

## NJCAA DII MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

### CINCINNATI STATE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Cincinnati, OH)

VS

### LEWIS & CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Godfrey, IL)

For immediate release:

Friday, March 19, 2010

*Danville, IL-* Game 21 of the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball Tournament featured a championship bracket match-up between Cincinnati State Technical & Community College vs. Lewis & Clark Community College. The winner of this game will advance to the NJCAA DII National Championship Game. The loser will continue to play a consolation match to battle for a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> place finish.

Lewis & Clark was ready to play right from the tip in this semifinal match-up. They jumped out to a quick 10 point lead over Cincinnati State. They were running on all cylinders as they pushed the ball up the floor and score numerous transition baskets. Despite Lewis & Clark's success with their transition game, Cincinnati State piled on their full court defensive pressure. This forced Lewis & Clark to make several turnovers that led to a Cincinnati State run that put them back in the game. They eventually took the 28-26 lead with under 6 minutes remaining in the half. There were several lead changes over the next few minutes, merely every possession. Cincinnati State hit a 3 pointer in the closing seconds of the half to take the lead. **HALFTIME SCORE:** Cincinnati State 38, Lewis & Clark 36.

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> HALF LEADERS FOR CINCINNATI STATE:**

James Millen, 6'2", Soph, 11pts

Illya Glover, 6'5", Soph, 7pts

Rayshawn Goins, 6'6", Soph, 7pts

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> HALF LEADERS FOR LEWIS & CLARK:**

Rico Pierrevilus, 6'7", Soph, 9pts

Gavin Scott, 6'7", Fresh, 8pts

Anthony Jones, 6'0", Fresh, 8pts

The intensity was magnified after the halftime break as both teams realized that advancing to the national championship game is on the line. The play was physical, which is how Cincinnati State likes to play. Despite the physical game and pressure defense, Lewis & Clark retook the lead within the first 5 minutes of the half. The nature of the game proved that no lead was safe as it swapped hands several more times. Lewis & Clark forced a couple Cincinnati State

turnovers with their own full court pressure system. They built their lead to 7 points with less than 10 minutes to play but Cincinnati State rallied back and retook a 63-60 lead within the next 2 minutes. With both teams sitting in a zone defense, the offensive pace was slowed way down. Each team tried to methodically maneuver throughout the zone for a good look at the basket. Lewis & Clark had the 66-65 advantage with 2 ½ minutes to play, but a couple free throws by Cincinnati State's Rayshawn Goins put his team back up by 1. Lewis & Clark could not find a way to score in the ensuing possession and Illya Glover completed a 3-point play to put Cincinnati State up 70-68 with less than 1 minute to play. Justin Jones answered back by hitting 2 free throws for Lewis & Clark to tie the game at 70. Cincinnati State had 35 seconds to hit the game winner but they missed and the regulation buzzer sounded. Overtime was on the menu for this game.

Overtime consisted of several more lead changes between the teams. Lewis & Clark committed some unforced turnovers, which led to Rayshawn Goins finishing a big play in the paint to put Cincinnati State up 75-74 with 1 minute left. Soon after, Rayshawn Goins made another big play to put Cincinnati up 77-74 with less than 30 seconds left. Rico Pierrevilus hit a deep 3 point shot from the top of the key for Lewis & Clark to tie the game at 77 with 12 seconds left. Rayshawn Goins barely missed a put-back at the buzzer to win the game for Cincinnati State, which sent the game to double overtime.

Both teams traded points throughout the second overtime to leave it tied at 82 with 1 minute left to play. Cincinnati State hit a free throw and got another bucket to go up 85-82 with 30 seconds left. Lewis & Clark called a timeout to draw up a play to get an open 3 point shot. They missed an open look from the top of the key and were forced to foul with just 15 seconds on the clock. Cincinnati State made enough free throws to claim the victory. **FINAL SCORE:** Cincinnati State 87, Lewis & Clark 85.

Cincinnati State will now advance to the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball National Championship Game. They will face the winner of Lincoln College vs. Kirkwood Community College. The championship game is scheduled for Saturday at 7:30 PM. Lewis & Clark will play the loser of the aforementioned game to decide who finishes 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place on Saturday at 5:30 PM.

**GAME LEADERS FOR CINCINNATI STATE:**

James Millen, 6'2", Soph, 16pts  
Illya Glover, 6'5", Soph, 10pts  
Rayshawn Goins, 6'6", Soph, 20pts, 17rbs  
Melvyn Little, 6'1", Fresh, 21pts

**GAME LEADERS FOR LEWIS & CLARK:**

Rico Pierrevilus, 6'7", Soph, 16pts  
Anthony Jones, 6'0", Fresh, 18pts  
Jimmy Payton, 6'4", Soph, 11pts