

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Overland Park, KS)

VS

#5 SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE

(South Holland, IL)

For immediate release:

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 10 of the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball National Tournament featured a second round match-up between Johnson County Community College and South Suburban College. Johnson County defeated #7 seeded Moraine Valley Community College in the first round 60-63. South Suburban defeated Rend Lake College 81-77. South Suburban is ranked #5 in the NJCAA National Poll and is the #2 seed in the tournament.

It was a fast paced game from the start. South Suburban only had 1 field goal in the first 5 minutes of the contest. Johnson County did a great job rebounding to finish off defensive possessions. Johnson County took advantage and built an 11-3 lead. South Suburban responded with a 9-0 run to take a 12-11 lead midway through the half. South Suburban used their momentum and started using some full court pressure. Johnson County did not go away and reclaimed the lead. There were a couple more lead changes but South Suburban made some outside shots to take around a 5 point lead and held on to it for the remainder of the half. Bryce Walker was a consistent scoring force for South Suburban, as was Justin Leathers for Johnson County. The two led their teams in a tough and close battle in the first half. **HALFTIME SCORE: South Suburban 35, Johnson County 28.**

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR JOHNSON COUNTY:

Justin Leathers, 6'5" SO, 11 pts

Christian Hildebrandt, 6'3" FR, 9 pts

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR SOUTH SUBURBAN:

Bryce Walker, 5'9" FR, 11 pts

Sultan Muhammed, 6'1" SO, 7 pts

The intensity of the game carried over to the second half. The lead remained in South Suburban's favor early on. Johnson County kept their patience on offense and eventually got themselves within 2 points before South Suburban could call a timeout to regroup. Johnson County kept their rally going out of the timeout to take a 45-44 lead with less than 14 minutes to play. Offensive rebounds played a big part in Johnson County's route to take the lead. South

Suburban kept fighting and took back the lead. South Suburban's lead got as many as 5 points but Johnson County made several double-bonus free throws to keep it close. They cut it back within 1 point with 3 minutes to play. They eventually took a 60-59 lead with less than 2 minutes to play. South Suburban got it right back and went up 3 points. Johnson County had 2 very costly turnovers in the last minute of the game. They got a stop and missed an open 3-point look to tie the game and were forced to foul. South Suburban held on to win. **FINAL SCORE: South Suburban 65, Johnson County 60.**

South Suburban will advance in the championship bracket to play the winner of Baltimore City Community College vs. Community College of Rhode Island on Friday at 6:00pm. Johnson County will continue playing in the consolation bracket vs. the loser of the aforementioned game on Thursday at 3:00pm.

GAME LEADERS FOR JOHNSON COUNTY:

Justin Leathers, 6'5" SO, 26 pts, 8 rbs

Quasim Jones, 6'1" SO, 17 pts

Christian Hildebrandt, 6'3" FR, 9 pts, 10 rbs

GAME LEADERS FOR SOUTH SUBURBAN:

Bryce Walker, 5'9" FR, 15 pts, 8 rbs

Sultan Muhammed, 6'1" SO, 13 pts

Michael Harris, 6'1" FR, 11 pts