



UC Irvine 80, High Point 71

First Round: March 20, 2013

IRVINE, Calif. -- Sophomore post Will Davis II scored a career-high 32 points Wednesday night to lead UC Irvine past High Point University, 80-71, in the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament First Round at Crawford Court.

Davis was 13 of 18 from the field and added 14 rebounds (one shy of his career high) in recording his fourth double-double of the season and the sixth of his career.

He scored 18 of his points in the first half in leading the 'Eaters to a 37-29 lead at the break.

Senior Daman Starring and junior Chris McNealy added 11 points each, and freshman point guard Alex Young scored 10 as UCI improved to 21-15 overall.

The 21 wins are tied for third-most in UCI single-season history. The 2000-01 team won a school-record 25 games, the 1981-82 squad won 23 and this season ties the 21 wins recorded by the 2001-02 team.

This was the first postseason win for the UCI program since an 80-74 victory over UCLA at Pauley Pavilion in the 1986 NIT First Round.

UCI is making its first postseason appearance in 11 years this season since the 2001-02 team participated in the NIT.

Adam Weary led High Point (17-14) with 18 points while Allan Chaney added 16 points and 11 rebounds. Corey Law scored 11 points for the Panthers.

UCI had its largest lead of the night at 10 points several times early in the second half, the last at 46-36 on a three by McNealy with 16:18 remaining.

High Point closed to within three at 49-46 on a basket by Weary with 12:48 left and took the lead at 53-52 on a jumper by Branimir Mikulic with 9:45 remaining.

Starring then hit a three to give the 'Eaters the lead for good at 55-53 with 8:55 left.

The Panthers closed to within one twice, the last time at 66-65 on a three-pointer from Devante Wallace with 4:23 remaining.

McNealy scored three straight points and Davis added a basket and free throw to put UCI up 72-65 with 1:40 left.

UCI hit 6 of 6 free throws, four by Young, in the final 1:18 to seal the victory.

The 'Eaters shot 48 percent from the field and were 18 of 25 from the free-throw line.

High Point shot 37 percent from the floor as UCI is 13-6 this season when the opposition shoots under 40 percent.

UCI has won nine of its last 11 games and 11 of the past 15.

Wednesday night marked the 100th game that third-year head coach Russell Turner has guided the 'Eaters.

UCI awaits word on its next opponent in the CIT Second Round.