

Mustangs clinch berth in playoffs

Written by Metro Sports Report
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The Mount Mercy men's basketball team came through in the clutch Wednesday night.

The Mustangs whipped Grand View, 83-68, in a Heart of America Conference game at the Hennessey Recreation Center to clinch a spot in the league playoffs that begin next week.

Mount Mercy (16-14, 11-13) will play a first-round game in the conference tournament next Tuesday.

Mohammed Albagami led five Mustangs into double figures with 20 points. Mychael Brawner-Henley scored 19, Antwain Strong 16, Dennis McKinney 15 and Mike Evans 11. Strong also had eight rebounds and seven assists.

Brawner-Henley popped in five 3-pointers, Albagami hit four triples and Strong had three. McKinney grabbed seven rebounds and Brawner-Henley had six.

Mount Mercy played without Bailey Basala, one of their top players who suffered a head injury in a nasty fall against Central Methodist on Tuesday.

The top 10 teams in the standings will qualify for the Heart of America Conference tournament. The Mustangs are currently in ninth place but could tie for sixth.

Mount Mercy is finished with the regular season, but all the other teams in the 13-team conference will play one more game on Saturday before the tournament begins.

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Wednesday's victory avenged an 89-68 loss at Grand View two weeks ago and came one day after the Mustangs lost to Central Methodist, 67-65, Tuesday night in a game that was postponed from Saturday due to a wet floor.

Casey Schlatter scored 17 points for Grand View (16-12, 12-11).

GRAND VIEW (68): Schlatter 6 3-4 17, Kuenstling 4 2-4 10, Flowers 7 1-1 15, Rash 0 0-0 0, Brunkow 2 4-5 8, Meinders 0 0-0 0, Johnson 0 0-0 0, Chen 2 0-0 6, Davy 0 1-2 1, R.Miller 3 0-0 7, McCoy 0 0-0 0, A.Miller 0 0-0 0, Gilman 0 0-0 0, Saldh 0 0-0 0, Milam 2 0-0 4, Haynes 0 0-0 0, Metoyer 0 0-0 0. Totals 26 11-16 68.

MOUNT MERCY (83): McKinney 6 2-2 15, Brawner-Henley 6 2-2 19, Evans 5 1-3 11, Strong 3 7-8 16, Albagami 6 4-4 20, Villagrana 0 0-0 0, Doe 0 0-0 0, Reischauer 0 0-0 0, Johnson 1 0-0 2, Stoeffler 0 0-0 0, Kehinde 0 0-0 0. Totals 27 16-19 83.

Halftime - Mount Mercy 41, Grand View 32. 3-point goals - Grand View 5 (Schlatter 2, Chen 2, R.Miller 1), Mount Mercy 13 (Brawner-Henley 5, Albagami 4, Strong 3, McKinney 1).