

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MORAINÉ VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Palos Hills, IL)

VS

ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Buffalo, NY)

For immediate release:

Friday, March 23, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 18 featured a consolation bracket match-up between Moraine Valley Community College and Erie Community College. Moraine Valley lost in the first round to Johnson County but came back and got a consolation win over Rend Lake. Erie dropped their first round contest to Baltimore City then defeated Penn Valley on a buzzer beater.

Modestas Masiulionis started the game off on fire for Moraine Valley, scoring 8 of his teams first 10 points. More impressively, this all happened before Erie could score their first basket. Erie finally got one to fall over 3 minutes into the game to get them rolling. Erie took their turn for a strong run to eventually take a lead midway through the half. Moraine valley struggled to get consistency on offense. They eventually put on full court pressure and converted points off a couple Erie turnovers. Erie built as big as an 8 point lead early on in the half but couldn't put the finishing touch on Moraine Valley. Modestas Masiulionis continued to carry his team on the offensive end, keeping Moraine Valley from getting too far behind. Erie ended the half with several consecutive baskets to take their biggest lead of the game going into the break. Moraine Valley turned the ball over too many times in the latter part of the half to keep it close. **HALFTIME SCORE: Erie 46, Moraine Valley 31.**

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR MORAINÉ VALLEY:

Modestas Masiulionis, 6'3", 13 pts

Mike Jackson, 6'3", 7 pts

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR ERIE:

Dequan Jones, 6'5" SO, 10 pts, 5 rbs

Eyimofee Edukugho, 6'6" FR, 9 pts

There wasn't much action early on in the second half. Erie only scored 1 point in the first 3 minutes of the half. Moraine Valley closed the lead to 10 points but that was the closest they could get early on, as they struggled to score as well. The second half was undoubtedly more defensive oriented than the first half was. Eventually the offensive production started coming for Moraine Valley as they cut the lead to 6 points with less than 8 minutes to play. With

Moraine Valley within striking distance, it sparked a new energy into their defensive effort as well. They cut the lead to 3 points with less than 6 minutes to play, taking the game to a whole new level. The teams went back and forth for the next couple minutes. Erie built their lead back to as many as 8 points but Moraine Valley kept chipping away and got it back within 4 points by the 3 minute mark. Erie made some big shots in the closing minutes of the game to keep the game out of reach for Moraine Valley. **FINAL SCORE: Erie 80, Moraine Valley 69.**

With the win, Erie Community College will advance in the consolation bracket to play the winner of Danville Area Community College vs. Grand Rapids Community College on Saturday at 12:00pm for a 7th or 8th place finish in the tournament. Moraine Valley Community College has been eliminated from the tournament.

GAME LEADERS FOR MORAINE VALLEY:

Mike Jackson, 6'3", 23 pts

Modestas Masiulionis, 6'3", 18 pts

Richaun Holmes, 6'8", 13 pts, 9 rbs

GAME LEADERS FOR ERIE:

Dequan Jones, 6'5" SO, 17 pts, 7 rbs

Brandon Emmitt, 6'0" SO, 17 pts

Eyimofee Edukugho, 6'6" FR, 13 pts, 7 rbs