

CCSF ENDS 49-YEAR STATE BASKETBALL TITLE DROUGHT; EDGES CITRUS, 83-81

VENTURA (March 13, 2011) -- A putback basket by 6-5 DeEnd Parker with 2.4 seconds left fulfilled a timeout promise and gave City College of San Francisco an 83-81 victory over Citrus College Sunday afternoon at Ventura College – the first California Community College Athletic Association men’s basketball championship for the Rams in 49 years.

During the timeout, with 17 seconds left to set-up a last shot, the call was for Rams’ leading scorer and returning all-tourney player Jonathon Williams to make the last attempt in the final seconds – or settle for overtime. Parker assured coach Justin Labagh, “If Jonathon misses, I’m going to tip the ball back in, I promise.” Williams attempted the jumper from just inside the key with five seconds left. It hit the rim and Parker, a sophomore out of Lincoln High, went up under the basket for a one-handed controlled tip for the winner.

Citrus had regained the lead in the tight contest for the last time at 81-79 with 1:49 left on a basket and free throw by Donte Archie. But CCSF responded with a pair of free throws by Daryl Cooper to tie it for the tenth time at 81 with 1:36 left. The lead had also changed ten times.

San Francisco finished 32-1 -- with a 27-game win streak since a Nov. 19 loss at Fresno City College.

CCSF had the biggest lead at 59-50. with 16:47 left, before the Owls began a 3-point barrage. Every Citrus field goal over a 12 minute span was a three – nine in all and four by all-tourney guard Lateef McMullan. The Owls led, 73-70, after McMullan’s last three, with 5:57 left. But there were no more to come.

San Francisco led, 38-36, at the half -- when a Citrus buzzer shot was disallowed.

Tourney MVP Fred Sturdivant of CCSF, a 6-7 sophomore forward, had a double-double to lead all scorers, with 24 points, and rebounders, with 12. Parker finished with ten points and seven rebounds. Williams had 13 points, ten rebounds, and eight assists.

McMullan led Citrus (27-6) with 23 points and had three assists.

--The game was a “rematch” of the 1962 state championship game, when CCSF beat Citrus for its only previous title, led by MVP Brad Duggan (who later became the long-time success Rams coach).

--CCSF was the runner-up last year (when Williams made the all-tournament team) and had previous second-place finishes in 1986, 1981, 1978, and 1966 – while winning 29 conferences championships over that span.

(Note: Sturdivant is a San Francisco native and resident but played high school basketball at Brainerd in Chattanooga, Tenn.)

All-Tournament Team:

Wendell Faines, Saddleback; Quentin Watkins, Fresno; Donnel Phifer and Lateef McMullan, Citrus; DeEnd Parker, CCSF. MVP: Fred Sturdivant, CCSF.

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