

Mens Basketball News 2006-2007

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Broome 83, North Country 79 Overtime

BINGHAMTON - The North Country Community College Saints rode the horses that got them into the regional, but fell just short of the finish line Tuesday night.

North Country led by 17 with 12 minutes to go, but lost all-time leading scorer Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) to fouls with five minutes remaining in regulation, plus Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) and Corey Polke (Lyons, Georgia) in overtime, enabling Broome to pull out an 83-79 victory in overtime in an NJCAA Region III Division III first-round game.

The Hornets, who never led in regulation, finally caught the Saints at 71 with 21 seconds to play. Then, in overtime, Broome outscored the weary Saints 12-8.

"After those guys fouled out, we were just trying to hold on," NCCC Coach Chad Ladue said. "We didn't have the horses and we didn't take care of the ball."

It was a bitter setback for the Saints, who closed out one of their more successful campaigns at 17-11.

"For 35 minutes, we probably played the best basketball we've played all year. It's just frustrating to lead from start almost to the finish and not come away with the W," Ladue added.

"It's hard to think of the season ending this way, but I'm pleased with how far we've come. It was my fifth full season here (at NCCC) and I'd have to say the program is where we wanted it to be."

Walker led the Saints with 21 points while John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY) chipped in with 17 and 11 rebounds. Polke finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Miller managed 15 points, enabling him to become North Country's all-time scoring leader with 1,016 points. He overtook Will Hill.

Rob Krowiak scored 28 points to lead Broome (19-10) while Wayne Davis added 20. The Hornets move on to the NJCAA Region III quarterfinals Friday at Herkimer Community College, where they will face the host Generals.

"Our guys never quit, but we need to get deeper next year," Ladue went on.

"Congratulations, though, to Clinton Community College (a winner over Hudson Valley). At least one North Country team is still alive."

Broome CC 83, NCCC 79

North Country CC (79)

Al Miller 5-2-15, Trevor Dupont 4-0-10, Ben Walker 8-3-21, Corey Polke 7-2-16, John Reed 7-2-17, McDonnell 0-0-0, Washington 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0. Totals 31-9/14-79.

Broome CC (83)

Cline 1-1-4, Abdus-Salaam 4-1-10, Carter 5-4-14, Davis 7-6-20, Krowiak 7-11-28, Swzyrko 2-0-6, Daye 1-0-2. Totals 25-23/33-83.

3-point goals: NCCC (8) Miller 3, Dupont 2, Walker 2, Reed. Broome (7) Cline, Abdus-Salaam, Krowiak 3, Swzyrko 2.

Halftime: NCCC 41-35

Regulation: 71-all

North Country Gains Sub Regional Bid

The North Country Community College Men's Basketball team will travel to Binghamton on Tuesday for the opening round of the Region III Men's Tournament against Broome Community College.

"It's an advantage for us to be playing someone we know and in a facility we're familiar with," said Coach Chad Ladue. "If we can defend their two top scorers well, we'll get a chance to move on to the quarterfinals of the regional tournament in Herkimer this weekend."

North Country faced off with the Hornets twice this season. In November the Saints pulled out a 74-70 win on Broome's home floor before going down to defeat at the Corning Community College Tournament in December by a score of 102-82.

Game time for Tuesday's contest has been slated for 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 24, 2007 NCCC 96, Schenectady 84

SCHENECTADY - The Saints ended their regular season, not only with a win over the Royals, but with a special milestone.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) collected 38 points to lead the way for North Country (17-10, 13-8) and in the process went over 1,000 career points in his career. He now stands at 1,001, just one point behind all-time leading scorer Will Hill.

Miller scored 31 points, including seven 3-pointers, in the first half as the Saints took a 45-38 halftime advantage. With about nine minutes to go he connected on a 3-pointer to go past the mark.

"I am extremely happy for Al," North Country head coach Chad LaDue said. "To be able to go over 1,000 points in two seasons is something special."

Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) added 17 points and five steals. John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY) finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds, and Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) had nine rebounds.

North Country will find out this evening who they will play in the opening round of the Region III

tournament that gets under way on Tuesday.

North Country 96, Schenectady 84

North Country C.C. (96)

Miller 14-2-38, Dupont 2-0-5, Walker 7-2-17, Polke 1-0-2, Reed 6-0-12, McDonell 0-2-2, Washington 1-1-3, Cameron 0-2-2, Sauve 3-0-6, Perocier 2-2-6, Knobbe 1-1-3, Stackpole 0-0-0.
Totals: 37-12-96.

Schenectady (84)

Travis 8-1-21, Paupst 5-0-11, Jones 6-2-17, Lee 8-1-18, Franklin 6-2-16, Morris 1-0-2. Totals: 34-6-84.

Halftime: North Country C.C., 45-38

3-point goals: North Country C.C. (10) Miller 8, Dupont, Walker. Schenectady (10) Travis 4, Paupst, Jones 3, Lee, Franklin.

Friday, February 23, 2007

Hudson Valley 75, North Country 66

By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

SARANAC LAKE - Hudson Valley Community College broke open a close game with a 14-6 spurt midway through the second half Friday to record a 75-66 win over North Country Community College in Region III men's basketball action.

Trailing 51-50 with 12:04 left to play, consecutive three point baskets by Kevin Goutos and Maurice Lane ignited the game-winning run which was capped by back-to-back treys by Corey Harkins and Justin Gallo.

"Hudson Valley is known as the best three-point shooting team in the region and we were hoping they would shoot themselves out by the second half," said NCCC coach Chad LaDue.

"Unfortunately, they made six of their 11 threes in the second half and those back-to-back threes gave them an eight-point lead we could not overcome."

The Saints stumbled out of the gate and trailed 12-2 at the 15:18 mark of the first half. After a quick 30-second time out, North Country put together a 10-0 run to tie the contest at 12-12 with 12:18 remaining.

Corey Polke (Lyons, Georgia) scored off a rebound to start the uprising, which featured four points from John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY) and a thundering dunk by Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida).

"We needed to go back inside with the ball and that led to some good outside looks," LaDue said. "From there we ran a few tandem pick-and-rolls that gave us the lead."

A basket by Hudson Valley's Zachary Bye ended NCCC's streak, but did little to slow its momentum. By the time the dust had settled, the Saints had outscored the Vikings 19-4 in a 6:30

span to open a 21-14 advantage.

"I was please with our effort tonight," LaDue added. "Corey Polke was unreal on the boards, and John Reed and Ben Walker were exceptional on both end of the floor. It's unfortunate we were unable to create any looks for Trevor (Dupont) (Decatur, Illinois), but what hurt the most was the fact Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida), our leading scorer, played with a bad back and was held to only nine points."

North Country held a six-point lead at halftime, but the Vikings made up the difference and took the lead for good eight minutes in. The Saints cut the HVCC lead to four on two occasions in the final four minutes of the game, but could not sustain their momentum long enough to regain the lead.

Walker led all scorers with 24 points, Reed chipped in 17 and Polke collected 14. Gallo had 18 points for the Vikings and Lane tallied 17. Goutos, Harkins and Ryne Luce scored 10 points each in the contest.

North Country (16-10,12-8) closes out their regular season on Saturday afternoon when they travel to Schenectady Community College. Game time is slated for 3 p.m.

Hudson Valley 75, NCCC 66

Vikings 34 41 - 75

Saints 38 28 - 66

HVCC (75)

Gallo 6-3-18, DiJohn 2-0-6, Luce 3-1-10, Canape 0-0-0, Faragon 0-0-0, Lane 7-1-17, Bye 3-0-6, Harkins 3-1-10, Goutos 3-4-10. Totals: 27-10-75.

NCCC (66)

Miller 3-3-9, Dupont 1-0-2, Walker 9-4-24, Polke 6-0-14, Reed 8-1-17, Washington 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0, McDonell 0-0-0. Totals: 26-8-66.

Halftime: NCCC 38, HVCC 34.

Three-point field goals: HVCC (11) Gallo 3, Luce 3, DiJohn 2, Lane 2, Harkins; NCCC (4) Walker 2, Polke 2.

Saturday, February 17, 2007

Albany Pharmacy 79, North Country 62

By: KEITH KANE

Press Republican Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH - For the first time in four seasons, a team other than North Country Community College or Clinton Community College hoisted the Northern Independents Conference championship plaque.

Albany Pharmacy came out on fire and held off a late surge from the Saints to take a 79-62 victory, and its first NIC championship.

The Panthers are also the first No. 1 seed to capture the title.

"The first 10 minutes of the game I think they shot close to 80 percent," North Country head coach Chad LaDue said. "(Bryan) Jones shot very well early and (John) Adamchick scored well inside.

"That got us into an area where we had to fight up hill from start to finish."

Adamchick led Albany Pharmacy with 18 points while Jones chipped in with 16. Zack Bratek added 15 points, and Ramy Ramzy, 14.

"I thought that when we got the game to within six at halftime that we were in real good shape," LaDue said. "There was no need to panic at that time - I thought we'd be alright."

The Panthers opened the game by outscoring the Saints 20-3. North Country went on a 12-0 run of its own, to pull within five, and finished the half trailing 35-29.

Albany Pharmacy, however, pushed that lead to 12 quickly in the second half.

"I didn't think that they'd shoot as well as they did," LaDue said. "I have to give them credit. They stepped up and hit a lot of shots."

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) and John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY) did their best to pull North Country back, but the Saints would get only as close as five the rest of the half.

Miller scored a game-high 30 points for North Country. Reed added 14 points while Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) finished with 10.

The Saints will wrap up their season next weekend with a home game against Hudson Valley on Friday at 7 p.m. and on the road in Schenectady on Saturday at 3 p.m.

"We have until Tuesday to be upset about this game," LaDue said. "Then we have to get back to work."

"We really need to get better against the zone. It's been our Achilles heel all semester."

All-Tournament

The All-Tournament team from the Northern Independents Conference includes Word of Life's Filler; Jones and Adamchick from Albany Pharmacy; Barnes of Clinton; and Walker from North Country.

The Saints' Miller was named Most Valuable Player.

Filler and Adamchick were also selected as co-scholar athletes of the year.

Championship

Albany Pharmacy 79, North Country 62

North Country C.C. (62)

Miller 11-3-30, DuPont 2-0-5, Walker 4-2-10, Polke 0-0-0, Reed 6-2-14, McDonell 1-0-2, Cameron 0-0-0, Washington 0-1-1. Totals: 24-8-62.

Albany Pharmacy (79)

Adamchick 8-1-18, Bratek 7-1-15, Balian 3-3-9, Jones 4-6-16, Ramzy 6-2-14, Mehany 0-0-0, Samuel 2-3-7, Zalewski 0-0-0. Totals: 30-16-79.

Halftime: Albany Pharmacy, 35-29.

3-point goal: North Country C.C. (6) Miller 5, DuPont. Albany Pharmacy (4) Adamchick, Jones 2.

Friday, February 16, 2006

North Country 78, Clinton 69

By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

PLATTSBURGH - The North Country Community College men's basketball team rallied from a 12-point second-half deficit Friday to record a 78-69 victory over rival Clinton Community College in the semifinals of the Northern Independence Conference championship tournament.

The Cougars led 42-33 at halftime, behind 15 points from Phillip Barnes and 11 by Kyle Stark, and managed to up the advantage to 47-35 before the NCCC offense began to click midway through the final 20 minutes of play.

"In the second half we wanted to pay a little more attention to Barnes and Stark," said North Country coach Chad LaDue. "We had a bad three-minute stretch in the first half where we took too many quick shots. In the second half, we wanted to go back inside and that got us back into the game."

NCCC center John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY) score 12 of his 16 points in the second half and power forward Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) tallied nine of his 17 markers in the final stanza.

Polke ignited a 17-4 run with a three-point field goal from the right corner that tied the score at 54-54 with 7:53 left to play. After Trevor Secore gave Clinton the lead with a three of his own, Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) sandwiched a pair of treys around a three-pointer by Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) to give the Saints the lead for good.

A 15-footer by Miller and a lay-up by Polke with 2:05 remaining all but ended any hopes of a Cougar comeback and propelled the Saints on to victory.

"I was proud how our guys came back in here and avenged the beating we took on Jan. 20," said LaDue. "We didn't get overly excited and did the things we needed to win. Our motto coming into the game was 'Do you think we can?' and we had 12 guys in uniform and four others on the bench who thought we could.

Miller, Polke and Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) had 17 points to lead North Country, while Reed and Dupont had 16 and 11 points, respectively. Barnes led all scorers with 25 points and Stark chipped in 16 in the loss.

North Country will face Albany Pharmacy today at 2 p.m. in the NIC title game.

North Country 78, Clinton 69
Cougars 42 27 - 69
Saints 33 45 - 78
CCC (69)

Earle 3-0-9, Darrah 0-0-0, Trev. Secore 3-2-8, Tra. Secore 1-0-3, Stark 7-2-16, Barnes 9-3-25, Lopez 3-3-9. Totals: 26-10-69.

NCCC (78)

Miller 6-1-17, Dupont 4-0-11, Walker 7-2-17, Polke 7-2-17, Reed 5-6-16, McDonnell 0-0-0. Totals: 29-11-78.

Halftime: CCC 42, NCCC 33.

Three-point field goals: CCC (8) Barnes 4, Earle 3, Trev. Secore; NCCC (9) Miller 4, Dupont 3, Walker, Polke.

Thursday, February 8, 2007

North Country 109, Word of Life 60

SARANAC LAKE - Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) led six players in double figures with 24 points as the Saints (15-8) cruised to victory.

Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) and Chris McDonell (Lisbon, N.Y.) added 13 points each for North Country C.C., while Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) contributed 12, John Reed (Ogdensburg, N.Y.) 11 and Cory Polke, (Lyons, Georgia) 10.

All 12 players scored for the Saints, who jumped out to a 57-28 lead at the half.

Moises Martins paced Word of Life with 16 points, while Mike Kilmer added 13 and Craig White, 12.

North Country C.C.'s next game will be in the semi-final round of the Northern Independents Conference Tournament next Friday at Clinton Community College.

N.C.C.C. 109, Word of Life 60

Word of Life (60)

Kilmer 5-2-13, Filler 2-0-4, Martins 6-0-16, Caston 1-0-2, Arthur 0-0-0, Bradley 2-0-4, Duma 2-2-6, Norton 1-0-3, White 5-1-12. Totals: 24-5-60.

