

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

(Warwick, RI)

VS

MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Flint, MI)

For immediate release:

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 26 featured the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball National Championship Game. Community College of Rhode Island played Mott Community College for the national championship after a thrilling tournament. The top seeded Mott defeated Danville Area Community College, Louisburg College, and Lakeland Community College to qualify for the championship game. Rhode Island, the #3 seed, defeated MCC-Penn Valley, Baltimore City Community College, and South Suburban College to advance.

John Taylor scored the first 6 of 8 points for Mott, giving them an early 8-2 lead. Desmond Williams got rolling to close the gap for Rhode Island early on. Mott retaliated with several transition buckets to construct a 15-7 lead, forcing the first Rhode Island timeout of the night. The timeout didn't break Mott's stride as they had a 21-9 lead by the 10 minute mark. Rhode Island wasn't able to score for over 5 minutes, allowing Mott to roll off a 15-2 run. Mott's perimeter pressure was suffocating and forced many Rhode Island turnovers in the open court. Ralph Eason made a living off of steals and open court finishes for Mott. In the latter part of the half, Rhode Island took better care of the ball and kept the game from getting further out of control. Rhode Island cut the lead to 9 points with less than 3 minutes in the half. Rhode Island appeared to get a little bit of swagger and cut it to 6 points before the break. They had some great defensive possessions that forced Mott to force shots up before the shot clock expired.
HALFTIME SCORE: Mott 29, Rhode Island 23.

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

Desmond Williams, 6'5" FR, 7 pts, 4 rbs

Rogério Livramento, 6'6" SO, 6 pts

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR MOTT:

John Taylor, 6'1" SO, 15 pts

Ralph Eason, 6'1" FR, 12 pts, 5 rbs

Mott started the second half at full speed again, quickly jumping to an 11 point lead. After a couple minutes, Rhode Island tightened up the ball pressure and forced some Mott turnovers.

They cut the lead back to 6 points after the first 4 minutes. Desmond Williams finished multiple 3-point plays for Rhode Island, helping them cut the lead to 5 points. The 5 point deficit didn't last long as Mott jumped it back to 10 points and held it there for several minutes. By the midway point of the half, Mott hit consecutive 3-pointers to go up 13 points. Rhode Island kept playing hard and got the lead below 10 points to keep the game intriguing. Desmond Williams, Rhode Island's top scorer, missed most of the second half due to illness. Baskets were hard to come by for Rhode Island and they never managed to get over the hump and challenge for the lead. Mott would coast on to a victory and another NJCAA National Championship. **FINAL SCORE: Mott 70, Rhode Island 60.**

GAME LEADERS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

Desmond Williams, 6'5" FR, 16 pts, 6 rbs

Isaac Medeiros, 6'5" FR, 15 pts, 9 rbs

Rogério Livramento, 6'6" SO, 13 pts, 10 rbs

GAME LEADERS FOR MOTT:

John Taylor, 6'1" SO, 23 pts, 6 asst.

Ralph Eason, 6'1" FR, 22 pts, 6 rbs, 5 asst.

Jacob Perry, 5'10" FR, 9 pts