



## Crean Lutheran pulls out victory over St. Margaret's in OT

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2017-01-12 22:25:12



IRVINE – Crean Lutheran needed overtime to beat persistent St. Margaret's, 61-58, Thursday in an Academy League game at Crean Lutheran High.

The win improved Crean Lutheran to 14-6 overall and 5-0 in league. St. Margaret's is 10-5 overall and 2-1 in league.

Crean Lutheran, ranked No. 6 in CIF-Southern Section Division 3AA, had a 13-point lead late in the third quarter. But St. Margaret's, No. 5 in 4A, made one of its many surges as **Ryan Cragun** scored 10 of his 24 points in the quarter to reduce the Saints' lead to 38-33 going into the fourth quarter.

It looked like Crean was going to pull away again midway through the fourth when **Isaiah Johnson** converted a 3-point play to push the Saints' lead to 46-42.

The Tartans rallied again. **Tyler Horgan's** two free throws with 50 seconds left made it 50-50 to conclude regulation scoring and send the game into overtime. Horgan finished with a game-high 25 points.

In the extra period, **Chris Swardstrom**, who was 0 for 5 on 3-point shots in regulation, made two 3s in a row to give the Saints a 58-52 lead. The Tartans closed it to 59-58 on a Cragun 3-pointer with 23 seconds left, but that would conclude their scoring.

In the final seconds, Crean's **Michael Bagatourian** grabbed an offensive rebound, was fouled and made two free throws to make it 61-58.

Bagatourian finished with 21 points and 14 rebounds. **Tim Ghita** scored 18 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Saints.

Crean Lutheran coach **Josh Beaty** was impressed by the Tartans' fortitude.

"Those two seniors of theirs (Cragun and Horgan) did such a great job for them," Beaty said. "And we didn't play our best game offensively."

Crean's gym, a large canvas-domed structure nicknamed "The Tent," was loud throughout the contest.

"The atmosphere was intense," Ghita said. "It was like a CIF playoff game in here."

The teams meet again Feb. 2 in a league game at St. Margaret's.

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