

PrepsontheNet Post Game Report: Dominican vs. La Crosse Aquinas

By: JESSIE BAZAN - Student reporter for Dominican High School

(MADISON, March 7, 2008) - Dominican's "Gang Green" student section was out in full force Thursday to cheer on the number one ranked Knights in their WIAA state tournament semifinal game against La Crosse Aquinas.

Despite a strong effort, the Knights fell ten points short of reaching the championship finals.

Things did not look good early as Aquinas began the game on a 21-6 run. Then, midway through the second quarter, star guard Kwamain Mitchell went down with an injury. Fortunately, Mitchell checked back in moments later to a standing ovation, and that's when the Knights began to mount their comeback.

As the crowd continued to cheer, Dominican slowly fought their way back into the game by driving to the hoop and knocking down shots. Mitchell's three point basket to end the first half sent the student section into a frenzy and the Knights went into the locker room down by five points, 29-24.

Chants of "Let's go Knights" filled the Kohl Center as Dominican took the floor for the second half.

The third quarter was a back and forth battle, until junior Mark Pace came into the game and knocked down a three at the buzzer to pull the Knights within one at 43-42.

Kwamain Mitchell's free throws tied the game at 44-44 with 7:25 left.

With a little more than seven minutes remaining in the game, Dominican took their first lead off a basket in the paint by Mitchell. Later in the quarter, guard Jerrel Harris drove to the hoop and his lay-up and foul cut the deficit to three. Soon after, sophomore Rashaad Brown made a key defensive stop, when he forced a steal and then an Aquinas foul.

However, momentum shifted when, with 3:18 left in the game, Harris fouled out with 13 points. Aquinas began to stall, Dominican was forced to foul, and their stunned crowd watched Aquinas seal the game with free throws.

The final score was 68-58, with Mitchell scoring a game high 24 points in his last high school game.

When the final buzzer sounded, the Knights left the court to a standing ovation, and deservedly so. The members of Dominican's varsity basketball team worked very hard this season and in the off season in order to earn a trip to Madison.

This team provided many memorable games to fans this year and seniors Kwamain Mitchell, J.D. Wise, Marques Morgan, Ted Linn and Juan Lozano will be greatly missed. Congratulations to Coach Paul Wollersheim, his staff, and the players for an outstanding season of basketball that made the entire Dominican community proud.

Jessie Bazan is a 16-year-old sophomore at Whitefish Bay Dominican. An avid sports fan and athlete, Jessie competes on varsity volleyball, basketball, and softball. Jessie has a strong interest in journalism and thinks it would be 'fun to be a beat writer for a team someday.' Jessie also enjoys coaching younger kids and helping at summer camps.

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