

## O'Day Helps Vermont Hold Off Hofstra to Earn CBI First Round Victory

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. – Ethan O'Day scored a game-high 17 points to lead five Catamounts in double figures as Vermont posted an 85-81 victory over Hofstra in the first round of the CBI Tournament at the Mack Sports Complex. Vermont improves to 19-13 overall, while Hofstra ends its season at 20-14.

On the 10th anniversary of Vermont's first men's basketball postseason win in school history, a 60-57 overtime victory against Syracuse in the 2005 NCAA Tournament, the Catamounts won a postseason game for the fourth time in program history and the second time in UVM's CBI Tournament history.

The Catamounts move onto the quarterfinal round of the CBI Tournament for the second time in school history. For the first time in the men's basketball program's history Vermont will host a postseason game. UVM will face Radford at Patrick Gymnasium on Monday (March 23) at 7 p.m.

Vermont, which led wire-to-wire, built a 12-2 lead to start the game and led by seven, 30-23, with 4:23 left in the first half. Hofstra closed the stanza with a 7-3 spurt to slice the lead to three, 33-30, as the teams headed into halftime.

The game remained tightly contested and a two-possession game throughout much of the second half. Leading by one with 8:55 left in the game, UVM used a 9-2 spurt to open up an eight-point lead on the Pride with 6:29 showing on the clock. Vermont extended its lead to 11 with 3:25 remaining.

Hofstra used an 11-4 spurt to climb back within four with 1:24 left and trailed by two after a 3-pointer by Juan'ya Green with 48 seconds showing. O'Day went 1-for-2 in two consecutive trips to the line to help Vermont hold off the Hofstra and pick up the victory.

Vermont shot 72.2 percent from the field in the second half alone (16-for-22) and finished the game shooting 55.8 percent from the floor. The Pride entered the game shooting 36.7 percent from 3-point range (76th in the country), but UVM held Hofstra to 8-for-33 (.24.2%) from beyond the arc.

O'Day was 5-for-7 from the floor and 7-fo-r10 from the foul line to lead Vermont. Trae Bell-Haynes and Zach McRoberts added 13 points each, while Dre Wills chipped in 11 points and grabbed a team-high seven rebounds. Drew Urquhart chipped in 10 points in 17 minutes off the bench.

Green led four Hofstra players in double figures with 16 points and added five assists.

