

## Rhode Island ends Miami's basketball season

Rams star records a triple-double against the RedHawks in the CBI tournament.

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KINGSTON, R.I. — Coming into Wednesday night's College Basketball Invitational contest, Miami University head coach Charlie Coles knew if his young squad was going to have a chance against Rhode Island, it needed to stop Delroy James.

That game plan didn't exactly work out for the RedHawks (16-17), as James recorded the first triple-double in school history with 22 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to lead the Rams (20-13) to a 76-59 victory in front of 1,115 at the Ryan Center.

"We tried to do what we thought was the best for the game plan," Coles said. "That was to keep James out of the lane. But he's so good and so strong that it's a man playing against boys."

"Del is a warrior," said Rhode Island head coach Jim Baron. "That's not an accident. He just plays hard and plays to win."

Miami, after trailing by 12 at the break, did its best to make a game of it in the early stages of the second half. A quick 4-1 burst in the first 58 seconds cut the deficit to single digits. After URI reeled off seven straight points, the RedHawks had their most impressive stretch of the game.

Down 44-28, Orlando Williams (14 points, five assists) connected on a pair of baskets and a free throw and Julian Mavunga (15 points, seven rebounds) added a pair of hoops to cut the lead to 44-37 with 13:55 remaining. The defense also stepped up, forcing three Rhode Island turnovers and a 0-for-3 effort from the field during the three-minute spurt.

A 3 from Williams cut the deficit to six points (46-40) at the 12-minute mark, but that would be as close as Miami would get the rest of the game.

From there, the Rams busted the game open with an 18-3 run over a five-minute stretch to push the lead to 21 points at 64-43. During that run, James accounted for five points, four assists, three rebounds and a blocked shot.

To make matters worse, the RedHawks went cold shooting the ball, going a stretch of 5:30 with just one field goal, a 3-pointer from Nick Winbush.

"We fell apart," said Coles, whose team was out-rebounded by the Rams, 39-27. "We missed too many opportunities, and then we didn't rebound the ball at key times. I thought we rebounded, for the most part, decently and I thought we came up with some loose balls. They just pulled away from us and there wasn't much we could do after that."

One thing the RedHawks couldn't have expected was the emergence of Orion Outerbridge as a deep threat. The 6-foot-9 junior forward had never attempted a 3-pointer during his collegiate career, but drained all four of his attempts from behind the arc in the game, including a trey at the 11:54 mark of the first half that gave the Rams a 12-9 lead, one they wouldn't relinquish the rest of the way.

Outerbridge, who came in averaging 6.2 points per game and had been held scoreless in the previous two games, finished with 18 points, tying his career-high, set earlier this year in a win at Richmond.

"Just my luck. Kid never shot a 3 in his life; he hits 4-for-4," Coles said. "We knew he was a decent jump shooter, but we didn't know he was from that range. I think Rhode Island found something. They not only won the game, but they found something."

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