

Chokers eliminate Clark from playoffs

The Columbian

With the game on the line, the Clark College Penguins lost their grip on the basketball. The result was a season-ending 76-69 loss at Grays Harbor in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges men's basketball playoffs at Aberdeen.

Brad Hodge scored 23 points and the Chokers were able to pull away in the closing minutes by hitting free throws and forcing the Penguins into turnovers on four of their last six possessions.

The win moves Grays Harbor (18-10) into the NWAACC tournament, which runs Thursday through Sunday at the Toyota Center in Kennewick. Clark finished 15-14. The teams played Monday because they tied for fourth place in the West Division at 8-8.

"We defended OK, but we did not shoot the ball well, and those turnovers down the stretch really hurt," Clark coach Mike Arnold said.

Orlandor Westbrooks scored 20 points and hit 8 of 11 field goals to lead Clark. But the sophomore fouled out with more than four minutes to play and his team leading by a point. Bryan Martin scored 13 points and Tommy Allen 11 for the Penguins. Clark led 33-31 at halftime.

Arnold said inconsistent shooting from the 3-point line (5 of 17) and free-throw line (10 of 17) contributed to the downfall of the Penguins. Grays Harbor was 25 of 28 from the foul line.