

No.13 Mustangs reach MCC finals

Written by Metro Sports Report
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The 13th-ranked Mount Mercy men's basketball team has reached the championship game of the Midwest Collegiate Conference tournament, but there were some nervous moments at the Hennessey Recreation Center Friday night.

The Mustangs had to rally for a 72-61 victory over Grand View with a strong finish in the MCC semifinals.

Grand View led 55-54 with 6:03 left in the game, seeking to upset the No. 1 seeds on their home court. Mount Mercy kept battling and took a slim 62-60 lead into the final minute, with the outcome still very much in doubt.

Fortunately for the Mustangs, the final 49 seconds belonged to them.

James Boonstoppel drilled a clutch 3-pointer for a 65-60 lead, Ian Matos made one free throw for a 66-60 advantage and Ben Struss hit two foul shots for a 68-60 lead with 33 seconds remaining to lift the Mustangs out of danger.

Mount Mercy (25-4) will host William Penn in the championship game Sunday at 6 p.m.

Dondre Osborne led the Mustangs with 17 points, six rebounds and three assists. Matos finished with 11 points and Alex Houston scored 10.

Kerry Green scored 13 points for Grand View (16-13).

GRAND VIEW (61): Williams 3 0-1 7, Mullen 2 0-0 5, Green 5 1-3 13, Witt 0 1-2 1, Welsch 2 3-4 7, Skogen 2 0-0 4, Schweiner 0 0-0 0, Washington 3 1-2 10, Hadnot 2 1-2 5, Lyon 3 3-5 9. Totals 22 10-19 61.

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MOUNT MERCY (72): Houston 3 4-6 10, Osborne 5 4-4 17, Matos 3 4-9 11, Misener 3 1-2 7, Struss 2 4-4 9, Boonstoppel 1 2-2 5, Murdock 0 0-0 0, Johnson 1 1-2 3, Price-Majors 2 1-2 5, Lamaak 2 1-4 5. Totals 22 22-35 72.

Halftime - Mount Mercy 35, Grand View 27. 3-point goals - Grand View 7 (Washington 3, Green 2, Williams 1, Mullen 1), Mount Mercy 6 (Osborne 3, Matos 1, Struss 1, Boonstoppel 1).