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PRESS RELEASE

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MASSBAY MEN'S BASKETBALL PICKED PRESEASON TOP 20

Buccaneers look to have solid season after 18-11 finish last year

Wellesley Hills, Mass. – MassBay's appearance in last year's National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XXI Final Four was a taste of success that the Buccaneers hope can be repeated in 2008-09. If the preseason polls and predictions hold true, this winter could be another successful one in the history of MassBay men's basketball.

MassBay finished last season with an 18-11 record and is ranked No. 19 in this year's NJCAA Preseason Division III poll. According to the rankings, the team is the second-best in Region XXI, behind only No. 8 Springfield Tech. Last year, Springfield Tech finished 28-8.

Additionally, second-year player **DeShawn Gibbons** has been selected as a NJCAA Division III Preseason Third Team All-American. The 6-5 swing player earned a spot on last year's NJCAA Region XXI All-Tournament Team after putting up solid numbers in the tournament and all season long. He averaged 19.0 points, 9.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists, and 2.0 steals per game.

This season, MassBay will host the top-ranked team in the country when Sullivan Community College from New York travels to the Framingham Gymnasium for a 7:00 p.m. tip-off Friday, November 28. In addition, MassBay will host eighth-ranked Springfield (November 15) and Gateway (December 6), who received honorable mention. MassBay will travel to 11th-ranked Nassau on January 8.

This season should prove exciting both on and off the court for MassBay. The Buccaneers host Alumni Day on Saturday, December 6, honoring past players and supporters of the program before the 3:00 p.m. tip-off against Gateway. When MassBay hosts Holyoke at 1:00 p.m. January 17, the game will celebrate Summer Camp Day.

For more information on the MassBay men's basketball program or any of the other eight intercollegiate teams at the school, visit www.massbay.edu

About MassBay Community College

Massachusetts Bay Community College (MassBay) is an open-access, accredited two-year public educational institution. The College grants associate degrees and certificates in a range of disciplines through its five divisions of academics: the Division of Health Sciences; the Division of Humanities; the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (S.T.E.M.); the Division of Social Sciences & Professional Studies; and the Division of Transportation & Energy. Offering over 60 academic programs, MassBay serves Boston and the MetroWest communities with locations in Wellesley Hills, Framingham and Ashland (Automotive Technology Center).

---www.massbay.edu---

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