



## West boys rally to win Battle of the Valley

By Jacob H. Pollon, Special to the Daily News

Updated: 05/03/2009 12:15:08 AM PDT

The Valley Sports Foundation Battle of the Valley all-star games always have great talent, great coaching and high drama.

The 13th annual event at Cal State Northridge was no different Saturday night as the West boys' team came back from a 21-point deficit to win in double overtime 96-95.

Cleveland of Reseda's Prince Obasi made a rebound layup after a Terran Carter miss to give the West the win.

"I couldn't believe we had a chance there at the end," Obasi said. "I just made sure I squared up and banked it in. The game was crazy."

CSUN-bound Terran Carter of Taft of Woodland Hills scored 21 points and had nine rebounds to lead the West.

Carter's second-half dunking wowed the crowd.

Taft's Michael Williams had 18 points, including a 3-pointer with 31.2 seconds remaining in regulation to tie the score at 86.

Evan Smith of Calabasas, who signed with USC

two weeks ago, scored 15 points and Obasi had 14 points and six rebounds.

Cal-bound Bak Bak of Village Christian of Sun Valley had 20 points, 15 rebounds, four blocks and two steals to lead the East.

Ryan Watkins of Reseda had 13 points and 10 rebounds and made the tying basket at the end of the first overtime to send the game into a second extra period.

Randall Harris of Reseda had 10 points and six assists.

The halftime slam dunk contest wasn't as exciting as in years past, when Cleveland of Reseda's Nick Young (now with the Washington Wizards) was taking off from the free-throw line and throwing down monstrous dunks, but Steven Thornton of Golden Valley did just enough to come away with a victory against Monroe of North Hills' Demetrius Perkins in the final round

Simi Valley's Brad Lewis won the 3-point shootout.

### Brandon wins MVP, but West girls fall short

City Section Player of the Year and McDonald's All-American Gennifer Brandon can add another award to her growing list of accolades after leading Chatsworth to the championship this past season.

Brandon won the MVP of the girls' all-star game, despite her West team losing 76-67 to the East.

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Brandon scored 25 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and had four blocks and three steals.

"Even though we lost we all had a great time," Brandon said. "I think our team was just a little more relaxed and we let the game slip away from the start."

A pair of Foothill League stars led the East.

Nicole Hicks of Saugus, the league Player of the Year, scored 14 points and had seven rebounds and three assists.

Valencia's Starla Wright had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The East hung on despite blowing almost all of an 18-point lead.

Trailing 37-19, the West went on a 20-6 run but couldn't get any closer.

Breanna Kigozi of Notre Dame of Sherman Oaks and Crystal Cristales of Poly of Sun Valley each had eight points and Gabby Conn of Saugus added eight rebounds for the East.

Taft of Woodland Hills forward Joy Hubbard had 20 points and five rebounds to help Brandon.

Brittani Jefferson of Quartz Hill had six points and 11 rebounds. Sidney Dobner of Newbury Park had six points and six rebounds.

The West was hampered by shooting 25 of 98 from the field in the spacious Matadome.

Haley Meadows of Calabasas won the halftime 3-point contest making seven shots in 30 seconds in the final round to edge Alemany of Mission Hills' Ashley Bautista.

[jack.pollon@dailynews.com](mailto:jack.pollon@dailynews.com)

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