NORTHERN ARIZONA 74, KENT STATE 73 (OT)   **Quarterfinals: March 27, 2015**

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – You had to stay for the entire game in order to get the complete picture of Northern Arizona's 74-73 overtime thriller versus Kent State in the quarterfinals of the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. The Lumberjacks never led in overtime until the final basket when senior guard Quinton Upshur dropped in the game-winning layup to stun the Golden Flashes and send NAU into the semifinals.

"I haven't been a part of many like that where you're down by five with 30 seconds and come back. That was pretty special," said head coach Jack Murphy. "They have had fight and a never give up attitude all season and that's what I love about this team. Tonight was electric. To see this many fans cheering us on at home was a great feeling. I knew something special was in the air, and I hope we can carry this momentum over to next week."

There were nine ties and nine lead changes through the second half as Kris Yanku connected on a free throw with 1:24 to go in the second half to tie the game at 61-All. NAU had two chances to win it in the second half with time winding down, but neither shot would fall as the 'Jacks and Golden Flashes were headed to overtime.

NAU trailed by as many as five points in overtime, but a 6-0 run by the Lumberjacks to end the game is what put the icing on the cake.

Northern Arizona played lockdown defense allowing only nine points in the first nine minutes of the game. NAU held Kent State scoreless for 4:40 in the first half as the Lumberjacks climbed out to a 13-9 lead halfway through the first 20 minutes.

It was a back and forth first half with four lead changes and the score tied four times. The Lumberjacks forced six turnovers that led to 12 points. With a minute left in the first half, NAU reclaimed the lead off a Zachary Reynolds layup as the Lumberjacks went into halftime with a 25-23 lead. Seven players from Northern Arizona scored in the first half including every starter. Leading NAU was Aaseem Dixon with eight points, two rebounds and an assist. Len Springs made his presence felt with five points while

pulling down seven rebounds.

Kent State shot just 24.2 percent from the field but Derek Jackson scored 10 points off 4-for-6 shooting from the field.

Northern Arizona held onto the lead for the first five minutes of the second half until Kent State tied the game at 33-All at the 15:03 mark. Jackson continued to be the focal point on offense for the Golden Flashes with five points in the first five minutes. NAU responded with a 14-5 run over 4:35 to retake the game at 39-35.

Kent State climbed all the way back from a nine-point deficit to take the 58-56 lead with 3:16 left in the game. From the 6:08 mark to 3:11, NAU didn't score missing six straight shots. Kris Yanku tied the game at 58-All with two free throws with 2:42 to go. Upshur was able to grab the steal and slammed down a dunk giving NAU the 60-58 advantage with 2:07 left. After a three-pointer by Kent State to take the one-point lead, Yanku tied the game with a made free throw at 61-All.

Jackson looked to give Kent State the lead but a block by Springs sent the game into overtime. Although Kent State controlled the majority of overtime, it was NAU that came away with the one-point win in front of 3,653 fans.

"We cannot thank the crowd enough for their support tonight," said Dixon. "Coach (Murphy) told us to trust each other and we would be able to pull this out and that's exactly what we did."

Jordyn Martin recorded his second career double-double of 15 points and 14 rebounds, while Springs registered his first career double-double of 10 points and 14 rebounds, plus three blocked shots. It was the first time this season two Lumberjacks had a double-double in the same game. Yanku finished with a team-high 19 points and Sixon added 16 points.

Devareaux Manley led Kent State with 25 points, while Jackson added 18 points. Jimmy Hall had a double-double of 16 points and 14 rebounds. The Golden Flashes ended their season 23-12 overall.