Eagles bounced by NIACC in regional finals

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MASON CITY - Kirkwood's bid to reach the national tournament ended quickly Sunday afternoon.

Top-ranked NIACC raced to a 21-point lead in the first quarter and bounced the fourth-ranked Eagles, 95-73, in the regional finals to claim a spot in the NJCAA Division II national tournament.

Kirkwood finished the season with a 29-4 record, with three of the losses to NIACC. The Trojans head to nationals with a 32-1 mark.

NIACC tossed in 19 3-pointers in 40 attempts. Kelci Hale hit six triples and scored 24 points. Andrea Gray made five 3-pointers and netted 23.

NIACC led 31-10 after the first quarter and enjoyed 52-37 advantage at halftime.