



UL-LAFAYETTE 83, INCARNATE WORD 68

First Round, Tuesday March 17, 2015

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Bryce Washington scored a career-high 25 points and the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns overcame a 13-point first half deficit with a dominating second half to roll by Incarnate Word, 83-68, in the opening round of the CIT on Tuesday at the McDermott Center.

Louisiana (21-13) trailed 39-34 at the break, but shot 59.3 percent and outscored UIW (18-11) 49-29 in the second half, leading by as much as 22 points, to advance to the second round of the tournament against an opponent to be announced later in the week.

The win was the first postseason win for the Cajuns – aside from the SBC Tournament – since an 87-83 win over Oklahoma in the 1992 NCAA Tournament.

Washington finished with a game-high 25 points on 11-for-14 shooting, while Hayward Register hit four of UL's 10 threes for 12 points and Shawn Long turned in 11 points and nine rebounds. Johnathan Stove just missed reaching double figures with nine points, hitting 5-for-6 from the foul line.

Additionally, UL assisted on 24 of 30 made baskets, led by seven from point guard Jay Wright. Long and Tiremone Williams each added five assists as well, career highs for both players.

Kyle Hittle led the Cardinals, who shot 40.3 percent from the game, with 19 points as one of three UIW players in double figures. Denzel Livingston, who entered the night ranked in the top 10 nationally in scoring, was held scoreless in the second half and finished with just seven points for the game.

Washington nearly equaled his career high with 12 points in the first half, but UIW's Hittle countered with 17 points of his own to spark the Cardinals to a 39-34 lead at the break.

The Cajuns outshot the Cardinals in the half, hitting 48.3 percent from the field, but were just 2-for-5 from the foul line. Meanwhile, UIW connected five times from beyond the arc and nailed eight of its nine tries from the charity stripe.

UIW opened up with six straight points and did not trail in the opening period, building as much as a 13-point lead midway through the half.

The Cajuns cut it down to five points on two occasions on threes from Register and Shepherd, the second capping a 5-0 spurt to end the half after UIW had upped its advantage back to 10 points with less than two minutes to play on Hittle's third triple of the half.

But the Cajuns opened up the second half on a 27-6 run, scoring on their first eight possessions of the period to turn the tide in a hurry. Wright nailed a three on the first trip down the floor for UL and Washington scored each of the Cajuns' next three baskets, giving them their first lead of the game at 41-39 less than two minutes into the half.

After UIW's Shawn Jonson nailed a three for the Cardinals, the Cajuns scored the next 18 of the game's next 21 points, getting a pair of threes from Register and four points from Williams in that stretch.

The lead swelled to as much as 22 at 71-49 with 7:39 remaining when Kasey Shepherd, who finished with eight points for the game, capped another 8-0 run with a transition layup.