

No. 6 Eagles dumped by No. 7 Monroe CC

Written by Metro Sports Report

Thursday, 19 March 2015 20:59 - Last Updated Thursday, 19 March 2015 21:38



OVERLAND PARK, Kan. - The Kirkwood Eagles suffered a power outage Thursday night at the NJCAA Division II national basketball tournament in Overland Park, Kan.

The sixth-ranked Eagles were spanked by seventh-ranked Monroe Community College of New York, 59-42, in the quarterfinals with one of their poorest offensive showings of the season.

Kirkwood shot 16 of 67 overall from the field for 23.9 percent and was 5 of 26 on 3-pointers for 19.2 percent, including a succession of air-balls from behind the 3-point arc.

The 17-point loss was the most lopsided of the year for the Eagles and their 42 points were the second-lowest total of the campaign.

"We didn't play very well. Very uncharacteristic of this team," said Coach Kim Muhl. "Some kids wouldn't shoot the ball, some kids were hesitant instead of just shooting it. I don't know. I don't have an answer.

"We got looks," said Muhl. "We got plenty of looks. We had wide-open shots. The kids shot air-balls. It was unbelievable. When it ain't going in, you're not going to win many games."

Kirkwood (29-6) will play No. 20 Chesapeake in a consolation game Friday at 3 p.m. If the Eagles win, they will play for fifth place Saturday afternoon.

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"We have a choice to make now," said Muhl. "We either play hard tomorrow or we'll be coming home."

Monroe Community College (28-1) will face top-ranked Parkland in the semifinals Friday night. Owens will meet Johnson County in the other semifinal.

Kirkwood faced an uphill battle all night. The Eagles fell behind by 12 points in the first half and trailed 36-26 at intermission.

Monroe Community College scored the first seven points of the second half for a 17-point advantage at 43-26. The bulge reached 20 points at 51-31 with 11:35 left in the game and the Eagles never recovered.

Kirkwood scored only 16 points in the second half.

"The second half we just laid an egg," said Muhl. "Very uncharacteristic of this team. I thought we lost our minds at times. And they (Monroe) did a good job of doing that to us."

Kirkwood has won six national titles, tied with Illinois Central for the most in NJCAA Division II history. Monroe Community College has won three national titles in 2001, 2004 and 2005 under Coach Tim Parrinello, who has a career record of 520-75 with the school from Rochester, N.Y.

Casey Miles led Kirkwood with 10 points. None of the other Eagles scored more than six points. Kirkwood got few easy chances near the basket and was ice-cold from 3-point distance.

Adre'onia Coleman topped Monroe Community College with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Kiki Barnes and Tyese Purvis scored 10 apiece.

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The Lady Tribunes won the rebounding battle, 47-37.

MONROE CC (59): Hixson 1 0-0 3, Barnes 4 0-0 10, Purvis 5 0-0 10, Coleman 5 1-1 11, Price 3 0-0 8, Carroll 3 2-2 8, Ayala 4 1-2 9, Davis 0 0-0 0. Totals 25 4-5 59.

KIRKWOOD (42): Silva 1 0-0 2, Larson 1 0-0 3, Hutchins 0 0-0 0, Martensen 1 2-2 5, Clark 3 0-0 6, Sneed 2 2-2 6, Miles 4 0-1 10, Downs 1 0-0 2, Isaac 1 1-2 3, Oberman 0 0-0 0, Sudduth 0 0-0 0, Bockholt 2 0-0 5, Kallenberger 0 0-0 0, Wood 0 0-0 0. Totals 16 5-7 42.

Halftime - Monroe CC 36, Kirkwood 26. 3-point goals - Monroe 5 (Barnes 2, Price 2, Hixson 1), Kirkwood 5 (Miles 2, Larson 1, Martensen 1, Bockholt 1).