

Young leads Pitt to win over Eastern Washington, 84-51

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Eastern Washington entered Friday's game as one of the nation's top-scoring teams, so Pittsburgh coach Jamie Dixon set a goal for his team: hold the Eagles to 35 percent shooting, or lower.

The Panthers didn't quite hit that mark, but stifled Eastern Washington's transition offense and limited the Eagles to a season-low shooting night in an 84-51 victory.

"They just never quite got in that rhythm," Dixon said. "After we scored, it's obviously hard to score after a basket but they've shown the ability to do it and the commitment to it, but they didn't seem to get that going against us."

Michael Young scored 21 points to lead Pitt (7-1) in the wire-to-wire victory. Jamel Artis added 14 points and Chris Jones chipped in 11 off the bench.

Eastern Washington (5-5) mustered only five fast-break points and shot 37.3 percent from the field. Eagles head coach Jim Hayford called Pitt's transition defense superb.

"Their transition defense was such that we were never able to play offense with them in a state of reaction and that's why we had an extremely low-scoring game for us," Hayford said.

Austin McBroom made three 3-pointers and scored 14 points to lead Eastern Washington. Felix Von Hofe and Venky Jois scored 10 points apiece as the Eagles shot a season-low 37.3 percent from the field. Pitt looked well-rested after four idle days following a stretch of four games in eight days.

The Panthers made their first six field goal attempts to grab an early double-digit lead and shot 59 percent in the first half. Pitt led 42-23 at halftime.

Pitt held the Eagles scoreless for four minutes and used an 11-0 run to extend its lead to 24 points with eight minutes left and led by as many as 37.

"We were a welterweight fighting a heavyweight tonight," Hayford said of falling behind early. "We took one punch and weren't knocked out but laid on the ground and hoped we could get our purse and leave. That's why it was an ugly game."

Eastern Washington struggled defensively again after the Eagles allowed Davidson to shoot 59.6 percent from the field in a 96-86 loss Wednesday. The Eagles allowed their opponent to make at least half of its shots for the sixth time in 10 games this season.

Pitt scored 27 points off 15 Eastern Washington turnovers.