

GAME 5: No. 2 Northwest Nazarene vs. No. 3 Alaska Anchorage

LA JOLLA, Calif. — Tara Thompson scored 19 points to lead No. 3 seed Alaska Anchorage to a victory over No. 2 Northwest Nazarene, 69-67, in the NCAA West Region Semifinals Saturday evening at RIMAC Arena.

With the win, the Alaska Anchorage (30-3) will take on No. 4-seeded Azusa Pacific in the regional final on Monday night beginning at 7 p.m.

Avery Albrecht scored a team-high 14 points for Northwest Nazarene (29-3)

Alaska Anchorage led 59-47 heading into the fourth quarter, but Northwest Nazarene cut the deficit to six with four minutes remaining.

Two free throws by the Raquel Jardine pulled the Nighthawks within four with less than three minutes to play, and Albrecht's 3-pointer made it a one-point game, 64-63, with two minutes to go.

But the Seawolves' Tara Thompson got open on a side out-of-bounds play and knocked down a three from the left wing to make it 67-63, forcing a timeout with 1:25 to play.

A steal and two free throws by Marina Valles made it a two-point game with 45 seconds left, but Anchorage's Sala Langi split a pair at the other end to make it 68-65 with 26 seconds remaining.

GNAC Player of the Year Hannah Wandersee scored 16 points for the Seawolves but fouled out with about five minutes remaining in the game.