

Borden edges Orleans

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Borden visited the Orleans Bull Dogs Friday night and found themselves in a tough battle. It was a game where two good teams played well but both couldn't win. Borden, with five seconds to play scored the last basket to give them their final lead and the win 37 to 36.

The first quarter started out with Borden running out to a six point lead. This would be the biggest lead of the game as Orleans came right back to tie up the game nine all by the end of the quarter. Neither team would hold more than a four point lead for the rest of the game.

The second quarter was a back and forth struggle. The big difference in this game and Borden's previous games was they intentionally played more of a half court game versus the up pace game. The ball handling and passing through the whole game was well executed and deliberate.

One reason Borden played more of a half court game was Orleans center, 6'9" Jacob Barkley. He was not an offensive factor but his defense impacted the game. Blocking half a dozen shots in the first half impacted Borden's ability to drive the lane. This combined with good shooting by Orleans gave them a two point lead at the half 20 to 18 on a last second shot.

After the half the game became even more deliberate. In the first minute of the quarter both teams traded a couple baskets and free-throws to knot up at 23 all. Then the next four minutes both teams butted heads with neither giving up a point. With less than two minutes to play in the quarter Michael Lynch picked up a basket to give him seven points in the quarter, everything Borden scored in that quarter. Orleans responded with a basket and a free-throw to take a one point lead 26 - 25.

Going into the last quarter battle continue till the end. With 1:10 to play Jalen McCoy hit a three pointer. Orleans leading scorer for the night Cale Hall answered with a 3 and McCoy came back with a basket to give Borden a one point lead. Then with 17 seconds to play Borden's Garret Vick fouled Orleans' Hall on a three point attempt. With a couple Borden timeouts thrown in between free throws Hall hit two of three to give Orleans a one point lead.

Then with five seconds to play Borden's Vick hit a basket to take the lead back by a point. Orleans made a long attempt that fell off to the side giving Borden a 37 to 36 win.

After the game Borden coach Doc Nash committed, "We knew Barkley was big so we went at him. But it was our intention to play a deliberate, half court game tonight. We need to be able to play that game in the tournament. Our shooting percentage may not have been that strong but we did hit the big shots. This was a great defensive battle."