

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Crean Lutheran boys basketball team upset in quarterfinals

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After capturing a second round victory over Laguna Beach on Friday night, Crean Lutheran's boys basketball team fell to Burbank, 52-50, in the quarterfinal round of the CIF-SS 3AA playoffs Tuesday night in Burbank.

Michael Woods had a dunk in the final seconds to win it for Burbank (23-8).

"Michael Woods made an incredible play at the buzzer," said Crean Lutheran Coach Josh Beaty on the phone after the game. "It was a crazy play. We played well. I'm proud of them. We did miss a few opportunities to take charges. And we missed too many blockouts. That was the difference: that and his (Woods) incredible play."

Michael Bagatourian scored 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead Crean Lutheran.

The No. 2-seeded Saints (23-7) captured a 54-49 victory in overtime Friday night at Crean Lutheran in the second round to advance. Crean had a bye in the opening round. The Saints were trying to reach the semifinals for the second year in a row.

"It's a playoff game; there are no easy games," said 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 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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