

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Buffalo, NY)

VS

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE – PENN VALLEY

(Kansas City, MO)

For immediate release:

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 11 of the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball National Tournament featured a consolation bracket match-up between Erie Community College and Metropolitan Community College – Penn Valley. Erie lost their first round game to Baltimore City Community College 89-84. Penn Valley lost their first round game to #3 seeded Community College of Rhode Island 91-79. Erie entered the tournament as the #6 seed.

It was an up-tempo game with lots of points scored early in the shot clock. The lead exchanged hands several times in the opening minutes of the contest. Penn Valley held a 4 point lead at one point but Erie fired right back with a run that put them up 25-18 with less than 10 minutes left in the half. Penn Valley hung around for a couple minutes but Erie finished some big plays in transition, including multiple 3-point plays. Their lead went north of 10 points for a few minutes. However, Penn Valley showed resolved and cut it down to less than 5 points before an Erie timeout. Another Penn Valley 3-pointer and a tip-in tied they game at 34 with less than 3 minutes to play. Erie looked flustered and the halftime break couldn't have come soon enough for them. Penn Valley started to figure out Erie's 1-3-1 zone defense and found a scoring rhythm. They took a lead after forcing some big Erie turnovers to go in the locker room with all of the momentum. **HALFTIME SCORE: Penn Valley 41, Erie 39.**

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR ERIE:

Yandell Denis, 13 pts

Sam Hattin, 8 pts

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR PENN VALLEY:

Tyrone Hooker, 13 pts

Denzell Cook, 12 pts

Penn Valley came out in the second half with even more energy than the start. They turned on their full-court pressure in an effort to keep the game's momentum on their side. Penn Valley expanded their lead to almost 10 points in the first couple minutes but Erie swung right back with a run to take the lead. There were several lead changes in the ensuing minutes making it a

very exciting game. Midway through the second half Erie was able to construct a 10 point lead. Erie turned their defensive pressure up a notch and make it really difficult for Penn Valley to score. The lead remained relatively unchanged for several minutes. With less than 5 minutes to play, Penn Valley gave a last chance effort and was successful. They tied the game at 78-78 with around 2 minutes remaining. Erie went up 3 points but Penn Valley fired right back to tie the game at 81-81. Erie missed a front end of a bonus free throw with around 30 seconds to play. Penn Valley got the rebound but turned the ball over on a 5-second call with 9.5 seconds left. In the following possession, Brandon Emmitt ended up hitting a game winning 3-pointer at the buzzer for Erie. **FINAL SCORE: Erie 84, Penn Valley 81.**

Erie will advance in the consolation bracket to play Moraine Valley Community College on Friday at 11:00am for a chance to play for a 7th or 8th place finish. Penn Valley has been eliminated from the tournament.

GAME LEADERS FOR ERIE:

Yandell Denis, 6'5" SO, 23 pts

Sam Hattin, 6'5" SO, 15 pts

Eymofee Edukugho, 6'6" FR, 11 pts

Dequan Jones, 6'5" SO, 10 pts

Anthony Mason, 6'5" SO, 10 pts

GAME LEADERS FOR PENN VALLEY:

Tyrone Hooker, 6'4" SO, 26 pts, 10 rbs

Denzell Cook, 6'5" SO, 24 pts

Isaiah Annekwe, 6'5" FR, 8 pts, 7 rbs