



Martin Luther College: Official Press Release

Knights Lock Up Post-Season Berth with Record-Tying 8th Straight Win

Feb. 19, 2008 - New Ulm, Minn.

Senior forward Nathan Nass scored 17 of his game-high 25 points in the first half to set the tone for the Knights 8th straight win, tying the program record, with a 73-67 victory over Bethany Tuesday night. With playoffs on the line, the Knights offense could not be denied, putting up their eighth consecutive game with 50% shooting or better. With the win, the Knights clinch the #2 seed in the UMAC Post-Season Final Four Tournament.

Knights couldn't execute in the up tempo start to the first half, committing seven turnovers in the first 10 minutes of the game. Bethany came out firing to start the game, shooting 55% in that same span, jumping out to a 21-13 lead on a two-point bucket by guard Tommy Saffert with 11:17 left in the half. The Knights answered with a 9-2 run, leading to a 23-23 tie before Nass took over the game, scoring 15 of the Knights next 18 points, giving the Knights a 40-28 lead with 4:03 left in the half. The Knights took a 48-37 lead into halftime.

The Knights did not let up to begin the second half, as they dominated inside with the help of junior center Aaron Schultz, who scored the Knights first nine points of the half and finished with 20 points on 9-of-11 shooting. The Knights finished with 46 points in the paint, outscoring the Vikings in the paint by 20.

The Vikings kept rallying back, trimming the deficit to two, thanks to forward Andy Wills shot from downtown, putting the Vikings down 61-59 with 10:48 remaining in the second half. From there the Knights would answer back to any Vikings rally, with the clincher coming with 1:40 left in the game as junior forward Brian Gephart drove the lane, drawing a foul and sinking the bucket and free throw to complete the three-point play, pushing the Knights lead back to nine points, 80-71. Gephart also led the Knights with seven assists.

The Knights head to the post-season tournament, hosted by Northwestern, ready to take on the #3 seed at 4:00pm on Friday. The #3 seed will be determined by a game-in and a coin flip, between three teams still vying for two spots in the tournament.