PCAC picks another Knight, Leasau, as Athlete of Week

For the second straight week, the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference has selected a San Diego City College basketball player as its Women’s Athlete of the Week.

Diana Leasau, a 5-foot, 8-inch freshman guard from Helix Charter High School, helped lead City to the championship of the Fourth Annual Knights Invitational, earning the award one week after teammate Shamonique Malone-Boyd.

Leasau received her second all-tournament award of the season after the Knights defeated Imperial Valley 65-61 on Sunday in the finals.

She scored 20 points and also had seven steals as City College went on a 13-0 run in the game’s final five minutes.

Leasau, a team captain for the Knights, helped City defeat Victor Valley 76-68 to open the tournament as she contributed 12 points, seven rebounds and five steals. Earlier in the week, she tallied 12 points in a 56-51 non-league loss to Rio Hondo.

Honorable mention for the week was awarded to basketball players Jalen Olquin (Imperial Valley), Chelsea Ball (Southwestern) and Alliya Pickney (Palomar).

Olquin, a 5-foot-8 freshman forward from Imperial High School, led the Arabs to two straight wins to reach the Knights Invitational finals and finished the tournament with 43 rebounds in three games. She hauled down 12 rebounds in a 65-59 win over Taft and had 13 points and 18 boards in a 58-56 victory over West Hills-Lemoore in the semifinals. Olquin’s defensive rebound with :01 remaining clinched the win in that game. In the championship game, she had 12 points and 13 rebounds against the champion Knights.

Ball, a 5-foot-10 freshman forward from El Cajon Valley High School, had 50 rebounds for Southwestern in three games at the Erin Tomlinson Coast Christmas Classic hosted by Orange Coast College. She contributed 16 rebounds in a 50-49 win over Chaffey, 14 in a 73-60 loss to College of the Canyons in the semifinals and 20 in a 50-48 loss to Saddleback in the third-place game.

Pickney, a 5-foot-4 sophomore guard from Mt. Carmel High, scored 15 points and led Palomar on a 21-0 run to begin the second half in the consolation semifinals at the Erin Tomlinson tournament. The run, during which Pickney had 11 points, two assists and two steals, enabled the Comets, down 45-28 at the half, to take a four-point lead. But Cuesta came back to win the game 72-62.