



**UT-MARTIN 60, USC UPSTATE 49**

**Second Round, Saturday March 21, 2015**

SPARTANBURG, SC – The University of Tennessee at Martin men’s basketball team shook off a slow start and took command of the final five minutes of tonight’s contest at USC Upstate, winning by a 60-49 margin in the second round of the 2015 CollegeBasketballInsider.com Postseason Tournament.

The Skyhawks took their first lead of the game with 5:37 left to play, ending the game on a 14-3 run. In the process, UT Martin won its second postseason game in less than 48 hours and its third postseason game in the history of the program. The victory also resulted in UT Martin’s sixth 20-win season and second in its Division-I history (since 1992).

The Skyhawks must now wait until the conclusion of the CIT’s second round on Monday, March 23 to learn of their opponent in the quarterfinals, which will take place on March 25-28.

Twymond Howard led the Skyhawks (20-12) with 15 points while adding seven rebounds and three steals. Deville Smith added 14 points, seven rebounds and four steals while Alex Anderson scored seven of his 13 points in the game-ending 14-3 spurt. Marshun Newell narrowly missed a double-double (nine points, eight rebounds) for UT Martin, who shot 28.3 percent but made four of its nine three-pointers in the final 7:48.

USC Upstate (24-12) was led by Atlantic Sun Conference Player of the Year Ty Greene, who scored 17 points. Fred Miller and Jacob Schulte also added 10 points apiece for the Spartans, who were held to 19.2 percent shooting (5-for-26) in the second half and 29.6 percent (16-for-54) for the contest.

“I can’t say enough about our team – it was a gutty effort,” UT Martin head coach Heath Schroyer said. “This group of guys just have so much fight in them. They’re tough, relentless and they stay together. When you have those three components, you can have a special team and we do.”

The Spartans scored the first four points of the contest before Alex Anderson continued his hot postseason streak with a straightaway three-pointer at the 17:19 mark to get the Skyhawks on the scoreboard. A little under a minute later, Twymond Howard threw down a thunderous dunk off an alley

oop and was fouled. After he sank the free throw, UT Martin evened the score at 6-all.

The Spartans then used a 10-2 run to go ahead by eight points until a Deville Smith three-pointer ignited seven unanswered points for the Skyhawks. A pair of Chandler Rowe free throws at the 7:02 mark kept UT Martin's deficit at one point (18-17) before USC Upstate pushed its lead back out to seven points with 2:49 to go before the halftime break.

Three-pointers by Richard Lee and Anderson on back-to-back possessions whittled the Skyhawk deficit down to one point with 1:21 remaining in the first half before the Spartans took a 31-29 lead into the locker room at the half.

Howard and Smith shared the UT Martin lead in scoring in the first half, each tallying seven points apiece. Greene accumulated 10 points for USC Upstate, who was held to 15.4 percent shooting (2-for-13) from beyond the three-point arc.

Buckets by Howard and Marshun Newell early in the second half resulted in the second tie of the contest (33-33) with 17:23 remaining. However, the Spartans scored eight of the next nine points to build a 41-34 lead with 11:14 to go.

The Skyhawks would later go on a 7-0 run to even the score once again at 43-all, tying the game on a big three-pointer by Newell from the left corner. The two sides then swapped three-pointers before UT Martin grabbed its first lead of the game when Anderson swished a trey from the left corner to give the Skyhawks a 49-46 edge with 5:28 left to play.

After USC Upstate made a pair of free throws, Anderson buried another huge three-pointer at the 3:54 mark to extend UT Martin's lead out to 52-48. After a defensive stop, Smith knocked down a triple from the right side to push the Skyhawk lead out to 55-48 with three minutes remaining.

From that point forward, the Spartans would only score one more point while the UT Martin duo of Newell and Anderson hit five of six free throws in the final 51 seconds to ice the victory.