North Country C.C. (109)

Miller 5-2-12, Dupont 5-0-13, Walker 11-0-24, Polke 5-0-10, Reed 5-1-11, Washington 2-0-4, Cameron 1-2-4, McDonell 6-1-13, Sauve 2-0-4, Peroceir 4-0-8, Knoble 2-0-4, Stackpole 0-2-2. Totals: 48-8-109.

3-point goals: Word of Life (7) Martins 4, Kilmer, Norton, White. North Country C.C. (5) Dupont 3, Walker 2.

Halftime: North Country C.C., 57-28.

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Albany Pharmacy 75, North Country 54

By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

SARANAC LAKE - NIC doormats no more.

On Tuesday, the Albany College of Pharmacy men's basketball team defeated North Country Community College 75-54 to run its current winning streak to nine games and grab a share of the lead in the Northern Independence Conference.

Zach Bartek led a balanced scoring attack with 22 points as the Panthers, who upped their record to 11-9, rolled to victory over a lackluster Saints squad.

"I don't know what it is with us," said NCCC coach Chad LaDue. "I thought the effort was there in the second half, we just didn't execute."

The Saints grabbed the lead early in the contest and manage to maintain a four-to-six point cushion for most of the first half. Trailing 21-17 with less than five minutes to play before intermission, the Panthers ran off 10 straight points to take the lead for good.

"We're not doing the job against zone defenses," said LaDue. "We'll need to do a better job if we want to compete for the NIC championship."

Leading 30-23 at halftime. Albany Pharmacy doused any hopes of a North Country comeback by reeling off the first nine points of the second half to up its lead to 39-23. Al Miller's (Fort Pierce, Florida) three-pointer from the left wing at the 14:50 mark broke the Panther's run, but Bartek responded with back-to-back baskets to push the lead to 43-26, prompting LaDue to call a full time out.

"I can't take anything away from Pharmacy," LaDue said. "They played hard, smart and seemed to be having fun. That's something I'm not seeing from our guys."

The Saints came out of the time out in a diamond-and-one press, and reeled of the next 10 points - six on a pair of Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) threes - to slash the deficit to 43-36 with 10:48 left to go.

Unfortunately for NCCC, Albany Pharmacy regained its composure and scored 10 of the game's next 12 points, including four each from Bartek and John Adamchick, to take control of the contest.

Adamchick chipped in 16 points in the victory while former Gouverneur High standout Bryan Jones added 12. Miller scored 19 points to lead the Saints and Dupont had 11.

Albany Pharmacy 75, NCCC 54

Panthers 30 45 - 75

Saints 23 31 - 54

ACP (75)

Adamchick 7-2-16, Greene 1-1-3, Jones 4-2-12, Ramzy 1-2-4, Samuel 1-1-3, Balian 3-4-11, Mehany 1-1-4, Bartek 8-6-22. Totals 22-4-19/30-75.

NCCC (54)

Miller 5-6-19, Dupont 4-0-11, Walker 3-0-6, Polke 0-1-1, Reed 1-3-5, Sauve 0-0-0, Washington 1-5-7, Cameron 1-0-2, McDonell 1-0-2, Peroceir 0-0-0, Knobler 0-0-0. Totals 10-6-15/18-54.

Halftime: ACP 30, NCCC 23.

Three-point field goals: ACP (4) Jones 2, Balian, Mehany; NCCC (6) Miller 3, Dupont 3.

Saturday, February 3, 2007

Onondaga 85, North Country 71

SARANAC LAKE - Dan Smith and Rich Buckmon each connected for 19 points to lead Onondaga Community College past North Country Community College in NJCAA men's basketball action.

Onondaga erupted for 56 first-half points and the Saints couldn't overcome the 15-point halftime deficit.

"They run the best motion offense of anyone we play," North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue said. "They share the ball very well and are well coached."

Justin Stern added 15 points for the visitors.

"We played well today and we just have to continue to get better," LaDue said. "We have two conference games coming up and the NIC (Northern Independents Conference) tournament the following weekend. So we have to step it up a little if we want to compete."

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) led the Saints (14-7 overall) with 19 points. Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) added 17 including five 3-pointers, while John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY) netted 13 and pulled down 13 rebounds.

The Saints return to action for a NIC game, hosting Albany Pharmacy on Tuesday, beginning at 7 p.m.

Onondaga 85, North Country 71

Onondaga (85)

Kurzirgki 0-2-2, Crowley 2-1-6, Smith 7-5-19, Stern 5-3-15, Williams 2-3-7, Buckmon 8-2-19, Siechen 2-0-4, Vincent 3-0-6, Liedka 2-2-7. Totals: 31-18-85.

North Country (71)

Washington 0-0-0, Miller 7-4-19, Walker 5-0-11, Polke 2-2-6, Reed 6-1-13, Dupont 6-0-17, Cameron 1-0-3, McDonnell 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0, Peroceir 1-0-2, Knoble 0-0-0, Stackpole 0-0-0. Totals: 28-7-71.

3-point goals: Onondaga (5) Stern 2, Crowley, Buckmon, Liedka. North Country (8) Depant 5, Cameron, Walker, Miller.

Halftime: Onondaga 56-41.

Monday, January 29, 2007 North Country 90, Jefferson 75

WATERTOWN - After a rocky start to the new year, the North Country Community College Saints got even Monday.

North Country pulled away from host Jefferson Community College to post a 90-75 victory in men's junior-college basketball. The win enabled the Saints (14-6, 11-6 in Region III) to square

their second-semester record at 2-2 heading into their first home game since December.

"We needed to get back on track after losing the first two since the break," NCCC Coach Chad LaDue. "After four games on the road, it's going to be nice to be at home."

NCCC ran into early foul trouble, but somehow managed to maintain the lead. The Saints took a 40-39 advantage at halftime of the fast-paced contest.

"It was definitely an up-tempo game," LaDue went on. "We had four guys in foul trouble the first half so we were fortunate not to get in a hole."

Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida), who led all scorers with 30 points and Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida), with 23, had a strong second half, along with John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY).

"We went inside to Reed in the second half and he picked up all 14 of his points then," LaDue said.

Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) chipped in with 13 points while Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) pulled down 11 rebounds and Reed, 10. Miller was credited with five assists.

Byron Headley had 24 points to lead Jefferson.

The victory also assured NCCC of at least a .500 record in Region play and a spot in the playoffs.

North Country returns to action on Saturday when they host Onondaga Community College. Game time is slated for 3 p.m.

North Country CC 90, Jefferson CC 75

North Country CC (90)

Washington 1-0-2, Miller 8-4-23, Walker 11-6-30, Polke 2-0-4, Reed 6-2-14, Dupont 5-0-13, Cameron 0-0-0, McDonell 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0, Peroceir 2-0-4. Totals 27-8-12/18-90.

Jefferson CC (75)

Gager 5-1-13, Lawrence 0-0-0, Coleman 3-3-10, Headley 9-6-24, Silvon 6-2-14, McCoy 4-4-12, Parker 0-2-2. Totals 24-3-18/31-75.

3-point goals: NCCC (8) Miller 3, Walker 2, Dupont 3. JCC (3) Gager 2, Coleman.

Halftime: NCCC 40-39

Saturday, January 27, 2007
North Country 55, Columbia-Greene 53

HUDSON - Al Miller's (Fort Pierce, Florida) two-pointer with seven seconds left in the game Saturday lifted the North Country Community College men's basketball team to a hard-earned 55-53 decision over Columbia-Greene Community College.

The hosts held a four-point advantage with two minutes to go.

Baskets by John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY) and Miller, however, pulled the Saints (13-6 overall, 10-6 region) even at 53-all.

North Country C.C. then got a stop ball with 38 seconds remaining, setting the stage for Miller's game-winning hoop. Miller penetrated and hit a six-footer to provide the margin of difference.

Columbia-Greene missed on its opportunity to tie the contest, the Saints got the rebound and ran out the time.

Miller finished with 21 points and Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) 17 for the Saints. Walker recorded six steals, Reed six rebounds and Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia), seven rebounds.

Daniel DeVantier paced Columbia-Greene C.C. with 16 points, followed by Jason Proffitt with 13, Mike Surrano 12 and Ray Coxon, 11.

The Saints held a 29-26 advantage at the half.

"The big thing is that we needed to play well," said North Country C.C, head coach Chad Ladue. "It was very important to get a win - we needed one.

"It was nice to get Ben Walker back and Al (Miller) was very consistent, hitting his fourth game-winning shot of the season."

NCCC 55, Columbia-Greene C.C. 53

North Country C.C. (55)

Washington 1-0-2, Miller 8-2-21, Walker 8-0-17, Polke 2-0-4, Reed 2-2-6, Dupont 1-0-3, McDonell 1-0-2, Cameron 0-0-0, Peroceir 0-0-0. Totals 23-4-55.

Columbia-Greene C.C. (53)

DeVantier 6-0-16, Proffitt 6-1-13, Surrano 4-0-12, Aimes 0-0-0, Felder 0-1-1, Coxon 4-3-11, Badila 0-0-0. Totals 20-5-53.

3-point goals: NCCC (5) Miller 3, Walker, Dupont. CGCC (8) DeVantier 4, Surrano 4,

Halftime: NCCC, 29-26.

Monday, January 23, 2007
Adirondack 83, North Country 82

GLENS FALLS - Adirondack Community College held off visiting North Country Community College for an 83-82 victory Monday night in men's junior-college basketball.

Adirondack shot out to a 48-37 halftime lead, but had to weather a second-half comeback bid by

North Country (12-6, 9-6 in Region III).

"Anytime you give up 48 points in a half, you have to question the defense," NCCC Coach Chad LaDue said. "Obviously, we're not with it right now."

Adirondack hit 10 3-pointers and was 15 for 22 from the foul line. Yhashin White led the Mountaineers with 28 points while Joby Darfler and Chris Calderon contributed 11 apiece and former Bolton standout Rob Snyder chipped in with 10.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) scored 29 points and John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY), 22, to lead the Saints. Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added 14. Reed also had 13 rebounds with Polke collecting nine.

"You score 82 points you should win a lot of games," LaDue added.

"We have four days before we play again. Hopefully, we can get some things worked out."

North Country is back on the road Saturday to face Columbia-Greene CC in a 1 p.m. game.

Adirondack CC 83, North Country CC 82

North Country CC (82)

Washington 2-0-4, Miller 12-3-29, Dupont 3-1-9, Polke 7-0-14, Reed 8-6-22, McDonell 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0, Peroceir 2-0-4, Sauve 0-0-0. Totals 30-4-10/16-82.

Adirondack CC (83)

White 10-4-28, Ventre 3-3-9, Joby Darfler 3-2-11, Robinson 1-3-5, Carruthers 0-0-0, Calderon 4-3-11, Snyder 4-0-10, Wiederhold 0-0-0, Braddy 0-0-0, Sherwin 4-0-9. Totals 19-10-15/22-83.

3-point goals: NCCC (4) Miller 2, Dupont 2. ACC (10) White 4, Darfler 3, Snyder 2, Sherwin.

Halftime: Adirondack, 48-37.

Saturday, January 20, 2007
Clinton 73, North Country 59

PLATTSBURGH - The outcome was never in doubt.

The new-look Clinton Community College men's basketball team is going to be a tough out from here on.

The Cougars went up against North Country Community College, ranked No. 5 in Region III, Saturday and came away with a convincing 73-59 victory.

"The group that we started tonight is 3-0 since the start of the semester," Clinton head coach Kevin Daugherty said.

"This was North Country's first game back and it showed. They were rusty early and we were

able to take advantage. Hopefully, we'll both be lucky enough to get to the championship of our conference tournament. I think that should be a better game."

"Clinton flat-out kicked our butt from start to finish," Saints' head coach Chad LaDue said. "This is the best Clinton team I've seen, and that's going back to 1993."

The newly-formed combination of Philip Barnes, Ryan Earle and Kyle Stark has really turned up the offensive firepower for the Cougars.

Barnes scored a game-high 23 points and pulled down 12 rebounds to lead the way. Stark added 16 points and seven rebounds while Earle hit for 12 points and dished out six assists.

"Barnes wants to win," Daugherty said of his star, who has welcomed two new scorers. "He is much more concerned with winning than he is with his stats. Both (Stark and Earle) are really good passers and Barnes is able to slash and get more field goals, and is relying less on the 3-point shot.

"It's nice to have the firepower. Having five guys who can put the ball in the basket is going to cause problems for opposing teams."

Also providing a lift for Clinton is former Saranac Lake player, Matt Daunais. Daunais isn't filling up the stat sheet, but is doing a lot to help his team win, according to his coach.

"Daunais does a lot of the dirty work for us," Daugherty said. "He is a great role player and is very tough defensively. He gets to the loose balls, plays hard and is a smart player.

"We also got (Nick) Darrah back, who had missed the first two games of the semester. He played well today."

Clinton jumped out to a commanding lead early on, and it took almost 12 minutes for the powerful North Country offense to even hit double figures.

The Cougars took a 42-27 lead into the half and built that lead up during the first few minutes of the second.

North Country tried a late comeback attempt, led by Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) and Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia). But Clinton was able to run out some clock and connect on a few free throws to finish the game.

Miller led the way for the Saints with 21 points while Polke added 19 and John Reed (Ogdensburg, NY) finished with 17 points as the three players combined to score 57 of the team's 59 points.

"We haven't played since Dec. 16 and that obviously had something to do with it," LaDue said. "We didn't play with any type of emotion. We played with more emotion in the final three minutes than the entire 37 leading up to it.

"I don't want to take anything away from the way Clinton played - they played extremely well."

"Right now, we are 10th in our region and they take 10 to the tournament," Daugherty said. "Every game from now on is a big one for us if we want to get in.

"We have beaten two quality teams in a row (Finger Lakes and North Country) that are in the top 10 and we have another tough one Sunday (today) against Herkimer, who is ranked No. 3.

"We have a great chance and there is a lot of basketball left to play still."

North Country (12-5) returns to action on Monday when they travel to Glens Falls to take on Adirondack Community College. Game time is slated for 7 p.m.

Clinton C.C. 73, North Country C.C. 59

North Country C.C. (59)

Washington 0-0-0, Miller 7-6-21, Polke 7-1-19, Reed 5-7-17, McDonell 1-0-2, Dupont 0-0-0, Peroceir 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0. Totals: 20-14-59.

Clinton C.C. (73)

Earle 4-1-12, Daunais 0-0-0, Lopez 4-0-9, Stark 6-2-16, Barnes 9-2-23, Darrah 3-2-9, Tre. Secore 0-0-0, Tra. Secore 0-0-0, Desir 1-2-4, Babbie 0-0-0, Stankovich 0-0-0, Jones 0-0-0. Totals: 27-9-73.

