

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Kirtland, OH)

VS

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

(Bismarck, ND)

For immediate release:

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 7 of the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball National Tournament featured NJCAA District 10 Champion Lakeland Community College (25-7) vs. NJCAA District 6 Champion Bismarck State College (21-11).

Lakeland jumped out to an early 8-2 lead. Bismarck struggled to get open looks at the basket in rhythm due to Lakeland's defensive pressure. Eventually Bismarck was able to get some open looks off of ball screens to keep the score within 5 points for several minutes. Lakeland's tempo started to be a little too fast for Bismarck State as they expanded their lead beyond 10 points midway through the half. Bismarck State managed to slow Lakeland a little bit and closed the lead down to 6 points with under 4 minutes left in the half. Both teams traded baskets in the closing minutes of the half to keep the point margin at a 6 point advantage for Lakeland. **HALFTIME SCORE: Lakeland 36, Bismarck State 30.**

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR LAKELAND:

Martell Medley, 6'1" FR, 12 pts

Chaz Rollins, 6'6" FR, 6 pts, 10 rbs

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR BISMARCK STATE:

Malik Wood, 5'10" FR, 12 pts

DeWayne Liggins, 6'2" FR, 6 pts

Bismarck State came out of the halftime break with an attitude. They looked a lot more comfortable on the offensive end and closed Lakeland's lead to 2 points early on. Lakeland held on to their short lead for several minutes. Bismarck State hung right with them but was not able to get over the hump. Bismarck State switched to a zone defense that slowed Lakeland down to a tempo that was more manageable. Malik Wood was virtually unstoppable on the offensive end for Bismarck State, keeping them within striking distance. They cut Lakeland's lead to 1 point with 5 minutes to play. The ensuing minutes were not as friendly for Bismarck State. Their shooting went cold and Lakeland took advantage by building an 8 point lead. After securing another healthy lead in the closing minutes of the half, Lakeland did a

terrific job of showing patience on offense and ran the clock. Bismarck State didn't have enough time to close the gap. **FINAL SCORE: Lakeland 84, Bismarck State 75.**

Lakeland will now advance in the winner's bracket to play the winner of South Mountain College vs. Grand Rapids Community College on Thursday at 8:30pm. Bismarck State will continue to play in the consolation bracket to play the loser of the aforementioned game on Thursday at 1:00pm.

GAME LEADERS FOR LAKELAND:

Martell Medley, 6'1" FR, 25 pts

Chaz Rollins, 6'6" FR, 17 pts, 14 rbs

Brendan Cooper, 15 pts

Deran Banton, 13 pts

GAME LEADERS FOR BISMARCK STATE:

Malik Wood, 5'10" FR, 25 pts

Garet Tucker, 6'8" FR, 12 pts, 17 rbs

DeWayne Liggins, 6'2" FR, 9 pts