

TCU ousted from NIT by Purdue

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Craig Riley scored 12 of his 18 points in the second half as the Purdue Boilermakers beat Texas Christian 67-51 Monday night in the second round of the National Invitation Tournament.

The Boilermakers (18-14) broke the game open in the second half by hitting free throws against foul-plagued Horned Frogs (23-11).

Purdue scored eight consecutive points to take the lead for good. Brandon Brantley ignited the spurt by muscling in for a layup, giving the Boilermakers a 43-41 edge. Cuonzo Martin and Matt Waddell each made one free throw before Waddell and Woody Austin scored to give the Boilermakers a 49-41 lead.

The Horned Frogs cut the deficit to 51-47 with 5:10 remaining but the Boilermakers, who got into the free throw bonus with 10:01 to play and started shooting two shots with 5:01 left, pulled away by scoring 13 of their final 18 points on free throws.

Two Waddell free throws with 5:01 to play gave Purdue a 53-47 lead. Ian Stanback made two free throws with 4:21 to play. Linc Darner followed with

a 3-pointer and the decisive spurt ended with two free throws apiece by Darner and Riley.

Texas Christian was led by Reggie Smith with 21 points, but his team went scoreless for more than four minutes in the second half and shot just 36.7 percent in the period.

Austin contributed 14 points to the victory and Waddell had 13 for the Boilermakers. Al Thomas had 13 for Texas Christian, but had only two in the second half when his team made 11 of 30 shots.

Thomas, with three baskets from 3-point range, scored 11 points as the Horned Frogs opened a 19-12 advantage in the first 10 minutes. But he picked up his second foul early and his team began struggling on offense. Texas Christian, which made just nine of 23 shots in the first half, scored a single point in the 6:39 Thomas sat on the bench.

Purdue used a 10-1 run to take its first lead at 22-20 behind two straight jumpers from Austin.

Austin's 3-pointer tied the game 25-25 with 2:31 left in the first half, which ended 27-25 on a tip-in by Smith with 50 seconds left.

Sixers beat Spurs, end losing streak

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Johnny Dawkins scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a five-game losing streak with a 105-92 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night.

The 76ers, who fell into 11th place in the Eastern Conference with the losing streak, pulled into a ninth-place tie with Miami with the victory. The top eight teams in each conference make the playoffs.

The Spurs, who won six of their seven previous games, fell three games behind first-place Utah in the Midwest Division despite 30 points and 15 rebounds by David Robinson.

Hersey Hawkins led Philadelphia with 21 points, while Armon Gilliam scored 20. Terry Cummings had 19 for San Antonio, which managed just one field goal and eight points in the final 8:28.

Dawkins gave the Sixers a 96-87 lead with a jumper with 4:56 left, then added a 3-pointer with

2:34 remaining for a 99-89 advantage.

The third quarter seesawed back and forth as Charles Barkley's two free throws with eight seconds left gave Philadelphia a 82-77 lead heading into the final quarter.

Cummings kept the Spurs in the game with 11 third-quarter points as Robinson sat out a portion of the period to get his injured left hand taped.

Trent Tucker's pair of 3-pointers helped the Spurs open a 41-38 lead with 6:08 remaining in the first half before Hawkins scored seven straight points to help the Sixers take a 57-55 advantage at halftime.

Robinson finished the first half with 19 points and seven rebounds. Hawkins topped the Sixers with 15 points on 7-for-10 shooting.

Behind Gilliam's eight points, the Sixers went on a 16-2 run to take a 19-8 lead midway through the first quarter. But Robinson's 12 first-quarter points enabled the Spurs to close to 29-24 at end of the period.

Texas-El Paso recaptures glory days with unexpected trip to Sweet 16

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — It's 1966 all over again.

After a 66-60 upset of top-seeded Kansas, Texas-El Paso is in the "Sweet 16" of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 26 years and this city is believing the Miners can repeat history.

