The Columbian

The Clark College men's basketball opened NWAACC West Division play on a strong note Saturday, defeating Centralia 77-53 at the O'Connell Center in Vancouver.

Washougal High grad Grant Zigler led four Penguins in double figures with 17 points.

Columbia River grad Derek Thurston had 11 points and a team-high seven rebounds, Zach Walhder also added 11 points, and Kevin Nagunst scored 10.

The Penguins (3-6, 1-0) out-rebounded Centralia 39-27 and also had 12 steals.

"Our record really doesn't show who we are," Clark coach Mike Arnold said. "But when you don't put up the points, then I guess that is who you are. But this was a nice team win that can help get us started."

Dan DeVries led Centralia (0-8, 0-1) with 16 points. Hudson's Bay grad Isaac Mosley-Bolds played 24 minutes for the Trailblazers, scoring just 1 point.

Clark travels to Grays Harbor on Wednesday for an 8 p.m. game.

Centralia women 64, Clark 49 — Renee Tzoe scored 15 points and Chawncy McClenan 12 for Clark in the West Division opening loss.

Both teams struggled with their shots. Clark (3-5, 0-1) shot 30.3 percent for the game while Centralia (9-2, 1-0).

The difference was turnovers where the Penguins made 29 to Centralia's 19.

"We just threw the ball away too much," Clark coach Nancy Boone said. "We also needed to play better defense."

Lexi Belcher led Centralia with 21 points.