

## Erie Fights Off Monroe for Shot at National Championship

Number-two seeded Erie Community College (21-4) defeated number-three seeded Monroe Community (18-4), 4-3, in the NJCAA national semi-final game at Hudson Valley Community College on Saturday, Mar. 6. It was the fourth time the two rivals have battled this season. Erie had won two of the previous three matchups going into today's contest.

The Kats from Erie jumped out to a 2-0 lead early in the second period on a **PJ Brown (Lancaster, Depew, NY)** goal. Erie then had a two-man advantage with the opportunity to increase their lead when they turned the puck over and gave up a breakaway that resulted in a penalty shot. Erie goaltender, **Bryan Kalczynski (Wheatfield Blades, Lancaster, NY)** defended the penalty shot and Erie held onto its two-goal lead. Still with the two-man advantage, Erie's **Ryan Vertino (Green Island, Green Island, NY)** scored a goal on a pass from **Todd Lyness (North Tonawanda, North Tonawanda, NY)** moments later to take a 3-0 lead.

After Monroe looked dead in the water, they Tribunes made a furious comeback, capitalizing on Erie penalties. Monroe scored three-straight power play goals to knot the game at three with 7:15 remaining. The equalizer was scored by **Corey Hume (Merivale, Ottawa, ON)**. Less than a minute later, Monroe picked up an unsportsmanlike penalty and handed Erie the power play opportunity in the waning moments of the contest. Erie took full advantage as Brown buried his second goal and eventual game-winner with six minutes to go. Monroe had its chances as they pulled their goalie and nearly tied the game with under a minute to play. Erie outlasted the Monroe onslaught and skated away with the 4-3 victory

Erie will take on the Dakota College at Bottineau at 2 p.m. tomorrow, Sunday, Mar. 7, for the NJCAA National Championship.

Erie Scoring:

Per. 1, Todd Lyness (16:52) – 1<sup>st</sup> assist – Ryan Vertino

Per. 2, PJ Brown (3:11) – 1<sup>st</sup> assist – Phil Difransisco

Per. 2, Ryan Vertino (8:20) – 1<sup>st</sup> assist – Todd Lyness, 2<sup>nd</sup> assist – Theo Alger

Per. 3, PJ Brown (13:42) – 1<sup>st</sup> assist – Tom Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> assist – Phil Difransisco

Erie Goaltending:

Player	Shots	Saves	GA	Save%	Min.
Bryan Kalczynski	38	35	3	.921	60

Monroe Scoring:

Per. 2, Josh Bechard (19:12) – 1<sup>st</sup> assist – Aaron Hildreth

Per. 3, Ryan Ford (10:51) – 1<sup>st</sup> assist – Cory Hume, 2<sup>nd</sup> assist – Josh Bechard

Per. 3, Cory Hume (12:46) – 1<sup>st</sup> assist – Dom Markajani, 2<sup>nd</sup> assist – Aaron Hildreth

Monroe Goaltending:

Player	Shots	Saves	GA	Save%	Min.
Jess Labrecque	29	25	4	.862	60

\*No new records