

Penn Dispatches Quinnipiac, 74-63

PHILADELPHIA The Penn men's basketball team used a decisive run midway through the second half and knocked off Quinnipiac, 74-63, in an opening-round game of the CBI Presented by Zebra Pen on Wednesday night at The Palestra.

In the first postseason game hosted by Penn since 1978, the Quakers earned their first postseason win since 1994 and just their second since 1980.

The win moved the Quakers to 2012 on the season, and into a second-round game with Butler. The Bulldogs knocked off Delaware, 75-58, Wednesday night in Indianapolis. That game will take place Monday night at a site still to be determined.

The first half was defined by runs on both sides. Penn used an eight-point run to turn a 6-5 deficit into a 13-6 lead. Quinnipiac responded a short time later with a seven-point streak to turn a 15-9 deficit into a 16-15 lead. Zack Rosen figured in 12 of Penn's 14 points after that to push the Quakers back out in front, 29-20. It was a 34-30 game at the half.

It was still 39-36 early in the second when Penn went on the decisive run. Rosen started it with a three-pointer, then Henry Brooks followed a Rosen miss with an offensive rebound and put-back. Miles Cartwright got the lead to double digits for the first time in the game with a pair of free throws, and then Rosen fed Cartwright for a layup and hit his own shot. Just like that, the score was 52-36.

The lead eventually bulged to as much as 61-42, when Rob Belcore knocked down a trey.

Quinnipiac still had a run in it. The Bobcats moved to a full-court press, then fell back into a zone. That seemed to bother Penn, and before you knew it the score was 61-51 with just under five minutes remaining.

Belcore ended the stretch with a three-pointer from the right corner, although he was answered almost immediately by an Evan Conti layup and then a Jamee Jackson free throw. The Bobcats then had two chances to draw within single digits, but came up empty. Sophomore Marin Kukoc then salted the game away with a trey inside of two minutes.

Rosen ended Wednesday night's game with 16 points and dished off nine assists without a turnover. Cartwright was the game's high scorer, with 23 points; he also filled the box score with a career-high nine rebounds and a season-best six assists. Belcore ended the game with 14 points

For Quinnipiac, Zaid Hearst had a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds. James Johnson scored 16 points, while Conti scored 14 and Ike Azotam scored 12 to go with eight boards.