



Cascade Christian players and fans storm the court to celebrate Cascade Christian's 48-37 victory over Horizon Christian on Saturday. *Photo by Thomas Patterson*

## Up to the Challenge!

### Cascade Christian defeats Horizon Christian to win 3A state title

By Frank Silow

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SALEM — In the most important game of his prep career, Scott Morse came up with a big-time performance.

The Cascade Christian senior forward was dazzling on both ends of the court as Cascade Christian held off Horizon Christian 48-37 in the championship game of the Class 3A state tournament Saturday at Willamette University's Cone Field House.

For the No. 2 Challengers (26-3), it was their second state championship in three years, while the third-ranked Hawks (22-5) lost in the finals for the second consecutive year.

Not only did the 6-foot-7 Morse put up a game-high 19 points, but he battled Horizon freshman phenom Jordan Tebbutt elbow-to-elbow on both ends of the court. The 6-4 Tebbutt, West Valley League player of the year, finished with 16 points and six rebounds.

"(Tebbutt) is an incredible talent," said Morse. "He's so explosive. I had to be ready for him." Tebbutt exhibited a variety of moves penetrating the key off the dribble. But a Morse' determined defensive effort held him to 7 of 17 shooting from the field.

The Challengers took their biggest lead of the game, 36-28, with 5:58 remaining in the fourth. But the Hawks clawed back to a four-point deficit on four free throws by junior guard C.J. Mitchell.

Morse stopped the run by crashing the boards and being rewarded with basket on an offensive rebound off a Colton Cochran miss at the 4:15 mark. The Hawks never got closer than five points the remainder of the game.

"There was a gap down the center," said Morse, "and I was able to sneak in there. It was a big bucket."

#### **CASCADE CHRISTIAN 48, HORIZON CHRISTIAN 37**

RECAP: *Scott Morse has 19 points to lead the Challengers to their second title in three years. He's a unanimous all-tournament selection.*

OF NOTE: *Cascade Christian's Colton Cochran has 13 points, seven rebounds and four assists and joins teammate Jarrod Hess on the all-tourney second unit.*

For the second time in three tournament games, Cochran provided much needed offensive support. The junior post had 13 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

Cochran and fellow post Dustin Hutley worked some important plays underneath in the second half.

"I just gave it my all," said Cochran, "diving for loose balls or whatever. We knew we had a size advantage. We just kept posting their guys up. I had a smaller guy on me and I just kept working him."  
Cascade held a 20-19 halftime lead.

Morse came alive in the second quarter with six of the Challengers' eight points. Morse scored on a pair of mid-range jumpers and a layup on an entry pass by Hutley.

After scoring six points in the opening period, Tebbutt was limited to one bucket, albeit an impressive one. In the second period, Tebbutt went high for a tip-in at the rim off a Hawks miss.

The Challengers built the biggest lead of the half, 20-14, with 1:46 left. But Horizon countered with a 3-pointer by Josh Platt and an aggressive drive to the basket by Mitchell to cut the Hawks' deficit to one at the break.

"They made the baskets and stops they needed to make and we didn't," said Horizon Christian coach Dave Brown, who was a basketball coach in Orange County California for 37 years before retiring to Oregon. "They deserved the win."

Brown has been the only coach the 3-year-old Tualatin school has had. He was impressed with Morse.  
"Scott was probably the best defender to guard Jordan all year," said Brown.

The victory was especially sweet for Cascade Christian coach Brian Morse.

"As a dad, I always envisioned my son playing in a state championship game and winning it," said Morse. "It's so special winning two in three years."

Cascade Christian capitalized from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter, making 8 of 13. All eight of the Challengers' points in the final 2:36 came on free throws.

They shot 51 percent from the field (18-for-35) and held Horizon to 32 percent.

Morse, Tebbutt and Joe Jaeger of third-place winner Regis were unanimous choices on the all-tournament first team. Cascade's Jarrod Hess and Cochran were second-team selections.

#### CASCADE CHRISTIAN (27-3)

Morse 7-11 4-7 19, Hutley 2-5 1-2 5, Hess 1-4 3-5 5, Joffer 2-4 1-2 6, Cochran 6-10 1-2 13, Siliga 0-0 0-0 0, Marshall 0-0 0-0 0, Litton 0-0 0-0 0, Hoffman 0-1 0-0 0, Thomas 0-0 0-0 0, Rasmussen 0-0 0-0 0, Pech 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 18-35 10-18 48.

#### HORIZON CHRISTIAN (25-6)

Mitchell 3-11 5-7 12, Platt 1-4 0-0 3, Bristol 1-4 0-0 3, Schifferdecker 1-3 0-0 3, Tebbutt 7-17 2-2 16, McNeil 0-0 0-0 0, Corrigan 0-0 0-0 0, Gunderson 0-0 0-0 0, Kiaunis 0-0 0-0 0, McNett 0-2 0-0 0, Anderson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 13-41 7-9 37.

|                   |    |   |    |    |   |           |
|-------------------|----|---|----|----|---|-----------|
| Cascade Christian | 12 | 8 | 12 | 16 | — | <b>48</b> |
| Horizon Christian | 12 | 7 | 9  | 9  | — | <b>37</b> |

3-point goals — Cascade Christian 2-5 (Morse 1-2, Joffer 1-1, Hess 0-1, Hoffman 0-1), Horizon Christian 4-12 (Mitchell 1-2, Platt 1-2, Bristol 1-4, Schifferdecker 1-3, Tebbutt 0-1).

Rebounds — Cascade Christian 32 (Cochran 7), Horizon Christian 17 (Tebbutt 6).

Assists — Cascade Christian 14 (Morse 4, Cochran 4), Horizon Christian 4 (Mitchell 2).

Fouls — Cascade Christian 8, Horizon Christian 19.