



Murray State 98, Pacific 75

Semifinals: Tuesday April 1, 2014

MURRAY, KY -- The Murray State Racers advanced to the CollegeInsider.com Tournament championship game with a 98-75 win over the Pacific Tigers at the CFSB Center in Murray, Ky.

The Racers (22-11) will host the Yale Bulldogs (19-13) in the CIT title game Thursday in a 6 p.m. tip at the CFSB Center.

Cameron Payne led the way for MSU with 21 points with seven rebounds and four assists, while T.J. Sapp and Jarvis Williams each tossed in 18 points. Jeffery Moss scored 15 points as the Racers shot 55 percent for the game from the field on 32-of-58 including 13-of-25 from 3-point range for 52 percent.

The Racers hit the Tigers with a knockout punch that ended the first half and started the second half.

With 5:06 in the half, Sapp and Payne each hit 3-pointers. Sapp scored on a put-back and another defensive stop led to a fast break three from Moss. When Jonathan Fairell scored with 39 seconds left, the Racers had a 9-0 run to end the half and a 49-38 lead.

Moss and Dexter Fields hit threes to start the second half as the Racers put together a 12-2 run that put MSU in front of the Tigers 61-40 with 17:31 left.

The Racers maintained that large lead and secure their 22nd win of the season and their 20th win in the last 26 games dating back to their 2-5 start.

MSU now gets the chance to end their season with a championship. They plan again to play in front of a loud and excited crowd at the CFSB Center as they've done now for three games in the CIT.

Game Notes

MSU is 9-22 all-time in post-season which include 15 NCAA appearances, seven in the NIT and one this season in the CIT.

The Racers have won 14 straight home games dating back to their only loss to Middle Tennessee on Nov. 26. The Racers

are 38-7 in the Steve Prohm era at the CFSB Center. The Racers have won six straight against non-conference opponents including: Lipscomb, Evansville, SIU, Omaha, Towson and Pacific.

The Racers had the lead at halftime 49-38 and are 19-3 this season when leading at the break.

The Racers won the rebound and 3-point stat as well. MSU is 16-2 when winning the rebound battle and 16-5 when making more threes than their opponent.

MSU has won four straight since losing in the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament semifinals to Eastern Kentucky (March 8). MSU's best win streak this season was five straight when they defeated SEMO, UTM, ECU, APSU and EIU between Jan. 2 and Jan. 16.

The game tonight marked the latest game in Murray State and Ohio Valley Conference history.

The Racers host Yale for the CIT Championship after the Bulldogs were successful on the road at VMI in a 75-62 win. The Bulldogs held the Keydets to 27 points in the first half and had a 10-point lead. Yale beat VMI on the boards 45-27.

The Racers have never played Yale and have only two games in their history against teams from the Ivy League. MSU is 2-0 and won both games on neutral floors including a 1984 win over Penn in Portland, Ore. MSU also defeated Columbia in Toledo, Ohio in 1993.