



Saint Francis Wins Hugh Durham Classic

First Postseason win for Red Flash since 1991

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The Saint Francis Men's Basketball team used a balanced scoring effort to knock off Jacksonville, 78-76, in the Hugh Durham Classic on Tuesday in the First Round of the CollegeInsider.com Tournament. The Red Flash improved to 17-16 on the season and moves on to the Second Round of the CIT, with an opponent, date and location to be determined.

Saint Francis earned its first postseason tournament win since its 70-64 victory over Fordham in the NCAA Tournament Play-In Game in 1991. SFU is now 5-5 all-time in postseason tournaments, with a 1-1 mark in the CIT.

Sophomore Andre Wolford (Willowick, Ohio/Saint Ignatius) led the Red Flash with 13 points to earn Hugh Durham Classic MVP honors. Wolford played 17 minutes off the bench and hit five-of-eight shots, including three triples. Sophomore Scott Meredith (Pilot Mountain, N.C./Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)) posted a career-high 12 points off the bench, going four-of-five from three, while senior Georgios Angelou (Halkida, Greece/Lykeio Kanithou) had 10 points and five assists, also off the bench. Sophomore Josh Nebo (Houston, Texas/Cypress Lakes) recorded his eighth double-double of the season with 10 points and 13 rebounds to go with three blocks.

The Red Flash shot 50 percent from the field, going 31-of-62 from the floor, including 46 percent from three, hitting 11-of-24 attempts. SFU was five-of-eight from the free throw line. The Red Flash shot 45 percent in the first half and 55 percent in the second half. SFU scored 39 points off the bench.

Jacksonville hit 42 percent of its shots from the field, making 28-of-66 looks, but SFU held the Dolphins to just 28 percent shooting from three and eight made threes. JU entered the game ranking fifth in the nation in three-point percentage (40.7) and 12th in threes made per game (10.0). The Dolphins made all 12 of their free throw attempts. JU shot 43 percent in the first half and 41 percent in the second half. JU won the battle on the boards, 37-35, and scored 32 of its 76 points in the paint.

Senior Darien Fernandez led the Dolphins with 18 points, on 6-of-14 shooting, five rebounds and five assists. Senior J.R. Holder added 16 points, while senior Marcel White had 15 points and seven boards. Senior Andris Mistars had 10 points.

The Red Flash trailed 40-34 at halftime. SFU shot 45 percent in the half, making 13-of-29 attempts,

including 42 percent from three (5-of-12). SFU was three-of-five from the free throw line.

Wolford and freshman Randall Gaskins Jr. each had seven points to lead the Red Flash. Wolford made three-of-five shot attempts, including a three, and added two rebounds. Gaskins Jr. hit all three of his shot attempts, including a three. Meredith hit a pair of threes from six points, while Nebo had four points, nine rebounds and two blocks.

The Dolphins made 43 percent of its shots from the field, hitting 13-of-29 looks, including six-of-17 from three (35 percent). JU made four-of-four free throw attempts. Holder led the Dolphins with 10 points in the half, while White had eight and Fernandez and Omar El Manasterly had six each.

Jacksonville jumped out to a 10-4 lead with 16:37 to go in the first half. Five different players scored during JU's run, with Misters and El Manasterly hitting jumpers, Holder and White making layups and Fernandez hitting two free throws.

The Red Flash responded with an 8-0 run to hold a 12-10 advantage with 12:50 left in the half. Gaskins Jr. knocked down a jumper to start the run, with Angelou and Wolford both hitting threes.

Neither team held a lead of more than two points until an 8-0 run by the Dolphins put Jacksonville ahead, 28-20, with 7:22 remaining in the half. Threes by Holder and White were followed by a layup by Fernandez.

Back-to-back threes by Meredith cut the deficit to 28-26 with 6:38 to go in the half, but Jacksonville built its lead back up to seven points, 35-28. El Manasterly had a layup and Fernandez hit two three throws before White knocked down a three to end the run.

The Red Flash hit seven of its first 10 shot attempts of the second half to take a 50-48 lead with 13:34 left. Sophomore Isaiah Blackmon (Charlotte, N.C./West Charlotte) scored SFU's first five points of the half with a layup and a three. Braxton made a layup before Nebo added a jumper and a layup. The stretch concluded with a jumper by King and a three by Wolford.

A 12-4 run by Saint Francis stretched its lead to 62-54 with 9:16 to play. Meredith started the run with a three and added another triple during the stretch. Angelou contributed a jumper and a layup off of a steal. Senior Patrick Wrencher (West Chester, Ohio/Archbishop Moeller) finished the run with a layup. SFU's lead reached 10 points on a three by Wolford with 6:38 left to give SFU a 69-59 advantage.

However, Jacksonville answered with an 8-0 run to cut its deficit to two, 69-67, with 3:32 left. Fernandez hit a jumper before White knocked down two free throws. Misters converted a layup before Antwan Clayton concluded the run with a jumper.

A layup by SFU's Blackmon was then answered by two Fernandez free throws to keep it a two-point difference. A three by Angelou pushed SFU's lead to five, 74-69, with 1:43 to go. Fernandez drove in for a layup to cut the JU deficit to three, 74-71, but Nebo threw down a dunk, off an assist by freshman

Keith Braxton (Glassboro, N.J./The Lawrenceville School), to extend the SFU lead back to five. Blackmon knocked down two free throws with three seconds left to help seal the win.