



MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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EAGLES BEAT THE SAC CITY PANTHERS IN OVERTIME

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For the second year in a row, the Mendocino College Men's Basketball Team's annual John Hogue Memorial Tournament will feature two long-time Bay Valley Conference rivals in the tournament's championship game.

On day two of the tournament on Friday, the BVC's Los Medanos College Mustangs punched their ticket to the tournament champion championship game on Saturday by out gunning the Modesto Junior College Pirates of the Big 8 Conference 101-93 in a winner's bracket game. The win was the Mustangs' third out of four games played this season.

In the final game of the day on Friday, also in the winner's bracket, the host Mendocino College Eagles battled another Big 8 team, the Sacramento City College Panthers into overtime, with the Eagles coming out on top, winning the game 71-69. The win was the Eagles' third of the season in their three games played thus far.

On the first day of the tournament on Thursday, Los Medanos had edged Cosumnes River College 79-76, while the Eagles took down Cerro Coso College by an almost identical score of 79-74.

Last year's tournament championship game saw the host Eagles beat the Mustangs 72-62 to win the tournament for the first time in several years. This year they will be seeking repeat tournament champions.

The two teams played four times last season, first in the Hogue Tournament, later in December at the Kris Kringle tournament at Santa Rosa JC and then twice in Bay Valley Conference play.

The Mustangs edged the Eagles in round two at the Kringle 79-78 to even that "season series." The Eagles got the better of deal, winning both conference games, at Los Medanos on January 11, 77-22, and then at home on February 9 by a score 75-60.

The two long-time rivals ended the 2017-2018 season tied for third place in the conference standings, both with 10-6 conference records. The Eagles had a better overall season record of 18-9 to the Mustangs' 17-10.

Whenever the two rivals play each other, the game has a special rivalry element to it that makes for some lively, but good-spirited battles. Saturday's Hogue championship game will be no different, other than the Mustangs probably bringing an added payback incentive for the Eagles having beat them three out of four last season.

But to get to Saturday's championship game, the Eagles had to battle tooth-and-nail with a tough Sacramento City



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College Panthers team Friday evening to try to get a win and advance to the championship game.

The Eagles took their first lead of the game when sophomore forward Jared Strate knocked down a three nearly five minutes into the game, putting the Eagles up 6-4.

In one stretch the Eagles made their 8th consecutive stops on defense.

Freshman guard Kevin Deel made a fast-break, pullup jumper to give the Eagles a 10-6 lead with 11:16 showing on the clock.

A Panthers' free throw gave them their 7th point with 10:56 to play in the half. But they only trailed by 3 points, the Eagles doing only slightly better offensively.

After each team added another scoreless possession to its ledger, Deel hit a trey to give the Eagles a 13-7 lead with 9:57 on the clock.

The Eagles missed a layup on their next possession off a steal, but the Panthers made a backdoor layup on their next possession to close to 13-9 with 9:09 on the clock.

A minute plus later, the Eagles pumped their lead to a game-high 6 points when sophomore forward Larry Bryson kicked out a pass to sophomore guard Diego Reyes who hit a jumper to put the Eagles up 15-9.

Sac City immediately answered with a trey. The teams' resumed defensive control, resulting in three consecutive scoreless possessions for each team.

With 5:22 to go in the half, the Eagles' defense produced some points, with Reyes making a steal and converting a layup at the other end of the court.

Reyes, doing it all, then got a defensive board, leading to Knight getting fouled on a drive and converting both free throws, putting the Eagles up 19-12 for the biggest lead of the game.

But the Panthers scored on their next two possessions, a trey and a jumper, to trim the Eagles' lead to 19-17 with just over 3 minutes to play in the half.

They then made two defensive stops and converted their third and fourth scoring possessions in a row with back-to-back treys to go up 23-19 and the Eagles calling a timeout with 2:21 on the clock.

After a fourth scoreless possession in a row, the Eagles freshman guard Divon Davis-Boddie nearly made a steal, but the Panthers did lose the ball out of bounds on the play.

