



**PROFESSIONAL
TILE & GROUT
CLEANING**

LEARN MORE NOW

—OR—
CALL 1-800-STEEMER


 Search: Search
[Home](#) | [Boys sports](#) | [Girls sports](#) | [Steve Fryer](#) | [Recruiting](#) | [Photos/video](#) | [Coaches](#) | [Blog](#) | [About us](#)

 Other Varsity coverage: [Inland Empire](#)
[Sports](#) > [Boys Basketball](#)

 Font Size [A](#) [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Mater Dei win goes smoothly this time

February 19, 2016 11:37 PM

[Share This](#) | [Print Story](#) | [E-Mail Story](#)

 By MARK CARLISLE
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SANTA ANA – Mater Dei defeated Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Montebello, 58-46, Friday at Mater Dei in the opening round of the CIF-SS Open Division boys basketball playoffs.

The fourth-seeded Monarchs (26-3) move on to play fifth-seeded Centennial of Corona (22-6) on Tuesday in a quarterfinal at Mater Dei.

As soon as Cantwell and Mater Dei sent their starters on the floor for the tip-off, it was clear the Monarchs had the size advantage. The average height of the Monarch starters was more than three inches taller than that of the Cardinals starters.

But Cantwell (16-11) brings a big game.

These two teams also met in the first round of the playoffs in 2014, and Cantwell nearly spoiled Mater Dei's perfect season, pushing the game to overtime.

"In this division, you know, anything can happen," Mater Dei coach **Gary McKnight** said. "That year we ... went on to go undefeated and win the national title. And we could have lost in the first round and been done."

With two minutes left in the first quarter, Cantwell senior guard **Jacob Davison** blocked a shot that led to a basket on the other end to tie the score at eight.

On the following possession, senior guard **James Yan** hit a 3-pointer to put Cantwell up, 11-8. Senior point guard **Elias Zedan**, who assisted on the play, jumped and pumped his fist in the backcourt. The packed visitors' stands erupted.

The home stands seemed to be reminded of the close call from two years ago.

The Monarchs weren't down for long. Sophomore point guard **Spencer Freedman**, who led all scorers with 17, came right back to hit a three to tie it.

Mater Dei emerged from the quarter with a 14-13 lead, and took over from there. The Monarchs outscored the Cardinals, 18-9, in the second quarter, holding Cantwell to 3-for-10 shooting.

Mater Dei senior center **MJ Cage** had five blocks to go with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

"The shots he alters and blocks, it makes such a big difference," McKnight said. "Not to mention the points."


[enlarge](#)

0

Tweet

0

Recommend

G+1

Most Viewed Stories

- [Players leave California Showcase with offers, enthusiasm](#)
- [Basketball playoffs: Friday's scores, updated schedule](#)
- [Brea Olinda's 1-2 punch too much for Oaks Christian](#)
- [Laguna Beach holds off Mater Dei, reaches semifinals](#)
- [Boys soccer playoffs: Scores, updated schedule](#)

LA HABRA HIGH SCHOOL

WHAT MAKES US THE #1 SCHOOL OF CHOICE?

- #1 Comprehensive H.S. in O.C.
- Silver Medal - US News & World Report
- 24 Advanced Placement Courses
- Highly Skilled Teachers
- Career Technical Education
- Championship Athletics
- California Distinguished School

For More Info Click Here

Players

Players of the week

Girls scholar-athlete of the week: **Alaina Cousineau, San Clemente**



Boys scholar-athlete of the week: **Timothy Lloyd, Servite**



Search Players

Search player by last name

Find player

OC Varsity Blog

- Football recruiting: Servite's Lytle stays hot, adds Mountain West offer
- Water polo: CIF Division 1 semifinal matches set
- Girls water polo: Albano's playoff predictions for quarterfinal Saturday
- Boys soccer playoffs: Scores, updated schedule

Top Videos

[See archived 'Sports' stories »](#)

Ads by Google