

# LIVING ROOM TIMES

## BINDER UPDATE

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1999  
POSTSEASON BASKETBALL SPECIAL

### March 1: Let the madness begin

#### CCSU one win away from "big dance"

Mickens, Devils play for NEC title tonight after stunning top seed

Central Connecticut State University and former Newington superstar Rick Mickens are one game away from qualifying for the NCAA Tournament.

The Blue Devils, seeded #4 in the Northeast Conference tournament, stunned top seed University of Maryland-Baltimore County Sunday night and advanced to tonight's championship against #6-seed Mount St. Mary's.

Mickens scored 16 points on 6-for-10 shooting from the floor and added 5 rebounds. He was his team's second leading scorer behind Corsley Edwards, who scored 23.

Central had lost to UMBC twice in the regular season before beating them Sunday night. Now, the Devils must defeat a team they have beaten twice this year — the Mountaineers of Mount St. Mary's, whose coach will be aiming for his 600th win tonight.

The game is at 9:30 PM in Staten Island, New York. It will be carried on ESPN2 and ESPN Radio.

#### TODAY'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Metro Atlantic:** St. Peter's vs. Siena, 7:30 PM, ESPN

**Northeast:** Central CT vs. Mount St. Mary's, 9:30 PM, ESPN2

**West Coast:** Gonzaga vs. Santa Clara, 12 midnight, ESPN

#### Wild finish sends Murray St. dancing

Teams combine for three baskets in final 15 seconds; Racers win on buzzer 3-pointer, advance to NCAA's

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**— Twice this year Southeast Missouri has had a victory over Murray State within reach and twice Aubrey Reese has turned those wins into losses.

Reese hit a running one-handed shot at the buzzer Sunday to give Murray State a 62-61 victory against Southeast Missouri in

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#### George Mason tops Old Dominion Earns first trip to NCAA tourney in ten years

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)**— Jason Miskiri's 3-pointer with 1:05 left gave George Mason a 57-53 lead, and the Patriots made six of eight free throws in the final 45 seconds Sunday to beat Old Dominion 63-58 for the Colonial Athletic Association tournament championship.

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**ALREADY IN:** Winthrop, Samford, Stanford, College of Charleston, Murray State, George Mason

### For #26-seed Newington, a tall order

#### CIAC Class LL girls basketball first round

#26 Newington (9-11)  
at #7 Trumbull (16-4),  
7:00 PM

They may have dodged the twin undefeateds — NFA, Guilford, and Norwalk — but Newington's girls basketball Indians will face a formidable challenge when they reach the destination of their long bus ride this afternoon to take on #7-seed Trumbull.

Trumbull, although not ranked in the *Hartford Courant* coaches poll, was second in the Fairfield County Conference West, a division which includes #8-ranked Fairfield, the #5-seed in the Class LL tournament. Trumbull defeated New Britain, a team which beat Newington twice this season, 47-41 on opening night in interconference play.

## Murray St. wins on 3-pointer at buzzer

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the Ohio Valley Conference championship game. In January, his leaning bank shot with one tenth of a second left gave the Racers a 71-70 victory.

"I'm sick of him," Southeast Missouri coach Gary Garner said.

Reese's game-winner, from just inside the 3-point line, came five

seconds after Southeast Missouri's Kahn Cotton hit a long 3-pointer over Reese to give the Indians a 61-60 lead.

Following a timeout, Reese took an inbound pass and raced the length of the court, getting off his shot with less than a second remaining.

"Instead of being the goat, I had to switch right back and be the hero," said Reese, the tournament MVP. "(Cotton) made a good shot and I knew I had to come down and make an even better shot."

First-year coach Tevester Anderson said he was comfortable with Reese taking the last shot.

"Aubrey's done it three or four times throughout the year. He has no conscience," Anderson said.

It was the third straight OVC championship for the Racers (27-5), who are heading to the NCAA Tournament for a third straight year. It also was their 15th straight victory over the Indians (20-9).

Reese and Duane Virgil scored 16 points each, while teammate Isaac Spencer had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Southeast Missouri's Bud Eley, the OVC player of the year, had 20 points, 17 rebounds and seven assists. Mike Branson had 18 points and Cotton 13.

Both teams were sloppy at the outset. Southeast Missouri didn't score until Branson made two free throws nearly 4½ minutes into the game to pull the Indians within 7-2.

Murray State dominated the boards during the half, outrebounding Southeast Missouri 23-9. But the Racers also were careless, turning over the ball 12 times to just six for Southeast Missouri, which led 31-29 at the break.

The Indians opened the second half with a 9-2 run and took their largest lead, 40-31, on a dunk and free throw by Eley. Murray State chipped away and regained the lead 47-46 on a free throw by Reese.

With the game tied at 58, Reese made a jumper with 15 seconds remaining. Cotton sank a 3-pointer from six feet behind the arc with five seconds left, setting the stage for Reese's heroics.

"It was the kind of game that we expected," Garner said. "I thought it would be right down to the wire. We did everything I could have expected. Reese just made a big shot."

Murray State outrebounded Southeast Missouri 47-30 and outshot the Indians 50 percent to 44 percent.

The all-tournament team was Reese, Spencer, Virgil, Eley and Branson.

## George Mason holds on, beats ODU

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The victory capped the Patriots first winning season and NCAA Tournament invitation since 1989-90, and first regular-season championship.

Keith Holdan hit a 3-pointer with 7:49 left to cap a 13-2 run by the Patriots (19-10) for a 45-32 lead. The Monarchs (24-8) turned the ball over 22 times as every inbound was contested by the pressing Patriots.

The Monarchs started to rally at the 4:49 mark when Michael Williams hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 49-41. After George Evans hit a baseline hook to push the lead back to double digits, the Monarchs went on 12-3 run, getting seven points from the foul line, to pull within 54-53 with 1:39 left on a pair of free throws by Cal Bowdler.

Miskiri then hit his first 3-pointer of the game. On the ensuing possession, Bowdler grabbed an offensive rebound with 45.3 seconds left and was gathering

himself for the putback when Miskiri stripped him of the ball and was fouled. Miskiri made one of two free throws for a 58-53 lead, and Old Dominion was forced to foul.

Miskiri and Evans, the tournament's most valuable player, finished with 15 points apiece, while Holdan added 11. Miskiri was 1-for-5 from long range.

Williams led the Monarchs with 15 points, Bowdler had 11 points, 16 rebounds and five blocks, and Reggie Bassette added 11 points.

The Patriots started slow, shooting only 20 percent (3-of-15) in the first nine minutes, trailing 13-8. Then the George Mason press started paying dividends with back-to-back turnovers in the backcourt accounting for five points in nine seconds and 20-16 lead.

Old Dominion turned the ball over 11 times in the first half and trailed 26-24 at the half.