Breaking Sports: Biola ends Lights' run
Biola 59, Lights 48
Thursday, March 17th, 2011

The Montana State University-Northern men's basketball team had one great run left in it this season. Unfortunately, the 13th seeded Biola Eagles made sure it wasn't enough. The 19th-ranked Lights' season came to a heartbreaking end late Thursday night at the NAIA national tournament in Kansas City, via a 59-48 first-round loss to the 13th-ranked Eagles. The loss brought Northern's thrilling season to an end with a sparkling 24-9 overall record.

MSU-N shrugged off a terrible start, in which the Lights trailed the Eagles 30-17 at halftime and scored only nine points in the first 13 minutes of the game, by storming back in the second stanza. Northern went on a 12-2 run and cut Biola's lead all the way down to 43-41 with just over minutes to play. But that's where it ended for the Lights as the Eagles (27-7) outscored Northern 16-5 in the final five minutes to advance to Friday night's second round against 4th-seeded LSU-Shreveport.

While Biola's size was a major concern going in, it was the Eagles guards which made the difference. Curtis Eatmon scored a game-high 16 points, while Nate Rakestraw and Dwight Gordon combined for 20. The Lights' shooting was another factor. MSU-N went just 6-for-22 from three for the game, and shot a dismal 27 percent from the field in the first half. LaVon Myers scored 13 points and Joe Simpson added 10 in the loss.

For full coverage, see Friday's Havre Daily News.