

Trojans top St. Agatha

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Clarenceville junior guard Albert Deljosevic banked in a half-court shot as the third quarter ended in Friday's boys basketball game at Redford St. Agatha.

The way things had gone for Clarenceville senior center Justin Villanueva earlier in the game, his two free throws with five seconds left seemed just as unlikely.

But Villanueva, who missed five of his first six free throw attempts, sank both ends of a one-and-one to break a 49-49 tie and give the Trojans a 51-49 victory before a sellout crowd.

"I was so nervous my first couple of free throws and my last two I wasn't nervous at all," said Villanueva, who scored 19 points and grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds. "I either made them or I didn't. That wasn't me that won this game. That was Clarenceville High School."

Clarenceville coach Rick Larson must have felt like a year's worth of suspense was packed into this game — the Trojans' season opener.

The meeting is turning into quite a rivalry. Larson remembers opening the season three years ago here with a 92-90 double overtime loss.

"Nineteen more of these games and I'll be dead," Larson joked. "You'll be writing my obituary."

Villanueva's heroics came only four seconds after St. Agatha had a chance to break the tie with a pair of free throws. But the Aggies missed both and Villanueva got the rebound and was fouled in the backcourt as he pushed the ball up the court.

After the missed free throws by St. Agatha, the best Aggies' coach John Fenbert could hope for was overtime.

The decisive free throws handed the Aggies their first loss after a 67-50 victory in their season opener three days earlier against Dearborn Heights Fairlane Christian.

"We said not to foul number 4 (Deljosevic) — we didn't want to foul anyone in that situation," Fenbert said.

Villanueva scored 15 points in the first half, sinking Clarenceville to a 29-24 halftime

lead. Deljosevic had 12 of his game-high 22 points in the second half, including a three-point shot early in the fourth quarter to give the Trojans a 47-45 lead after they had surrendered the advantage in the third quarter.

The rest of the Trojans combined for 10 points, including four by Rick Barack to go with seven rebounds.

"We knew they had a big guy (Villanueva) and they had a good guard (Deljosevic)," Fenbert said. "They were the two that beat us, basically. Hand-it to them. We made a run-out them and they didn't fold."

Deljosevic made six of 18 shots from the field and none were bigger than his 40-foot heave before the buzzer sounded at the end of the third quarter that cut the Trojans' deficit to 43-42.

The basket came at the end of an 9-0 run by St. Agatha that had given the Aggies their first lead since early in the game, 43-39.

"Al is awesome," Villanueva said. "That was the turning point of the game."



Soccer Stars:The Farmington Soccer Club's boys' under-11 team took first place in its division in the Western Suburban Soccer League. The squad, which was coached by John O'Brien, posted a record of 7-0-1 and won the Farmington Cup. Team members included: (bottom row, left to right) Francis Bartus, Brian Stolman, Matt Cummings, John Anis, Matt Leach, David Judge, Jason Lubin, Justin Zaleski; (middle row, left to right) Jason Cummings, Matt O'Brien, Kevin Boskey, Chris Dowd, Britton Steele, David Trost, Alex Aubrey, Patrick Manion, Ryan Taylor; (top row, left to right) coach John O'Brien, assistant coaches Bill Steele, Bryant Steele and Neil Stolman. Assistant coach David Lubin is missing from the photo.

Salem team to beat in WLAA

By C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR

The high school volleyball season is off to a bad start.

But let's not dwell on the negative, without the first kill having been attempted or ace being served. Instead, let's just look for something positive to emphasize.

When talking volleyball and Plymouth Salem, such a search takes no time at all.

Everything — except the number of league games expected to be played — is on the upswing at Salem, according to co-coach Brian Gilles.

"On paper, this team should be the best we ever had — on paper," said Gilles.

Now that's going out on a

limb, considering that in the past four years, the Rocks have one — that's right, just one — dual-match loss in the Western Lakes Activities Association. They have constantly been a powerhouse in the league.

But winning the WLAA, while still a major objective, won't be good enough for Salem this year.

"Our goal is to be in the state final, to win the state championship," Gilles declared bluntly.

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