

NCAA DIVISION II ELITE EIGHT TOURNAMENT CAPSULE: Semifinal Game #1

March 24, 2016 at Dr. Pepper Arena, Frisco, Texas, 6 p.m., Central Time

#1 seed Lincoln Memorial

Head Coach: Josh Schertz (8th season)

Overall Record: 33-2

Conference Record: 22-0 (South Atlantic Conference)

vs. Top 25 Teams: 4-1

vs. NCAA Field: 11-2

NCAA Record: 8-5

NCAA Appearance: 6th (1st Elite Eight)

Last Appearance: 2015

2016 Tournament Results (Southeast Regional):

Reg. Quarterfinals: Def. Lander 98-71

Reg. Semifinals: Def. Queens (N.C.) 95-67

Reg. Championship: Def. Lenoir-Rhyne 103-80

Quarterfinals: Def. Barry 93-75

Probable Starters:

	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG
#12 Gerel Simmons	6-2	Sr.	20.5	4.1
#15 Dorian Pinson	6-5	So.	9.9	7.1
#20 Luquon Choice	6-3	Jr.	17.1	4.3
#24 Jalen Steele	6-3	Sr.	16.8	4.3
#33 Emanuel Terry	6-9	So.	7.3	5.7

[Season Statistics](#)

[Season Schedule & Results](#)

Game Notes:

Lincoln Memorial was the last of the five teams in this year's Elite Eight to hold the No. 1 ranking in the NABC coaches poll, gaining that ranking in the year's final poll. The Railsplitters, who made the field by winning their regional championship, have held the nation's top ranking at least once in each of the last two years.

LMU has defeated its opponents by an average of 20.1 points per game – the highest margin in the nation – and ranks second in Division II in scoring with an average of 96.5 points per game. It is also the best three-point shooting team in the country at 44.5 percent on the year, headed by Luquon Choice at 48.2 percent (122 made), Gerel Simmons at 47.6 percent (79 made) and Jalen Steele at 43.9 percent (118 made); the Railsplitters have made 390 three-point shots this season. Choice and Steele rank second and fourth in the nation, respectively, in three-pointers per game and own LMU's top two single-season marks in that department.

In addition to its offensive numbers, Lincoln Memorial is also seventh nationally in rebounding margin at plus 7.8 per game and ninth with 5.1 blocked shots per contest.

The Railsplitters currently own a 23-game winning streak – LMU's only losses were on the road to NCAA Tournament participants King and Bellarmine – and went 27-0 in games against teams from the South Atlantic Conference during the year. LMU is the first team from the SAC to reach the NCAA Division II national semifinals.

#4 seed West Liberty

Head Coach: Jim Crutchfield (11th season)

Overall Record: 31-3

Conference Record: 20-2 (Mountain East Conference)

vs. Top 25 Teams: 3-1

vs. NCAA Field: 7-3

NCAA Record: 24-7

NCAA Appearance: 8th (5th Elite Eight)

Last Appearance: 2015

2016 Tournament Results (South Regional):

Reg. Quarterfinals: Def. Concord 90-69

Reg. Semifinals: Def. Virginia State 84-74

Reg. Championship: Def. Kutztown 85-64

Quarterfinals: Def. Stonehill 75-74

Probable Starters:

	Ht.	Yr.	PPG	RPG
#3 David Dennis, Jr.	6-1	Fr.	13.6	5.6
#4 Devin Hoehn	6-2	Jr.	15.7	3.9
#5 Seger Bonifant	6-7	Sr.	24.9	5.3
#22 Zac Grossenbacher	6-8	Jr.	12.3	9.4
#24 Mike Lamberti	6-5	Sr.	8.6	4.4

[Season Statistics](#)

[Season Schedule & Results](#)

Game Notes:

West Liberty is in the Elite Eight for the fifth time – all in the last six campaigns – and again brings the nation's top scoring offense to the event as the Hilltoppers have averaged 98.3 points per game this season. WLU, one of five teams in the Elite Eight to hold the No. 1 ranking this year, surpassed the 100-point mark on 14 occasions.

Seger Bonifant, one of 25 players on the Bevo Francis Award watch list, is the top scorer among the eight participants in the Elite Eight with an average of 24.9 points per game; he is sixth in the nation in scoring. Bonifant, who had a double-double with 22 points and 11 rebounds, in the quarterfinals, is also fifth in three-pointers made with 112 and has made them at a 49.6 percent clip, the third-best mark in the nation. In the Atlantic Regional final victory over Kutztown, he became the school's all-time leading scorer and has 2,245 points in his career.

Two of the five projected starters for West Liberty, Devin Hoehn and Mike Lamberti, started for WLU in the 2014 national championship game against Central Missouri. Bonifant also played in that contest and in the quarterfinals that year, went six-of-six from three-point range to help eliminate defending national champion Drury.

West Liberty has connected 406 times from three-point range – hitting 40.8 percent of its attempts – with 10 different players making at least 13 treys this season.

Zac Grossenbacher has the most blocked shots among the quarterfinal participants with 71 and has also pulled down 9.4 rebounds per game.

West Liberty has reached the national semifinals in four of its five Elite Appearances, but has only made the title game in 2014.

