

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

(Bismarck, ND)

VS

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Grand Rapids, MI)

For immediate release:

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 14 of the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball National Tournament featured a consolation bracket match-up between Bismarck State College and Grand Rapids Community College. Bismarck State lost their first round game to #5 seeded Lakeland Community College 84-75. Grand Rapids lost their first round game to #4 seeded South Mountain College 76-61.

Bismarck State came out shooting and claimed an early lead. Grand Rapids didn't get rolling as fast but eventually found their bearings. The game turned into what appeared to be a 3-point contest as the teams fired back and forth early on. It was obviously going to be a high scoring game. Bismarck State slowly built an 8 point lead by the midway point of the half. Grand Rapids stayed afloat with their outside shooting. With less than 5 minutes remaining in the half, Grand Rapids pulled within 3 points. Bismarck State did not lie down and maintained at least a 3 point lead for the rest of the half. **HALFTIME SCORE: Bismarck State 42, Grand Rapids 37.**

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR BISMARCK STATE:

Sheldon Weisbeck, 6'3" SO, 15 pts, 10 rbs

DeWayne Liggins, 6'2" FR, 9 pts

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR GRAND RAPIDS:

TJ McCutcheon, 5'10" SO, 8 pts

Alex Lyle, 6'2" SO, 7 pts

Tyler Krim, 6'5" FR, 7 pts

Bismarck State maintained their lead in the early minutes of the second half. Grand Rapids eventually put together a run to take a 60-59 lead with 13 minutes to play. Their lead grew to as many as 5 points. Made baskets seemed to be easy to find for both teams as their scores went over 70 points with close to 7 minutes yet to play. Bismarck State then tied the game at 70 points with 5 minutes remaining. As the clock winded down, both teams started to defend harder making each basket difficult to come by. The lead swapped hands multiple times until Bismarck mustered up a 3 point lead with a little over 2 minutes to play. As the clocked winded down more, Grand Rapids scored twice off of Bismarck State turnovers to take a 1 point lead.

Bismarck State struggled to take care of the ball and Grand Rapids hit another big shot with 12 seconds left to take their lead to 80-77. Bismarck State missed a 3-point attempt, failed to get the rebound, and was forced to foul with 6 seconds left. Grand Rapids made both free throws and secured the victory, despite Bismarck State getting a tip-in at the buzzer. **FINAL SCORE: Grand Rapids 82, Bismarck State 79.**

Grand Rapids will advance in the consolation bracket to play Danville Area Community College on Friday at 1:00pm for a chance to play for a 7th or 8th place finish. Bismarck State has been eliminated from the tournament.

GAME LEADERS FOR BISMARCK STATE:

Garet Tucker, 6'8" FR, 27 pts

DeWayne Liggins, 6'2" FR, 17 pts

Malik Wood, 5'10" FR, 12 pts

Gabe Deng, 6'5" FR, 10 pts

GAME LEADERS FOR GRAND RAPIDS:

Alex Lyle, 6'2" SO, 15 pts

Roy Jackson Jr., 6'0" SO, 14 pts

Arik Hasselink, 6'5" FR, 13 pts