"Our win was no fluke," said Margaret Heard, an elementary school teacher spending her first day of spring break watching the Miners practice.

Radio call-in shows were jammed Monday morning with

voices of fans, including 1966 UTEP alumni, who remember what it was like when a young Don Hawkins guided his squad to the NCAA title.

In that tournament, the Miners beat Kansas and Cincinnati to take the Midwest

Regional Championship and head to the Final Four. The Miners face Cincinnati (27-4) on Friday in Kansas City.

After taking care of Utah, 85-78, the Miners shocked the nation using an all-black starting lineup to snatch the NCAA tournament crown with a 72-65 victory over No. 1 Kentucky.

"I remember the '66 team," Heard, 43, said. "I remember watching the whole tournament on television. I listened to the radio all the time. I remember that

so clearly."

Heard was among a throng of people who packed the El Paso International Airport to greet the 27-6 Miners when they returned home shortly after midnight Monday.

Airport Manager George Perry estimated the crowd's size at about 3,000, but other estimates were as high as 5,000.

"Even during the Gulf War when we were required by federal regulations to keep the concourse closed, we never saw congestion

like this," Perry said.

It was quite a turnout for a team whose coach had spent much of the regular season pleading with fans to shell out \$11 to fill the 12,000-seat arena. Miners' game attendance averaged about 7,100 this season.

Some of the fans had been at the airport for two hours, first arriving to greet another area team that is headed for the Sweet 16, New Mexico State which defeated Southwestern Louisiana 81-73.

"We believed all year we could do it. This shows the Coast that the Southwest basketball teams that can play with them," said Heidi Wilcox, a season ticket holder at physical education teacher.

The Miners climbed as high as No. 19 in the nation during the regular season, but four weeks later were dropped from the rankings after back-to-back losses to New Mexico and Air Force.

Despite winning their nine of their past 10 games, they were returned to the national rankings and hometown fans became apathetic, Hawkins used his call show to urge residents to buy game tickets.

"I'm not trying to be cocky but we deserve the national attention after beating the No. 1 team in the nation," said John Melvin, who led the Miners to 18 points and five assists against Kansas.

Rangers rally past Twins

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Kevin Reimer hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to cap a four-run rally, giving the Texas Rangers a 4-3 victory over Minnesota Twins on Monday.

The Twins entered the game with a 3-0 lead, thanks to hitless innings by rookie pitcher Pat Mahomes. But relieved reliever Aguilera (0-1) surrendered two runs before recording an out. Geno Petralli opened the ninth with a single and moved to third on a double by Ruben Sierra. Ruben Sierra's double scored Petralli and Palmeiro. Reimer then hit a towering homer into a pond over the right-field wall to give Texas a 4-3 lead.

The Twins threatened to win it in their half of the ninth. Paul Sorrento walked and moved to third on a double off the right-field wall by Donnie Hill. Wayne Rosenthal struck out Bernardo Brito before walking Shane Mack to load the bases. Terry Jorgensen then struck out end the game.

Pedro Munoz was 2-for-3 with two RBIs for the Twins. Brito Harper also was 2-for-3.

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champion. In right field is Ruben Sierra, arguably the best player in baseball. And finally there is Juan Gonzalez. Last season, at the ripe age of 21, he led the Rangers with 28 homeruns in his first major league season.

And for what it's worth, the 1992 Texas Rangers will be the most exciting team in baseball. A power-packed offense coupled with shaky pitching translates into runs.

Runs for everyone. And this season also means the cheapest seats at Arlington Stadium, the bleachers, will be the best. Not for viewing purposes, but for going home with a souvenir.

There will be more homeruns hit at Arlington Stadium this year than ever before. And who cares if they come off Sierra's bat or Jose Canseco's bat — They will all be authentic major league baseballs.

And the Rangers, hopefully, will find an authentic pitching staff during spring training. We're not looking for a top-notch staff. One that just slightly resembles a collection of major league talent is fine.

The Rangers' offense only needs the slightest of help.



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