

## **NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS**

### **First Round**

**At Louis Alexander Palestra, Rochester, N.Y.**

### **Union (N.Y.) 89, Wesleyan (CT) 83**

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Deshon Burgess scored 30 points and led four double figure scorers as Union College outlasted Wesleyan University, 89-83, in the first round of the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Playoffs at the University of Rochester.

Union's victory pushed it into the round of 32 in the tournament against the host University of Rochester. The Yellowjackets defeated Albertus Magnus College of Connecticut, 89-66. It will be the second matchup of the year between Union and Rochester. The Yellowjackets won, 77-58, at their Louis Alexander Palestra on December 12. The Union-Rochester winner advances to the sectional semifinals on March 10-11 at a site to be determined.

Greg King added 20 points for Union. Kevin Weckworth had 15 points while Wade McNamara scored 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds – all off the defensive glass. Union is 17-10. The Dutchmen earned a Pool A (automatic) bid as the Liberty League champion.

Harry Rafferty led Wesleyan with 24 points. Jordan Bonner had 19 points and nine rebounds. J.R. Bascom scored 14 points (he was 6-for-7 from the floor), and Salim Green scored 13 points. Wesleyan is 19-7. The Cardinals were a Pool C (at-large) entry from the New England Small College Athletic Conference.

Union closed the first half on an 18-7 run over six minutes to take a 43-33 lead into the locker room. The Dutchmen nursed a double-digit lead for the opening minutes of the second half before Wesleyan charged. The Cardinals ran off a 9-0 spurt – including two layups from Bascom and a three-pointer by Rafferty. They pulled within 53-51 with 13:35 left.

"I thought coach did a good job of getting us good looks," said Rafferty. "We just couldn't get stops when we needed them. Giving up 89 points in a game, it's tough to win."

Union finally got a little breathing room after two Rafferty free throws pulled the Cardinals within 73-70. Burgess hit a 10-footer outside the lane. Weckworth weaved and curled his way through the defense for a layup. Then Matt Liquori drove for a fastbreak layup off a long pass from McNamara. It was 79-70 with 3:23 left. Wesleyan sawed it to three, 84-81, but Union sank five of its last six at the line to seal the win.

Dutchmen coach Chris Murphy relished the production from Burgess, including 11 of 11 at the foul line to go with six assists and two blocks. He loved the fact that plenty of players were involved.

“Different guys stepped up,” he said. “We kicked the ball to Weckworth and he made some nice twisting runs. Greg King hit some big threes. We knew we had to be ready.”