

DUKESTURF



The JMU men's basketball team celebrates the 2013 CAA Championship with JMU Nation. The Dukes won in the NCAA tournament first-round (68-55) over LIU-Brooklyn before losing to top-seeded Indiana University (83-62).

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STORIES BY DAVID TAYLOR ('85)

Seniors, freshmen shine in men's basketball postseason glory

Eight busloads of students and thousands of others from the "JMU Nation" turned the Richmond Coliseum into a sea of purple on March 11. They had come to witness Madison's first men's basketball conference championship in 19 years, and the Dukes responded by rocketing to a 22-point first-half lead over top-seeded Northeastern and cruising to the historic 70-57 victory. The championship clinched JMU's first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 1994.

"There's tremendous school spirit here. It's really unlike anything I've seen," JMU Coach Matt Brady told an ESPN reporter after the win.

Brady's talented, but perennially injury-prone squad ended Madison's title drought largely due to fifth-year seniors A.J. Davis, Devon Moore and Rayshawn Goins. Davis ('13) scored a championship game-high 26 points on his way to being named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

The win ignited nationwide interest in the Dukes, and when JMU took the floor in the NCAA Tournament, dozens of game-watching parties had sprung up across the country. This time, the Dukes' talented corp of freshmen were on point for Madison's first NCAA tournament victory in 30 seasons.

In a game-changing three-minute period in JMU's opening-round contest against LIU-Brooklyn, freshman Andre Nation scored four points, grabbed three rebounds, blocked a shot and dished out an assist. Nation scored 14 points and added

seven rebounds, four assists and a career-high five blocks in the 68-55 win. Fellow freshman Charles Cook ('16) added 15, while Davis chipped in a team-high 20.

JMU's run ended two days later in an 83-62 loss to top-seeded Indiana University, but the 2012-13 Dukes had clearly put Madison basketball back on the map.

JMU Nation cheers on the Dukes over LIU-Brooklyn in the first round of the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament March 20 at Dayton, Ohio.

