

Which State gores Bulls

WICHITA, Kans. – Wichita State (17-16) opened the game on a 14-3 run and never looked back, defeating Buffalo (21-12), 84-73, Wednesday night inside Charles Koch Arena in the opening round of the College Basketball Invitational.

Clevin Hannah and Ramon Clemente led the team in scoring with 14 points each. All five Shocker starters reached double figures as Toure' Murry finished with 12 points while Graham Hatch and JT Durley had 10 points each.

The Bulls were led by Rodney Price's 17 points. Greg Gamble and Max Boudreau each finished with 10 points.

WSU's opening 14-3 run got a jump start from two early three pointers from Murry. The Shockers' frantic defense forced five turnovers and limited the Bulls to just three shots in the game's first five minutes.

UB pulled to within seven, 21-14, on a jumper by Rodney Pierce with 11:22 to play in the half. WSU answered with a jumper from JT Durley and an old-fashioned three-point play by Clemente, part of a 9-2 run to extend the lead to 30-16. Hatch capped the run with an offensive rebound and put-back of a missed three-point attempt by Durley.

Another offensive rebound and put-back by Hatch gave WSU its biggest lead of the half, 38-20, with just over six minutes left in the half and the Shockers took a 45-29 advantage into halftime.

In the first half the Shockers shot 53 percent from the field, including 45 percent from beyond the arc, while holding the Bulls to just 37 percent from the field. UB was held to just one three-pointer on six attempts and turned the ball over nine times.

The Bulls began to heat up to start the second half as UB tried to cut into the deficit with improved three-point shooting. UB connected from deep three times in the first nine minutes of the half. A Calvin Betts three-pointer cut the Shocker lead to 12, 57-45, but WSU answered the Bulls' threats each time. Hannah knocked down two of his four three-pointers to help stop the Bulls' rally.

UB switched to a 1-3-1 zone midway through the half. Not even a defensive change could slow the Shockers on a night that would see WSU reach its highest point total of the season. David Kyles gave WSU its biggest lead of the night, 72-52, with a three-pointer from the wing.

The Bulls mounted one last charge, but a Kyles put an exclamation point on the night with a fast-break dunk that brought the Shocker faithful to their feet. Titus Robinson and Gamble scored in the final seconds for the 84-73 final score.

Along with his 14 points, Hannah had a game-high eight assists to help the Shockers rack up a season-high 22 assists. WSU shot 53 percent for the game, including 50 percent from three-point range while holding the Bulls to just 37 percent for the game.

WSU will host the winner of tonight's Boise State-Stanford game at Charles Koch Arena next Mon., March 23.