



UT-MARTIN 70, EASTERN KENTUCKY 69

Quarterfinals: March 25, 2015

RICHMOND, Ky. – Marshun Newell swished a go-ahead three-pointer from the right corner with 3.3 seconds left for the game-winner in the University of Tennessee at Martin’s 70-69 victory at Eastern Kentucky in the 2015 CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament quarterfinals.

Newell’s last-second trey was his fourth of the second half alone, as he made all four of his three-point attempts in the final 7:17 of the contest after the Colonels built a seven-point lead. The senior out of Memphis concluded the game with 16 points to go along with a game-high eight rebounds to lead the Skyhawks to their nation-leading 12th road win and first win in Richmond since 2003.

“We really gave Marshun four different reads on the inbounds play and the fourth one was to throw it in and pop back behind it,” Skyhawk head coach Heath Schroyer said. “He went through all of his reads and it’s something we worked on in practice about six weeks ago and luckily we had some time and a timeout to do it. It was great execution and it was a great win.”

With the win, the Skyhawks (21-12) advance to the semifinals of the CIT on Tuesday, March 31. UT Martin will have to wait until the conclusion of the tournament quarterfinals on Saturday, March 28 before finding out who its next opponent will be. The game will be televised live on CBS College Sports Network.

Twymond Howard equaled a career-high with 23 points for UT Martin this evening, converting nine of his 13 shot attempts while adding seven rebounds. Alex Anderson drained four 3-pointers on his way to 14 points while Javier Martinez (11 points on 5-for-5 shooting, seven rebounds) played big in 24 minutes off the bench for the Skyhawks, who led for 25:26 of the contest and outrebounded Eastern Kentucky by a 43-19 margin.

Eastern Kentucky (21-12) was led by Corey Walden’s 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Timmy Knipp scored all 15 of his points in the second half while Eric Stutz added 10 points for the Colonels, who made nine of their 15 three-pointers in the final 20 minutes.

“To come in here for our third game in a row on the road and play against a really good team – we just made one more play,” Schroyer said. “We’re a gutty group that believe in each other. It’s unbelievable. I told our team that very few people get a chance to be in the Final Four of any national tournament and we’re there so let’s see where they take us next.”

Eastern Kentucky scored first but the Skyhawks reeled off seven straight points over a span of 1:26, the last four of which came from Howard. The Colonels responded with a bucket on their next possession but UT Martin used another 7-0 spurt to go ahead by double-figures (14-4) when Newell sank a pair of free throws at the 13:49 mark.

After the Colonels converted a three-pointer on their ensuing possession, the Skyhawks used yet another 7-0 run to extend its lead out to 14 points when an Anderson three-pointer midway through the first half made the score 21-7.

UT Martin was able to push its lead out to 15 points when Chandler Rowe scored on an aggressive take to the hoop. The Skyhawks led by as many as 14 points with six minutes to go before the break but Walden soon heated up. He scored all 11 of his first half points during a 15-7 Eastern Kentucky run to close out the half, making the score 36-30 in UT Martin’s favor.

Howard’s 12 points led all scorers at the break, as the Skyhawks shot 60.9 percent (14-for-23) in the first 20 minutes. Walden’s spurt at the end of the first half resulted in a team-best 11 points for Eastern Kentucky, who was held to 36.7 percent shooting (11-for-30) in the first half.

Knipp made a pair of three-pointers to begin the second half for the Colonels but Howard came away with a dunk and free throw for UT Martin to keep the Skyhawk lead at three points. Under a minute later, Isaac McGlone converted a pair of fast break layups off steals to give Eastern Kentucky a 40-39 lead – its first advantage since the opening basket of the game. That basket ignited a 10-2 run for the Colonels, who stretched their lead out to five points before an old-fashioned three-point play by Howard trimmed UT Martin’s deficit to just two points (48-46) midway through the second half.

The Colonels followed with baskets on back-to-back trips down the floor to take a seven-point advantage with 8:29 left to play.

UT Martin responded with a lengthy run, keyed by Newell. He knocked down three trifectas in the span of 3:13 – the last of which capped off a 14-4 Skyhawk run and tilted the score back in UT Martin’s favor at 60-57 with four minutes to go.

Knipp came back with a straightaway three-pointer to even the score but Martinez scored on the Skyhawks’ next trip down the floor on a tip-in created by an offensive rebound. The lead changed hands once again just 30 seconds later, as Walden knocked down trifectas on consecutive possessions to give the Colonels a 66-62 edge with two minutes remaining.

Anderson then answered back with a clutch three-pointer from the right corner, slicing the Skyhawk deficit down to one point with 1:46 to go. Knipp sank a three-pointer on Eastern Kentucky’s next

possession but Martinez came away with yet another huge tip-in layup just 28 seconds later to make the score 69-67.

The Skyhawks forced a missed shot on the Colonels' next trip down the floor, giving UT Martin the ball back with 25 seconds left to play. Eastern Kentucky committed a pair of fouls and later deflected the ball out of bounds with 6.2 seconds remaining.

On the inbounds play, Newell took a handoff and hoisted a three-pointer in front of the Skyhawk bench that found nothing but net, giving UT Martin a 70-69 edge with 3.3 seconds left. Eastern Kentucky quickly called a timeout to set up a final play but ultimately could not get a shot off as time expired.