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PHOTOS BY ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Santiam's Julian Downey plows through Kennedy's Nick Suing (left) and Emorej Lynk in a game at Santiam High School in Mill City on Dec. 20. Kennedy won the game, 58-51, in overtime.

KENNEDY TOPS SANTIAM IN OT

Kennedy took on the Santiam boy's basketball team at Santiam High School in Mill City on Dec. 20. Kennedy won the game 58-51 in overtime.



Kennedy's Bishop Mitchell (15) and Nick Suing (40) and Santiam's Jordan Lanham (1) all go up for the ball in the Kennedy vs. Santiam boy's basketball game at Santiam High School in Mill City.



Kennedy's Emorej Lynk (24) moves past Santiam's Riley Nicot.

Kennedy head coach Karl Schmidtman signals to his team in the Kennedy vs. Santiam boy's basketball game.





Kennedy's Nick Suing (40) and Santiam's Noah Butler (14) and Jordan Lanham (1) fight for the ball.

Sophomore making strides for Stayton

GARY HOROWITZ

STATESMAN JOURNAL

The learning curve continues for Kaleb Anundi. A 6-foot-7 sophomore post, Anundi

played in his fifth varsity game Dec. 21 for Stayton High School and fouled out for the first time. The Eagles (4-1) prevailed 62-58 over

Seton Catholic (Washington) in the first round of the Capitol City Classic at the Sparks Center at Willamette University.

Anundi had a one-handed jam late in the fourth quarter before fouling out. He finished with 14 points and made 7 of 9 field goal attempts.

"I mean, it was frustrating," Anundi said of fouling out with 2:18 remaining. "But I knew my guys could come in and take care of it. I'm learning.

For being new to the varsity level – Anundi played junior varsity last season after missing his eighth-grade season due to a broken finger - he's come a long way in a short period of time.

Anundi is averaging about 15 points and 6 rebounds per game. The smooth left-hander scores most of his points in the paint.

"He's a true post. We like to dump it into him," third-year Stayton coach Joe Kiser said. "He's not one of those bigs that likes to shoot 3s, which is rare. He likes the paint and he likes to finish in there. He's shooting a great percentage right now."

The Capitol City Classic includes 16 teams divided into two, eight-team divisions. Stayton played Estacada at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 22 in the semifinals of the

small-school division. Anundi, who was in foul trouble throughout the Dec. 21 game, runs the

floor well and can finish in transition. "That's my partner right there. The kid's amazing," junior forward Jerry Daniels said. "He's dunking on kids."

Actually, Anundi gets more satisfaction assisting teammates than scoring

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Stayton's Kaleb Anundi shoots in a game against Seton Catholic on the first day of the Capitol City Classic tournament at Willamette University in Salem last week. Stayton won the game, 62-58, as Anundi scored 14 points before fouling out for the first time.