



Saint Peter's rallies past Texas State to Advance to Semis

Peacocks overcome biggest deficit of the season

SAN MARCOS, TX – The Saint Peter's men's basketball team rallied to defeat Texas State, 49-44 in the quarterfinal round of the CollegInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT) on Saturday evening.

The win for the Peacocks improves the team's overall record to 21-13; the programs most wins in a single season under head coach John Dunne. The two wins in the CIT for Saint Peter's are the most in a national postseason tournament since the 1980 National Invitation Tournament (NIT) when that team knocked off Connecticut in the first round and then Duquesne in the second round.

The advancement into the semifinal round is the first time the program has made a national postseason final four, since the team advanced to the NIT semifinals in 1968.

Trevis Wyche (Neptune, NJ/Saint Peter's Prep) scored a Peacock best, 11 points and dished out two assists along with five rebounds, while Cavon Baker (Queens, NY / New Hope Academy [Md.] (Houston)) filled the stat sheet with 10 points, four rebounds, three assists, and one block and steal off the bench. Quadir Welton (Philadelphia, PA / Math, Civics and Science Charter) grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds and added nine points.

The Peacocks trailed the Bobcats 14-0, by the second media break of the day, beginning the game 0-for-10 from field, 0-for-6 from deep and committing four turnovers.

The drought eventually ended when Antwon Portley (Lancaster, TX/Lancaster) made a layup on a nice feed from Chazz Patterson (Browns Mills, NJ/Trenton Catholic) with 11:04 on the clock getting the Peacocks on the board. Saint Peter's fell behind by 17 points at 21-4 and then 23-6 with the Bobcats scoring the field goal at 7:50.

That field goal would be Texas State's last of the half as the Peacocks sparked a 10-0 run highlighted by a posterizing dunk by Baker over two Texas State defenders, cutting the deficit to 23-16 with 4:08 left in the half. The run continued for the Peacocks following the final media timeout as they extended the run to 17-0, capped off by a far corner three-pointer from Patterson to knot up the game up at 23-23 heading into the half.

During the 17-0 run, six different Peacocks scored at least one point with Samuel Idowu (Brooklyn,

NY/Lafayette Educational Complex) leading the way with five points, and Baker scoring four points.

Offensively, the Peacocks went 6-for-10 from the field and hit 2-of-4 from deep. On the defensive side of the ball, the Peacocks held the Bobcats scoreless for the final 7:50 of the half, making them go 0-for-8 from the field (0-for-5 from three-point range) and forcing them into three turnovers during the stretch.

The Peacock continued to hold Texas State field-goalless in the second half before falling behind, 29-25, after the Bobcats scored on a layup.

Saint Peter's defense held Texas State without a field goal for a total of 12:46 minutes, extending from the end of the first into the beginning of the second half.

The Peacocks fell behind 36-29 with a little over 10 minutes on the clock in the game when Wyche and Welton combined for four points each, to power an 8-0 run, giving the Peacocks their first lead of the night at 37-36 (8:08).

The contest would tie up at 38 each, and 40-40 before Portley nailed a far corner three, to give the Peacocks their final lead of the game at 43-40. Saint Peter's extended the lead to 49-42, with 2:10 left after making six straight free throws, holding the Bobcats scoreless over the final two minutes until a meaningless layup with four seconds left posted the final score of 49-44.

Saint Peter's defense held Texas State's offense to 21 points over the final 27:50 of the game.

The 17-point comeback win for Saint Peter's was its largest of the season, powered by Saint Peter's bench outscoring Texas State's bench, 26-7.

Texas State's season came to an end with an overall record of 22-14. The Bobcats had one player score in double figures in Bobby Conley, who scored a game-high 13 points.

The Peacocks will play in the CIT semifinal round on Wednesday, March 29 at 7 or 9p.m. and will find out their next opponent at the conclusion of the quarterfinal round tomorrow evening. The semifinals and championship games will be broadcasted on CBS Sports Network.