

Versatile junior shows off skills

Villanova commit leads team to title

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Savon Goodman has been a good man for the Bryn Athyn (Pa.) Academy of the New Church basketball team.

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Goodman, a 6-foot-6 junior forward, has the ability to play - at the high school level - all five positions.

Goodman played guard and forward Wednesday and did a little bit of everything in leading his team to the first Signature Series championship, a four-team mini-tournament with the 38th Annual State Farm City of Palms Classic as the backdrop.

Goodman, who has committed to Villanova, scored a team-high 16 points, grabbed eight rebounds, had two assists and two steals as New Church defeated Ulm (Germany) Urspringschule 56-43 at Bishop Verot High School's John J. Nevins Gymnasium.

"We have to prove we're worthy of playing in the Big East," Goodman said, as two of his teammates also plan on playing in that college basketball conference.

New Church senior Hakeem Christmas, who signed with Syracuse, scored 10 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

Senior Malcolm Gilbert, a 7-foot Pittsburgh recruit, scored 10 points.

Goodman also drew defensive responsibilities against Kevin Bright, a 6-5 junior forward who led his team with 17 points but had just one rebound.

"He can play a little guard, he can play a little forward," New Church coach Kevin Givens said. "He has some versatility."

New Church outrebounded the German team 31-13.

"We've had to adjust a little bit to the style of play," Urspringschule coach Felix Czerny said. "We're not used to playing teams with their size and with that type of athleticism."

The admiration was mutual.

"He's a smart player," Goodman said of Bright, who is being recruited by Nebraska, Iowa State and San Francisco. "He definitely could play Division I somewhere."

URSPRINGSCHULE (43): Mario Blessing 2-8 1-2 6, Malik Muller 2-8 2-2 7, Bogdan Radosavljevic 4-6 2-2 10, Kevin Bright 5-12 4-4 17, Sid-Marlin Theis 1-3 0-0 2, Moritz Dern 0-0 0-0 0, Oliver Heptner 0-0 0-0 0, Malo Valerien 0-0 0-0 0, Newylle Richter 0-0 0-0 0, Kenneth Ogbe 0-1 0-0 0, Gavin Schilling 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 14-38 10-12 43.

NEW CHURCH (56): Daniel Pittman 0-3 2-2 2, Savon Goodman 8-14 0-0 16, Rakeem Christmas 5-10 0-0 10, Malcolm Gilbert 5-8 0-0 10, Jonathan Riles 3-3 0-0 6, Marcus Gilbert 1-3 1-3 3, Malcolm Lites 0-0 0-0 0, Dinjiyl Walker 1-4 6-8 9. Totals 23-45 9-13 56.

3-pointers: Germany 5-16 (Blessing 1-4, Muller 1-3, Bright 3-8 Theis 0-1), New Church 1-2 (Gilbert 0-1, Walker 1-1). Rebounds: Germany 13 (Radosavljevic 6), New Church 31 (Christmas 9). Assists: Germany 8 (Muller 4), New Church 12 (Walker 4). Turnovers: Germany 9, New Church 11. Blocks: Germany 2, New Church 3 (Malcolm Gilbert 3). Steals: Germany 7, New Church 4. Personal fouls: Germany 15 (Radosavljevic 5), New Church 11. Technicals: Germany (coach).



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Academy of the New Church's Dinjiyl Walker pushes the ball against Urspringschule's Kevin Bright in the Signature Series Championship at the City of Palms Classic at Bishop Verot on Wednesday. (John David Emmett/news-press.com)

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