

Updated with video: Legislative Hoops Hubbub

By John Robertson / Of the Journal on Sat, Feb 11, 2012

SANTA FE – New Mexico legislators raised over \$26,000 for the UNM Cancer Center Friday night in an annual basketball showdown between the House Aggies and Senate Lobos.

Winded rather than windy was the order of the evening as lawmakers took to the hardwood and hustling House members outscored cerebral senators 26-25. But the interchamber matchup predictably ended in debate.

Sen. Howie Morales, D-Silver City, sunk what senators thought was a game-winning shot in the final moment, but referees ruled the heroic effort came after the buzzer.

A Senate delegation led by Vernon Asbill, R-Carlsbad, entered the House chambers on Saturday to lodge a challenge to the ruling but were rebuffed by House leaders. Speaker Ben Lujan, D-Santa Fe, said the challenge would be considered “next March 15,” which would put it around the time the 2013 legislative session adjourns.

“Video shows Morales beat the buzzer,” Sen. John Sapien, D-Corralles, one of the Senate Lobos players, emailed Saturday. “Senate robbed.”

Thanks to Senate minority spokeswoman Diane Kinderwater you can see the dramatic ending of the House-Senate game here: <http://youtu.be/W2gTmFZo4QU>

http://youtu.be/etMNHu91w_o

The charity game outcome was clearer on another score: The \$26,350 raised for the UNM Cancer Center in the 2012 “Hoops 4 Hope” game at Santa Fe High School topped the \$20,000 raised last year.