

# BCC Bees put scare into MassBay in men's basketball action

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The Bristol Community College Bees put quite the scare into the big, bad Buccaneers from Mass Bay, but came up short in Wednesday night's 69-66 men's basketball loss in BCC's regular-season finale on Senior Night.

The on-the-bubble Bees are expected to learn their postseason fate this evening.

"This is by far the closest game these guys have played against a New England team this year," said BCC coach Rob Delaleu. "They are ranked third in the country and have been blowing people out. They haven't lost a game to a New England team this year."

The Bees were on fire early, jumping out to a 14-3 lead in the first 6:06, but the hosts struggled for the next 4:41, managing only two Chris Andrade free throws as the Bucs staged a 13-2 run to knot the game at 16 with 9:13 left in the first half.

"That's one of the big differences between this year and last year," Delaleu said. "We've been going through quite a few scoring droughts this year."

The rest of the half featured seven lead changes before the Bees claimed a 33-32 halftime lead on two Tyren Heggs free throws with six seconds left.

Bristol's Sonny Mello led all scorers at the break with 12 points, while Heggs chipped in nine.

Mikhail Ruben had 11 in the first 20 minutes for Mass Bay.

Free throws kept the Bees alive in the opening half as they were 12-for-13 from the line, while the Bucs were 3-for-4.

Mass Bay, however, was 14-for-31 from the floor in the first half, while BCC made eight of 23 field goal attempts.

Neither team led by more than four points in the second half until the Bees suffered through another mini drought, going scoreless during a 4:04 stretch in which the Bucs outscored them 5-0 to grab their biggest lead at 50-45 with 9:12 to go.

Darren Gray halted the Mass Bay streak with a bucket with 8:48 left to cut the deficit to 50-47.

With 4:17 to play, Andrade knocked down a game-tying 3-pointer to make it 58-58, but 10 seconds later

Rubin converted a three-point play to put the visitors back up by three.

Rubin scored 12 second-half points and led all scorers with 23 points.

BCC again tied the score at 62 with 2:41 to go on a Mello free throw, but Raheem McCoy hit back-to-back field goals to help build the Bucs lead back to five with 32 ticks left.

Mello led the Bees with 17 points, while Andrade finished with 12.

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