

# Legend beats Denver East in Class 5A nonleague game

"It was all for my team," McCord said. "And getting those baskets was just about effort."

By Neil H. Devlin

*The Denver Post*

According to a veteran Denver police officer, "some idiot" pulled a fire alarm at [Denver East](#), so the Angels' game against Legend started late. Fittingly, it was hot inside the Angels' gymnasium, it was a hotly contested matchup and the Titans earned a scorching victory. Legend coach Kevin Boley said he purposely scheduled Tuesday night's Class 5A nonleague game at Denver East and it was worth it — the Titans used a flurry of a finish to knock off the Angels 77-74. On opening night for the 2015-16 winter season, Boley said "our program isn't that old and this is the kind of place we need to play. For our team to come down here and get a win is huge." Ultimately, the Titans outlasted the Angels with stepped-up defense in the second half, then a late rally aided by Connor McCord, who had three key follow-up baskets, including one in the final minute, that allowed Legend to dance away with a spirited victory at a crowded Denver East. "It was all for my team," McCord said. "And getting those baskets was just about effort." Said Boley: "He was really big in the second half. I don't know how much he scored, but he contested shots and just had an impact on the game." Legend deployed plenty of effort — it overcame a foul-fest, used lots of defense, just enough outside shooting and plenty of free throws. Both teams basically traded baskets for more than half the game, then Denver East, behind Jack Buckmelter, Daytone Jennings and Deron Harrell, started to pull away. It lasted into the fourth quarter, when the Angels scored 10 straight points and led 65-58. Denver East also was ahead 72-66 with 2:21 to go, only to have trouble with Legend's half-court pressure, headed by Monroe Porter. The Angels would be outscored 11-2 the rest of the way. "Roe got a couple of steals and kind of changed the momentum there," Boley said. "He changed the tempo of the game." Legend had begun the fourth quarter by being held to two points over the opening 4:06. However, Porter also scored eight points in the fourth quarter and the Titans forced turnovers and made free throws. All told, they made 25 of 31 foul shots and McCord had success banging inside with the Angels. McCord led Legend with 16 points. Porter added 14, and Danny Garrick and Riley Matticks each had 12. Buckmelter led all scorers with 27. Jennings had 19 and Harrell 11, but the Angels missed 13 free throws and didn't deal with Titans' pressure.

Neil H. Devlin: [ndevlin@denverpost.com](mailto:ndevlin@denverpost.com) or [@neildevin](#)