

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Flint, MI)

VS

LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Kirtland, OH)

For immediate release:

Friday, March 23, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 22 a semifinal match-up between #1 seeded Mott Community College and #5 seeded Lakeland Community College. Mott advanced to the semifinals with victories over Danville Area Community College and Louisburg College. Lakeland advanced with wins over Bismarck State College and South Mountain College.

Mott had a lead early on but never a substantial one. Lakeland stayed with a couple baskets the whole time, even though they never actually held a lead in during the first 10 minutes of the game. Brendan Cooper finally hit a deep 3-pointer for Lakeland to give them a 19-18 lead with 9 minutes left in the half. Mott fired right back after Darryl Marshall completed a 4-point play to retake the lead. Mott would go on to lead by 7 points soon after. Lakeland kept pushing forward to tie the game at 28-28 with less than 5 minutes left. From that point forward there were several lead changes. Neither team was able to get a substantial run going. John Taylor got to the free throw line several times in the latter part of the half, making 8 of 8 free throw attempts. That helped Mott secure a 3 point lead going into the break. **HALFTIME SCORE: Mott 38, Lakeland 35.**

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR MOTT:

Ralph Eason, 6'1" FR, 15 pts

John Taylor, 6'1" SO, 13 pts

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR LAKELAND:

Brendan Cooper, 6'7" SO, 10 pts, 5 rbs

Chaz Rollins, 6'6" FR, 10 pts, 5 rbs

Lakeland started the half with a 10-1 run to give them all of the momentum. Mott answered with their own 9-2 run to close the gap significantly. Lakeland held on to a short lead for the majority of the second half. Mott was able to take a 1 point lead midway through the half. For the next several minutes they swapped leads several times. At the 7 minute mark, Mott went on an 11-2 run to snatch a 69-60 lead. Mott started playing with a swagger on both ends of the floor. John Taylor made some great plays on the offensive end to keep his team engaged.

Lakeland couldn't get shots to fall over a long stretch, allowing Mott's lead to grow to 76-63 with under 4 minutes to play. Lakeland made one last push to get the game within 5 points but Mott's tenacity late in the game was too much for Lakeland to handle. **FINAL SCORE: Mott 84, Lakeland 73.**

Mott Community College will now compete in the national championship game vs. Community College of Rhode Island on Saturday at 7:30pm. Lakeland Community College will play the loser of the aforementioned game in a consolation game on Saturday at 5:30pm to determine a 3rd or 4th place finish in the tournament.

GAME LEADERS FOR MOTT:

John Taylor, 6'1" SO, 28 pts, 16-18 FT

Ralph Eason, 6'1" FR, 26 pts, 8-10 FT

Darryl Marshall, 5'10" SO, 14 pts

GAME LEADERS FOR LAKELAND:

Chaz Rollins, 6'6" FR, 24 pts, 10 rbs, 10-12 FT

Brendan Cooper, 6'7" SO, 20 pts, 11 rbs

Deran Banton, 6'1" FR, 12 pts