On the Eagles' next possession Strate hit a three from the right side to make the score 23-22, Panthers.

On the Panthers' next possession, Bryson blocked a shot out of bounds. Reyes then made another steal and fed



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Bryson for a fast-break layup to give the Eagles back the lead at 24-23 with just over a minute to play in the half.

The Eagles committed a foul, putting the Panthers in the bonus and guard Greg Milton III converting a one-and-one to put the Panthers back ahead, 25-24.

The Eagles had two more possessions in the time remaining in the half but failed to score, with Sac City taking a 25-24 lead into the locker room at half.

When the second half got underway, it looked like more of the same for the first few minutes of play. After two and half minutes of play, the Panthers still lead, the score at 27-26.

It was at that point that the respective offenses started kicking into gear. There were points scored on 9 of the next 12 combined possessions. In the that stretch, the Eagles got a trey by Strate, a jumper by Strate after a Reyes offensive board, a baseline jumper by Strate off a Bryson assist, a Knight 3-pointer from the top of the arc and a floater by Reyes through the paint.

After Reyes score, the Eagles called a timeout with 13:50 on the clock, Mendocino up by 1 at 38-37.

Sac City then hit some threes went up 45-38. The Eagles broke the string on a Bryson trey to cut the deficit to 45-41. The Panther made a layup with 10 minutes to play to go up 47-41.

A Bryson layup trimmed 2 points off the lead. The Eagles made two defensive stops and then Knight drew a foul and converted two free throws to cut the Panthers' lead to 47-45.

On their next two possessions, the Panthers drew fouls and converted all four charities to go up 51-45.

The Eagles didn't score again until Knight drew a foul on a drive and made both free throws with 7:02 to play in regulation, trimming the Panthers lead to 51-47.

Sac City called timeout. When play resumed, the Eagles were called for another foul, with technical on the Eagles' bench added on. The Panthers made 3of 4 free throws taken to go up 54-47 with 6:30 to play.

A Knight drive through the paint resulted in two free throws made, with the Eagles calling a timeout with 5:57 on the clock, trailing 54-49.

A Panther putback, followed by a Strate trey made it a 4-point game. A minute later a Knight conversion of a one-and-one on a foul was matched by two charities made by the Panthers to make the score 58-54 with 3:43 to play.

On the Eagles' ensuing possession a critical sequence of action occurred that allowed enabled the Eagles to tie the game.

On an Eagles missed shot, Knight got the offensive board and was fouled on a putback attempt. He made the first free throw, but missed the second.



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Reyes, who was having a great game on the glass as well as other facets of the game, got the offensive rebound and kicked out to Strate beyond the arc. Strate knocked down a trey to tie the game 54 all.

Sac City was forced to call a timeout on their ensuing possession, with the Eagles playing inspired defense and the shot clock down to 12 seconds, with 2:53 to go in regulation.

When play resumed a foul was called on the Eagles with 4 seconds left on the shot clock. Now in the double bonus, shooting two, the Panthers missed the first and made the second free throw to go back ahead 59-58,

On the Eagles following possession they missed a shot, but Reyes was there again there to get the offensive board and draw a foul. He converted both free throws to put the Eagles up 60-59 with 2:25 on the clock.

The Panthers retook the lead on their next possession and the Eagles missed a shot on theirs, trailing 61-60. But freshman guard Divon Davis-Boddie made a steal and the Eagles called a timeout with 1:42 on the clock.

The Eagles retook the lead 63-61 on Knight's third trey of the game, with 1:11 on the clock. The Panthers drew a foul on a jumper and converted both free throws to tie the game at 63 with 1:05 on the clock.

On the Eagles next possession, Reyes drove the right baseline, passing to Davis-Boddie on the other side of the key. Boddie put a move on a defender and made a lay up to put the Eagles back ahead 65-63 with 37.3 seconds on the game clock and Sac City calling a timeout.