Halftime: Clinton C.C., 42-27.

3-point goals: North Country C.C. (5) Miller, Polke 4. Clinton C.C. (10) Earle 3, Lopez, Stark 2, Barnes 3, Darrah.

Saturday, December 16, 2006 Cobleskill 73, North Country 61

SARANAC LAKE - The magical first half of the season for the North Country Community College men's basketball team came to a disappointing end on Saturday with a 73-61 loss to Cobleskill.

The Saints finished the first semester with an impressive 12-4 record, while going 3-0 in the Northern Independents Conference.

North Country held a slim lead at the half, 29-27, before the Tigers opened the second half with a 7-0 run.

"We came out flat in the second half," Saints head coach Chad LaDue said. "We fought back though and it was a three to six point game for most of the half.

"From about the nine minute mark to the four minute mark we had trouble scoring and they went up by 10. From four minutes on it was a seven to 10 point game."

Stanley Francois led Cobleskill with a game-high 19 points. Jason Taylor knocked in 17 points while Anthony Armstead added 16.

"We played pretty well defensively today," LaDue said. "We just couldn't hit the shots.

"I think after playing 16 games we might have been mentally and physically fatigued. Cobleskill's

defense, though, had a lot to do with our poor shooting."

Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) paced the Saints with 17 points. Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) and John Reed (Ogdensburg) each finished with 16.

"I think that we are one of the teams that truly has a chance to win a regional championship," LaDue said. "I am looking forward to getting everyone back and being able to have (Ryan) Geary (Ogdensburg) play the one and move Miller to his natural two position.

"We haven't come close to playing our best basketball yet and I am excited to see what that will be. I am hoping that we will be able to peak around February."

After the semester break the Saints return to action on January 20 when they travel to Plattsburgh to take on Clinton Community College. Game time is slated for 1 p.m.

Cobleskill 73, North Country C.C. 61

Cobleskill (73)

Armstead 8-0-16, Francois 8-3-19, Frank 0-1-1, Fuller 1-0-3, Moore 1-0-2, Young 1-3-5, Taylor 6-3-17, Greene 2-0-5, Coles 2-0-4. Totals: 29-10-73.

North Country C.C. (61)

Miller 6-4-16, Dupont 3-0-8, Walker 6-4-17, Polke 1-0-2, Reed 5-6-16, Washington 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0, McDonell 0-0-0, Houck 1-0-2. Totals: 22-14-61.

Halftime: North Country C.C., 29-27.

3-point goals: Cobleskill (4) Fuller, Taylor 2, Greene. North Country C.C. (3) Dupont 2, Walker.

Friday, December 15, 2006
North Country 67, Columbia-Greene 48

SARANAC LAKE - The North Country Community College men's basketball team, ranked fifth in the nation, picked up its 12th victory of the season on Friday as the Saints knocked off visiting Columbia-Greene Community College, 67-48.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) scored a game-high 20 points to lead the way for North Country (12-3, 9-3, 3-0). Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) added 14 points and five steals while John Reed (Ogdensburg) finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds.

The Twins held tough with the Saints through the first 20 minutes, heading to the locker room trailing 24-21.

"They played very well in the first half," North Country head coach Chad LaDue said. The Saints wrap up the semester with a 1 p.m. contest against Cobleskill today.

North Country 67, Columbia-Greene 48

Columbia-Greene C.C. (48)

DeVantier 1-4-6, Profit 6-0-12, Giovanetti 5-2-12, Coxon 9-0-18, Welch 0-0-0, Badilla 0-0-0, Vogal 0-0-0. Totals: 21-6-48.

North Country C.C. (67)

Miller 5-6-20, Dupont 2-0-5, Walker 5-2-14, Polke 2-2-6, Reed 6-0-12, Houck 3-2-8, Washington 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0, McDonell 0-0-0, Sauve 1-0-2, Knoble 0-0-0, Stackpole 0-0-0. Totals: 24-12-67.

Halftime: North Country C.C., 24-21.

3-point goals: North Country C.C. (7) Miller 4, Dupont, Walker 2.

Sunday, December 10, 2006
North Country 76, Onondaga 75

SYRACUSE - With 15 minutes to go in Sunday's game, the North Country Community College men's basketball team trailed Onondaga Community College by 24 points.

But what a final 15 minutes it was for the Saints.

Al Miller's (Fort Pierce, Florida) three-pointer as time expired gave North Country C.C. a dramatic 76-75 comeback victory.

The Saints (11-3) bounced back from a 14-point loss at Finger Lakes Community College the day before.

"We were down by 24 points but then began to get some stops and also knock down some shots," said North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue. "It was a nice comeback to get a split on the road this weekend. And I'm very happy for us to be 11-3 on the season right now."

Onondaga, after blowing all its lead, stole the ball and hit a shot with 20 seconds left in regulation to take a two-point lead.

The Saints had one try to tie it blocked and the ball went out of bounds.

Miller, however, was able to send the Saints home a much happier bunch when he nailed his three-point shot as the contest ended.

Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) led North Country C.C. with 24 points and six steals, while Miller added 23 points and John Reed (Ogdensburg), 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Miller scored 17 of his 23 points after intermission, while Walker added 12 and Reed, 10.

"Those three players led us in scoring, but we also got strong defensive play down the stretch from our other players," LaDue said.

Steve Siechen paced four Onondaga players in double figures with 21 points.

The hosts held a 46-30 advantage at the half.

North Country C.C. closes out first-semester play this weekend at home against Columbia-Greene C.C. on Friday @ 7 p.m. and SUNY Cobleskill on Saturday @ 1 p.m.

North Country 76, Onondaga 75

North Country C.C. (76)

Miller 8-5-23, Dupont 2-0-5, Walker 11-1-24, Polke 3-0-6, Reed 7-0-14, Houck, 0-0-0, Washington 1-1-4, Cameron, 0-0-0, McDonell 0-0-0. Totals: 32-7-76.

Onondaga C.C. (75)

Thompson, 2-3-8, Scholz 1-0-2, Smith, 6-0-12. Stern 1-0-2, Williams 5-3-13, Buckman 3-1-7. Siechen 8-1-21, Vincent 5-0-10. Totals: 31-8-75.

3-point goals: NCCC (5) Miller 2, Dupont, Walker, Washington. Onondaga (5) Siechen 4, Thompson,

Halftime: Onondaga, 46-30.

Saturday, December 9, 2006
Finger Lakes 98, North Country CC 84

CANANDAIGUA - Ryan Henry hit a couple of big three-pointers down the stretch and Finger Lakes Community College pulled away to a 98-84 victory over North Country Community College in men's basketball Saturday.

Finger Lakes C.C. (6-3) held a five-point lead - 48-43 - at the half.

Henry finished with a game-high 29 points, including seven three-pointers, while George Ebanks added 22, Akeem Anthony 15, Brandon Williams 12 and Darrell Bougeois 12 for the defending Region III, Division III champions.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) tossed in 28 points for the Saints (10-3), while Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) followed with 20 and Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) chipped in with 19.

North Country C.C. connected on 13 three-pointers, with Miller nailing six and Dupont, five.

"We came out and got the early lead," said North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue. "But, their transition game really hurt us - they're very good off the dribble.

"We got the lead back with nine minutes to go in the game, but they went on a spurt with three minutes remaining when Henry hit a couple of threes."

Finger Lakes 98, North Country 84

North Country CC (84)

Miller 10-2-28, Dupont 7-0-19, Walker 8-3-20, Polke 3-0-6, Reed 0-0-0, Houck 3-0-7, Washington 0-2-2, Cameron 0-0-0, McDonell 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0. Totals 32-7-84.

Finger Lakes CC (98)

Anthony 6-1-15, King 0-1-1, Ebanks 8-5-22, Williams 5-2-12, Henry 9-4-29, Frederick 1-1-3, Denniston 2-0-4, Burgeois 6-0-12. Totals 37-14-98.

3-point goals: North Country (13) Miller 6, Dupont 5, Walker, Houck. Finger Lakes (10) Henry 7, Anthony 2, Ebanks.

Halftime: Finger Lakes, 48-43.

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

North Country 75, Paul Smith's 72

By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

PAUL SMITHS - It ended not with a whimper, but with a bang.

For more than 30 years, the North Country Community College and Paul Smith's College men's basketball teams have waged war, first as junior colleges and then as arch-rivals in the Northern Independence Conference.

On Wednesday, the Saints and Bobcats met for the final time in regular season competition in a contest that featured a costly turnover, a game-winning dunk and a fist fight that resulted in a broken jaw - all in the final minute of play. When all was said and done, North Country prevailed by a score of 75-72.

"We wanted to stop (NCCC guard Al) Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) and fortunately for us he got in foul trouble," said PSC Coach Mark Cartmill. "In the second half, we were able to get the ball inside to Travis Hunt, who played very well down the stretch. Unfortunately, we turned the ball over three times in the last two minutes and that hurt us."

As the see-saw battle wound down to a close, the Bobcats held a slim 70-69 lead on a layup by Hunt with 3:35 left to play. The Saints regained the lead at the two-minute mark on a layin by Miller and managed to extend the advantage to three when John Reed (Ogdensburg) rebounded his own miss with 1:06 left on the clock.

Seconds later, NCCC regained possession of the ball on a turnover by PSC's Floyd Thorne, but could not convert and make the contest a two possession game. After a missed jumper by Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia), Paul Smith's Gary Harris cut the deficit to a single point when he took the ball coast-to-coast and laid it home with 16 seconds remaining in regulation.

With the game's outcome hanging in the balance, NCCC Coach Chad LaDue, opted to burn a full time out.

"At that point of the game, it was far from over," he said. "I told my guys to just relax, and they did a great job of pulling this one out."

Down one and with three fouls to give, the Bobcats committed fouls on the next three inbounds passes to force reach the bonus situation. On the third inbounds pass, Harris fouled NCCC point guard Ryan Geary (Ogdensburg) in the corner of the court near the PSC bench.

In the play's aftermath, Harris allegedly made a remark to Geary, causing him to shrug off Harris, who had put his arm around Geary's shoulders. Harris responded to the shrug by punching Geary in the jaw, settling off a small melee in front of the Paul Smith's bench.

A number of PSC players who were on the floor attempted to break up the fight along with Cartmill, LaDue and three uniformed New York State Troopers who were in attendance. Once the floor was cleared, referees Brian Fairchild and Gordie Aikens did not eject anyone, nor did they assess any technical fouls. The only action taken was the removal of Harris from the floor.

"This was a great atmosphere to play in and it was unfortunate the situation at the end had to dampen it," Cartmill. said.

As game officials began to assess the situation, two Paul Smith's fans were ejected by campus security and left the venue making inappropriate hand gestures toward the NCCC team and their fans. Before play resumed, Cartmill made an appeal to the fans over the public address system, calling for them to allow the game play out and to "show that Paul Smith's College fans have class."

"I don't think you'll find a better atmosphere at this level," Cartmill said. "I just wanted our fans to enjoy the game and the experience."

When play resumed, Geary, who was bleeding from the mouth, stepped to the line for a one-and-one.

Clinging to a 71-70 lead, Geary missed the front end of the one-and-one, and the ball was rebounded by the Bobcats' Jimmy Noel. With the last seconds of the game ticking away, Noel threw a pass across the court intended for Thorne, but North Country's Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) picked off the pass and slammed the ball home to push the NCCC lead to 75-72 with 5.6 seconds left on the clock.

After a full time out, Paul Smith's had a shot at tying the game with a three, but Noel's attempt from 20 feet missed to the left, sending the Saints to their sixth straight win over the Bobcats.

"This rivalry is no different that Duke versus North Carolina. It's just in a smaller building," LaDue said. "I told my guys 'This is why you play.' I will miss this rivalry and over the years I have developed a lot of respect for Paul Smith's and what they brought to this game."

Cartmill, who has coached in the rivalry for over a decade, also likens it to their Division I counterparts on Tobacco Road.

"You don't get too many chances to play in a place like this. It's just like Duke and North Carolina," he said. "The fans really got into it and that made for a very competitive game."

PSC's move to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic and its Sunrise Conference will not allow it to continue playing junior colleges on its regular season schedule. However, due to their close proximity, the two programs may play exhibition games in the future.

Walker and Cory Polke led the way for North Country with 17 points while Polke added 15 rebounds and six blocks. Reed tossed in 16 points and 13 rebounds and Miller finished with 11.

Geary added six assists. Andrew Thompson led Paul Smith's with 20 points. Hunt finished with 15 points and Harris added 13.

According to LaDue, Geary, who missed the first 10 games of the season recovering from a compound fracture in his leg, was diagnosed with a fractured jaw late Wednesday evening and may be scheduled for surgery today. He is expected to be out of the lineup for six weeks.

Paul Smith's (3-5) will face Green Mountain in Poultney, Vt. Saturday at 4 p.m. while North Country (10-2) travels Canandaigua to battle reigning Region III champion Finger Lake Community College on Saturday at 1p.m.

On Sunday, PSC faces Lyndon State on the road at 3 p.m. and NCCC takes on Onondaga Community College in Syracuse at 1 p.m.

NCCC 75, PSC 72

Saints 49 26 - 75

Bobcats 44 28 - 72

NCCC (75)

Walker 5-6-17, Dupont 2-0-5, Washington 1-2-4, Geary 2-1-5, Miller 5-0-11, Polke 6-2-17, Reed 7-1-16, Knoble 0-0-0. Totals: 28-12-75.

PSC (72)

Harris 5-0-13, Thompson 7-4-20, Thorne 3-2-9, Critelli 0-0-0, Noel 4-0-9, Ukwubiwe 0-0-0, Hunt 4-7-15, Metzler 2-0-4, Foster 0-2-2. Totals: 25-15-72.

Halftime: NCCC 49, PSC 44.

Three-point goals: NCCC (7) Walker, Dupont, Miller, Polke 3, Reed; PSC (7) Harris 3, Thompson 2, Thorne, Noel.

Sunday, December 3, 2006

Broome 102, North Country 82

CORNING - North Country Community College men's basketball team had a rough weekend.

The Saints headed into the Tarantelli Classic at Corning Community College with a 9-0 record, and we ranked No. 2 in the nation.

As the weekend ends, North Country drops to 9-2 after its second consecutive loss as Broome Community College captured a 102-82 victory on Sunday.

