

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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Spiders win 74-72, move to CBI semifinals



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH

UR #12 Kevin Smith looks to pass the ball around College of Charleston #11 Dustin Scott on Monday, March 23, 2009.

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SLIDESHOW

CBI quarterfinals

Somebody climb the bell tower and ring dawn to dusk. The University of Richmond reached the final four.

In the College Basketball Invitational. Maybe a few quick rings will suffice.

The Spiders never trailed the College of Charleston in a 74-72 victory before 2,541 at the Robins Center in the CBI quarterfinals. UR (20-15) moves into the semifinals tomorrow at a site undetermined, vs. an opponent undetermined. The final four teams will be re-seeded based on geography. Last night's other three quarterfinals started after the UR-Charleston game.

"No matter who we play, no matter where we play, it's another opportunity for us to play," said Richmond sophomore Kevin Anderson, who scored 21, seven of the Spiders' final nine points.

The Spiders beat a nationally ranked opponent (Xavier), a Big East Conference opponent (St. John's) and a 27-win opponent (Charleston) in the last three weeks. Richmond has won nine of its past 12, five of its past six.

"I think at this point we're a very good team," UR coach Chris Mooney said.

Richmond's guards, Anderson and David Gonzalvez, combined for 36 points as the Spiders shot 54.2 percent. Anderson took over with UR ahead 72-70 in the final minute. He dribbled out front to melt the shot clock, then hit a driving shot with 9.2 seconds left. Charleston (27-9) made it 74-72 at :03.3, but didn't get another shot.

Pick your poison: UR's largest lead was 13 with 10:35 left. Charleston, which placed five players in double figures, came back with buckets, on drives, follows and power moves as UR concentrated on the Cougars' perimeter shooters.

"We knew if we didn't let them get in a comfort zone shooting their 3s, we'd have a chance," said Gonzalvez. The Cougars missed 8 of 9 3-point attempts in the second half. Charleston hit five 3-pointers. It made 10 or more in three of its last four games.

Garrett, again: For the second straight game, UR received a notable lift from 6-9 freshman Darrius Garrett. He played in only three of Richmond's 16 Atlantic 10 Conference games but gave the Spiders 10 active minutes vs. St. John's in the first round of the CBI. In seven first-half minutes last night, Garrett hit all three of his shots. He finished with 3 blocks.

"On the stat sheet, he can have zero-zero-zero-zero, but he can have a huge effect on the game," Gonzalvez said. "His presence helps us out there so much because he's tough and he contests shots."

Good shots go in: Against the Cougars of the Southern Conference, Richmond didn't encounter the same resistance it faced most of the season. Perhaps it was because the Cougars were unfamiliar with UR's spread offense, or maybe they lacked the physical force necessary. In any event, Richmond didn't have to work particularly hard for high-quality shots.

"I don't know the Princeton Offense, but I know a lot about it," Cougars coach Bobby Cremins said of the Princeton-style system the Spiders use. "They run it as well as anybody. They run it, and they can shoot. They know what they're doing."

The Spiders made 56.3 percent in the first half, after which they led 39-33. UR hit 12 of its first 19 shots. Mooney used 10 players in the first half, and nine of them scored. Charleston stayed in it with 3-pointers. They tied a school-record with 16 of them in a 93-91 win at Troy in the CBI's first round and had four at halftime last night.

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COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON (27-9)

	M	FG	FT	R	PF	A	Pts
Johnson-----	26	7-10	1-2	7	2	0	15
Scott-----	33	6-13	2-3	9	4	3	14
Wiggins-----	21	3-4	0-0	4	1	2	7
Goudelock-----	34	5-11	0-0	3	1	1	12
White Jr.-----	28	4-11	0-0	2	2	2	10
Monroe-----	24	4-8	2-2	2	2	2	10
Simmons-----	21	2-4	0-0	4	0	0	4
Hammond-----	13	0-3	0-0	1	1	2	0
Team				3			
Totals -----		31-64	5-7	35	13	12	72

RICHMOND (20-15)

	M	FG	FT	R	PF	A	Pts
K. Smith-----	26	2-4	0-0	1	0	4	4
Butler-----	29	4-7	0-0	4	2	3	10
Giddings-----	28	2-6	2-2	3	2	0	7
Gonzalvez-----	32	7-11	0-0	2	0	3	15
Anderson-----	38	9-17	2-3	4	0	5	21
Garrett-----	17	3-3	0-0	4	2	0	6
Martel-----	11	1-1	0-0	2	1	3	2
Hovde-----	2	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	2
C. Smith-----	6	2-2	0-0	0	0	1	5
Harper-----	11	1-7	0-0	2	1	0	2
Team				5			
Totals -----		32-59	4-5	27	8	19	74

College of Charleston ----- **33 39 -- 72**

Richmond ----- **39 35 -- 74**

3-point goals -- Coll. of Charleston (5-16): Goudelock 2-4, White Jr. 2-7, Wiggins 1-2, Monroe 0-1, Hammond 0-2. Richmond (6-13): Butler 2-4, C. Smith 1-1, Anderson 1-1, Giddings 1-2, Gonzalvez 1-3.

Turnovers -- Coll. of Charleston (9): Johnson 2, Wiggins 2, Simmons 2, Goudelock, White Jr., Monroe. Richmond (9): Butler 3, K. Smith 2, Gonzalvez 2, Giddings, Anderson.

Blocked shots -- Coll. of Charleston (1): Johnson. Richmond (3): Garrett 3.

Steals -- Coll. of Charleston (4): Scott 2, Wiggins, Goudelock. Richmond (5): Butler 4, Giddings.

A -- 2,541.