



McCarthy makes big plays as Bishop Amat beats Lynwood

By Mike Terry, *Los Angeles Times Staff Writer*
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Kristen McCarthy has scored more in games during her career at La Puente Bishop Amat. But she could not remember a better game, especially considering what was at stake.

"I think this is one of the biggest games I've had," said McCarthy, a junior, who poured in 26 points on Saturday to help visiting Bishop Amat defeat Lynwood, 57-52, in the quarterfinals of the Division I-AA playoffs.

Fifth-seeded Bishop Amat improved to 24-4 and will play host to top-seeded Long Beach Poly in the semifinals on Tuesday at an alternate site.

A stunned-looking Lynwood squad, seeded fourth, saw its season end at 23-5.

McCarthy didn't do it all by herself. Senior forward Candice Brown had 14 points and four blocked shots.

But McCarthy seemed to make every critical shot when the Lancers needed one.

When Bishop Amat took the lead for good at 50-48, with 3:43 left, naturally it was McCarthy who made the shot, this time from 15 feet.

An even bigger basket was her 10-foot bank shot that gave Bishop Amat a 54-50 lead with 1:22 to play, and ultimately enough cushion to hold off any final Lynwood rally.

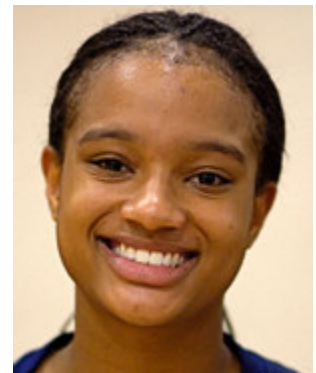
At times, however, the Knights hurt their cause.

They built a 26-19 lead in the second quarter but went scoreless in the final 3:45 and saw the Lancers run off 10 consecutive points to take a 29-26 halftime lead.

"Lynwood had the momentum, but we never got down on ourselves," Bishop Amat Coach Richard Wiard said. "And getting the lead at halftime really gave us some confidence."

Lynwood was also guilty of a couple of avoidable technical fouls in the second half. The first came in the third quarter, when the Knights had six players on the court during a free throw. That did not hurt, as Lancers guard Amanda Alvarez missed both shots.

But the second technical was lethal. With Bishop Amat clinging to a 54-52 lead with eight seconds left, there was a scramble under the Lynwood basket for a loose ball. Lynwood got the ball and tried to call time-





out. But the Knights were out of timeouts.

Alvarez made one of the two technical free throws. More important, Bishop Amat got the ball. Alvarez was fouled once more on the inbound pass and she made both free throws for the final margin.

"There was never a moment when we thought we had the game," McCarthy said. "Lynwood is a great team and they are really fast. But we kept fighting even when we got down, and the important thing was we stayed together. And that's what helped us win tonight."