

Cougars Win 73-72 Thriller over Texas in CBI First Round

Freshman forward Danuel House buries game-winning jumper with 17 seconds left

HOUSTON - Freshman forward Danuel House buried the go-ahead jumper with 17 seconds left, and the University of Houston Men's Basketball team made it stand as the Cougars took a 73-72 win against Texas on Wednesday night during the College Basketball Invitational First Round inside Hofheinz Pavilion.

The Cougars held a 71-66 lead with 3:29 remaining when senior forward Leon Gibson hit a basket. However, the Longhorns scored the next six points and grabbed a 72-71 lead when guard Myck Kabongo hit a pair of free throws with just 52 seconds to go.

Working the clock down, the Cougars moved the ball around before sophomore guard Joseph Young flipped the ball to House, who calmly drained a 12-footer just beyond the right elbow.

Following a Texas timeout, Julien Lewis' jumper was off the mark, but Ioannis Papapetrou gave the Longhorns one more chance by snagging the offensive rebound. However, redshirt freshman guard Jherrod Stiggers stole the ball from behind to give the Cougars their first win against the Longhorns since Nov. 17, 1998.

With the win, the Cougars advanced to the CBI Quarterfinals and will play at George Mason on Monday. Game time will be announced at a later date, and fans are encouraged to stay tuned to UHCougars.com and Houston Athletics social media platforms for the latest information.

The Cougars also improved to 20-12 overall and won 20 games in the season for the first time since 2008-09. The 2012-13 Cougars became only the 21st team in school history to enjoy 20 victories in a single season, while head coach James Dickey collected the 200th victory of his career.

Texas ended its season with a 16-18 overall record.

House, the 2013 Conference USA Freshman of the Year, finished with 11 points and nine rebounds and added five assists and two steals with only one turnover. The Sugar Land, Texas, native and Hightower High product helped set the tone for the Cougars on their first offensive play, taking an alley-oop from Young and throwing it down to ignite the student-led 4,407 fans in attendance.

The Cougars jumped out to a 22-11 lead midway through the first half before the Longhorns began to chip away. Leading 34-26 with 2:28 left in the first half, Texas scored the next five points to move to within 34-31 before Young's 3-pointer at the buzzer gave Houston a 37-31 lead at the break.

Texas continued their run to start the second half and took a 38-37 lead when Lewis buried a 3-pointer from the left baseline with 17:34 left in the contest.

The game went back and forth from there with 12 lead changes in the second half alone. Texas grabbed a 62-56 lead, but Houston erupted on an 11-0 run and claimed a 67-62 advantage when Young buried his fourth and final 3-pointer of the night.

The teams traded scores from there until Houston seemed to have the game under control with the 71-66 lead.

Young led the Cougars with 18 points on 7-of-15 shooting and added four rebounds with five assists. Sophomore forward TaShawn Thomas added 15 points and 10 rebounds for his team-leading 15th double-double this season and the 24th of his career, while Gibson finished with 11 points, six rebounds and three assists without a turnover.

Lewis led Texas with 25 points on 10-of-19 shooting with four rebounds, while Kabongo posted 17 points with four rebounds and a game-high six assists. Prince Ibeh came off the bench to record 12 points with a team-high 11 rebounds in the loss.

