

Pitt Defeats Wofford 81-63, Advances To Second Round of CBI

PITTSBURGH—Pitt hit a season-high 14 3-pointers in registering an 81-63 win over Wofford Wednesday evening in the College Basketball Invitational opening round at the Petersen Events Center. Pitt advances to CBI Second Round play against Princeton on Monday, March 19 at the Petersen Events Center. Tipoff time for Monday's game is TBA.

Princeton defeated host Evansville 95-86 on Tuesday. Should Pitt defeat Princeton, it would advance to the CBI Semifinal Round to be played on Wednesday, March 21.

Five Panthers reached double figure scoring and three players converted four 3-pointers apiece. J.J. Moore finished with 16 points and hit a season-high tying 46 3-pointers, Tray Woodall contributed 16 points (4-5 3FG) and nine assists, Lamar Patterson finished with 13 points, while Ashton Gibbs (4-7 3FG) and Talib Zanna contributed 12 points apiece.

Pitt took control early in the first half when it pieced together a 16-0 run. A Gibbs 3-pointer gave the Panthers a 22-6 lead with 9:23 left in the half. Pitt led 42-23 at half after J.J. Moore hit two long range 3-pointers including a 40-foot buzzer beater for the 19-point lead.

Wofford used an 11-0 run to cut the deficit down to as few as six points (51-45) on a Drew Crowell 3-pointer, but Pitt responded with two 3-pointers from Moore. Pitt held a 20-point lead (71-51) with 5:02 left in the game.

Crowell led Wofford with 16 points, Loesing added 15 points and nine assists and Lee Skinner tallied 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Pitt shot 55 percent (33-60) from the floor and 56 percent (14-25) from 3-point range. Pitt's six turnovers and one free throw made matched season-lows.

With his 12 points, Gibbs pulled into a tie for eighth place on Pitt's all-time career scoring list with Billy Knight. Knight scored 1,731 career points from 1971-74.

With the victory, Pitt improves to 18-16 overall, while Wofford's season ends at 19-14. The contest marked a rematch of Pitt's 2009-10 season opener when it defeated the Terriers 63-60 at the Petersen Events Center.

The CBI Championship Series, a best of three-game series, is scheduled for Monday, March 26 and continues on Wednesday, March 28. Should a third game be necessary, it would be played on Friday, March 30. For more information on the CBI or the Gazelle Group, please visit www.gazellegroup.com.