

NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE
(South Holland, IL)
VS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND
(Warwick, RI)

For immediate release:

Friday, March 23, 2012

Danville, IL- Game 21 featured a semifinal match-up between #2 seeded South Suburban College and #3 seeded Community College of Rhode Island. South Suburban defeated Rend Lake College and Johnson County Community College to advance. Rhode Island advanced after defeating MCC – Penn Valley and Baltimore City Community College.

Sultan Muhammad got South Suburban off to a roaring start after hitting 3 consecutive 3-pointers to take a 9-2 lead just 2 minutes into the contest. Rhode Island had a difficult time getting anything going. They only scored 2 points in the first 5 minutes of the game. South Suburban's lead extended to 14-2 before Rhode Island could get their offense rolling. South Suburban held on to a 10 point lead for the majority of the first half. Rhode Island slowly chipped away at the lead the cut it 7 points with less than 7 minutes left in the half. South Suburban shot the lead right back up to 12 points within the next 2 minutes. Desmond Williams eventually got Rhode Island engaged by earning a lot of trips to the free throw line, making 11 of 12 in the first half. They closed South Suburban's lead to 36-32 with less than 2 minutes left in the half. South Suburban put a stop to their run and escaped the half without giving up their lead. **HALFTIME SCORE: South Suburban 37, Rhode Island 32.**

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR SOUTH SUBURBAN:

Sultan Muhammed, 6'1" SO, 12 pts

Michael Harris, 6'1" FR, 7 pts

1ST HALF LEADERS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

Desmond Williams, 6'5" FR, 13 pts

Isaac Medeiros, 6'5" FR, 8 pts, 5 rbs

Desmond Williams started the second half off with a 3-point play to get Rhode Island within 2 points. South Suburban went right back at them and resurrected their lead back to more than 10 points over the next couple minutes. In no time, South Suburban was up by 16 points. South Suburban had tightened up their defense, forced turnovers, and scored in transition. Steven Bevilacqua injected some life into Rhode Island with back-to-back 3-pointers off the

bench. The lead was cut to 10 but their run didn't last long. South Suburban got the lead up close to 20 points. Desmond Williams kept Rhode Island afloat long enough to slowly get back within 10 points midway through the half. Rhode Island's trapping pressure caused several South Suburban turnovers. Rhode Island took advantage and got within 3 points with less than 9 minutes to play. Rhode Island kept it alive for the next several minutes and tied it at 63-63 with around 5 minutes remaining. They would go on from there to take the lead. South Suburban showed that they weren't going to quit. They reclaimed a 3 point lead with less than 2 minutes to play. Desmond Williams made a great play to tie the game 69-69 with not much more than 1 minute left. South Suburban failed on a scoring attempt, allowing Williams to score again to take the lead with 45 seconds left. South Suburban ended up with the ball with 6 seconds left and scored before the buzzer to tie the game at 71. Overtime was on the menu.

Bryce Walker completed a 3 point play for South Suburban to start the overtime. Early in the overtime South Suburban held a 4 point lead. Rhode Island got some big defensive stops with their 2-3 zone and took a 76-75 lead with a little over 2 minutes left. Free throws by Desmond Williams put Rhode Island up 3 points. South Suburban was left scrambling and had a big turnover in the closing minute that led to an easy lay-in for Rhode Island to go up 5 points. South Suburban scored to get within 3 points with 10 seconds left and was forced to foul. Desmond Williams missed both free throws but got his own rebound to give himself another chance to seal the game at the free throw line with 6 seconds left. Williams made both and Rhode Island went on to win. **FINAL SCORE: Rhode Island 83, South Suburban 78.**

Rhode Island will now compete in the national championship game vs. the winner of Mott Community College vs. Lakeland Community College on Saturday at 7:30pm. South Suburban 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 SOUTH SUBURBAN:

Sultan Muhammed, 6'1" SO, 18 pts (5 3fg), 11 rbs

Marcus Lewis, 6'4" SO, 16 pts

Keenan Williams, 6'6" SO, 11 pts

Michael Harris, 6'1" FR, 11 pts

Bryce Walker, 5'9" FR, 10 pts

GAME LEADERS FOR RHODE ISLAND:

Desmond Williams, 6'5" FR, 41 pts (23-26 FT), 8 rbs, 9 st

Rogério Livramento, 6'6" SO, 11 pts, 11 rbs

Isaac Medeiros, 6'5" FR, 11 pts, 7 rbs

Trevor Mabry, 6'6" SO, 11 pts