When play resumed, the Panthers attempted a layup which was blocked. However, they got the loose ball and laid it in to tie the score at 65 with 16.7 remaining on the clock.

Just before time expired, Knight drove the left side of the paint, putting up a layup that wouldn't go down. Reyes again was there for the offensive board and putback, but, it too, wouldn't go in, with time expiring and the score remaining 65-65. The game was headed into a 5-minute overtime period.

The Panthers got the first possession in overtime. They missed a jumper with the Eagles rebounding.

On the Eagles first possession, they missed a layup. But, who else, Reyes was there for the offensive board. Fouled, he missed the first free throw, but made the second to put the Eagles up 66-65.

On their next possession, the Panthers missed a 3-point attempt, the Eagles rebounding, but then turning the ball over.

On the Panthers next possession, they were called on a charge, turning the ball back to the Eagles. Bryson fouled on a drive, made one of two free throws to put the Eagles up 67-65 with 3:32 to play in overtime.

Sac City tied the game on a baseline drive for a layup with 3:08 to play.



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The Eagles retook the lead when, on a missed trey attempt, Reyes got the offensive board again, this time making a putback to give the Eagles a 69-67 lead, with the Eagles calling a timeout with 2:40 on the clock.

The Panthers lost the ball out of bounds on their next possession. The Eagles missed a jumper and a putback on their following possession with 1:21 on the clock.

Sac City tied the game 69 all on a baseline layup with 1:09 on the clock.

With 41.1 seconds on the clock, the Eagles were called for a charge. But on the Panthers next possession, the Eagles blocked a shot and then were awarded possession on a jump ball call with 21 seconds left in overtime.

As time was running down, Knight drove into the paint from the left top of the key. In traffic, he dished out to Bryson on in the left corner.

Bryson made a catch-and-shoot, his foot just inside the 3-point line. His shot found nothing but net, with Sac City calling a quick timeout with 4.7 showing on the clock, now trailing the Eagles 71-69.

Coming out of the timeout, the Panthers inbounded, having to go the length of the court, with the Eagles pressuring but not wanting to foul. The Panthers managed to get the ball to a shooter outside the left side of the arc, but his shot put up just before the buzzer was short and well off to the right of the right of the basket; game over, Eagles winning 71-69.

For the game Knight led the Eagles with 22 points, 11 on free throws, 9 pts. on treys. Strate had 21 points, with 5 treys. Also in double figures for the Eagles were Reyes with 11 and Bryson 10.

After the game, Eagles head coach Billy Offill commented, "Sac was really big. We knew they were going to zone us. We didn't shoot the ball well last night (Thursday vs. Cerro Coso) and we didn't shoot the ball well tonight.

"It was a grinder tonight. So we were thinking any way we could get the win was okay. Larry Bryson did some nice high posts, getting it in and kicking it out. I tried some offensive-defensive subs late with Divon Davis-Boddie and Bymnet Teclé to have Bymnet out there to shoot and press with Divon.

I think the pressure gave them (the Panthers) a little bit of trouble, if nothing else, they started going one-on-one. We mixed up a lot defensively. We played a lot of zone, we pressed. We manned. We manned-pressed, back to zone. We did some different stuff to kind of keep them on their toes.

"Diego was on the boards and making energy plays. Divon had a big game from a freshman, He got some steals. He played some great defensive up top; got some kick outs and got that big bucket late. We got that bucket from Larry and the kick out from Gabe. Jared hit some huge shots down the stretch. It was a great bounce back game for Larry. Gabe has played really, really well for us the last two nights.

"It's a great win for our guys. But we're not going to celebrate. It's okay to win ugly."



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Looking ahead to Saturday's championship game, Offill commented, "It's a rematch of last year's final. If you play a league team early, it becomes a swing game, because you play them twice in conference. There's a lot riding on tomorrow night's game. Coach "D" (Derek Domenichelli) does a great job over there. We've battled against each other a ton.

"I'm excited for our guys to have a chance to win back-to-back (Hogue Tournament) championships. It's great for the sophomores who were part of that last year."