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## Crean Lutheran beats Laguna Beach in OT thriller

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IRVINE – Crean Lutheran’s boys basketball team survived an upset bid by Laguna Beach to capture a 54-49 victory in overtime Friday night in the second round of the CIF-SS 3AA playoffs at Crean Lutheran.

Second-seeded Crean Lutheran (23-6) advances to the quarterfinals Tuesday night on the road against Burbank. The Saints had a bye in the first round.

“It’s a playoff game; there are no easy games,” said Crean’s **Michael Bagatourian**, the game’s leading scorer with 28 points. “That’s a really good team and well coached. We got some boards and hit some free throws, finally, and we executed our (offensive) sets.”

Laguna Beach (19-11), led by the 23-point performance of **Blake Burzell**, did all it could to ruin the Saints’ plans for a long playoff run.

The Breakers overcame a three-point deficit after three quarters to take a three-point lead with 42 seconds left in regulation.

Crean Lutheran sent the game into overtime when Bagatourian hit two free throws with 11 seconds left to tie it, 45-45.

Bagatourian made two free throws with 6 seconds left in overtime to give the Saints a 54-49 lead.

“It took us a while to kind of settle in,” said Crean Lutheran coach **Josh Beaty**. “We were a little frazzled early and had a difficult time getting the ball inside for a long stretch there. Offensively, we had a really tough time today. We missed a few free throws (10) and we missed a few layups. Defensively, we were into it.”

**Maximus Bo** added 11 points for Crean Lutheran and sank two free throws in the overtime period.

**Charlie Rounaghi** wound up with 10 points for Laguna Beach.

Crean Lutheran jumped out to a 12-7 lead after one quarter before Laguna Beach outscored the Saints, 11-6, in the second quarter to tie the score at halftime, 18-18.

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