

# 'Adjust, adapt and achieve': Quinsigamond CC men's basketball is rallying in crunch time

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The Quinsigamond Community College men's basketball game won two games in rather dramatic fashion last week.

"I'm still kind of buzzing over it," third-year QCC coach **John Preziosa** said.

On Thursday, the Wyverns came back from nine down with 5 minutes left to beat CCRI, 80-78. Over the weekend, Quinsigamond trailed Roxbury CC by 10 points with 3 minutes left. Sophomore captain **Luka Vlajkovic** scored with 2.8 seconds left to send the game to overtime, and QCC prevailed, 92-90.

"We have a resiliency that you can't really teach," Preziosa said. "We have a lot of heart. Until the final buzzer sounds, we're going to keep fighting and clawing. It's been great to coach a group like this."

At 11-4, Quinsigamond is in third place in the NJCAA Region 21 standings and in solid position for the eight-team league playoffs, which begin Feb. 28.

As usual, a number of locals are leading the Wyverns.

Sophomore **Jeromaine Archibald** of Worcester and South High averaged 19 points in last week's two victories.

Sophomore **Daniel Edmonds** of Fitchburg has helped key Quinsigamond's balanced scoring attack by averaging 14.9 points per game. Sophomore **Sean Manning** of Grafton, who had a key four-point play against CCRI, averages 13 points.

Sophomore **Trevor Oliver** of Douglas leads the league in blocks with 3.2 per game.

Preziosa's son, **Marino**, a freshman, is providing valuable minutes off the bench.

"It's a good group," Preziosa said, "a fun group."

This year's team motto is "Adjust, adapt and achieve."

"Those are the three things we like to talk about most," Preziosa said, "and they've been buying into it."

## Head of the Class

■ University of Connecticut redshirt sophomore **Alex Karaban** of Southborough is a top-10 candidate for the 2024 Karl Malone Award, which recognizes the top power forward in Division 1 men's basketball.

■ Keene State senior forward **Jeff Hunter** of Hudson averaged 16.3 points, 15 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 2 blocks in a 3-0 week for the seventh-ranked Owls. Hunter ranks first among NCAA Division 3 players with 19 double-doubles.

■ Southern Connecticut junior guard **Marty Silvera** of Worcester posted back-to-back 20-point performances to lead SCSU to 2-0 week. Silvera, who shot 58% from the field, averaged 6.5 assists, 5 rebounds and 6 steals.

■ Nichols freshman **Jason Ofarcik** set a program record by making 17 of 17 field goal attempts in victories over Endicott and the University of New England. Ofarcik averaged 18 points in the two games.

■ Assumption senior guard **Molly Stokes** of Worcester averaged 20 points and shot 71% from 3-point range while leading the Greyhounds to a 2-0 week and helping the team extend its win streak to nine games.

■ Holy Cross senior goalie **Jason Grande** backstopped the Crusaders to a sweep of Air Force while stopping 31 of 33 shots.