

## El Camino College men's basketball victory is a real scream

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Joshua Wilson scored 23 points for El Camino College Wednesday night, but his most important shot attempt may have been the one that never came close to the basket.

After Harbor College cut an eight-point El Camino lead to just three in the waning minutes, Wilson drove to the basket with 52 seconds left and had his layup attempt blocked out of bounds by Kyle Reid.

Following the block, an emotional Reid glanced at Wilson and let out a loud, prolonged scream that drew an immediate technical foul from the referee, who categorized it as unsportsmanlike conduct.

Cameron Gray hit two technical free throws to give El Camino the cushion it needed to hold off host Harbor (16-9, 6-5) for a 69-63 South Coast Conference win.

Wilson, who led El Camino (15-7, 6-4) in scoring, said he wasn't surprised at the call.

"He got the block and he was hyped, but that cost his team some points," Wilson said. "It was a mental error. Good for us, bad for him."

Harbor coach Tony Carter-

Loza was irate at the call and voiced his displeasure to the officials as the game came to a close.

"I told him that was a heck of a call to make down the stretch and he said my player shouldn't have yelled," Carter-Loza said. "It's just always difficult for me when a referee has a big say in who wins or loses.

"Give El Camino credit, though, because they played great and even if he doesn't make that call, we may not win anyway."

The Warriors led by as much as 11 in the second half, but Harbor kept chipping away behind the play of Reid, who led all scorers with 26 points.

The play of Gray and Wilson was key for El Camino in keeping Harbor at bay. Gray added 19 points to go along with Wilson's 23 and hit several pivotal free throws down the stretch.

"We know those are their two best players and Wilson and Gray both hit a lot of big buckets," Carter-Loza said. "It seemed like every time we got some momentum, they hit a big shot. We come down and hit a three, they go and hit a three."

El Camino coach Michael Fenison said it was their scoring, along with a stingy defensive effort, that paved the way for the Warriors.

"We played really great defense. Didn't rebound



well, but we played good D," Fenison said. "The guys knew what this game meant because we still had a chance to win conference and that was our goal from the beginning of the season.

The win makes an already murky SCC South Division picture a bit more confusing. El Camino moved a half-game ahead of Harbor and a half-game behind second-place Long Beach (10-14, 7-4), which lost to first-place L.A. Southwest (19-7, 9-2) on Wednesday.

El Camino hosts Southwest on Friday and Long Beach next Wednesday with an outside shot at still winning the conference title. The two top teams in the South Division will advance to the playoffs, CCCAA playoffs, meaning Harbor and El Camino are both still alive.

"Everything is predicated on Long Beach, really," Fenison said. "We've got a chance to still win conference. It's a long shot, but basically we just have to win out."

Jamar Cannon added eight points for El Camino.

Dennis Hardwell and Jason Daley each added 11 points for Harbor.

