

## PRINCETON: Tiger hoops wins CBI tourney opener

PU men play Monday at IUPUI

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As a result of its strong finish Wednesday, the Princeton University men's basketball team is not finished in 2009-2010.

The Tigers rallied behind Douglas Davis's shooting to overtake Duquesne by halftime and never trailed again in a 65-51 win in the College Basketball Invitational first-round game at Jadwin Gym.

Davis finished with a game-high 16 points, 11 of which came during the Tigers' decisive 17-3 run to close out the first half, the Tigers got great all-around play from Kareem Maddox and an offensive lift from Ian Hummer to go with strong senior leadership.

"I think we were able to bring the energy up," said Maddox, who hit 6-of-10 shots and all three free throws he took for 15 points to go with five rebounds, a block, a steal and an assist. "I think that's the biggest reason we were able to pull away."

Hummer scored 10 of his 14 as Princeton pulled away in the second half to set up a date Monday in Indianapolis with IUPUI, a 74-60 winner over Hofstra in their first round game Wednesday. Princeton has never played IUPUI.

"I know they've been good now for a few years," said PU head coach Sydney Johnson after his team improved to 21-8. "There's going to be some athleticism there. We're anticipating it will be an away game so we're going to go to an unfriendly atmosphere and have a lot of people cheering loudly for us to lose.

"What I love about it, although we're at the best academic school in the country, these guys are having a great basketball experience. For now, we're going to enjoy this moment, being able to beat an A-10 team that's terrifically coached."

Duquesne fell to 16-16 overall as Princeton picked up its first postseason win since the second round of the 1999 National Invitational Tournament. The Dukes were able to ride seven Princeton turnovers and found open lanes to the basket for a 20-11 lead through the first 12 minutes of the game.

"We were careless," Johnson said. "And there's a part of us that maybe wasn't ready to play. We refocused at some point. The guys got their energy level right and we came back from it.

"We had times this year where we started out slowly and just kind of figured it out, so I felt like we were going to. It probably took longer than I wanted it to, but I'm just glad we were able to do that and play our style of basketball."

The Tigers had missed their first seven shots of the game, and their first six 3-pointers, but they started to come around midway through the first half. They closed the first half on a 17-3 run with Davis scoring 11 of the Tigers' first 15 points in the stretch.

The Hun School graduate did not start as Johnson stuck with his four seniors and junior Dan Mavraides, but Davis showed no ill effects of the broken nose he suffered in Monday's practice as he finished the first half 3-for-5 from beyond the arc. He did not join Zach Finley in sporting the protective mask, but instead had the splint on his nose retaped early.

"I was supposed to wear the mask today," Davis said, "but I just couldn't play with it. I decided to go without it."

Davis warmed up for several minutes with the mask on before removing it well before game time.

"I was trying to find a way to make it work," he said, "but before the game it wasn't working at all."

After a Finley tip-in brought the Tigers within 23-20 with 4:06 left in the first half, Marcus Schroeder found Davis in transition for a 3, then in the set offense with less than a minute to go, Davis hit another 3 for Princeton's first lead of the game. Schroeder closed the half with an end-to-end lay-in with three seconds to go. The Dukes came within 28-27 early in the second half, but a Finley dunk followed by a Maddox layup gave the Tigers a five-point lead, and Duquesne never got closer.

Finley finished with six assists — triple his regular average — to go with eight points and eight rebounds. The Tigers equaled their best rebounding output, 41, and largest rebounding margin, plus-15, of the season.

Said Maddox: "We knew it would be important to rebound against an athletic team from the A10, who gets a lot of rebounds, especially offensive, and crashes hard, and plays hard."

Senior co-captain Nick Lake finished off the Dukes with his first career dunk, a jam that even brought a slight smile to Johnson's face.

"We're a good team," Johnson said. "The CBI saw that in us, and gave us an opportunity, and we want to make the most of it. For me personally, I've won games here as a player, some of the best days of my life, from young man to man, were tremendous. I want those same experiences for these guys. It seems like we're realizing some of those things. It takes a lot of work, but we have worked hard and we're in this moment, and I certainly think we're going to enjoy it for as long as it lasts."

The Tigers will be taking on an IUPUI team that won its first postseason game after bolting to a 21-2 lead at Hofstra. In Princeton, they will find a team with depth and confidence after their fifth straight win, a win that solidified their selection to the CBI.

"I'd just like to thank the CBI," Johnson said. "Obviously, we wouldn't be sitting here if we didn't have this tremendous opportunity. I think they saw something in us that we say. Not to get carried away, but I think we're a pretty solid basketball program.

"We've been able to have all these guys whose skills don't compete with each other," he added. "They bring different things to the table, and it's made us a tough out. I like what this team brings. As long as we play hard, I think we can continue to be a tough team to beat."

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