

Clark men defeat South Puget Sound

Staff and wire reports

Derek Thurston scored 17 points, and the Clark men's basketball team forced 21 turnovers Wednesday in an 83-67 home victory over South Puget Sound.

"We are starting to play better team defense," Clark coach Mike Arnold said. "It's starting to look more of what we're coaching here."

Arnold said opponents are not getting close to the bucket in the half-court game. And missed shots are usually finding their way to the Penguins — a 38-29 Clark advantage Wednesday.

"We did a good job of help-out defense, and we controlled the boards," he said.

The Penguins also had 13 steals, led by Stephon Hopkins, Zach Walhder, and Justin Waldher, who each had three. Thurston was 5 of 11 from the floor for his 17 points. Hopkins was 4 of 6 and ended up with 12 points. Clark shot 51 percent from the floor and led for most of the game. Clark's bench outscored South Puget Sound 38-17.

Clark improved to 3-1 in the West division of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges, 5-7 overall.

College highlights

Clark women win

The Clark women "now have a target on our back," coach Nancy Boone said after the Penguins improved to 3-1 in league play Wednesday night.

Renee Tzeo led a balanced attack with 15 points in a 59-54 win over South Puget Sound, marking the first time in Boone's four seasons that Clark (6-5) has opened 3-1.

Tzeo made three 3-pointers and also led the team with four assists. Chawncy McClenan, a former Heritage standout, had a double-double with 14 points and 16 rebounds. Former Prairie Falcon Sam Riggan, who took a couple years away from the game, has returned to form. She had 10 points and three boards.

"She comes with a good basketball IQ and understands competition," Boone said.

Boone also likes how many different players she sees on the court who can finish for the Penguins. The team has had five different players lead them in

scoring this season.

This start has not been perfect, though. The Penguins had 28 turnovers against South Puget Sound, and that has been a problem for much of the season.

"We're getting pretty darn lucky with that," Boone said.

Clark led by six at halftime and pushed the lead to 11 in the second half before withstanding a late rally by South Puget Sound.