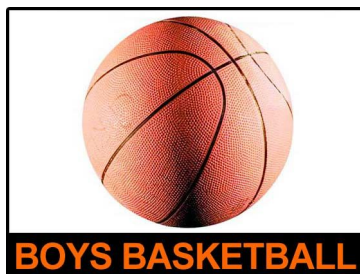




## Late run gets Crean Lutheran past Canyon in Orange Holiday Classic

By [STEVE FRYER](#)

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FULLERTON – Crean Lutheran defeated Canyon, 63-61, Tuesday in an Orange Holiday Classic second-round boys basketball game at Hope International University.

The Saints (10-4) will play Temecula Valley (11-2) in the championship semifinals Wednesday at Hope University at 8:30 p.m. Temecula Valley beat Edison (8-3), No. 4 in Orange County, in another second-round game Tuesday.

Crean coach **Josh Beaty** has been trying to convince the Saints players to trust each other. Maybe they started doing so Tuesday.

The Saints scored four straight baskets on a series of sharp passes that led to easy inside baskets: **Michael Bagatourian** to **Isaiah Johnson**; **Jake Conerty** to **Tim Ghita**; Ghita to Bagatourian; and Bagatourian to **Chris Swardstrom**.

“We took our time, slowed down a bit,” Beaty said, “and then scoring opportunities presented themselves.”

That series changed a 52-52 tie to a 60-52 lead with 2:05 remaining.

Bagatourian said ball movement was crucial in beating the Comanches.

“Our whole game plan was to spread them out and make them chase the ball around,” said Bagatourian, a 6-foot-7 senior wing. “They’re quick and they like to double-team.”

Canyon kept battling and closed the margin, but missed a couple of shots down the stretch that could have tied the game.

**Max Bo**, a 5-8 sophomore guard, led Crean with 14 points. Bagatourian, Ghita and Swardstrom scored 11 points each.

**Lucan Holden** paced Canyon (7-6) with 14 points. **Jaden Gallegos** added 12 points for the Comanches.

Canyon plays Edison in a fifth-place semifinal Wednesday at 5:10 p.m.

### Also at the Orange Holiday Classic:

**No. 3 Esperanza 73, Great Oak of Temecula 48:** Stanford-signed senior **Kezie Okpala** led the Aztecs (11-1) with 34 points. Esperanza will play La Mirada in a tournament semifinal Wednesday at 6:50 p.m.

**Temecula Valley 81, No. 4 Edison 79:** **Randall Walker** scored 33 points for the Chargers in their second-round loss.

**Yorba Linda 60, Hoover of Glendale 54:** **Shaun Maeder** scored 21 points and **Garrett Freund** added 17 for the Mustangs (9-5). Maeder made five 3-pointers.

Yorba Linda plays Diamond Ranch in a consolation semifinal Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. at Hope.

**Beckman 80, Rubidoux 43:** **Dylan Thoerner**'s 24 points led the Patriots (7-7). He is Beckman's leading scorer at 18 points a game.

Beckman plays Menlo of Atherton on Wednesday in a consolation semifinal at Hope at 1:50 p.m. The tournament's consolation final is Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at Hope.

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