

Ongwae's Season-High Lifts ULM over Eastern Michigan, 71-67 in CBI First Round

box score

MONROE, La. – Senior Tylor Ongwae notched a season-high 26 points including a pair of huge three-pointers late as the ULM men's basketball program overcame a 19-0 Eastern Michigan run in the second half to win, 71-67 on Wednesday at Fant-Ewing Coliseum in the first round of the College Basketball Invitational.

ULM (22-12) led 54-38 when the Eagles (21-14) stormed back with their 19-0 surge to take the lead, 57-54 with 7:51 to go. EMU was still up, 63-60 at the 3:45 mark when junior Jamaal Samuel converted a put-back and Ongwae came through with his back-to-back three-pointers to put ULM on top, 68-65 with 52 seconds left.

Junior Justin Roberson hit a pair of free throws to extend the lead to 70-65 and complete a 10-0 run with 35 seconds remaining.

EMU's Tim Bond responded a jumper, and the Eagles were able to get a tie-up with the possession arrow with 20 seconds left. The Warhawks forced a tough three-point attempt and junior Majok Deng came down with the rebound after the miss with 5.6 seconds left. He made a free throw to seal the game.

Ongwae, an All-SBC First-Team selection, played all 40 minutes, drained nine field goals, recorded six assists and pulled down five rebounds. Samuel netted 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and All-SBC Third-Team honoree Deng registered 15 points and eight rebounds. Roberson finished with nine points, seven rebounds and three assists.

Raven Lee led EMU with 17 points. Bond ended with 13 points and six assists, and Trent Perry had 10 points.

ULM was up early, 14-8 after a lay-in by Roberson. After the Eagles used a 6-0 run to tie it, the game stayed even at 21-21 with 8:15 remaining.

EMU knocked down some shots and took its biggest lead of the half 27-23 at the 6:24 mark. The Warhawks answered with a big 13-0 run to go up 36-27, which included a three-pointer by sophomore Nick Coppola and a monster dunk by Samuel. ULM carried a 38-31 lead into the break.

The Warhawks opened the second half hot and used a 9-1 run, including four points from Samuel and a three-pointer by Ongwae, to go up 47-32, forcing EMU to call timeout with 16:58 left. After junior DeMondre Harvey threw down a slam, ULM had its biggest lead of the game, 54-38 with 12:55 remaining.

ULM advanced to the CBI Quarterfinals. It will travel to Mercer for a road game on Monday. The time is to be announced.