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Eagles oust Rams in first round of CBI tournament

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For The Coloradoan*

MOREHEAD, Ken. - CSU's (16-16) first postseason berth since 2003 came to an abrupt end Wednesday at the hands of Morehead State.

The Eagles (24-10) ended the Rams' season in the first round of the 2010 College Basketball Invitational tournament by a final score of 74-60. Colorado State University's 16 wins this season matched the combined mark of the previous two years under Coach Tim Miles.

The Eagles pushed ahead to victory behind the strong play of NBA prospect Kenneth Faried. A junior, Faried closed the night with 23 points and 15 rebounds to notch his 23rd double-double of the season.

For CSU, junior guard Adam Nigon and junior forward Andy Ogide ended the contest tied as the Rams leading scorers with 13 points each.

Throughout the game, both squads had difficulty holding on to the ball, as each team committed 21 turnovers.

Miles said his team's inability to control both Faried and the ball contributed to the loss.

"When you look at your gameplan and you say two things: First of all, handle the ball well. Then you look and we have 21 turnovers and that's just too many," Miles said. "Against a high-pressure team, that number needs to be 14 or 15, so we just gave away too many possessions. And secondly, rebound. I thought we rebounded alright, but then we lost Faried at the end. We had the lead down to five or six a couple of times, with a stop and he just got the ball on an offensive rebound. He personally stretched the lead to 13."

Both teams shot well over 50 percent from the field, with CSU finishing the game at 54.3 and Morehead State at 55.3.

MSU faired better from behind the three-point line, posting a three-point percentage of 60, compared to only 46.7 for the Rams.

"The last thing was that they made threes," Miles said. "When they make threes like that - I think they went 9 for 15 - it hurts. We didn't guard the arc well, but we're also trying to protect the paint. They really hurt us every way they could."

In a battle of respective All-Conference players, Ogide did his best to keep up with Faried on the inside, grabbing seven of his team's 21 total rebounds to bring his season total to 214.

Faried credited Ogide for playing a very tough game.

"He's a good player, basically," Faried said. "For him to play in the Mountain West Conference, and do the things he did there, overall you would have to think he's a good player. And the way we played

(Wednesday) night, we were going at it back and forth. He's posting hard, I'm posting hard, so it was a really good match-up for me. I can't knock my opponent, he's a great player."

Morehead State coach Donnie Tyndall described the Rams as a well-coached team.

"They're physical. They forced us into some turnovers (Wednesday) night, which was bad to see on our end, but I have to give them credit," Tyndall said. "They're a physical team. They're efficient offensively, the right guys take the right shots."

Morehead State's opponent for the second round of the CBI will be Boston University.

Boston defeated Oregon State on the road Wednesday night, 96-78. The win marks BU's first post-season win since 1959.

Additional Facts

Morehead St. 74, CSU 60

The Rams finish their season 16-16
