

Mesa CC Routs Pima, Improves to 13-4

By Jessie Vanderson

TUCSON- Visiting Mesa Community College simply had too much depth and too many player for Pima College.

The host Aztecs, who were missing several players because of eligibility or injury, were issued a thunder and lightning 'whupping' by the Thunderbirds in a Arizona Community College Athletic Association Conference men's basketball game played Wednesday night at Aztecs Gym on Pima's West Campus. Mesa (13-4), which led 37-27 at halftime, erupted for 43 points against a weary Pima squad in the second half to post an 80-45 victory.

"We simply listened to our coach (the legendary Sam Ballard), and executed the game plan given us," said Mesa's Tylor Wimbish, a sophomore forward from Tempe's Mountain Pointe High School. "

Wimbish scored eight points and for the visitors, who had six players score eight or more points. Christian Griggs-William scored 10, Tyler Fink 10, and Eric Hunt a team-high 14 points for the Thunderbirds, who are off to one of



Mesa Tylor Wimbish was a force inside against Pima College, scoring eight points.

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their better starts in years.

"This is one of the better Mesa teams. We are good on defense, and we have meshed well together," said Wimbish, who grabbed three rebounds.

Pima suffered its fifth straight loss and saw its record fall to 6-11. The Aztecs offensive effort suffered from the absence of speedy point guard Marcus Mears (Sierra Vista Buena

and shooting guard DeVante Williams (Seattle O'Dea), both key reserves. Pima trailed at one point in the first half 12-2. Guards Kevin Burton (Glendale Apollo) and Lawrence Pierce (Peoria High) carried the scoring load for the Aztecs in the game. Burton scored 10 and Pierce, the team's leading scorer, pumped in a game-high 18 points. The Aztecs, who played without starting center Stephen Hadley (6'10"/Peoria High), where out-rebounded 57-22.

Notable: In a game played at Mesa's Theo Heap Gym on Jan. 2, the Thunderbirds smacked defending NJCAA Division I national champs South Plains College (Levelland, Texas) with a 67-46 loss. That loss was The Texans' second straight defeat to a ACCAC team in three days (read related story). Mesa had five players score in double-figures against the Texans. Freshman center Anthony Hatfield (Rufus King High/Milwaukee) led the Thunderbirds with 13 points. Freshman guard Shyheim McClelland had 11 for Mesa. Wimbish scored 10 and pulled in six rebounds.