

## **Miners Punch Ticket to CBI Semifinals**

**EL PASO, Texas** – Stefon Jackson scored 26 points and Randy Culpepper added 21 as UTEP downed Northeastern in the CBI quarterfinals, 75-66, on Monday at the Don Haskins Center.

The Miners (21-12) advanced to the semifinals of the tournament and will play at Richmond (20-15) on Wednesday at 6 p.m. Mountain time (8 p.m. Eastern). The game will be nationally televised on HDNet.

If UTEP wins, it would take part in the best-of-three CBI championship series beginning on Monday, March 30. The Miners would be guaranteed at least one home game in the series.

Wednesday's other semifinal matches Oregon State (15-17) and Stanford (20-13) at 8 p.m. Mountain time, also on HDNet. The game will be played in Corvallis.

UTEP turned a 16-12 lead into a 27-12 bulge with an 11-0 run in the first half against Northeastern, and was in control the rest of the night.

The Miners built an 18-point lead, 57-39, on two free throws by Culpepper midway through the second half and maintained a double-digit margin until the final minute.

Culpepper needed 21 points to become the 31st member of UTEP's 1,000point club and got it. He is the first player in school history to score 1,000 points as a sophomore.

Arnett Moultrie added 14 points and 10 rebounds for his fifth double-double of the season, and Gabriel McCulley contributed 10 points off the bench. The Miners had a 31-2 advantage in bench points.

UTEP outshot Northeastern 49.1 percent to 47.4 percent and outrebounded the Huskies 32-27. Chaison Allen led Northeastern with 26 points.