

## Go Bucs!! Game 2

### **BUCCANEERS LOSE IN NATIONALS SEMIFINAL GAME, FALL TO TEXAS TEAM, 91-65**

BY RON BERNTHAL

**Loch Sheldrake, N.Y., March 14, 2013.....** MassBay coach Bill Raynor had his Buccaneer team rested and ready to play a semifinal match against the Eastfield (TX) College Harvesters, the #5 rated NJCAA DIII team in the nation, just 27 hours after the Bucs defeated Rock Valley College (IL) in Thursday's NJCAA National Tournament opener in upstate New York.

But as much as the Bucs had prepared for Eastfield, they ran into trouble in the first half. With both teams appearing nervous at the tipoff, there was no scoring until the 18:00 mark, before Eastfield converted fouls, and MassBay forward Boris Fodouop made a layup. It was back and forth for most of the first half until Eastfield's aggressive play wore down the Bucs. Committing 12 turnovers under relentless pressure from Eastfield's defense, and shooting just 38% from the floor, the Buccaneers went into the locker room down 38-30.

In the first half Eastfield out-rebounded the Bucs 16-13, with the Texas team converting many of these into points. Chris Ewing and Fodouop, with 10 points each, were first half high scorers, but the Bucs needed more production from starters Eric Alleyne, with just three points, and Roger Paul, who was called for two fouls early, and scored no points in six minutes of the half. Still, at the end of the half the Buccaneers were in striking distance.

In the second half the Bucs ran into a Texas buzz saw as Eastfield tightened an already solid defense, and Texas players sank 3-pointers from the corners. Eastfield slowly built their lead as the Bucs fought at both ends of the court, battling under the boards and trying to defend against Eastfield's best shooters, including Brock Hunter, who led all players with 27 points in the game.

With five minutes to go, the Bucs were down 79-61. It seemed like the rims were just not cooperating with MassBay tonight, as many Buccaneer shots rolled around the hoop and slipped down into the hands of an Eastfield rebounder. The Buccaneers played hard but missed shots and turnovers took its toll, final score, Eastfield Harvesters 91, MassBay 65.

"We had 25 turnovers, and you just can't do that and expect to beat this team," said Coach Raynor after the game. "They're an athletic team, and we gave them too many scoring opportunities."

High scorers for the Buccaneers tonight were Givaughn Jones (18), Chris Ewing (17) and Boris Fodouop (14). The Bucs shot just 41% from the field, and only 7-22 (32%) from the 3-point line.

"We had just too many turnovers, and didn't execute offensively like we can," said Mike Swiderski from a quiet locker room following the game. Swiderski was held to just six total points, Roger Paul to just four points.

MassBay president John O'Donnell was introspective following the loss. "This team has come so far this year, and I don't think this loss will hurt the team's or the community's spirit," O'Donnell said. "After all, it's March, this is a national basketball tournament, and the College is riveted on our team and the competition."

"We came to play three games and we'll be ready to play again tomorrow," Coach Raynor said, as his team walked through falling snowflakes to the bus.

The team plays its final game of the season tomorrow at 5:00 pm.



Boris Fodouop nabs a rebound during MassBay's loss to Eastfield.  
(Michael Bloom photography)



Eric Alleyne in action during Buc's semifinal game vs. Eastfield.  
(Michael Bloom photography)



MassBay's biggest fans, including President John O'Donnell, pose before tipoff.  
(Michael Bloom photography)

