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MEN'S BASKETBALL CSU 53 DETROIT 44

Vikings survive poor 2nd half

Sunday, January 04, 2009

Joe Maxse

Plain Dealer Reporter

Detroit- Cleveland State was looking for the right kind of en core performance on Saturday night. The Vikings got it.

For the second straight season, the CSU men's basketball team was able to come home after a victory against the University of Detroit Mercy, bouncing the Titans in Calihan Hall, 53-44. Since 1936, CSU and its Fenn College forerunner had to endure 21 straight losing trips to the Motor City before these two wins.

It also helped ease the angst of Tuesday's 71-62 loss at Wright State, a game in which the Vikings were anything but solid.

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"It was a tale of two halves," said CSU coach Gary Waters, whose club led by 16 points early in the second half. "We played very well in the first, and we were tentative in the second. They came after us."

The Titans did just that as they had the CSU lead down to 42-40 with five minutes to go. That's when the Vikings had to find a zone buster.

Give credit to CSU freshman guard Trevon Harmon for coming through when it looked as if this one could get away. With the CSU offense in a quandary after the Titans switched to a 2-3 zone, Harmon hit consecutive 3-pointers to give the Vikings the deciding cushion.

His second 3-pointer put the Vikings in front, 49-41, with 3:23 to go.

CSU was forced to go with a different starting lineup for the first time this season when sophomore forward D'Aundray Brown had to sit out with a shoulder injury. He is day to day.

The Vikings improved to 11-5 and stand even in the Horizon League at 2-2. The Titans, under first-year coach Ray McCallum, dropped to 4-9 and 0-4 in the league.

After shooting 22 percent in the first half in the loss to WSU, the Vikings had it going in the first half as they made just more than half their shots (12-for-23) to take command. Senior forward J'Nathan Bullock scored 10 of his game-high 12 points in the half, connecting on both of his 3-point

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