dropped their tournament opener Monday, 95-55, to Sonora.

Beckman, under first-year coach John Goins, stayed close in the early going before Sonora pulled out to a 28-18 lead after the first quarter. Sonora opened up the margin in the second quarter, outscoring the Patriots, 32-14, to take a 60-32 lead at halftime.

"A good team makes you pay every mistake you make," said Goins. "And they did. Not only did we make a mistake, but we had difficulty learning from that. We had a couple good stretches where we showed we could play with them, but instead of playing for 32 minutes, we played for about five."

Dylan Thoerner scored 16 points, Aaron Chen had 14 points, and Ryan Sprosty had 13 points, including three 3-pointers, to lead Beckman.

Beckman bounced back Tuesday with a 70-31 victory over Ánimo South Los Angeles. Thoerner had 22 points and Sprosty 12 points to lead the Patriots.

Contact the writer: tiburt@scng.com