Holy Names Beats Pioneer Hoops Team
By Mallory Lantz

The Cal State East Bay men’s basketball team has yet another disappointing loss Tuesday against Erick Smeyer. It is the team’s 10th loss this season, with an overall record of 2-10 and 1-6 in the Pac Conf. Series.

After 12 games, the Pioneers are averaging 72.7 points and 38.2 rebounds a game. These recent defeats have been very disappointing for both the team and the fans, because the games have been so close throughout the competition.

Last week during the “Pioneer Tip Off Classic,” the team defeated UC Irvine 76-70 but lost their second game against Milford College 66-65. The game ended at the end of regulation. Close games and near losses have plagued the Pioneer basketball season, which was further illustrated during their last game.

The game against Holy Names was no exception. Holy Names entered a 10 point lead early on, but the Pioneers continued to answer back throughout the game, preventing their opponents from stretching their lead. The game reached its climax towards the end of the second half, when the Pioneers not only tied it up, but pulled ahead 3 points into the lead.

At this point, the score was on its feet, but UC Irvine, 3, an experienced team leader, was trying to pump the Pioneers up. Throughout the game, Irvine stayed strong and continually exhibited confidence. This experience that Irvine brings to the game, points a game with a team-beat 50 average.

Unfortunately, his effort, along with the rest of the team, wasn’t enough. Holy Names tied it up in the 3rd quarter, which took the game to overtime for the first time.

“Holy Names is a very talented team,” said Briggs. “They’re bigger, taller, and have a lot of skill on their team.”

The Pioneers ended the game 64-60, losing their second game without a win throughout the competition.

“It’s been a struggle for some of the players,” said Head Coach Bill Briggs. “It’s a huge jump in competition from high school to college, having to either practice or compete everyday.

Despite the struggles, Briggs said that there is a place with his team’s effort and attitude.

“It’s not really for our wins. We’re gaining from every game, and will have a lot of improvement to do,” said Briggs.

The Pioneers will have their chance for improvement this week with a game against Dominican University.