

## Texas outlasts No. 13 Illinois in overtime at Garden, advances to face No. 5 Pitt Friday night

BY [Roger Rubin](#)

DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

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[Texas](#) arrived at the Garden for the second semifinal of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic unranked but knocking on the door to the AP Top 25.

Senior [Gary Johnson](#) helped them kick it in Thursday night.

After making what might have been the dumbest play of the game - an intentional foul with the score tied and under four minutes left in regulation - he made all the smart plays in overtime against No. 13 [Illinois](#) to guide the Longhorns to a 90-84 victory.

Texas scored the first eight points of OT and held on through a late barrage of [Bill Cole](#) 3-pointers. In that opening flurry, Johnson had four points and a great pass from the high post to [Tristan Thompson](#) for a short fadeaway. He also put on an [Academy Award](#)-caliber performance in drawing the final foul on [Jereme Richmond](#).

"I was angry - I told him that it was close to being a flagrant foul," Texas coach [Rick Barnes](#) said of the intentional foul. "I know people will think he was trying to hurt someone but he's not like that ."

[Jordan Hamilton](#) scored 24, Thompson 20 and Johnson 16 for Texas (3-0), which meets No. 5 [Pittsburgh](#) in the title game Friday night at 7. [Demetri McCamey](#) scored 22 for Illinois (3-1), which faces [Maryland](#) in the 5 p.m. consolation.

As the second half closed, [Corey Joseph](#) sank a jumper with 32 seconds to play to give Texas a 75-73 lead, but Richmond tied it on a drive with five seconds left.

Thompson added seven rebounds and five dynamic blocked shots. He was a junior at [St. Benedict's Prep](#) in [Newark](#) two years ago - a highly rated recruit who had chosen Texas - when then-coach [Danny Hurley](#) threw him off the team in the middle of the year. Hurley, now coach at [Wagner](#), suggested he was being influenced negatively by handlers. Thompson finished school in [Nevada](#), but remains in touch with Hurley.

"I got a fresh start and I'm happy," Thompson said. "He and I are actually closer than ever right now."

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