



Brentwood Dominates Glass in Victory over Commack

By Chris Palermo

Brentwood's athleticism and rebounding were too much for Commack to overcome, giving the impressive young 7th seeded Indians the 2023 Suffolk County Class AA Championship 68-46. Commack had beaten Brentwood twice during the regular season. It's not often a player leads the way with his rebounding, but Frederic Diogene did exactly that, hauling down 18 to go with his 10 points and 3 steals.

Brentwood came out of the gate with a smothering defense that kept Commack off the scoreboard. Commack missed its first 10 shots, finally scoring its first basket with 2:06 left in the first quarter.

The Cougars rallied in the second quarter; trimming the margin to a 24-18 at the half, but the third quarter played out similarly to the first - with Commack struggling to score. At one point, Brentwood outscored them 14-1 and the teams headed into the final period with Brentwood holding a commanding 41-24 lead.

While Commack was able to get leading scorer Michael Gitz on track (he'd score 10 of his team-high 16 points in the fourth quarter); Brentwood's Jeremiah Webb surgically carved them apart with 6 assists in the quarter and although Commack played its best basketball of the game; they were still outscored 27-22 in the quarter. Despite the disappointing finish, it was a historic season for the Cougars, who played for their first ever Selection 11 title. Brentwood has participated in 17 and won 11 large school titles over the years.

For the game, Brentwood outrebounded Commack 37-20 (including 16 offensive boards). The Indians shot 51 percent from the field – mostly on fast break transition baskets; and held Commack to 33 percent from the floor.

Webb finished with 14 points, 4 boards and 8 assists, and Marquese Dennis added 14 points and 6 rebounds. Tyrell Davender and Devon Snell had 11 and 10 points respectively. Josh Ramos – plagued by foul trouble—ended with 7; including two layups that elicited oohs and aahs from the crowd.

Gitz's 16 led Commack, while Christopher McHugh chipped in with 9 points and 11 rebounds. Brentwood's next game will be in the Suffolk County Tournament of Champions, facing the winner of the Kings Park – Southampton game, next Saturday, March 4, at Stony Brook University at 2:30pm. They also advance to the state tournament, where they'll face the Section VIII champion on March 11th.