

Billikens Down Green Bay in Double OT, 68-62

ST. LOUIS – Willie Reed tied his career scoring high and registered game highs of 21 points and 10 rebounds Monday night as Saint Louis advanced to the semifinals of the College Basketball Invitational with a 68-62 doubleovertime victory over Green Bay at Chaifetz Arena.

The Billikens (22-11), who improved to 3-2 in overtime games this season with all three victories coming in two extra sessions (Duquesne, Dayton) will host Princeton in a semifinal matchup Wednesday at 8 p.m. The Tigers also were a double-overtime winner Monday, defeating IUPUI 74-68 in Indianapolis. The other semifinal will match Virginia Commonwealth and Boston University.

Reed, who was 8-of-11 from the field and chalked up his eighth double-double of the season, also tallied two blocks to break Kelvin Henderson's 30-yea-rold single-season school record. Reed has 69 rejections, one more than Henderson registered in the 1979-80 campaign.

Kwamain Mitchell and Cody Ellis scored 14 points apiece, with Ellis collecting eight rebounds and Mitchell adding four assists. All of Ellis' points came in the second half and overtime. Kyle Cassity distributed a game-high six assists, tying his career high, while Brian Conklin chipped in six rebounds as Saint Louis earned a 43-36 advantage on the glass.

Green Bay (22-13) was led by Troy Cotton, who hit five 3-pointers on the way to a 17-point total. Rahmon Fletcher scored 16 points and Rian Pearson contributed 14. Randy Berry (seven rebounds), Matt Smith (six) and Pearson (six) led the Green Bay rebounding effort, and Cotton picked up a game-high four steals.

Fletcher helped stake Green Bay to a 9-4 lead with a pair of baseline jumpers and a 3-pointer. SLU then caught fire and assembled a 10-0 run to take a 14-9 edge. Cassity buried a trey from the right wing and followed with a steal and layup, while Mitchell hit a 3-pointer from the left wing and a baseline runner. A pair of buckets by Pearson brought the Phoenix to within a point at 14-13, but the Bills responded with Reed's layup on a nifty feed from Justin Jordan, Christian Salecich's long 2-pointer that just beat the shot clock and Mitchell's pullup jumper in the key for a 20-15 advantage.

Green Bay answered with Cotton's trifecta, but Reed restored SLU's five-point cushion with a conventional 3-point play that began with a jumper from the right elbow.

The Phoenix then used two Bryquis Perine free throws and another Fletcher 3-pointer to pull even at 23 apiece. Saint Louis took a 27-23 lead on Reed's offensive rebound and dunk and Mitchell's fast-break layup, but Fletcher's 12-foot floater allowed Green Bay to slice the Billiken lead to 27-25 at the break. The Phoenix began the second half with a 13-0 run. Smith tied the score at 27 with a dunk, and Cotton turned a SLU turnover into a fast-break layup before draining three consecutive 3-pointers for a 38-27 Green Bay advantage.

The Billikens broke their second half scoring drought when Ellis connected on a 15-footer. Reed made a layup on a baseline out-of-bounds play, and Mitchell's fast-break layup narrowed the Green Bay lead to 38-33. Cotton netted another trey, and Pearson sank a quick layup that just beat the shot clock on a baseline out-of-bounds play to put the Phoenix on top 43-33.

SLU started to chip away when Ellis tallied on three consecutive possessions to cut the Green Bay advantage to 45-39. After Berry scored on a spin move in the lane, Conklin hit both ends of a 1-and-1 and Mitchell netted a trey from the top of the key to make it 47-44 Phoenix. Conklin made the front end of another 1-and-1, and it was 47-45 Green Bay at the final media timeout.

Pat Nelson's two free throws were followed by an Ellis layup on a perfect high-low pass from Reed. Pearson's layup was answered by Reed's spin for a layup and a free throw, and Conklin sank one of two free throws to knot the score at 51 with 1:56 to play. Green Bay regained the lead on Pearson's rebound

dunk, and SLU appeared to pull even again when Ellis' layup appeared to be going in. But Ellis grabbed the net as the ball was in the cylinder, and the basket was waved off.

Following a timeout, Mitchell stole the Green Bay inbounds pass and flicked the ball to Reed, whose layup with 25 seconds left tied the score at 53. The Phoenix was unsuccessful on a potential game-winning shot, and the game was sent to overtime.

In the first extra session, the Bills grabbed a lead on Ellis' 10-foot baseline turnaround, then led 56-54 when Fletcher and Reed exchanged free throws. Pearson's 15-footer made it 56-all with a little more than a minute to play, and neither team could register a game-winning bucket in the waning seconds.

Ellis again gave SLU a lead in the second overtime with a baseline jumper. Later, Mitchell stole an entry pass, then fed Conklin for a layup that put the Bills on top 60-56. Green Bay pulled even on two Perine free throws and Fletcher's driving layup, but Reed was left all alone underneath for a dunk and a 62-60 Billiken lead.

Perine made one of two free throws before Salecich sank a 3-pointer from the left wing that made it 65-61 Saint Louis. Fletcher made one of two free throws to make it a one-possession game again, but Salecich sealed the victory with a free throw of his own and followed a Green Bay desperation miss with a layup to provide the final margin.