Preposterous finish sinks Clark

South Puget Sound rallies from 20 down to beat Penguins

By PAUL VALENCIA
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The gift-giving season is not over yet, despite the wishes of the Clark Penguins. Clark gave away a 20-point second-half lead, and the South Puget Sound Clippers got a gift from the basketball heavens Monday night, beating the Penguins on a shot from just inside the half-court line to win the U.S. Army Fort Lewis Holiday Tournament.

"This is the luckiest tournament I've ever played in," acknowledged South Puget Sound's Will Sharp, who scored five points in the game's final 1:33 seconds for a 13-70 victory. Yesterday was a last-second shot. Today was a last-second shot. It's crazy."

Even preposterous. Sharp beat his man to the hoop for the tying layup with 1:33 seconds to play. Clark coach Mike Arnold called a timeout and drew up a long inbound play to give the Penguins a chance at the win. Instead, Sharp stole the pass, took one dribble, and launched his shot from close to midcourt just prior to the horn. Arnold took the blame for the way the game ended, saying he needed to do a better job of communicating where he wanted the pass to go in the first place.

"You always look back, shouldn't, could've, would've, as a coach," he said. "We should have just inbounded the ball and gone to overtime."

END GAME: South Puget Sound's Will Sharp scored five points in the final 1:33 seconds, giving the Clippers the title in the U.S. Army Fort Lewis Holiday Tournament.

CLARK HIGHLIGHTS: Garrett Anderson scored 16 points to lead the Penguins.
Clark: [Article content]

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