

Cougars Advance in the CBI with Victory Over Dons

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. Brock Motum scored 24 points and was one of four Cougars in double figures as Washington State defeated San Francisco, 89-75, Tuesday at War Memorial Gym in the first round of the College Basketball Invitational (CBI).

WSU improves to 16-16 on the season, while USF's season ends at 20-14.

Motum was joined in double figures by Reggie Moore (18 points), Marcus Capers (12 points) and Abe Lodwick (10 points). Moore finished the night 12-for-13 from the free throw line as the Cougars shot .893 (25-for-28), their second-best performance of the season. Capers was two assists and two rebounds shy of a double-double with eight rebounds and a career-high eight assists.

San Francisco also had four players in double figures, led by Michael Williams with 20. Cole Dickerson added 19, followed by Angelo Caloiaro with 15 and Perris Blackwell with 12. Dickerson had a double-double adding 11 rebounds.

The Cougars got on the board first and led 5-0 before the Dons' first bucket at the 18:30 mark. The Cougars slowly extended their lead, reaching 14 points at 24-10 with 11:30 left in the first half. USF countered with an 11-0 run to trail by three with just over seven minutes to go. The three points became one at halftime as the Cougars led 35-34.

Washington State opened the second half strong and quickly held a 10-point lead, 47-37, with 16 minutes left in the game. Each time it looked like WSU was pulling away, San Francisco would come up with a big play and eventually got within four points at the six minute mark, 69-65. But the Cougars continued to answer and hit free throws down the stretch to hang on for an 89-75 victory.

WSU will move on to the quarterfinals where it will face the winner of the game between North Dakota State and Wyoming, Monday, March 19. The location and time are yet to be determined.