

## Flying Cows Survive the Thriller: 108-98 Win Over Firebirds in Winner-Take-All

Monday June 9th, 2025 Frederick, MD

There was something different in the air after the Cows got back from Raleigh, an almost eerie quiet, the kind of focus that comes when a team knows exactly what's at stake. From the moment they stepped onto the Woodsboro Bank Arena floor on Monday night, every possession felt urgent.

What followed was 48 minutes of edge of your seat basketball. With nine lead changes and a couple of clutch buckets, the crowd was left holding its breath until the final moments.

In the final minutes, Frederick's composure proved the difference, as the 108-98 victory kept their championship dream alive.

Neither squad could gain separation in a frantic opening quarter, as the pace stayed tight and physical from the jump. Corey Boyd and Martavian Payne each chipped in 6 early points, foreshadowing what would become solid all-around performances.

Boyd finished the night with 12 points, 8 rebounds, and 1 block. Payne With 11 points and 4 assists.

Still, despite the early production, the Flying Cows ended the first quarter trailing by one, 22-21.

During the Second Quarter Tavares Sledge knocked down a three to put the Cows up by two early in the second, continuing to show why he wears the captain's "C."

The veteran forward, fresh off a 26-point night, chipped in 13 points and 5 rebounds this time out, bringing leadership on both ends.

Then came Joe Bradshaw, back-to-back buckets from the undrafted rookie lit the fuse for a 9-2 Frederick run that cut into Raleigh's momentum.

Bradshaw finished the first game with 11 points and 7 rebounds, another gritty performance from the rookie who continues to rise under pressure.

Frederick entered the locker room ahead, 49-43.

Coming out of the locker room, the Flying Cows pushed the tempo and tightened the screws defensively, rotating well and turning stops into run-outs. The quick burst built a 12-point cushion with just under seven minutes to go in the third.

Forward Kyle Steward joined the scoring parade, pouring in six points during the frame and finishing the night with 14 points and 6 rebounds, constantly giving Frederick another reliable option on the wing.

When the horn sounded to end the quarter, the Cows held a 75-65 advantage, fully in command heading to the final quarter.

The Firebirds cut the lead to six midway through the fourth, making it 86-80 with seven minutes to play as both teams battled to get to the free throw line. But, Frederick never panicked.

A fast-break dunk by Javon Adams over a Firebirds defender reignited the crowd and pushed the lead back into double digits, making him the eighth Flying Cow to score in double figures. Adams finished with 10 points and 7 rebounds.

Quietly, guard Ronald Scott put together a masterclass, his triple-double, 12 points, 11 assists, 10, rebounds was the glue that held Frederick's attack together all night.

Then came the dagger: with a minute left and Raleigh pressing, Damien Daniels calmly sank two clutch free throws to ice the game.

Daniels finished with 17 points, 4 assists, and 3 steals, delivering when it mattered most.

Final Score: 108-98. Frederick advances.

The Firebirds were led by Donte Greene, a former first-round NBA pick out of Syracuse who broke Carmelo Anthony's freshman scoring record, as he poured in 28 points in a valiant effort to keep Raleigh's season alive.

For the second straight year, heartbreak struck. After falling just three points short of the TBL Finals in last season's Regional Final, the Firebirds didn't even make it that far this time around. Their playoff run ends one round earlier, and with another gut-wrenching loss in the books, all eyes now turn to what promises to be an interesting offseason in Raleigh.

With Monday's emphatic Game 3 win, the Frederick Flying Cows are headed to the TBL Regional Finals. They closed out the Firebirds in front of another packed house at Woodsboro Bank Arena, where fans once again showed out in black, white, and cow print for a second straight "Cow Out." The energy was undeniable, and the Cows fed off every ounce of it as they punched their ticket to face the Capital Seahawks for a shot at the conference crown.

The Capital Seahawks, in just their inaugural season, have already made noise, knocking off the storied Albany Patroons to reach the Regional Finals. While Frederick holds a 3-1 edge in the season series, this is a different Seahawks squad, reloaded and ready. Led by explosive guard

Nasir Core, who recently dropped 56 points in their final home game of the season, Capital comes in confident. This series promises to be a clash of momentum and mentality, and the Flying Cows know the job is far from finished.

The TBL Regional Finals schedule is set. Game 1 tips off Wednesday, June 11th at 7 p.m. on the road, as Frederick travels to face Capital. Fans can catch all the action live on TBLtv.tv. The series returns home for Game 2 on Saturday, June 14th at 7 p.m. at Hood College, where another packed Woodsboro Bank Arena is expected. If necessary, a decisive Game 3 will be held Sunday, June 15th at 3 p.m., also at home. With a trip to the TBL Finals on the line, every possession will matter.

Only four teams remain in the hunt for the 2025 TBL Championship. Out West, the Great Falls Electric from Great Falls, MT, and the Potawatomi Fire from Shawnee, OK, will battle for their ticket to the Finals. In the East, the Frederick Flying Cows from Frederick, MD, and the Capital Seahawks from Bowie, MD, are fighting for supremacy. Four contenders. Two spots. One ultimate goal.

Game 2 tickets are available now at <u>goflyingcows.com</u>.

See Flying Cows vs Firebirds Box Score Here.