

CITRUS TOPS FRESNO, 94-84 TO EARN BERTH VS. CCSF IN SUNDAY'S STATE FINALS

VENTURA— With five players scoring in double figures, Citrus College ran past Fresno City College, 94-84, to earn a berth opposite City College of San Francisco in Sunday's 1 p.m. California Community College Athletic Association men's basketball championship game at Ventura College.

The Owls (29-5) from Glendora put an end to the 25-game win streak Fresno brought into Friday's state semifinal clash at Ventura. Fresno also was the only team to defeat San Francisco (31-1) this season.

Fresno rallied from a 20-point second half deficit (76-56 with 9:11 left) to close the margin to five points with 1:09 remaining on a layup by Earl Jefferson. But the Rams failed to score again.

Guard Lateef McMullan led the Owls with 19 points. DJ Shelton had 16 points and a game high nine rebounds. Hakeem Washington had 14 points, while Jacob Ranger and Garrett Jefferson each tallied 10. McMullan and Ranger each hit a trio of 3-pointers. Donnel Phifer had six assists to key a 20-13 advantage by Citrus in that category.

Quentin Watkins, who led Fresno's late rally, was the top scorer with 31 and Percy Lemle had 13.

After an even start – four ties and four lead changes – Citrus broke a 16-all tie with a 10-0 run over a two and a half minute span to take a 26-16 lead mid-way through the first half.

Citrus led by 12 at 39-27 with 2:47 left in the half and by the same margin at the break, 44-32.

STATE FINALS A REMATCH OF 1962:

Citrus last won a state basketball title in 2008, while CCSF has not captured a championship since 1962 – when the Rams defeated Citrus for the crown. Those are the only times Citrus has made the finals.

WOMEN'S SEMIS ON SATURDAY;

Pairings for women's semifinal games on Saturday evening at Ventura College:

5 p.m. -- City College of San Francisco (26-5) vs. Cypress (21-10);

7 p.m. -- Santa Rosa JC (26-6) vs. Mt. San Antonio (29-3).

Women's championship contest on Sunday will follow the men's game, at 3:30 p.m.

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