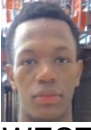


No. 1 Eagles claim opener for Sandquist

Written by Metro Sports Report
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WEST BURLINGTON - The top-ranked Kirkwood men's basketball team defeated Illinois Central, 87-68, in the season opener Friday night to give Tim Sandquist his first victory as head coach at the SCC Classic in West Burlington.

Devonte Thedford led the Eagles with 17 points and five assists for the defending NJCAA Division II national champions. Seybian Sims and Jamal Stevenson netted 12 points apiece for Kirkwood. Newcomer DJ Purnell contributed 10 points and eight rebounds.

Griffen Clark and Stephenson were both 3-for-4 on 3-pointers. Niko Gosnell blocked three shots for Kirkwood.

Fred Cottrell led Illinois Central with 16 points.

KIRKWOOD (87): Seybian Sims 3-6 4-4 12, DJ Purnell 2-5 6-8 10, Niko Gosnell 2-2 2-4 6, Devonte Thedford 3-11 11-11 17, Brady Sartorius 2-5 3-3 8, Chris Burnell 0-0 0-0 0, Tre'Quan Carrington 2-6 3-5 7, Gacoby Jones 0-2 0-2 0, Griffen Clark 3-4 0-0 9, Jamal Stephenson 4-7 1-1 12, Jalen Taylor 1-1 1-2 4, Owen Coburn 0-2 2-2 2. Totals 22-51 33-42 87.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL (68): Joe Turner 0-1 0-0 0, Armoni Hall 3-8 3-3 9, Patrick McKenzie 1-4 1-2 3, DJ Davis 2-8 2-2 6, Zach Lewkowski 3-8 0-0 8, Anthony Grant 1-1 2-4 4, Jesse Brown 0-1 1-3 1, Katon Brown 2-4 2-2 6, Damond Crosby 1-2 4-5 6, Cole Morton 0-0 0-0 0, Koby Klaus 0 0-1 0, Tyler Bruggenwirth 0-1 0-2 0, Max May 0 2-2 2, Fred Cottrell 5-7 6-9 16, Joe Nelan 0-2 3-4 3, Garrett Snow 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 20-50 26-39 68.

3-point goals - Kirkwood 10-22 (Clark 3-4, Stephenson 3-4, Sims 2-5, Taylor 1-1, Sartorius 1-3), Illinois Central 2 (Lewkowski 2).