

# Go Bucs!! Game 1

## **MASSBAY DEFEATS ILLINOIS TEAM, WINS FIRST GAME OF NJCAA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT, 74-66**

**BY RON BERNTHAL**

Loch Sheldrake, NY. , March 14, 2013..... The MassBay Buccaneers defeated Rock Valley College (IL) in a closely contested first round game at the NJCAA DIII National Tournament on a cold and windy afternoon at the SUNY Sullivan campus in upstate New York.

With a starting lineup of Eric Alleyne, Mike Swiderski, Roger Paul, Boris Fodouop, and Givaughn Jones, the Buccaneers kept it close during the first half, until the nine-minute mark, when Rock Valley penetrated the Buccaneer defense, went on a run and led 26-18 at 7:14.

But Alleyne drew a foul and sank two free throws, Swiderski hit two threes, Fodouop went in for a layup, and MassBay went on a run of their own, overtaking Rock Valley and leading 33-30 at the half. High scorers at the half were Mike Swiderski and Boris Fodouop (8), Rayshaw Matthews (6) and Roger Paul (4)

After an enthusiastic half-time locker room talk, the Buccaneers came out aggressively, with Givaughn Jones hitting sweet 15-foot jump shots, and Roger Paul and Robert Dempsey getting fast break points, the Buccaneers built up a 51-44 lead at 11:37. But Rock Valley's Blake McElroy hit a quick three, which seemed to unsettle MassBay, and within two minutes the game was tied at 51-51, and Rayshaw Matthews had to leave the game after his fourth foul.

The Buccaneers recovered the lead with help from Roger Paul with a long three, and quick give-and-go's and layups by the rest of the team. At the 5:00 mark MassBay led 64-58, and increased the lead to 69-60 at 2:00. Under pressure from an unrelenting Rock Valley full-court press the Golden Eagles were still within reach, with Rock Valley's Brandon Schwebke hitting a long three to cut the lead to 8 points with 40 seconds remaining. Could MassBay stay calm and controlled and make their foul shots, which they knew would be coming?

Yes. The Buccaneers kept their poise, and when the final buzzer rang the score was 74-66, a victory which brought MassBay's record this year to 27-6 but, even more important, it means that MassBay will play in a semi-final game on Friday afternoon at 5:00 pm against Eastfield College (TX) for a chance to participate in the Championship game on Saturday.

High scorers for MassBay: Roger Paul (16), Boris Fodouop (15), Givaughn Jones and Mike Swiderski (12). The Buccaneers shot 68.4 percent for the game, with 10 steals.

From Coach Raynor: "We had seen only one film of Rock Valley, but we knew they were of similar size and talent, so we knew it was going to be a tough game. We needed good defense today, and I think we executed real well, and got our rebounds when we needed to. We have about eight guys who can come in and make points, so our starters and bench performed well, just like we have all

season. We did fall behind in the first half, but kept our cool and came back strong in the second half.

Boris Fodouop: "We are happy with the win, it was a real team win and we had a good spirit out there today. We are looking forward to playing Eastfield tomorrow."



Forwards Mike Swiderski (#21) and Boris Fodouop (#33) take it to the basket during yesterday's first round victory.

(Photo courtesy of Michael Bloom)