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HEADLINE: SPORTS: Senior makes points with passes, rebounds and leadership

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BODY:

Mason Boggs was running the floor, taking advantage of a fast break operating in high gear for undefeated Evangelical Christian Academy.

The 6-foot-1 senior received a pass on his way to the basket and converted an easy layup. And then another.

"John LaCerte and Brock Hodgson were dishing the ball down low for me," Boggs said with a smile. "I barely had to work for some of those points."

The points came easy as Boggs finished with a game-high 37 in a 91-77 victory against Fowler in the Class 2A regional final.

A majority of the baskets came from close range, not standard fare for one of the best shooters in the state.

"We were fast-breaking really well, and just crashing the boards," Boggs said. "It seemed like I was having a good night."

His night included six rebounds, four of them on offense.

"He's such an unselfish player," ECA coach Dennis Bruns said. "He's never stopped working hard. He's tireless out there for his teammates even though the numbers aren't what they were compared to last year."

Boggs isn't averaging 20-plus points this season, but mainly because of a balanced attack for ECA - six players are averaging in double figures.

"With that many scorers, Mason has been patient," Bruns said. "He's picked it up in other areas, though, which has led to a lot of points, maybe for other players, but still those are points for us. And Mason knows that."

Finding a way to contribute hasn't been an issue for Boggs, who is averaging 6.5 assists, five rebounds and 4.5 steals per game.

"We can all pass, shoot and rebound, and everyone can score," Boggs said. "This has really helped me develop as a player. Part of being a good player is realizing when someone is hot, you get them the ball, and I don't have to shoot as much as I did last year."

And it's not like Boggs isn't scoring - he is averaging 18 points per game.

Saturday's performance was a reminder of what Boggs is capable of and a reason why he is a nominee for the McDonald's All-American Team.

"A game like that, it does get your confidence up a little bit," Boggs said. "Fowler was leaving the drive wide open. So I thought I

might as well take the easy shots since I couldn't get a look from the outside. I did need a night like this though, because I really hadn't had a standout game like that this year."

Boggs was a key player last season on a senior-dominated team that won the state championship. The players around him have changed, but the goal remains the same.

"Losing seven seniors changed this team," he said. "I would love to win state this year. That would be such an accomplishment. It would open their eyes to ECA even more. As long as the scoreboard has an ECA win on it, the other numbers really don't matter."

The only number that matters to Boggs is three - the wins needed to win another state championship.

ECA (23-0) will play Holyoke (16-7) Thursday in the Class 2A state quarterfinals at the Pueblo Events Center.

On the Net:

Colorado High School Activities Association: <http://www.chsaa.org>

GRAPHIC: AP Photos pursuing

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