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## Billikens keep their season going with win in double OT

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Just like St. Louis University's season, Monday's quarterfinal in the College Basketball Invitational wasn't going to end easily.

SLU fell behind 11 in the second half, fought back to tie the game, lost guard Justin Jordan to a season-ending broken thumb, had a potential go-ahead basket wiped out by an unnecessary goaltending call in the final minute of regulation, survived one overtime, started the second overtime without center Willie Reed, who appeared to be suffering from cramps, had Reed come off the bench and score within seconds of coming into the game to put SLU ahead, then got a clutch 3-pointer by freshman Christian Salecich with 22.4 seconds left to ice it. Other than that, not much happened.

Throw that all together and you have a 68-62 win for SLU over Wisconsin-Green Bay on Monday at Chaifetz Arena. SLU (22-11) will face Princeton at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Chaifetz in the semifinals of the CBI, with a spot in the best-of-three finals at stake. Virginia Commonwealth and Boston University meet in the other semifinal.

"Both teams were so tired at the end," SLU coach Rick Majerus said, "it was like punch-drunk fighters trying to hang in there. I applaud our team for withstanding this."

One day between games will barely be enough time for SLU to exhale after Monday's marathon, even more so with SLU now down to eight scholarship players.

Jordan broke his right thumb with 6:42 to go in the second half. He was diving for a ball after a Green Bay missed shot and appeared to have a Green Bay player who was also going for the ball land on his hand. After the referees stopped play, Jordan ran from the court, cradling his injured hand.

Reed matched his career high with 21 points, added 10 rebounds and set SLU's single-season record for blocked shots. Guard Kwamain Mitchell had 14 points

and one of several nominees for play of the game, stealing an inbound pass with 25 seconds to go in regulation and tipping it to Reed for a layin that tied the score.

It was the third time this season SLU has gone to double overtime, and the Billikens are unbeaten in those games. Green Bay (22-13) frustrated SLU by switching between zone and man, but SLU still shot a decent 45 percent while Green Bay managed seven 3-pointers against SLU's tough 3-point defense.

SLU led by two at the half, but a 13-0 run for Green Bay put SLU down 11 and left them catching up for the rest of the half. SLU pulled close a couple of times to get the crowd going and finally managed to tie the game when Brian Conklin made one of two free throws with 1:57 to play. Rian Pearson put Green Bay ahead and a layin by Cody Ellis that had rattled in the basket and looked to be going through was touched by Reed (and Ellis also grabbed the net) to wipe out the basket. But Mitchell then made his steal to send the game to overtime.

In the first overtime, each team scored just three points and SLU had the last chance, with Kyle Cassity missing a 3-pointer. The second overtime was tied at 60-60 when Reed entered the game. Cassity found him with the inbound pass and he laid it in to put SLU up two. Bryquis Perine made just one of two free throws for Green Bay and after an exchange of missed shots, Salecich hit his 3 with 22.4 seconds to put SLU up four.

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