"Broome got off to a good start late in the first half," Saints head coach Chad LaDue said. "We traded baskets with them the entire second half, but we could never get back to within reach.

"This was a very disappointing weekend in the way we played."

Rob Krowiak led five players in double figures for Broome with 31 points. D.J. Szmyrko added 22 points, Wayne Davis, 18, Eddie Bowles, 12, and Deen Salaam, 11.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) paced North Country with 26 points while Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) and John Reed (Ogdensburg) each chipped in with 15. Polke also pulled down 15 rebounds.

The Saints hope to get back on track on Wednesday as they head to Paul Smith's for a 7 p.m.

contest.

Broome C.C. 102, North Country C.C. 82

Broome C.C. (102)

Cline 2-0-4, Salaam 5-1-11, Davis 7-3-18, Krowiak 8-11-31, Bowles 6-0-12, Szmyrko 8-0-22, Daye 1-2-4. Totals: 37-7-102.

North Country C.C. (82)

Dupont 2-1-7, Miller 10-2-26, Walker 4-0-9, Polke 6-1-15, Reed 5-4-15, Houck 2-0-4, Geary 0-2-2, Washington 1-2-4, McDonnell 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0, Peroceir 0-0-0. Totals: 30-12-82.

Halftime: Broome C.C., 48-20.

3-point goals: Broome C.C. (11) Davis, Krowiak 4, Szmyrko 6. North Country C.C. (10) Dupont 2, Miller 4, Walker, Polke 2, Reed.

Saturday, December 02, 2006
Corning 64, North Country 61 OT

CORNING - North Country Community College, which rode a nine-game winning streak to No. 2 in the nation, fell for the first time, Saturday night, losing to host Corning Community College, 64-61, in overtime, in the Tarantelli Classic.

The Saints, who play in NJCAA Div. III, were in foul trouble early, but still had a chance to pull out the victory. They led 54-50 with 1:09 to play, but Corning (5-4) rallied to tie it at 54. NCCC still had a shot to win, but Al Miller's (Fort Pierce, Florida) attempt at the buzzer fell short.

The two sides traded leads in the overtime until James Harris hit a 3-pointer with just over a minute to play to put Corning up for good.

"It was, by far, our worst shooting night so far, but they (Corning) had a lot to do with it," NCCC Coach Chad LaDue said. "They're a very good team and they play tough defense."

The Saints stumbled at the start. John Reed (Ogdensburg), Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) and Miller all got into early foul trouble and sat out much of the first half, allowing Corning to go up by 14 at one point.

North Country cut it 27-18 by intermission and continued to whittle away at the lead in the second half.

"We played pretty hard the second half and actually went ahead (54-50), but a couple of mental mistakes killed us," LaDue added.

Fabian Ferreira scored 19 points while Vince Saraceno and James Harris each netted 12 to lead Corning.

Reed scored 18 points and had 12 rebounds to lead North Country. Ben Walker chipped in with 17 points and 13 rebounds while Polke had nine rebounds.

North Country (9-1) will take on Broome CC at 11 a.m. today.

Corning CC 64, North Country CC 61

North Country CC (61)

Washington 0-0-0, Miller 5-2-14, Walker 7-1-17, Polke 2-0-4, Reed 8-2-18, Dupont 2-0-6, Houk 1-0-2, McDonnell 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0, Geary 0-0-0. Totals 25-5-61.

Corning CC (64)

Ferreira 6-6-19, Saraceno 3-6-12, Harris 4-2-12, Pellew 1-0-2, Goody 1-0-2, Bonham 1-0-2, Alston 2-4-8, Herthum 3-0-7. Totals 17-4-18/28-64.

3-point goals: NCCC (6) Miller 2, Walker 2, Dupont 2. Corning (4) Ferreira, Harris 2, Herthum.

Tuesday, November 28, 2006

North Country 78, Albany Pharmacy 66

ALBANY - The North Country Community College men's basketball team continues its early season success as they improved to 9-0 overall with a 78-66 victory over Albany Pharmacy Tuesday.

"We grabbed a 25-point lead in the first 12 minutes of the game and that gave us a chance to get everybody in," said Saints' coach Chad LaDue. "Albany Pharmacy played great the entire second half, but we managed to keep a 12-14 point lead. It was a perfect game to play coming off the Thanksgiving break. Everybody played and it gets us ready for the game this weekend."

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) led the NCCC with a game-high 25 points, including seven 3-pointers. Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added 16 points and 12 rebounds while John Reed (Ogdensburg) had 14 points and 11 rebounds. The Panthers were led by John Adamchick's 17 points. Ramy Ramzy added 11 points and Vartan Balian added 10.

With the victory, North Country moved up to the No. 2 ranking in the latest National Junior College Athletic Association Division III poll which was released Tuesday.

"When it comes to our ranking, Al (Miller) said it best - 'if this is the highlight of our season, it will be a bad season,' explained LaDue. "When your leader understands there's still a lot to be done, that's a plus. This is something that hasn't been done before in this program, but it's something we aren't going to talk about until March."

North Country (9-0, 3-0) will face Corning Community College Saturday at 7 p.m. in the opening round of the Tarantelli Classic in Corning. The Saints will battle Broome Community College on Sunday at 11 a.m. in the second round of the round-robin event.

NCCC 78, Albany Pharmacy 66

Saints 44 34 - 78

Panthers 35 31 - 66

NCCC (78)

Washington 1-0-2, Miller 8-2-25, Walker 2-1-7, Polke 7-2-16, Reed 4-6-14, Dupont 2-0-5, Houck 3-1-7, Geary 1-0-2, McDonnell 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0, Peroceir 0-0-0, Knobel 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0. Totals: 17-10-12-78.

ACP (66)

Balian 4-1-10, Tomaino 1-0-2, Jones 3-1-7, Ramzy 4-3-11, Greene 1-0-2, Reed 2-2-6, Mehany 2-0-5, Samuel 1-0-2, Adamchick 6-4-17. Totals: 21-3-11-66.
Halftime: NCCC 44, ACP 35.
Three-point field goals: NCCC (10) Miller 7, Walker 2, Dupont; ACP (3) Balian, Mehany, Adamchick.

NCCC ranked third in NJCAA Division III poll

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - Just when you think things couldn't get better for the North Country Community College Men's Basketball Program - think again.

By virtue of their 8-0 start the Saints are now ranked third in the first National Junior College Athletic Association Division III poll of the season released Tuesday afternoon.

The No. 1 ranking in the poll belongs to Sullivan County Community College (N.Y.) as it received all eight first place votes and 80 total points. Sullivan County currently has a 5-0 overall record and is living up to early season expectations as they were also No. 1 in the NJCAA pre-season poll released in mid-October.

Half of the teams featured in this week's poll were not ranked in the pre-season poll. North Country, Eastfield College, Passaic County Community College, Rochester Community and Technical College and Catawba Valley Community College all have rose from the land of the unranked to break into the first poll of the season.

The Saints will resume play on Tuesday, Nov. 28 when they travel to Albany to face NIC foe Albany Pharmacy at 7 p.m.

NJCAA Division III Men's Basketball Poll as of November, 21 1. Sullivan County CC, Loch Sheldrake, NY (5-0) 80 2. Joliet Junior College, Joliet, Ill. (4-1) 65 3. North Country CC, Saranac Lake, NY (8-0) 58 4. Eastfield College, Mesquite, Texas (5-1) 49 5. Montgomery College, Rockville, Md. (4-0) 40 6. Passaic County CC, Paterson, N.J. (4-1) 35 7. Minneapolis Com & Tech, Minneapolis, Minn. (2-2) 30 8. Gateway CC, New Haven, Conn. (6-0) 26 9. Rochester Com & Tech, Rochester, Minn. (3-0) 20 10. Catawba Valley CC, Hickory, N.C. (4-1) 12

Other schools receiving votes

Central Lakes College, Brainerd, Minn. (3-0) Fulton-Montgomery CC, Johnstown, NY (4-0) Gloucester County College, Sewell, N.J.(3-3) Mohawk Valley CC, Utica, NY (6-1) Nassau Community College, Garden City, NY (3-0) Suffolk County CC, Selden, NY (3-0)

Sunday, November 19, 2006

North Country 92, Tompkins-Cortland 75

CORTLAND - It's always nice to get some time off for the holidays.

But, part of the thought process for the North Country Community College men's basketball team is to keep playing.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) and Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) had big games Sunday afternoon as the Saints completed a weekend sweep of the road with a solid 92-75 victory over Tompkins-Cortland Community College.

North Country C.C. improved its unbeaten record to 8-0, including a 7-0 mark in Region III.

"I thought we were going to be good this season, but not this good," said North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue. "We don't play again until the Tuesday after Thanksgiving at Albany Pharmacy.

"To be honest with you, things are going so well that part of us wants to keep going. The other part is that it's nice to have some time off after playing five games in eight days."

Sunday, the hot-shooting Saints jumped out to a 56-37 lead at the half and weren't threatened.

Polke finished with 25 points and added 13 rebounds, while Miller tied his teammate for game high scoring honors with 25 markers and also dished out six assists.

Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) added 12 points, John Reed (Ogdensburg) 10 points and 11 rebounds and Craig Houck (Berne-Knox), nine points.

North Country C.C. knocked down 13 three-pointers, with Miller nailing six and Polke, five.

"We came out and really did shoot the ball well, especially from three-point range," LaDue said. "We hit nine three-pointers in the first half.

"We were able, with Miller and Polke leading the way, to get up by 19 at the half. And, we were able to get nine points off the bench from Houck."

The Saints were also solid from the foul line, going 11-for-13.

"Obviously, I'm very pleased with the way it has been going for us," LaDue said.

"And, the thing is we don't have Ryan Geary, who is from Ogdensburg, yet. We recruited him to play point guard for us, but he broke his leg during the summer. He will be back either in December or the second semester."

Former Peru Central School standout Adam Prue tossed in nine points for Tompkins-Cortland C.C.

NCCC 92, Tompkins-Cortland 75

North Country C.C. (92)

Washington 0-0-0, Miller 9-1-25, Walker 6-0-12, Polke 9-2-25, Reed 3-4-10, Dupont 2-0-5, Houck 3-2-9, McDonnell 0-2-2, Sauve 0-0-0, Perocier 0-0-0, Knoble 2-0-4, Cameron 0-0-0. Totals 34-11-92.

Tompkins-Cortland C.C. (75)

Mitchell 9-3-23, Brumfield 3-2-8, Prue 2-3-9, Martin 1-0-2, Gilden 1-0-2, Anderson 0-3-3, Sierra 2-0-4, Mirjah 4-2-10, Wilbur 3-0-6, Massart 3-0-6. Totals 29-13-75.

3-point goals: North Country C.C. (13) Miller 6, Polke 5, Dupont, Houck. T-CCC (4) Mitchell 2, Prue 2.

Halftime: North Country C.C., 56-37.

November 18, 2006

North Country 74, Broome 70

BINGHAMTON - North Country Community College continued its early season success with a close 74-70 victory over Broome Community College in NJCAA men's basketball on Saturday.

Freshman Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) had a huge game for the Saints (7-0) as he tossed in a game-high 28 points.

"We led start to finish," North Country head coach Chad LaDue said. "It was more like an eight-point game, but they hit two 3-pointers at the end.

"They had really good guards; this was a nice road victory for us and I thought Ben Walker had his best game."

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) chipped in with 22 points and five assists for the Saints while Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added 13 points and 16 rebounds. John Reed (Ogdensburg) finished with seven rebounds.

Broome was paced by Rob Krowiak's 23 points, including five 3-pointers. Ontario Carter tossed in 12 points and Dean Abdus-Salam finished with 10.

North Country will travel to Tompkins-Cortland Community College for a 1 p.m. tip-off.

"Hopefully we can go home for Thanksgiving at 8-0," LaDue said.

North Country C.C. 74, Broome C.C. 70

North Country C.C. (74)

Washington 0-0-0, Miller 7-6-22, Walker 9-7-28, Polke 5-3-13, Reed 1-0-2, Dupont 1-0-3, Houck 1-0-3, McDonnell 0-0-0, Cameron 1-1-3. Totals: 25-17-74.

Broome C.C. (70)

Cline 1-0-2, Abdus-Salam 5-0-10, Carter 4-4-12, Davis 5-2-12, Krowiak 9-0-23, Edwards 1-0-2, Smzyrko 2-0-9. Totals: 28-6-70.

Halftime: North Country C.C., 43-35.

3-point goals: North Country C.C. (7) Miller 2, Walker 3, Dupont, Houck. Broome C.C. (8) Krowiak 5, Smzyrko 3.

Thursday, November 16, 2006 North Country 78, Schenectady 60

SARANAC LAKE - Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) had another big game for North Country Community College with 19 points and 14 rebounds Thursday night as the Saints ran their unbeaten record to 6-0 with a 78-60 win over Schenectady Community College.

John Reed (Ogdensburg) added 14 points and nine rebounds for the Saints, while Ben Walker also hit in double figures with 13 points.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) chipped in with nine points and Craig Houck (Berne-Knox) added eight off the bench.

"Houck came off the bench to have his best game of the season," said North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue.

North Country C.C. held a 28-20 lead at the half and broke it open over the final 20 minutes of play.

"We were pretty much in control," said LaDue. "We played everyone and it was nice to have 11 of our 12 players score.

"We went up by about 30 points in the second half.

Daniel Smalls paced Schenectady C.C. with 22 points, while Donnie Jones added 13 and Andy Morris, 12.

The Saints hit the road for weekend games at Broome Community College and Sunday at Tompkins-Cortland Community College.

North Country 78, Schenectady 60

Schenectady C.C. (60)

Jones 4-3-13, Smith 0-0-0, Lee 0-3-3, Milton 1-0-2, Franklin 0-0-0, Smalls 7-3-22, Morris 6-0-12, Travis 3-2-8. Totals: 21-11-60.

North Country C.C. (78)

Washington 1-0-2, Miller 3-2-9, Walker 5-2-13, Polke 9-1-19, Reed 7-0-14, Dupont 1-0-3, Houck 4-0-8, Sauve 1-0-3, Peroceir 0-0-0, Knobel 1-0-2, Cameron 1-0-3. Totals: 34-5-78.

3-point goals: Schenectady C.C. (7) Smalls 5, Jones 2. North Country C.C. (3) Miller, Walker, Dupont, Sauve, Cameron.

Halftime: North Country C.C., 28-20.

