TU captures CBI championship in front of sellout crowd

By BILL HAISTEN, World Sports Writer
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Performing before a raucous Reynolds Center crowd, the University of Tulsa defeated Bradley in the decisive game of the College Basketball Invitational's best-of-three series.

Ben Uzoh scored 17 points and 7-footer Jerome Jordan totaled 11 points and 12 rebounds as the Golden Hurricane prevailed 70-64.

The game was witnessed by a standing-room-only audience of 8,455. It was the 40th sellout in the 10-season history of the Reynolds Center. When the final buzzer sounded, TU students stormed onto the court. Jordan was voted the tournament's most valuable player.

Closing the season with a 25-14 record and the third postseason tournament title in school history, TU rallied from a 16-2, first-half deficit and trailed 34-28 at halftime. With 14:42 left to play, TU took its first lead of the game when Uzoh drove the baseline for a layup that barely beat the shot-clock buzzer.

With 2:24 remaining, Hurricane guard Rod Earls gave his team the lead for good, connecting on a left-corner 3-pointer that made it 60-59.

Of its six games in the inaugural CBI event, the Golden Hurricane played five at home. TU defeated Miami of Ohio 61-45, Utah 69-60 and Houston 73-69 before facing Bradley in the CBI championship series.

After winning 73-68 in Monday's series opener, TU lost 83-74 Wednesday on Bradley's homecourt in Peoria, Ill. That resulted in Friday's decisive Game 3.

Capping his third season as the Hurricane coach, Doug Wojcik directed TU to 15 victories in its last 19 games. The CBI championship is TU's third postseason tournament title. The Golden Hurricane captured the NIT championship in 1981 and 2001.

For the five CBI home games, TU's average attendance was 6,452. During the regular season, the average was 5,518.

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2. 4/4/2008 9:27:21 PM, Jake, Tulsa
Way to go TU!! You are champions and anyone who says different is wrong. It doesn't matter if it wasn't the NCAA or NIT it is a postseason tournament and you won it. This program is back on track and next year is going to be even better. Again congrats to all the players.

3. 4/4/2008 9:29:02 PM, Jerry Johns, Lexington, KY
Congratulations Seniors! Congratulations Coach Wojc! Well done.

build a winner , and they will come, and tulsa, you showed it ! congratulations

5. 4/4/2008 9:30:56 PM, Will, Portland
Congrats. Wojo has done a great job and is a sincere and great coach for the future of TU