

No. 1 Eagles stroll at national tourney

Written by Metro Sports Report

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HARRISON, Ark. - The top-ranked Kirkwood Eagles scored the first 25 points of the second half Tuesday night and dumped Dakota College, 78-43, in the opening round of the NJCAA Division II national tournament.

Kirkwood (34-0) will face Cincinnati State (27-6) in the quarterfinals Thursday at 6 p.m. at Pioneer Pavilion in Harrison, Ark.

Kirkwood led 37-22 at halftime, but the Eagles did not play at a high level in the first half. That changed in the third quarter.

The Eagles poured in basket after basket in the third period, forcing turnovers and dominating the backboards. Olivia Usher made it a 30-point game at 52-22 with a three-point play and a 3-pointer, then Tay Tay Wilson and Simone Goods popped in 3-pointers to make it 58-22.

The bulge reached 40 points at 62-22 as Kirkwood took complete control of the game with the incredible 25-0 run.

Goods finished with 18 points, 12 rebounds, three blocks and two steals. Wilson led the Eagles in scoring with four 3-pointers and 19 points.

Kirkwood dominated the backboards, 49-26, and held Dakota to 25 percent shooting from the floor.

Nobody scored in double figures for Dakota (16-15), which is located in North Dakota.

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DAKOTA (43): Brenden 2 0-0 5, Obergfell 1 2-2 4, Deckert 1 3-4 6, Erickson 2 0-0 5, Deibert 1 2-2 4, Gladue 1 0-0 3, Dioum 0 0-0 0, Sondrol 3 0-0 8, Scheetz 3 0-0 7, Mach 0 0-0 0, Bowers 0 1-2 1. Totals 14 8-10 43.

KIRKWOOD (78): Harris 3 0-0 7, T. Wilson 7 1-2 19, Watkins 3 0-0 8, Goods 7 3-4 18, Usher 2 1-1 6, Puok 2 0-0 4, Hedges 0 0-0 0, Axccl 1 2-2 5, Taylor 0 2-2 2, Voss 1 1-2 3, Cotton 1 0-0 2, C. Wilson 1 0-0 2, Achenbach 1 0-0 2. Totals 29 10-13 78.

Halftime - Kirkwood 37, Dakota 22. 3-point goals - Dakota 7 (Sondrol 2, Brenden 1, Deckert 1, Erickson 1, Gladue 1, Scheetz 1), Kirkwood 10 (T.Wilson 4, Watkins 2, Harris 1, Goods 1, Usher 1, Axccl 1).