

Yakima Valley sinks Clark at NWAACC Tournament

Illness to key players hurts in 67-39 first-round defeat

The Columbian

A trip to the NWAACC Tournament in Kennewick could not cure what ails the Clark College men's basketball team.

The Penguins fell 67-39 in the first-round game Thursday to Yakima Valley, suffering from poor shooting, turnovers and ill-

ness.

"We didn't have a lot of energy and didn't shoot very well," Clark coach Mike Arnold said. "That made it tough for us to get things done."

Clark's Derek Thurston, Brandon Jones and Garrick Ashenfelter, who combined to average 41.1 points during the season, were out sick leading into the tournament.

On Thursday, the three struggled with their shots for a combined 2 for 29 from the field for

12 points.

"It's hard when you are sick," Arnold said. "You have no legs and no energy. We were subbing every four minutes."

Sixth-ranked Yakima Valley (23-6) enjoyed a big first-half advantage, scoring 19 points off turnovers for a 34-19 lead at half-time.

Clark (17-10) had no players in double figures. Grant Ziegler had nine points and four rebounds, and Jones scored eight points to go with nine rebounds.

Arman Kalan had 10 rebounds and seven points.

Rico Wilkins led the Yakima Valley with 16 points, and LeMar Anglin had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

"Take nothing away from Yakima, they shot the ball very well," Arnold said.

Clark will face Linn-Benton (12-15) at 10 a.m. today in the consolation bracket. Bellevue defeated Linn-Benton 76-53.

Clark defeated Linn-Benton in a December game, 67-64.