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

North Country 103, Canton 97 OT

SARANAC LAKE - The North Country Community College men's basketball team remained unbeaten Tuesday with a thrilling 103-97 overtime victory over SUNY-Canton at Alumni Gymnasium.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) tossed in a game-high 39 points to lead NCCC, who led by three with less than one minute left to play in regulation. The Northstars' managed to send the game into overtime when Mike Donnelly drilled a three-point field goal with 20 seconds left to play.

"The game went back and forth for most of the first half and we did manage to go up by eight with three minutes to play, but they (Canton) went on a 11-2 run and led by three at halftime," said Saints' coach Chad LaDue. "In the second half, we were able to control the game for the most part, but Canton hung in there and hit a three in the last minute to force overtime."

Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) opened the extra session by hitting one of his four treys in the contest, and Miller repeated the feat in the Saints' next possession to extend the NCCC

advantage to six. North Country took control from there, outscoring Canton 20-14 in overtime to seal its fifth win of the season against no losses.

"We knew Canton was a better team than their record indicated," LaDue said. "They battled us hard, and that's because they have been playing good competition early. They've lost a few games early, but to good teams."

Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) scored 21 points for North Country and Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida) chipped 14 points and eight rebounds. Dupont came off the bench to score 14 markers and John Reed (Ogdensburg) chipped in eight points and 13 rebounds. James Morrison hit six treys and score 27 points for the Northstars, and Che Terrazas added 20.

North Country (5-0) puts its undefeated mark on the line Thursday when it hosts Schenectady Community College at 7 p.m.

"They're a pretty scrappy team," LaDue said. "The only common opponent we've had is Word of Life, who they beat by 25 points. It should be a good game."

NCCC 103, Canton 97, OT
Northstars 41 42 14 - 97
Saints 38 45 20 - 103
SC (97)

Mike Donnelly 4-1-12, Duran 1-6-8, James Morrison 8-5-27, Che Terrazas 8-2-20, Johnson 6-5-19, Cayea 1-0-2, Bethune 3-0-6, Stevens 0-1-1, Savoy 1-0-2. Totals: 32-20-97.

NCCC (103)

Washington 0-0-0, Miller 12-10-39, Walker 6-2-14, Polke 9-1-21, Reed 3-2-8, Dupont 4-2-14, Houck 0-1-1, McDonnell 0-0-0, Peroceir 0-0-0, Cameron 3-0-6. Totals: 26-18-103.

Halftime: SC 41, NCCC 38.

Regulation: NCCC 83, SC 83.

Three-point goals: SC (13), Morrison 6, Donnelly 3, Terrazas 2, Johnson 2; NCCC (11), Miller 5, Dupont 4, Polke 2.

Saturday, November 11, 2006

North Country 80, Adirondack 65

SARANAC LAKE - John Reed (Ogdensburg/OFA) scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half and Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added 16 points after the break as North Country Community College rallied past Adirondack C.C., 80-65, in men's basketball Saturday.

The Saints (4-0, 2-0) trailed 31-26 at halftime, but pulled out the win with a 54-point second half.

Polke finished with 22 points and 11 rebounds while Reed grabbed a team-high 13 rebounds.

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) contributed 17 points to the win for the Saints, who overcame a 12-for-21 effort from the foul line.

North Country returns to action on Tuesday when they host SUNY-Canton. Game time is slated for 6 p.m. at Alumni Gymnasium.

North Country C.C. 80, Adirondack C.C. 65

Adirondack C.C. (65)

Ventre 2-3-8, Darfler 7-6-24, Trottier 5-2-14, Kozaczuk 1-0-3, Carruthers 2-0-4, Wiederhold 0-0-0, Baldwin 4-2-12. Totals: 21-13-65.

North Country C.C. (80)

Washington 0-1-1, Miller 7-1-17, Walker 2-0-4, Polke 8-4-22, Reed 10-6-26, Dupont 1-0-3, Houck 2-0-4, McDonnell 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0, Peroceir 1-0-2, Cameron 0-0-0. Totals: 31-12-80.

Halftime: Adirondack C.C., 31-26.

3-point field goals: Adirondack C.C. (10) Venter, Darfler 4, Trotter 2, Kozaczuk, Baldwin 2. North Country C.C. (5) Miller 2, Polke 2, Dupont.

Tuesday, November 7, 2006
NORTH COUNTRY 86, JEFFERSON C.C. 69

SARANAC LAKE - Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) knocked down seven 3-pointers on the way to 26 points to lead North Country Community College past Jefferson C.C. Tuesday, 86-69.

Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added 17 points, John Reed (Ogdensburg), 14, Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida), 12, and Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois), 10. Reed and Polke both finished with double-doubles, with Reed grabbing 15 rebounds and Polk, 13.

"This was a big win to get us to 3-0 with three more games at home before we go on the road," said North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue. "We had five guys in double figures, but I thought three guys that came off the bench played great - Craig Houck, Trevor Dupont and Anthony Cameron.

"Polke showed his best energy in a Saints uniform and Al Miller was Al Miller. He's averaging 26.5 points over the first three games."

The Saints led 39-36 at halftime before stretching their lead in the second half.

Andre Hannah led Jefferson C.C. with 26 points. Byron Headley chipped in 10.

The Saints (3-0, 2-0) host Adirondack C.C. Saturday at 1 p.m.

NCCC 86, Jefferson C.C. 69

Jefferson C.C. (69)

Hannah 8-7-26, Gager 4-0-8, White 4-1-9, Coleman 0-2-2, Headley 4-2-10, John 3-3-9, Allen-Peart 2-0-4, McCroy 0-1-1. Totals 25-16-69.

NCCC (86)

Washington 0-0-0, Miller 8-3-26, Walker 5-2-12, Polke 7-3-17, Reed 6-2-14, Dupont 4-0-10,

Houck 1-0-2, McDonnell 0-0-0, Sauve 0-0-0, Peroceir 0-2-2, Cameron 1-1-3. Totals 32-13-86.

Halftime: NCCC, 39-36.

3-point field goals: JCC (3) Hannah 3. NCCC (9) Miller 7, Dupont 2.

Friday, November 04, 2006
North Country 89 Word of Life 72

SARANAC LAKE - Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) tossed in a game-high 25 points Friday night to help lead the North Country Community College men's basketball team to an 89-72 victory over Word of Life.

John Reed (Ogdensburg/OFA) added 16 points and nine rebounds, while Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida/Spruce Creek) chipped in with 12 points for the Saints (2-0).

North Country C.C., coming off a big win over Clinton Community College, jumped out to a 47-32 lead at the half.

"Everybody got to play and we did what we had to do." said North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue. "It was a good opportunity for some of our players to get some minutes."

Josh Filler paced Word of Life with 17 points, while John Grim contributed 13 points and David Duma, 12.

North Country returns to action next Tuesday when they host Jefferson Community College at Alumni Gymnasium. Please note that game time is scheduled for 8 p.m.

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North Country C.C. 89, Word of Life 72

Word of Life (72)

Arthur, 3-2-8; Barker, 2-0-5; Filler, 7-1-17; Grim, 5-2-13; Duma, 3-6-12; Pigg, 1-0-3; Caston, 1-0-2; Martins, 2-0-6; Norton, 2-0-6. Totals: 26-11-72.

North Country C.C. (89)

Washington, 0-0-0; Miller, 11-0-25; Walker, 5-0-12; Polke, 4-1-9; Reed, 6-4-16; Dupont, 2-0-4; Houck, 1-1-3; Sauve, 2-3-7; Peroceir, 2-0-4; Knoble, 1-0-2; Pond, 0-2-2; Cameron, 0-1-1. Totals: 34-12-89.

3-point goals: Word of Life (9) Filler 2, Martins 2, Norton 2, Barker, Grim, Pigg. NCCC (5) Miller 3, Walker 2.

Halftime: North Country, 47-32.

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

North Country 82 Clinton 81
By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

SARANAC LAKE - Unlike most college basketball teams, the North Country and Clinton Community College men's basketball teams don't have the luxury of fattening their records, as well as their stats, on non-conference cupcakes early in the season.

Instead, they have each other.

The Saints and Cougars renewed their heated rivalry Wednesday in front of a near-capacity crowd at NCCC's Alumni Gymnasium, and put on a show that will be remembered for the ages.

With North Country trailing by one, Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) drained a 17-footer with two seconds left to give the Saints a hard-fought 82-81 victory.

"Clinton always plays us hard and they proved last season that they can beat us on any given night," said NCCC coach Chad LaDue. "I have a lot of respect for (CCC coach) Kevin Daugherty. He had his guys ready to play and his kids are tough."

North Country led 64-58 with 5:43 remaining and look-ed poised to decide the issue. But two quick shots led to a 5-0 Clinton spurt which cut the deficit to one. The lead see-sawed back and forth until the final minute of play when Cougar guard Phillip Barnes, who led all scorers with 40 points, drained a three-pointer from the right wing to give the visitors a one-point advantage with 17.5 second left in regulation.

"Barnes is a legitimate player and he proved that tonight," LaDue said.

After calling its final time out, the Saints went to the two players who had carried them all night - sophomore guard Al Miller and freshman center John Reed (Ogdensburg/OFA).

As the waning seconds of the game ticked away, Miller executed a pick-and-roll with Reed on the right side of the floor, freeing him for a jumper just inside the three-point arc. With Clinton's Trevor Secore giving chase, Miller buried the shot to give the Saints the lead for good.

Clinton called a time out immediately to set up its final shot of the game, but Nick Darrah's 20-footer from the right baseline fell short of the mark as the final buzzer sounded.

"Al's hit a lot of big shots for us and he's not afraid to take that shot," LaDue said. "We wanted to get him on the same side of the floor with John Reed, who was just dominate tonight. If we couldn't get the ball to John, we still had it in the hands of one of our best players. Tonight, it worked out."

Miller led North Country with 28 points, Reed chipped in 15 points and 14 rebounds, and Ben Walker (New Smyrna Beach, Florida/ Spruce Creek) tallied 11 points in his collegiate debut. In addition to Barnes' 40 points, which included five three-point field goals, Mario Lopez tossed in 19 points for Clinton.

North Country (1-0) will host Word of Life Friday at 5 p.m.

North Country 82, Clinton 81
Cougars 35 46 -81
Saints 36 46 -82
CCC (81)

Barnes 13-9-40, Darrah 1-2-4, Daunais 0-2-2, Trim 0-3-3, Lopez 7-5-19, Tre. Secore 4-0-9, Tra. Secore 2-0-4, Desir 0-0-0. Totals: 27-21-81.

NCCC (82)

Washington 2-4-8, Miller 10-3-28, Walker 5-0-11, Polke 4-0-9, Reed 7-0-15, Dupont 1-0-2, Houck 1-1-3, McDonell 3-0-6, Sauve 0-0-0, Peroceir 0-0-0, Cameron 0-0-0. Totals: 33-8-82.

Halftime: NCCC 36, CCC 35.

Three-point goals: CCC (6) Barnes 5, Tre. Secore; NCCC (8) Miller 5, Walker, Polke, Reed.

2006-2007 North Country Men's Basketball Season Preview

By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

SARANAC LAKE - Armed with the lessons he learned from his 14-12 team a season ago, North Country Community College men's basketball coach Chad LaDue heads into the 2006-07 season with a brighter outlook, and perhaps higher hopes, for his Saints.

"The biggest lesson I learned last season was that talent isn't everything," LaDue said. "By far, the roster we had last year was the most talented I've had in my five years here, but the one thing we lacked was team chemistry. So this year we changed our recruiting philosophy and went back to getting guys who want to be here for the right reasons. It's important to our success to have players who are here for the program and not themselves."

At point guard, North Country banked its hopes that highly-touted freshman Ryan Geary, an All-New York State selection from Ogdensburg, would be its floor leader for the next two seasons. But Geary fractured two bones in his lower leg in a summer soccer game and is out indefinitely.

Taking his place at the point will be freshman Hayward Washington and Anthony Cameron, who hail from Harlem and Brooklyn, respectively. If need be, LaDue will also play Al Miller, the 2006 Northern Independence Conference Most Valuable Player, at the position.

"We were definitely excited to get Ryan in uniform and we think there's a chance that will happen sometime after Thanksgiving," LaDue said. "It will come down to whether or not there is enough games left to warrant bringing him back."

"In the meantime, Hayward and Anthony will run the point," he went on. "Both are small and work extremely hard. They're leaning our offensive sets quickly and are doing a better job of running the team. I will also look at using Al there as well. It may cut a little into his points, but I don't think it will cut into the team's points. He will be a calming influence on the floor."

The Saints will be deep and versatile at the wing position as sophomore Trevor Dupont returns to team with the quintet of freshmen Ben Walker, Ryan Suave, Joe Perocier and Tom Stackpole as well as sophomore Craig Houck.

"Trevor has been here and knows what we like to do," LaDue said. "He's put in the hours this summer, training hard to improve his game. He definitely will be one of the first guys off the bench and may get a start here and there. "Ben is just a great athlete with a solid work ethic," he continued. "He knows the game and does a lot of things well. Ryan, Joe, Craig and Tom allow us to go pretty deep at the position. Whoever steps up will get an opportunity to play."

If there is one thing NCCC lacks it's size. Cory Polke, a NIC All-star from the 2005-06 season will move to the power forward position and team with 6-foot-4 freshman John Reed, who, like Geary, was an All-NYS selection at Ogdensburg Free Academy. Behind them will be 6-5 Chris

McDonnell, a holdover from a year ago.

"Corey will need to step up and get rebounds for us. He's under-sized, but very capable," LaDue said. "John, on the other hand, is very physical and he is a lot tougher than I thought he would be. He definitely could have played at a higher level.

"As for Chris, I've been really pleased with his efforts in the preseason, especially on the defensive side of the ball," he added. "What he lacks in talent he makes up for it in hustle."

Two Saranac Lake graduates - 6-2 forward Ricky Knobel and 6-6 center Andrew Pond, both freshmen - could play important roles on the Saints front line with further improvement.

"You've got to love a guy like Ricky," LaDue said. "He's gotten so much better since day one of the preseason and he's a super kid to have on the team. In time he will get a chance to help the team and we are looking forward to that day. Andrew needs to work on his foot speed and get healthy," LaDue said. "As that goes, we'll see where he fits in."

With only eight home games in the 2005-06 season, NCCC is looking forward to playing its first six games of the current campaign at Alumni Gymnasium. LaDue feels this will give his troops an advantage before it heads out on the road in the NIC and Region III.

"It will be nice to play at home for an extended period," he said. "It will help our freshman get adapted to playing at the college level. Normally, your longest road trip in high school is your shortest in college, so getting accustomed to our travel schedule will be easier with a few games under our belts."

