NCAA Division III Men’s Basketball Tournament

First Round
Tufts University vs. Endicott College
Friday, March 3, 2006; Whitney T. Corey Gymnasium; Cortland, N.Y.

FINAL SCORE: Tufts 83, Endicott 60

CORTLAND, N.Y. – Senior Dan Martin (Sandwich, MA/Phillips Andover) scored 20 points on 9-of-13 shooting and sophomore Ryan O’Keefe (Everett, MA) made 8-of-13 shots in an 18-point effort as Tufts University defeated Endicott College, 83-60, in the opening round of the NCAA Division III tournament at SUNY Cortland’s Corey Gymnasium.

The Jumbos improve to 22-6, tying a school single-season school record for victories set during the 1972-73 season. Tufts will face either Cortland or UMass Boston in the second round Saturday at 7 p.m. at Cortland.

Endicott, making its third straight NCAA appearance, finishes the season with a 19-10 record. Senior forward Matt George (Dover, NH) led the Gulls with 21 points, eight rebounds and five assists and senior Zach Ellis (Westford, MA/Westford Academy) added 15 points.

Tufts shot 59 percent from the floor, including 63 percent (20-of-32) in the second half. Five Jumbos scored in double figures. In addition to Martin and O’Keefe, junior David Shepherd (Grantham, NH/Proctor) scored 12 points, junior Brian Kumf (Milford, MA) scored 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and sophomore Jake Weitzen (New York City/Bronx H.S. of Science) finished with 10 points and seven assists off the bench. Sophomore Jeremy Black (Jamesville/Jamesville-DeWitt) also tallied seven assists for Tufts.

Tufts led 28-22 with 4:15 left in the first half before finishing the period on a 10-4 run to take a 38-26 lead at the break. The Jumbos led by at least 12 points the entire second half. Endicott cut a 66-45 deficit with nine minutes remaining to 66-52 with 7:51 left, but Tufts re-extended its advantage to as much as 25 points with 1:29 remaining.

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