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California Pacific Conference Basketball Tournament
For Immediate Release

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Hayward falls at home to #4 Menlo

Junior guard **Cody Christensen** led the #4 Menlo College Oaks (15-11/9-7/1-0) to a 69-52 victory over the #8 CSU East Bay Pioneers (8-18/5-11/1-1) in the second round of the California Pacific Conference Tournament on Thursday night in Hayward.

Christensen finished the night with 17 points on 6-of-9 shooting and 4-of-7 from behind the three-point arc. Senior center **Israel Torres** recorded 10 points for the Oaks.

Hayward was led by freshman guard **Billy Nunes** and senior center **Chasen Peterson** with 11 points apiece. Peterson also pulled down five rebounds in his final game as a Pioneer. Freshman forward **Will Freedman** added 10 points in the loss.

Menlo controlled things from the start, taking a 34-23 lead into halftime. The Oaks continued their dominance in the second half, extending the lead to as much as 22. CSU East Bay pulled within nine points but was limited to .302 shooting from the floor and only made 16 field goals. Menlo drained 23 of their 47 attempts for a .489 shooting performance.

"We're real happy with the win tonight," said Menlo head coach Brandon Laird. "We're excited for the opportunity to play in the semi-finals and see Holy Names again. It should be a competitive game on both ends."

Menlo will take on California Pacific Conference champion Holy Names on Friday. Holy Names is currently ranked #18 in the nation in NAIA Division II. The matchup will also be a rematch of last season's Cal Pac Tournament Championship game, which HNU won. Holy Names also defeated Menlo in overtime in the teams' last meeting. Tip-off is set for 7:00 p.m. at CSU East Bay's Pioneer Gym.