Titans Top Canisius 83-78, Stay Perfect at Home

box score

DETROIT (12/30/12) -- On Father and Son Day at Calihan Hall junior guard <u>Ray McCallum</u> scored a game-high 22 points as the University of Detroit Mercy men's basketball team extended its home winning streak to 15-straight games with an 83-78 topping of Canisius Sunday afternoon. All five of Detroit's starters scored in double figures registering every point for the Titans.

The Titans 15-game home winning streak is tied with Oregon and Pittsburgh for the ninth longest in the nation. The win was also Detroit's 20th straight when scoring 80 or more points dating back to the 2010-11 season.

McCallum also recorded a team-high seven assists and five rebounds to lead the Titans, while classmate <u>Jason Calliste</u> added 19 points, four rebounds, and two assists. Senior <u>Nick Minnerath</u> pitched in 16 points, 12 in the second half, while <u>Doug Anderson</u> and <u>Juwan Howard</u>, <u>Jr.</u> scored 13 points and grabbed five boards apiece.

Detroit (8-5) jumped out to an early 7-3 lead, on a pair of dunks from Anderson and Howard along with three-pointer from McCallum, before heading to the first media timeout with a 14-9 lead. The Griffs then responded with a 10-5 run following the timeout to tie the game, 19-19, with 12:51 remaining, before Calliste drained a three-pointer on the Titans next possession to spark a 12-0 run to give Detroit a 31-19 lead with 10:24 left. Canisius was then able to stay close and end the half with a 23-8 run to take a 42-39 lead into the locker room. McCallum led Detroit with 13 points, including three three-pointers, while Calliste pitched in 10 points and Howard added eight at the break.

Canisius (9-4) made the first basket of the second half, a three-pointer from Isaac Sosa, to extend its lead to 45-39, before the Titans shot back with a 9-2 run that was capped off by a jumper from McCallum to give Detroit the lead, 48-47, with 14:47 left. The Griffs then responded with an 8-0 run to build their largest lead of the game 55-48 with 11:46 remaining. Detroit answered back with a 12-0 run to regain the lead 60-55 with 8:29 left, a lead that the Titans would not relinquish. Canisius made three consecutive three-pointers in the closing minute of play to trim the Titans lead to 79-77 with 21 seconds left, but both Minnerath and McCallum made all four free throw attempts down the stretch to seal the win.

Canisius won the battle on the boards, 34-26, but Detroit forced 23 Golden Griffin turnovers, while distributing 14 assists. Canisius shot 50.9 percent overall, while the Titans finished 45.0 percent from the field. Detroit also made 20-of-25 free throw attempts, including 9-of-10 in the closing minutes.

Canisius was led by Billy Baron who finished with 20 points and a game-high eight rebounds, while both Sosa and Jordan Heath pitched in 17 points apiece.

Detroit will open Horizon League play on Thursday, Jan. 3 when the Titans welcome Milwaukee to Calihan Hall. The game is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be streamed live on ESPN3. The Titans will also raise their 2012 Horizon League Tournament Championship Banner before the game.