

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

LOUISBURG COLLEGE

(Louisburg, NC)

VS

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

(Phoenix, AZ)

For immediate release:

Friday, March 23, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 20 featured a consolation match-up between Louisburg College and South Mountain College. Louisburg won their first round match-up vs. Iowa Central Community College but fell short to top seeded Mott Community College in the second round. South Mountain won their first round game vs. Grand Rapids but lost to Lakeland Community College in the second round.

Both teams had great size and athleticism, which led to a physical and competitive game from the start. It was close early on and there wasn't a great degree of separation until Louisburg took a 16-8 lead with less than 14 minutes in the half. By the midway point of the half Louisburg had an 11 point lead, leaving South Mountain frazzled. The lead remained unchanged for the next 10 minutes. South Mountain's Michael James was a very crucial part to their offense. James finished some tough plays and got some key assists after he started drawing double-teams. South Mountain cut the lead to 6 points with less than 4 minutes in the half. They looked like they were on the cusp of making a run to take the lead. Louisburg's lead ended up getting cut to 5 points but never went lower than that. It was apparent that South Mountain was starting to feel more comfortable on the offensive end but Louisburg was far from giving in. **HALFTIME SCORE: Louisburg 39, South Mountain 33.**

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR LOUISBURG:

Josh Hicks, 6'2" SO, 12 pts

LaShawn Alexander, 6'6" FR, 7 pts, 7 rbs

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR SOUTH MOUNTAIN:

Ernesto Andrade, 6'5" SO, 9 pts, 6 rbs

Michael Craig, 6'5" SO, 6 pts, 7 rbs, 5 asst.

Alyx Foster, 6'3" SO, 6 pts, 4 rbs

Louisburg started the second half off with a huge run that ended up expanding their lead to 52-40. South Mountain called a timeout in an effort to let Louisburg cool off but Louisburg remained red hot. By the midway point of the half, Louisburg's lead neared 20 points and

didn't show any evidence of slowing down. South Mountain kept fighting and eventually slowed Louisburg down. The lead was cut to 10 points with around 8 minutes left to play. Louisburg missed several easy shots in the ensuing possessions that allowed South Mountain to continue their run. Michael Craig got things rolling again and helped cut Louisburg's lead to 68-64 with 6 minutes left. South Mountain started to trap hard in their half court 1-3-1 zone defense, which caused some problems for Louisburg. The lead shrunk down to as low as 3 points but Louisburg made some big plays to inflate it back to 8 points with 3 minutes to play. That deficit was too much to overcome for South Mountain. They played hard until the end but ended up short. **FINAL SCORE: Louisburg 82, South Mountain 73.**

With the win, Louisburg will advance in the consolation bracket to play Baltimore City Community College on Saturday at 2:00pm for a 5th or 6th place finish in the tournament. With the loss, South Mountain has been eliminated from the tournament.

GAME LEADERS FOR LOUISBURG:

Josh Hicks, 6'2" SO, 19 pts

Kevin Williams, 5'7" FR, 14 pts, 6 asst.

LaShawn Alexander, 6'6" FR, 10 pts, 12 rbs

GAME LEADERS FOR SOUTH MOUNTAIN:

Michael Craig, 6'5" SO, 20 pts, 15 rbs, 7 ass.

Alyx Foster, 6'3" SO, 15 pts, 6 rbs

Ernesto Andrade, 6'5" SO, 11 pts, 10 rbs