

Women's Quarterfinal Game

Fresno City-Ventura

If Fresno City goes on to win the state championship, they will have Lena Gipson to thank for getting them out of the first round.

Gipson scored 29 of her 34 points in the second half and pulled down 17 rebounds as the Rams rallied to defeat Ventura, 70-64, on Thursday at the Spanos Center.

The Rams (35-2) avenged an earlier, controversial loss to the Pirates (29-6) during the regular season on the strength of their freshman center, who scored 21 points, including a stretch of 10 consecutive, in the final 11 minutes, 23 seconds of the contest.

Jenelle Conklin scored 15 points and Indira Kaljo had 14 for Ventura, which was making its first appearance in the state tournament since winning the title in 2003.

At first, the Rams struggled, making just one of their first 12 shots in the first half and trailing 34-29 at the intermission. But Gipson took over with her team trailing 43-38, scoring five consecutive points to draw the Rams even before going on her final tear to ensure the victory.

The game featured seven ties and 16 lead changes, including five ties and 13 lead changes in the second half alone.

With the victory, Fresno advances to the semifinals to face two-time defending state champion Mt. San Antonio.