As for the season ahead, LaDue is not committed to winning a specific number of games. Instead, he feels it is more important that his team improve on a day-to-day basis to compete for the NIC or Region III title at the end of the year.

"We are not going to talk about wins this year," he said adamantly. "We're keeping it simple. If we get the chance to win the conference title or go to regionals, that's fine. But we are not going to look that far into the future. We are going to look at the schedule game-by-game and focus on getting better day-by-day."

2006 NCCC Team Roster

1 Ben Walker Fresh. G New Smyrna Beach, Fla.
3 Trevor Dupont Soph. G Decatur, Ill.
4 Hayward Washington Fresh. G Harlem
10 Ryan Geary Fresh. G Ogdensburg
11 Al Miller Soph. G Fort Pierce, Fla.
12 Cory Polke Soph. F Lyons, Ga.
20 Ricky Knobel Fresh. F Saranac Lake
23 Ryan Sauve Fresh. G Bangor
24 Craig Houck Soph. G Berne Knox
25 Anthony Cameron Fresh. G Brooklyn
31 Chris McDonnell Soph. C Lisbon
32 John Reed Fresh. C Ogdensburg
33 Joe Perocier Fresh. G Bronx
34 Andrew Pond Fresh. C Rainbow Lake
40 Tom Stackpole Fresh. G Saranac
Head Coach: Chad LaDue
Associate Head Coach: Rob Roy

2006 NCCC Season Schedule

11/1 Clinton CC 6 p.m.
11/3 Word of Life 5 p.m.
11/7 Jefferson CC 8 p.m.
11/11 Adirondack CC 1 p.m.
11/14 SUNY-Canton 6 p.m.
11/16 Schenectady CC 7 p.m.
11/18 @ Broome CC 1 p.m.
11/19 @ Tompkins-Cortland CC 1 p.m.
11/28 @ Albany Pharmacy 7 p.m.
12/2-3 Tarantelli Classic @ Corning CC TBA
12/6 @ Paul Smith's 7 p.m.
12/9 @ Finger Lakes CC 1 p.m.
12/10 @ Onondaga CC 3 p.m.
12/15 Columbia-Greene CC 7 p.m.
12/16 SUNY-Cobleskill 1 p.m.
1/18 @ SUNY-Canton 8 p.m.
1/20 @ Clinton CC 1 p.m.
1/22 @ Adirondack CC 7 p.m.
1/27 @ Columbia-Greene CC 1 p.m.
1/29 @ Jefferson CC 8 p.m.
2/3 Onondaga CC 3 p.m.
2/6 Albany Pharmacy 7 p.m.
2/8 Word of Life 7 p.m.
2/16-17 NIC Tournament @ Clinton CC TBA
2/23 Hudson Valley CC 7 p.m.
2/24 @ Schenectady CC 3 p.m.
2/27 Region III Sub-regionals
3/2-3 Region III Tournament TBA
3/15-17 NJCAA National Tournament @ Delhi TBA

NCCC recruit to play in Europe

By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

RAINBOW LAKE - If you were given an opportunity to chase a dream, and needed to raise \$7,500 to do so, would you?
Andrew Pond did.

Pond, a 2006 graduate of Saranac Lake High School, will leave his home in Rainbow Lake Friday to join more than 2,500 other American youths who will compete in the People to People Youth Friendship Games, scheduled to begin next week in Harlem, The Netherlands.

Recently, Pond managed to reach the amount needed to attend the Games and is looking forward to enjoying the fruits of his labor.

"I'm very happy, almost ecstatic, that I don't have to sell another hot dog," he said of his fund-raising efforts. "It's quite an honor to represent my country at the Games, and to me it's a dream come true. The competition is the biggest tournament of its kind in Europe, and I couldn't be happier to have the opportunity to play in it."

Over the past several months, Pond has spent long hours writing letters to benevolent civic organizations, coaching youth basketball, umpiring baseball games and selling hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages in order to raise money for his journey. Thanks to a number of generous people, he will realize his international hoop dream and took a few moments on Wednesday to

recognize the individuals who helped make it possible.

"First, I would like to thank the staff of the sports medicine and rehabilitation department at the Adirondack Medical Center," he said. "Over the past few years they've helped me through a lot of injuries and this trip will be one of the highlights of their year too. Also, I would like to thank the faculty and student body at Saranac Lake High School for their support as well as retired teacher Dick Zerrahn, who took the time to help me with my footwork.

"But most of all, I would like to thank my parents for giving me the ambition to stay with this," he continued. "And finally, I'd like to thank my brother, who was there through everything, even though he didn't want to be."

While in The Netherlands, Pond will tour the Greater Amsterdam area and sample the Dutch culture, as well as those of his fellow athletes. The experience is something he is looking forward to.

"I'm interested in the different view of life it will give me," he said. "It will be great to experience different cultures and I'm sure it will mature me both on and off the court. I'm certain that it will make me appreciate what we have here in the United States as opposed to other countries where kids may not have the privilege of playing basketball."

Despite his good fortune, Pond has remained humble when speaking of the opportunity, and wants other young people to know that it is possible for them to realize their dreams as well.

"If you've got a dream, I think it's important that you never give up on it." he said. "I've always wanted to play basketball internationally and it was important to me to stay with it ."

Organizations that contributed to Pond's cause include North Star Industries, Coakley High Peaks Ace Hardware, The Above the Rim Club, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Tops Supermarkets, Kinney Drugs, Stewarts Shop-pes, Grand Union Family Markets, D'Ambrisi Painting, LLC, Pepsi Bottling Group, Brighton Seniors, Tail O' the Pup Restaurant, Century 21 High Peaks Realty, Sears & Roebuck, Saranac Lake Elks Lodge No. 1508, Kiwanis Club, Knights of Columbus, Masonic Lodge, VFW Ladies Auxiliary, Women's Civic Chamber, Saranac Lake Mountaineer Rugby Club and Renzi Brothers Wholesale Foods Distributor.

Pond resides in Rainbow Lake with his parents, Charlie and Donna Pond, and his brother Logan. He will be attending North Country Community College in the Fall and plans to be part of the Saints basketball team.

All-NYS selections, area athletes highlight NCCC recruiting class

By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

SARANAC LAKE - The 2005-06 basketball season didn't play out quite the way North Country Community College Men's Basketball Coach Chad LaDue had imagined.

After his Saints streaked to a 20-6 mark the season before, and an automatic bid to the Region III playoffs, they found themselves hampered by injuries and internal problems that resulted in a handful of players leaving the program for physical, personal and academic reasons.

Despite its shortcomings, North Country managed to limp to a respectable 14-12 record last season and the Northern Independence Conference's regular-season title. Facing perhaps his biggest challenge of his young coaching career - returning the Saints to prominence in both Region III and the NIC - LaDue went back to his roots to recruit the type of players he feels will get the job done.

"I felt it important to get tough kids who work hard, and are committed to the program day in and day out," LaDue explained. "We needed to get kids who will not just work on making themselves better, but their teammates better as well. This season, we have more team players and less 'I' players. The kids you find in Sections VII and X are some of the toughest kids in the state and we missed the type of leadership these kids would have provided.

"Sure, we had guys last year who were athletes and great players, but they were the least team-oriented bunch I've had in my four seasons here," he continued. "Needless to say, that won't be the case next year. We're going back to being a family that works extremely hard. We had that with the guys we ended the year with, but we want to get to that point from the start of the season."

Headlining NCCC's recruiting class are two starters from Ogdensburg Free Academy's Section X, Class B championship team - point guard Ryan Geary and forward John Reed.

"Ryan will get the opportunity to have the ball in his hands as much as possible," said LaDue. "He's the type of player that makes the players around him better, and I like his toughness and competitive nature. John, on the other hand, is very steady. He's the type of player who doesn't get too high or too low. When you watch him play, you may think he's had an average game, but before you know it, he finishes with 20 points and 20 rebounds. His consistency impresses me."

Geary averaged 10.9 points, 5.0 assists and 3.3 steals per game in the 2005-06 season. For his efforts, he was named the Northern Athletic Conference Central Division Most Valuable Player and walked off with a sixth-team selection to the All-New York State squad.

Reed, at 6-foot-4, poured in 18.8 points per game and collected 12.1 rebounds per outing. He was a first-team All-NAC selection and garnered All-NYS third-team honors.

Joining Geary and Reed will be All-NAC first-teamer Ryan Sauvie and playmaker Danny Bradshaw, who played their prep basketball at Salmon River Central.

"Ryan is the type of player who will continue to get better," LaDue said. "If he continues to improve, he will get a chance to play. Danny is a super kid. He's tough, smart and will give us depth in the backcourt."

Corey Russell, who averaged 9.2 points and 3.9 rebounds per games for Section X, Class C champion Brushton-Moira, will attend NCCC and be counted on for production up front.

With the loss of forwards Joe Akey and Karl Sims to graduation, and the transfer of center Josh Defino, LaDue will look to a pair of Saranac Lake alums to bolster his front line.

Six-foot-six center Andrew Pond and 6'2" forward Rick Knobel have opted to play their college ball at home and may get the opportunity to make significant contributions, as they did under Don Carlisto in the Red Storm varsity program.

"Andrew and Rick are a couple of great kids who will need to get faster and stronger in order to compete at the college level," LaDue said. "If they stick to what we are trying to do in our program, they will get their chance to play."

For the past few years, NCCC has recruited a number of outstanding players from the state of Florida, and the 2006 recruiting class will be no exception. Next season the Saints will feature the talents of Ben Walker, a 6-3 forward from Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange.

"Ben is athletic and talented," said LaDue. "We're excited he's coming here and are going to expect big things from him. We hope he can play big minutes and I know he will have no problem

fitting in with the guys we have back."

Marlon Paul, a 22-year-old forward from Toronto, Ontario will also attend North Country and provide leadership and maturity to a young NCCC program.

"In basketball, there are many people who will tell you that you shouldn't over-recruit," LaDue said. "We had 22 guys in our program last year who were legitimate players and it caused problems. This season, if we have a solid starting five and have at least 10 players who can contribute, we will be fine. We're still pursuing several more players that we hope to land, but we are happy with who we currently have coming in and the guys we have back. We will be smaller next season, so you can expect us to press and run more next year."

Mens Basketball News 2005-2006

Northeastern Clinton wins North Country Classic title By BILL JOHNSON, Enterprise Sports Editor

SARANAC LAKE - Matt Farbotko poured in a game-high 25 points Sunday afternoon to lead Northeastern Clinton to a 45-26 victory over Seton Catholic in the championship game of the fourth annual North Country Classic boys basketball tournament held at North Country Community College.

The Cougars gained a measure of revenge in the championship tilt, having lost to the Knights 49-31 on Saturday afternoon.

Josh Davis had 12 points to lead Seton in the title game.

The event attracted 10 teams from Section VII and X, including squads from Saranac Lake Tupper Lake and Keene.

"Considering its only our fourth year of existence, the tournament ran pretty smooth," said NCCC Men's Basketball Coach and Tournament Director Chad LaDue. "There were a lot of close games - especially in the playoff round - and you couldn't pick a clear-cut favorite in the field. I think it shows how much the level of basketball has improved here in the North Country."

Saranac Lake open the competition Friday with a 31-22 win over Tupper Lake and a 45-33 victory over Brushton-Moira. On Saturday, the Red Storm defeated Keene (55-25) to earn the No. 1 seed in Sun-day's playoff round.

After a lopsided 57-22 win over Brushton-Moira on Sunday, Saranac Lake's title hopes ended with a 42-39 overtime loss to Seton Catholic in the semi-finals.

The Lumberjacks rebounded from their early loss to the Red Storm by edging Au Sable Valley 43-41 Friday. The next morning, Tupper Lake defeated Seton Catholic 40-30 to earn the No. 2 seed heading into the playoffs.

The 'Jacks slipped by Saranac 35-33 Sunday, but fell to eventual tourney champ Northeastern Clinton 51-39 in the semifinals.

Despite falling to Saranac Lake in its opening contest, Keene showed a marked improvement over last year's tourney showing.

The Beavers gave Gouverneur High all it could handle before dropping a tough 43-30 decision

and played well in a 67-37 loss to Canton.

Keene wrapped up its tourney slate with a 46-37 loss to Section VII, Class B power Saranac Sunday morning.

"Next season we would like to expand the field to 12-to-16 teams, but we may have to go outside Section VII and X to do so," LaDue said. "It's always a plus to have a few juniors- and seniors-to-be in your gym, and, as always, this event has proven to be a valuable recruiting tool for us."

North Country Classic

Friday's games

Saranac Lake 31, Tupper Lake 22
Saranac Lake 45, Brushton- Moira 33
Tupper Lake 43, Au Sable Valley 41

Saturday's games

Saranac Lake 55, Keene 25
Tupper Lake 40, Seton Catholic 30
NE Clinton 57, Brushton-Moira 39
Au Sable Valley 37, Canton 35
Gouverneur 43, Keene 30
Seton Catholic 49, Northeastern Clinton 31
Canton 41, Saranac 25
Saranac 58, Brushton-Moira 46
Canton 68, Keene 37
Seton 53, Gouverneur 47
Northeastern Clinton 55, Saranac 47
Au Sable Valley 55, Gouverneur 26

Sunday's Games

Brushton-Moira 42, Gouverneur 38
Saranac 46, Keene 37
Saranac Lake 57, Brushton-Moira 22
Tupper Lake 35, Saranac 33
Northeastern Clinton 49, Au Sable Valley 47
Seton Catholic 45, Canton 42 OT

Semifinals

Seton Catholic 42, Saranac Lake 39 OT
Northeastern Clinton 51, Tupper Lake 39

Championship Game

Northeastern Clinton 45, Seton Catholic 26

By BILL JOHNSON
Enterprise Sports Editor

SARANAC LAKE - When Al Miller left his Fort Pierce Fla. home in September to attend North Country Community College, little was known about the 6-foot guard, who began the 2005-06 basketball season as a reserve on the Saints' men's basketball team.

Six months later, Miller has become a household name in the Northern Independence Conference, leading NCCC to the league's regular-season title and earning its Most Valuable Player Award.

"Al is a kid who works extremely hard and has earned everything he gets," said North Country Community College men's basketball coach Chad LaDue. "He didn't start in the early season, but he stepped up and took on a leadership role when we needed it most. I'm excited to see what he will do next season when he is a team leader from the start"

Miller averaged 15.8 points, 4.2 rebounds, 3.5 steals and 2.8 assists per game. He shot 49 percent from the floor and 74 percent from the free throw line.

