

Posted on Sat, Feb. 25, 2006

## Buzzer-beater dashes Cardinals' title hopes

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**TYLER** - There are big games and then there are overweight-brontosaurus-huge games.

The Fort Worth Christian boys basketball team's 54-52 loss to Houston Westbury fell into the dinosaur range when it comes to massively memorable basketball.

Westbury hit a buzzer-beater Friday to snag a TAPPS Class 5A state semifinal victory at UT-Tyler.

"The kids played their hearts out," Fort Worth Christian coach Scott Thannum said. "This group never quit. We got down a couple times, and they never quit. I think that's a testament to their resolve."

Westbury advanced to face Houston Second Baptist, which defeated Houston Lutheran North 64-56.

With 11.3 seconds left in a 52-52 game, Westbury missed a pair of free throws, and Fort Worth Christian snagged the rebound. However, the Cardinals had a backcourt violation during the transition.

"We tell our kids if you're going to make mistakes, make them full-speed," Thannum said. "That was a full-speed mistake, and there were so many other things to point at, but everyone only remembers the end of a ballgame."

The infraction left Westbury with 3.4 seconds to inbound the ball from midcourt. Fort Worth Christian effectively cut off Westbury's two dangerous guards, but Brandon Greene got free after setting a screen and hit a 15-foot jumper as time expired. It was Greene's only basket of the game.

Fort Worth Christian led 15-10 at the end of the first quarter but the score was 23-23 at halftime.

The Cardinals entered the final quarter with a 40-36 lead, but Westbury used a 14-2 run to take a 50-42 lead.

Fort Worth Christian tied the score at 52-52 with 1:17 left.

"It was a great contest," Westbury coach Greg Glenn said. "We know anytime we play Fort Worth Christian it's going to be a great game. Every kid that stepped out onto the court tonight played wide-open."

HOUSTON WESTBURY 54, FORT WORTH CHRISTIAN 52

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