

Aces Head To Boise After Beating Hofstra

EVANSVILLE, Ind – A breakout second-half for the Aces gave the University of Evansville men's basketball team a 77-70 victory over visiting Hofstra tonight in the first round of the 2011 College Basketball Invitational presented by Zebra Pen.

Now it's on to Boise State for 16-15 Evansville. The Aces and Broncos meet Monday night in the second round at Boise, Idaho. The Broncos beat Austin Peay 83-80 this evening at Boise.

Tonight's win marks UE's first postseason victory since the 1989 victory over Oregon State in the NCAA Tournament.

Trailing 49-44 in the second half, Jordan Jahr scored off a steal to bring the score to 49-46 and spark the beginning of an 8-0 run for the Aces. At 11:58, Ned Cox sank a jumper to put UE within one at 49-48 before Troy Taylor drew the foul and was sent to the line. Taylor made both free throws to put UE ahead 50-49 and give the Aces their first lead of the second half. Jahr followed with two more points, giving the Aces a three-point lead at 52-49 before Hofstra was able to make its first basket in nearly four minutes.

UE held on to the lead the rest of the game. With 17.9 seconds on the clock, Colt Ryan made two free throws to give the Aces a five-point cushion. Ryan was fouled again with 6.0 seconds on the clock, sinking both free throws again to put the final score at 77-70.

Clint Hopf, Ryan, Jahr and Cox each ended the night with double-digit points. Ryan led the Aces with 21 points. Jahr added 13 points and five rebounds, and Cox and Hopf scored 10 points each. UE's defense held Hofstra All-American candidate Charles Jenkins to just 14 points. Coming into tonight's game, the Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year averaged 22.9 points a game.

Hofstra's season ended at 2112.

"The difference tonight was that a lot of players stepped up," said coach Marty Simmons. "That's something we've been missing a little bit over the last five or six games, but tonight we had a lot of guys make big plays."