Joining Miller on the All-NIC team were:

All-NIC First Team

Karl Sims, 6'3"

Sophomore Forward

7.5 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1.4 spg

1.3 apg, 48% FG, 71 FT%

One of the Saints' tri-captains, Sims caught fire in the second half of the season. The Detroit native was a strong rebounder and a tough defender who was instrumental in the Saints run at the NIC title.

"In the second half of the season, Karl really picked it up," LaDue said. "He went and got the ball off the rim and ran the floor well. He's more than capable of playing at the next level and will surely be missed next season."

Ryan Volkmann, 5'10"

Sophomore Guard

6.7 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.6 spg

4.9 apg, 44% FG, 58 FT%

Another tri-captain of the NCCC program, the Bolton Landing native became the quarterback of the Saints' attack in the spring semester and paid handsome dividends.

A rare combination of speed and strength, Volkmann could score in traffic as well as from beyond the three-point arc.

"Ryan played 38-40 minutes a game in the second half of the season and did a great job of getting people the ball," LaDue said. "If it weren't for his contributions, it certainly would have been a tough year for us."

In addition to his on-court exploits, Volkmann was also honored for his work in the classroom when he was presented the NIC's 2005-06 Scholar-Athlete Award.

All-NIC Second Team

Cory Polke, 6'1"

Freshman Forward

10.2 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 2.6 spg

1.5 apg, 45% FG, 69 FT%

What Polke lacked in size on the front line, he more than made up for it with explosive athleticism. The Lyons, Ga. resident managed to out-rebound taller opponents and complimented his inside game with a feathery touch from the perimeter.

"Cory is very athletic, and when he wants to compete, he is one of the best players we've had in the program," LaDue said. "He's an outstanding re-bouncer and once he begins to give a good effort on every possession, he'll be an unbelievable player."

Joe Akey, 6'4"
Sophomore Center
9.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 1.0 spg
1.8 apg, 49% FG, 71 FT%

The third of NCCC's tri-captains, Akey continued to make significant contributions in the 2005-06 season. A resident of Au Sable Forks, Akey was a consistent threat on the boards and from behind the three-point line.

"Joe really turned it up in the second half of the season and he was a great kid to have in our program for the last two years," LaDue said. "He gave us a good effort every day and I have a tremendous amount of respect for him."

North Country finished its season with a mark of 14-12 and placed third in the annual NIC post-season tournament.

Abbreviation key:
ppg-points per game
rpg-rebounds per game
spg-steals per game
apg-assists per game
FG%-field goal percentage
FT%-free throw percentage

NORTH COUNTRY 58 – SCHENECTADY C.C. 55

Friday, February 24, 2006

(SCHENECTADY) – The North Country Community College men's basketball team closed out their 2005-2006 campaign in a winning fashion, on Friday evening, slipping by Schenectady Community College 58-55. The Royals controlled the tempo throughout the game and held a slim four point lead at the half, before NCCC was able to go on a late run, picking up their 14th victory of the season.

Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) ended his career in a Saints uniform with 19 points. El Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) chipped in with 13 and Karl Sims (Detroit, Michigan) appearing in his final game added 10. Brian Adams paced SCCC with a game high 27 points and Mike Dagostino picked up 14.

"It was nice to see our guys go out with a win," said North Country head coach Chad Ladue. "Joe Akey was strong on the boards and played extremely well. Karl Sims and El Miller also had good games for us. It was not the year we had expected but I'm proud of the players that stayed with the team and made us stronger as the season went along."

North Country concludes their year with an overall record of 14-12. This is the first time since the 1980's that the Saints have been able to achieve three winning records in a row. During the 2003-2004 campaign NCCC finished up at 16-9 and last season the Saints posted a 20-6 mark.

NORTHERN INDEPENDENTS CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT CONSOLATION

NORTH COUNTRY 68 – ALBANY PHARMACY 53

Saturday, February 18, 2006

(ALBANY) - After the upset loss to Clinton in Friday's N.I.C. semifinals, North Country Community College was able to rebound to defeat Albany Pharmacy in the consolation match up.

Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) scored a game-high 17 points, including five 3-pointers, for the Saints while Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) chipped in with 13 points.

"We had a pretty good team effort today," North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue said. "Dupont got the start tonight and shot the ball extremely well. Chris McDonnell also had a strong game for us. It was a disappointing weekend and I was glad to see that they could fight back and get a win today in a game that nobody wanted to be in."

The Saints (13-12) close out their season on the road when they travel to Schenectady Community College on Friday evening. Game time is scheduled for 7 p.m.

NORTHERN INDEPENDENTS CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT SEMI-FINAL CLINTON 69 – NORTH COUNTRY 64

Friday, February 17, 2006

(ALBANY) - The Clinton Community College men's basketball team began its new era under head coach Kevin Daugherty with a bang, upsetting defending Northern Independents Conference power North Country C.C. on opening night. On Friday night, the Cougars posted another big win over the Saints. Only this time, a trip to the conference finals was on the line.

Fourth-seeded Clinton C.C. led by nine points at the break and held off top-seeded North Country C.C. for a 69-64 victory at Albany College of Pharmacy. The Cougars improve to 5-19 with the win, while the Saints dropped to an even 12-12. Clinton C.C. beat North Country C.C., 70-65, at home in the Nov. 1 season opener, but was dealt a 71-56 setback in rematch on January 21 in Saranac Lake.

"They got hot from the 3-point line when they took the lead, but our guys battled back," said Daugherty. "At this time of year, I'm happy for the kids because they've worked so hard and been in so many games with a chance to win and most of them haven't worked out that way. It was nice to see them reward themselves with a big win like this. Hopefully we can keep it going."

Philip Barnes led Clinton C.C. on Friday with 25 points, including 10 from the foul line, and eight rebounds. Matt Daunais and Issac Dirolf added 10 points each, with Daunais also dishing out five assists. Nick Darrah grabbed seven rebounds and handed out six assists.

"Offensively we were very patient and made sure we got great shots," said Daugherty. "Defensively our 2-3 zone was tough. North Country didn't have a great shooting night, either, and I'm sure that helped."

The Cougars helped themselves at the foul line, turning in a 22-for-26 effort, including a perfect 10-for-10 clip from Barnes.

Elfred Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) had 19 points and 11 rebounds for North Country C.C., which topped Clinton C.C., 91-77, in last year's title game. Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) also turned in a double-double with 13 points, 11 rebounds, while Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, NY) added 13 points and Karl Sims (Detroit, Michigan), 10 points.

NORTH COUNTRY 82 – PAUL SMITH'S 72

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

(SARANAC LAKE) – A loss on the road last weekend dashed the North Country Community College basketball team's hope of qualifying for the Region III playoffs. But a win Tuesday against Paul Smith's made a bitter-sweet season turn a little brighter for NCCC's cagers.

On their home floor at the Sparks Athletic Complex, the Saints pulled away late in the second half to top the Bobcats 82-72, and in the process, NCCC clinched the Northern Independence Conference regular-season title and the top seed in this weekend's NIC postseason tournament in Albany.

"Our goal at the beginning of the season was to make the Region III playoffs, and that isn't going to happen," said NCCC coach Chad Ladue. "But we still have the opportunity to play for a championship, and winning that tournament is something that has become important to us, especially our seniors who have helped build our program back up."

Five players hit for double figures in the Saint's balanced attack, and El Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) led the way with 18 points. Saint sophomores Karl Sims (Detroit, Michigan) and Mike Fields (Port St. Lucie, Florida) chipped in with 16 and 15, points, respectively, while teammates Josh Delfino (Newfield, NY) and Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, NY) added 13 and 10 points.

The Saints (12-11) return to action on Friday evening when they travel to Albany to face Clinton Community College in the semi-finals of the NIC tournament. Game time at Albany Pharmacy College is slated for 8 p.m.

FINGER LAKES 85 – NORTH COUNTRY 68

February 12, 2006

(CANANDAIGUA) - Ryan Henry poured in 31 points and Finger Lakes Community College pulled away for an 85-68 victory over North Country Community College in men's basketball Sunday.

Henry, who connected on five 3-pointers, was one of five Finger Lakes players in double figures. El Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) tossed in 27 points, including seven 3-pointers, for the Saints. Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added 16 points and Josh Delfino (Newfield, NY), 10.

"Miller played an outstanding game and Delfino had his best game for us," said North County C.C. head coach Chad LaDue. "Polke also played well from his wing position. I was pleased with our team defense and rebounding as a unit. It was a tough loss, but I was happy with our effort," LaDue said.

Finger Lakes held a 33-31 lead at the half before opening it up. The two teams combined for 24 3-pointers, with each team hitting 12.

The Saints (11-11) return to the court Tuesday against Paul Smith's College.

NORTH COUNTRY 92 – ALBANY PHARMACY 68

February 9, 2006

(SARANAC LAKE) - Mike Fields (Port St. Lucie, Florida) made the most of his chance to start, igniting a fast break for the Saints and finishing with 16 points in North Country Community College's victory over Albany College of Pharmacy.

"We were sluggish against Word of Life the other night so we stressed to the guys getting off to a good start and sustaining it," NCCC Assistant Coach Rob Roy said. "Tonight, we went on a 13-0 run to begin the game and Mike Fields was the guy who got us going."

He also was one of six North Country players to reach double figures. El Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) led the way with 17 while Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) and Trevor Dupont (Decatur, Illinois) chipped in with 12 apiece. Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) added 11 and Karl Sims (Detroit,

Michigan), 10.

Ramy Ramzy scored 21 points to lead Pharmacy.

The Saints (11-10) will be in Canandaigua on Sunday to take on Finger Lakes Community College in a key Region III game.

NORTH COUNTRY 104 – WORD OF LIFE 96

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

(SARANAC LAKE) - Despite coughing up two double digit leads, including a 21-point first-half advantage, the North Country Community College men's basketball team recorded its 10th win of the season Tuesday with a wild 104-96 overtime victory over the Word of Life Bible Institute.

"We preached to the guys the importance of not letting a team hang around and stay in the game," said NCCC head coach Chad Ladue. "That's exactly what happened tonight. They (Word of Life) played great."

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) led the Saints with 23 points, Karl Sims (Detroit, Michigan) had 20 and point guard Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, NY) tallied 16. Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) scored 15 points for NCCC and Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia), who left the game in the second half with an ankle injury, finished with 14.

North Country (10-10) returns to the court Thursday when they host the Albany College of Pharmacy in a 5 p.m. contest at Alumni Gymnasium.

ONONDAGA 116 – NORTH COUNTRY 87

Saturday, February 4, 2006

(SYRACUSE) – On Saturday, Onondaga Community College used a suffocating full-court press to hand North Country Community College men's basketball team a 116-87 setback.

Adrian Hanks poured in 24 points for the Lasers, Jeff Riker had 20 and Eric Latendress chipped in 14. Steve Siechen also added 12 points for OCC. Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) had an outstanding game leading North Country with a game high 29 point performance. Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) tallied 15 and Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) finished with 14. Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, NY) had 12 points in the contest for the Saints.

North Country (9-10) will host the Word of Life Bible Institute Tuesday evening. Game time at Alumni Gymnasium is scheduled for 7 p.m.

NORTH COUNTRY 86 – ADIRONDACK C.C. 83

Friday, February 3, 2006

(GLENS FALLS) – Al Miller drained a three-pointer with three seconds to play Friday to lift North Country Community College men's basketball team to an 86-83 victory over Adirondack Community College.

Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) scored a game-high 29 points for the Saints while Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) and Karl Sims (Detroit, Michigan) tossed in 21 and 15 points, respectively. Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added 10 points for the NCCC win.

Andy Sherwin had a team-high 19 points for the Timberwolves, Dave Trotter had 15, Yhasin White scored 13, Frank Blanck added 12 and Sean Robinson collected 10.

North Country (9-9) returns to action on Saturday when they travel to Syracuse to take on Onondaga Community College. Game time is slated for 3 p.m.

JEFFERSON 73 – NORTH COUNTRY 69

Monday, January 30, 2006

(SARANAC LAKE) – North Country Community College men's basketball team fought valiantly but finally fell to Jefferson Community College 73-69 in a Region III contest on Monday evening.

Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) tallied 23 points to lead NCCC while Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) and Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) chipped in with 13 each.

With the score tied at 31-31 at halftime, the Saints gave the third ranked Cannoneers all they could handle before going down to their ninth loss of the season.

North Country (8-9) travels to Glens Falls Friday evening to face Adirondack Community College at 7 p.m.

NORTH COUNTRY 81 – PAUL SMITH'S 66

Thursday, January 26, 2006

(PAUL SMITHS) - North Country Community College freshman Elfred Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) blew away Paul Smith's College in the second half Thursday. The guard poured in 22 points after halftime to lead the Saints to an 81-66 win. Miller finished with 35 points, and four of six NCCC players hit in double figures.

"We shared the ball very well," North Country coach Chad LaDue said. "My starters had 78 of 81 points. They played really well together. It was probably the best 40 minutes we've played this year."

Karl Sims (Detroit, Michigan) had 12 points and nine rebounds, and Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) also scored 12. Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) added 11 points and 11 rebounds. North Country held a slim 35-32 lead at halftime.

"We didn't shoot real well, and we were in foul trouble the whole night," Paul Smith's coach Mark Cartmill said. "North Country (8-8) played very well; they moved the ball around well."

NORTH COUNTRY 71 – CLINTON 56

Saturday, January 21, 2006

(SARANAC LAKE) – After going 42 days between games, the North Country Community College men's basketball team celebrated its return to the court with a victory on Saturday. Five players hit in double figures as the Saints recorded a 71-56 win over Clinton Community College.

"I'm pleased to get a win and get guys back healthy," said North Country Community College head coach Chad Ladue. "We came back on January 14 and we'll get in some practices the next couple of weeks and hopefully be back to where we want to be."

Carl Sims (Detroit, Michigan) led the Saints (7-8) with 16 points and Mike Fields (Port St. Lucie, Florida) added 15. Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, NY) tossed in 11 points, and Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, NY) and John Ives (Ogdensburg, NY) each added 10.

"Volkmann played all 40 minutes and was outstanding," Ladue said. "Akey and Sims combined

for 27 points in the post for us and dominated the boards. "Fields came off the bench to give us 15 points and Ives got us going early when he hit two three's and had six of our first eight points."

North Country returns to action on Thursday when they travel to Paul Smith's to take on their arch-rivals. Game time is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Buxton Gymnasium.

