

# Continental Survives Four Overtimes to Defeat P-G in District Finals

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## It was a game for the ages!

Two weeks after Pandora-Gilboa humbled Continental to end the regular season, neither team wanted to say die Friday in the boys District Championship game at Liberty Benton. The Pirates and Rockets battled through four overtimes before P-G found themselves on the short end of the 80-79 score. The win moved Continental (17-7) into the Regional Semi-Finals Tuesday opposite Holgate (12-11). The first game Tuesday featured Delphos St. John's and Old Fort with the winners returning Friday for the Regional Championship. Pandora-Gilboa saw their season end with a 17-6 record.

Despite players playing on weary legs as the night wore on, the Rockets and the Pirates played some of their best basketball in the overtime sessions. That may be why both teams nearly doubled their regulation score in the extra 16 minutes.

"I played in a lot of games and tournament games and have never seen anything like this," Continental Coach Kevin Homier said. "Coach Huber and Britsch and all those other people were there to guide us. I have no idea why we won. Brown has matured all year. I've brought him along slowly, but he surely has come up big in the tournament. He buried every foul shot he had in the overtime. He has been a big part of this." Brown went 6-6 at the line in the overtimes as the Pirates hit 24-38 free throws in the game.

"I told the kids we were down four to six points in all of the overtimes and usually you can't come back from that," P-G Coach Joe Braidic said. "The next thing you know we were back in it. And in a couple of those we had the last shot to win it."

Despite having lost to P-G by 19 points to end the season, the Pirates were in charge most of this game. They jumped out to a 15-12 lead after one quarter and led 24-20 at the half. They still maintained that four-point lead going into the final quarter. In the final eight minutes of regulation, Continental had a 34-31 lead until Hochstetler nailed a jumper from the top of the key with 2:13 left. Clementz came right back with a basket for Continental before a Hochstetler free throw and a Jay Tadena tip in gave P-G their first lead since early in the game. After Basinger and Spitnale exchanged free throws, Basinger gave P-G a three-point lead with 10.8 seconds left as he nailed two charity tosses. The Rockets were 21-31 at the line in the game. The Pirates were not to be denied as Winkle dribbled down court and hit a pullup three-pointer with 5.4 seconds left. Despite P-G taking a timeout they were unable to get a shot off as Spitnale stole a long inbound pass.

Winkle came up big for Continental in the first overtime as he hit two free throws with 4.4 seconds left to force another four minutes. That was after P-G battled back from another deficit.

In the second overtime the teams traded points until Basinger tied the game at 55-55 with 1:26 left. Neither team would score despite P-G having two shots in the final 10 seconds. The second shot by Tadena was blocked as time expired.

In the third overtime, Continental jumped out to a 59-55 lead and led 61-56 on two Brown free throws before P-G rallied. A free throw by Basinger, two by Hochstetler and a Pat Green basket tied the game at 61-61. Once again P-G had the final shot, but Basinger's pullup jumper in the lane was off and a tip by Joshua Lehman was no good at the buzzer.

In the fourth overtime the Pirates had a 78-71 lead with 33.3 seconds after Casey Spitnale hit the first of two free throws. That's when P-G began their final run of the evening. Stephen Gill came off the bench to hit a three-point play. Then on the inbounds pass, P-G's Adam Basinger came up with a steal and drained a quick three-pointer cutting the lead to one with 19.2 seconds left. After a timeout Continental inbounded the ball to freshman Kurtis Brown, who was fouled by Basinger with 17.4 left. That would be Basinger's fifth foul as he became the third Rocket player to foul out. Brown calmly went to the line where he hit both free throws for a three-point lead. P-G had one final shot as Joe Hochstetler drove into the lane and connected for two points as he couldn't draw a foul. The Pirates then inbounded the ball to Brown who quickly passed the ball down court as time expired.

**Pandora-Gilboa 20/56 6/12 21/31 79**  
Benton 3-0-2-8. M. Gill 2-0-3-7. Basinger 4-2-6-20. Hochstetler 3-4-4-22. Green 2-0-3-7. Tadena 3-0-2-8. Lehman 2-0-0-4. S. Gill 1-0-1-3. Luginbill 0-0-0-0.

**Continental 25-46 2-7 24-38 80**  
Dirr 1-0-1-3. Winkle 5-2-4-20. Ad. Donaldson 1-0-1-3. Spitnale 6-0-8-20. Clementz 9-0-4-22. Booth 3-0-0-6. Brown 0-0-6-6. As. Donaldson 0-0-0-0.

Rebounds: Pandora-Gilboa 49 (Benton 9). Continental 43 (Spitnale, Clementz (10)).

Pandora-Gilboa 12 8 6 14 9 6 6 18 79  
Continental 15 9 6 10 9 6 6 19 80