

## Salesian 70, Acalanes 66 in Double OT at East Bay Extravaganza

By David Anderson

The Acalanes Dons couldn't finish off the Salesian Pride in a sensational double overtime contest that left the Dons on the short side of a 70-66 resolution Saturday Dec. 15 at Saint Mary's College. The Dons (5-3) held a comfortable lead for most of the game until the Pride (6-1) resurrected midway through the third quarter cutting the lead to five with the fourth quarter still to play.

Salesian came out playing hard in the fourth with spirited play by Justin and Jabari Brown (who combined for 50 of Salesian's 70 points) and was able to tie the game 55-55 on a Justin Brown free-throw to send the game into its first of two overtime periods.

The Dons took the lead in OT and looked to have the Pride beat but weren't able to keep Justin Brown from hitting a desperation 3-pointer from well beyond the arc to tie the game as time expired in overtime.

Leading 69-66 in double overtime Salesian was able to put the game away when Jon Wheat jumped a Brooks Baker pass along the arc with seconds left on the clock. Wheat made it a two possession game by making one of his two free-throw attempts

when the Dons were forced to foul with three seconds remaining.

Joey Anderson (who saw significant playing time last season in the Don's CIF Playoff run) led the way for Acalanes with 23 points. Donovan Christensen added 16 points and Dexter Masland followed with 14 for the Dons.

Acalanes looks to build upon their experience in the preseason as they enter DFAL league play in the coming weeks. The Dons are starting off strong with a 5-3 record after beating El Cerrito, San Rafael and Redwood-Larkspur in the NorCal Tipoff Classic along with Elk Grove in the Chris Vontoure Memorial Classic at De La Salle. The team stumbled during their final two games of the De La Salle Tourney with tough losses to Fairfield (lost in overtime 74-72) and Bellarmine of San Jose. They went on to split their games in the East Bay Extravaganza at Saint Mary's beating Sir Francis Drake and losing to Salesian. Two of the Dons' losses came in tough overtime decisions that could have gone either way.

The Dons are set to begin DFAL play at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 2 at Northgate High School.