NORTH COUNTRY 76 – COLUMBIA-GREENE 66

Monday, December 12, 2005

(HUDSON) - North Country Community College (6-8) wrapped up a three-game road trip, as well as the first semester, with a 76-66 win over Columbia-Greene Community College Monday night.

"It was our third game in three days and I was pretty pleased to end the semester with a regional win," said NCCC coach Chad LaDue. "I thought Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.), Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida), Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, N.Y.) and John Ives (Ogdensburg, N.Y.) all really played well at the guard positions tonight. Carl Sims (Detroit, Michigan), also played well down in the post."

Gilbert finished with 18 points, Miller 16, Volkmann seven and Ives, eight. Sims also added eight points for the Saints, who led 39-37 at halftime.

Andy Gonzalez led the Twins with 16 points, followed by James Cuyler with 12 and Darin Jenkins with 11.

PRINCE GEORGE'S C.C. 89 – NORTH COUNTRY 64

Sunday, December 11, 2005

(LINCROFT, N.J.) – North Country Community College men's basketball team fell 89-64 to a strong Prince George's Community College team on Sunday afternoon in the consolation game of the Brookdale Community College Holiday Invitational.

The Owls started slowly but eventually opened up a 16 point halftime lead. The Saints made a run at Prince George's in the second half and shaved the lead to eight before the Owls went on a 22-5 spurt to put the game out of reach.

Orlando Wright paced Prince George's with 15 points while Gary Heureaux and Leon Willis chipped in with 13 apiece. Will Gill contribute 11 points for the Owls.

"Even though the score might not indicate it I'm pretty happy with today's game," said North Country head coach Chad Ladue. "Prince George's is rated fifth in the Division II polls and has a tremendous team."

"Our guys got down by big margins twice but put up a fight and got back in to the game. "Eventually their depth and playing ability just wore us down. They are a well coached team."

Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) had another strong game for the Saints with a game high 21 points. Corey Polke (Lyons, Georgia) and Josh Delfino (Newfield, N.Y.) added 15 and 10 points respectively.

North Country (5-8) concludes first semester play tomorrow when they travel to Hudson to take on Columbia-Greene Community College. Game time is slated for 5 p.m.

TECHNICAL CAREER INSTITUTE 84 – NORTH COUNTRY 74

Saturday, December 10, 2005

LINCROFT, N.J. -- The North Country Community College men's basketball team squandered a nine-point lead with 11 minutes to go and dropped an 84-74 decision to the Technical Career Institute of New York City in the Brookdale Community College Invitational.

"We led until there were five minutes to go and they hit four three's to go up by eight with two to go," said North Country C.C. head coach Chad LaDue.

"We weren't strong with the ball near the end. All the teams in the tournament are very good and if we take care of the basketball, we're in the championship game."

Elfred Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) led the Saints (5-7) with 24 points and Corey Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added 18 points, to go along with eight rebounds.

"I thought Miller played remarkable," said LaDue. "At times, he was by far the best player on the court."

"Polke played extremely well and John Ives (Ogdensburg, N.Y.) came off the bench to have his best game of the year so far."

TCI outscored the Saints, 21-11, from the foul line and took 41 free throws to North Country's 12.

"Foul trouble has been the story of our season," said LaDue. "Opponents, on the average, are shooting 24 more four shots than we are."

"We also had 17 turnovers and that was way too many. The frustrating part is that teams are not pressuring us -- we're doing it to ourselves."

The Saints play Prince George, of Maryland, today.

"They're ranked fifth in Division II and that will be a tough one for us," LaDue said.

The Saints are at Columbia-Greene C.C. on Monday.

NORTH COUNTRY 78 – SUNY- CANTON 61

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

(CANTON) – After a season-high three losses in a row, the North Country Community College men's basketball team was anxious to pick up a victory.

The Saints (5-6) knocked off SUNY Canton 78-61 on Wednesday led by Elfred Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) and Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) who each finished with 16 points.

"Josh Delfino (Newfield, N.Y.) played really big in the first half for us down low," North Country head coach Chad Ladue said. "In the second half our guards, we went with four of them, played really well and got us on to a lead where we were comfortable."

"It was really nice to get a win since losing three in a row, which hasn't happened in awhile here."

Delfino finished with 12 points and nine rebounds for the Saints. Corey Polke (Lyons, Georgia)

tossed in 15 and Julian Howser (Austin, Texas) had seven points to go with his five assist.

Thomas Miller led the North Stars with 17 points while Tamar Fraser was close behind with 16. Fabian Terrazas chipped in with nine points.

North Country will play this weekend in the Brookdale Community College Holiday Invitational matching up with Technical Career Institute out of New York City at noon on Saturday.

ONONDAGA 87 – NORTH COUNTRY 81

Sunday, December 4, 2005

(SARANAC LAKE) - North Country Community College men's basketball head coach Chad LaDue felt the same way Sunday Clinton Community College head coach Kevin Daugherty did the day before.

Onondaga Community College took 48 foul shots as opposed to 21 for the Saints in rallying for an 87-81 victory. On Saturday, Onondaga C.C. took 23 foul shots to the Cougars' two in rallying for a 78-70 win over Clinton C.C.

"I've never been in a game like this where the other team shot 48 foul shots -- and in our own gym," said LaDue. "And, it wasn't like we were fouling on purpose." We held the lead all the way until six minutes were left in the game and it turned into a foul-shooting contest."

The visitors hit 22 field goals and 34-of-48 from the line, while the Saints (4-6) connected on 30 field goals and 16-of-21 from the charity stripe.

North Country C.C. played well in the first half and took a 36-25 lead into intermission. Onondaga C.C., however, scored 62 points in the second half when it shot 30 free throws.

Adrian Hanks poured in 27 points for Onondaga C.C., while Kenny Gethers added 18 and Justin Stern, 16. Alfred Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) and Julian Howser (Austin, Texas) tossed in 15 points each for North Country C.C., while Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) added 13 and Josh Delfino (Newfield, N.Y.), 12.

The Saints return to the court on Wednesday at SUNY Canton.

COBLESKIL 83 – NORTH COUNTRY 66

Saturday, December 3, 2005

(COBLESKILL) – The Saint's (4-5) fell behind early and were never able to catch up.

Mike Lawrence scored 20 points, Steve Chapman 19 and Joshua Fullerton 18 for SUNY Cobleskill, which took a 45-31 lead at the half.

"They jumped on us early and we couldn't make foul shots," said NCCC head coach Chad Ladue. "We missed nine in the first half. We dug ourselves too deep a hole. We cut it to eight early in the second half and they went on a run. It was pretty much a 15-point game the rest of the way."

Josh Delfino (Newfield, N.Y.) tossed in 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Saints. Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) added seven points and nine boards, while Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) contributed 10 points.

North Country will host Onondaga C.C. tomorrow at 1p.m.

HERKIMER 81 – NORTH COUNTRY 63

Thursday, December 1, 2005

(HERKIMER) - Herkimer County Community College opened with a 9-0 run Thursday and led by double digits much of the game, eventually picking up an 81-63 win over North Country C.C.

Kenyon Jackson poured in 26 points for the Generals (6-5), and Maleke Robinson scored 16. Saints coach Chad LaDue said Herkimer took control from the get-go.

North Country (4-4) cut the Generals' lead to seven near the end of the first half, but Herkimer surged and led 45-30 at halftime. "They just definitely came out and put it to us early," LaDue said. "We dug too big of a hole." North Country couldn't get closer than 12 points in the second half.

El Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) led the Saints with 16 points, and Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) added 14. Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, N.Y.) chipped in eight points.

North Country travels to Cobleskill on Saturday for a 1p.m. meeting with the Tigers.

NORTH COUNTRY 102 – ALBANY PHARMACY 59

Tuesday, November 30, 2005

(ALBANY) – Karl Sims (Detroit, Michigan) tossed in 18 points, Julian Howser (Austin, Texas) and Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) chipped in 17 each, to lead North Country Community College to a 102 – 59 pummeling of Albany Pharmacy in Northern Independence Conference men's basketball action Tuesday.

The Saints, who captured their third straight win, jumped out to a 55-20 halftime lead and coasted to victory. Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) tallied 14 points for NCCC and Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, N.Y.) had 10. Howser dished out eight assists in the contest and Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, N.Y.) handed out six. Freshman center Josh Delphino (Newfield, N.Y.) collected 11 rebounds to lead the Saints.

Brian Jones tallied 20 points for the Panthers in the loss Ramy Ramzy had 16.

North Country (4-3) travels to Herkimer Thursday to battle the Generals beginning at 7 p.m.

NORTH COUNTRY 106 – WORD OF LIFE 72

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

(SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.) – The North Country Community College men's basketball team quite possibly could have finally found their groove.

The Saints picked up their second straight victory Tuesday night with a 106- 72 victory over Word of Life to even their record at 3-3.

"We played really well on Saturday against a very good team," North Country head coach Chad Ladue said. "Tonight we came out firing on all cylinders and we used good defense to provide

easy fast break opportunities.”

Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) led four Saints in double figures with 24 points while adding five assists. Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) knocked down 18 points with John Ives (Ogdensburg, N.Y.) hitting for 13. Josh Delfino (Newfield, N.Y.) chipped in with 11 points and 14 rebounds.

“We are back to 3-3 now and we are where we need to be heading into the Thanksgiving break,” Ladue said. “We have to try to get better every day though. We have a tough schedule in the month of December with quite a few road games. These are quality teams we are going up against. We have to come back from Thanksgiving break ready to play.”

North Country (3-3) returns to action on Tuesday, November 29 when they travel to Albany to take on the Albany College of Pharmacy. Game time is scheduled for 7 p.m.

NORTH COUNTRY 88 – TOMPKINS-CORTLAND 76

Saturday, November 12, 2005

(SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.) – North Country Community College picked up a strong victory at home over Tompkins-Cortland Community College 88-76 on Saturday.

Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) led a balanced Saints scoring attack with 17 points and five assists.

“This was by far our best 40 minutes of basketball,” North Country head coach Chad Ladue said. “We played a complete game today. 10 guys played and we had five players hit double figures. They shared the ball and the defensive intensity was outstanding.”

Cory Polke (Lyons, Georgia) tossed in 13 points, grabbed eight rebounds and had four steals. Josh Delfino (Newfield, N.Y.) added 12 points and eight rebounds, Julian Howser (Austin, Texas) 11 points and six assists, and Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) 10 points.

The Panthers were paced by Jared Martin’s 20 points, including a trio of three’s. Tony Toulson added 18 in the loss.

North Country (2-3) is back on the court on Tuesday when they host the Word of Life Bible Institute at 7 p.m.

JEFFERSON 82 – NORTH COUNTRY 62

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

(WATERTOWN, N.Y.) The North Country Community College men’s basketball team ran in to a hot shooting Jefferson Community College team on Tuesday evening as the Cannoneers sank nine 3- point field goals to cruise to an 82-62 victory over the Saints.

Marcus Hall paced the Jefferson CC attack with 20 points while Donate King chipped in with 19, including five 3- pointers. Josh Delfino (Newfield, N.Y.) led the Saints with 12 points.

The Cannoneers jumped out to an early lead behind the clutch shooting of King, who connected on all of his 3-pointers in the first half. Trailing 47-36 at the half North Country cut in to the deficit but were unable to overcome a strong performance by Jefferson from the foul line. JCC was impressive from the line, going 23-30 on the evening.

"It's tough to beat someone when they get 22 more chances from the foul line than your team," said NCCC coach Chad Ladue. "I told our guys that this was part of playing on the road. I explained to them that they need to play through this type of frustration and continue to battle no matter what."

North Country (1-3) returns to action on Saturday when they host Tompkins-Cortland Community College. Game time is set for 3 p.m.

NORTH COUNTRY 85 – ADIRONDACK 74

Sunday, November 6, 2005

(SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.) – Four players hit in double figures Sunday afternoon as North Country Community College picked up its first win of the season with an 85-74 decision over Adirondack Community College.

Julian Howser (Austin, Texas) led the Saints with 18 points, while Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) added 14. Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) and Joe Akey (Ausable Forks, N.Y.) chipped in with 11 and 10 points respectively.

"It was our first win of the season and we were fighting back after a close loss yesterday," said North Country CC head coach Chad Ladue. "Howser and Miller are our 1-2 players and they had their best games of the season so far. We played 14 players and 11 of them scored. It was a nice team win."

The Saints (1-2) are back on the court Tuesday when they travel to Watertown to take on Jefferson Community College. Game time is at 8 p.m.

HUDSON VALLEY 78 – NORTH COUNTRY 67

Saturday, November 5, 2005

(TROY, N.Y.) - The North Country Community College men's basketball team fell to Hudson Valley Community College 78-67 on Saturday afternoon.

J.R. Battle led the Vikings with 23 points. Marques Gilbert (Bronx, N.Y.) was the leading scorer for the Saints with 14 points and Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, N.Y.) chipped in with 11.

The Vikings opened up a 43-30 lead at the half before the Saints battled back to within six points on two occasions. Hudson Valley finally pulled away in the waning moments of the game using a strong performance from the foul line for the final margin of victory. The Vikings went 21-31 (67.7%) from the charity stripe while the Saints were just 8-11 (72.7%).

North Country (0-2) returns to action on Sunday afternoon when they host Adirondack Community College in their home opener. Game time at Sparks Hall Gymnasium is 1 p.m.

CLINTON 70 – NORTH COUNTRY 65

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

(PLATTSBURGH, N.Y.) - The North Country Community College men's basketball team opened up their 2005-2006 campaign with a 70-65 loss to Northern Independence Conference rival Clinton Community College.

Philip Barnes paced the Cougars attack with a game high 32 points and Issac Dirolf chipped in with 10. Ryan Volkmann (Bolton Landing, N.Y.) had a strong game at the point guard position, posting 13 points for the Saints. Freshman Al Miller (Fort Pierce, Florida) contributed 12 in his first game in a North Country uniform.

Behind a balanced scoring attack, the Saints opened up an early lead and took a 35-31 advantage into the intermission. Unfortunately, Clinton hung tough and finally pulled a head at the 13:45 mark of the second half. In the waning moments of the contest, North Country poured on the pressure, but the Cougars refused to fold and came away with their first victory of the season.

“We took too many quick shots and did not work the ball as well as we could have,” said NCCC coach Chad Ladue. “There was far too much one-on-one play and we found ourselves in several ‘one shot and done’ situations offensively.”

North Country (0-1) returns to action on Saturday when they travel to Troy to face Hudson Valley Community College at 1 p.m.