

Bulls Open Season with 89-82 Win over Ohio Valley Face Connecticut in Storrs Regional Championship

[box score](#)

STORRS, CT - The University at Buffalo men's basketball team opened the 2007-08 season with an 89-82 victory over Ohio Valley in the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic in Storrs, CT on Wednesday night. The Bulls will now play the winner of the Connecticut/Morgan State game on Thursday at 9:00 pm - a game that will be televised nationally on ESPNU.

The Bulls struggled to find their shooting touch early, allowing Ohio Valley to jump out to a 15-8 lead. Greg Gamble (Niagara Falls, NY/Niagara Falls) jump-started the UB offense by scoring 10 straight points. The junior swingman went on to drop a career-high 25 points to pace the Bulls.

Senior forward Andrew Atman (Pittsburgh, PA/Upper St. Clair) also notched career bests with 16 points and seven rebounds. He scored 12 of his points in the first half.

After trailing for much of the first half, the Bulls rallied to take a 47-46 lead at the break.

The Bulls finally shook the pesky Fighting Scots midway through the second half when Brian Addison (Queens, NY/Andrew Jackson) made a pair of free throws to give the Bulls the lead for good, 62-61. Addison's free throws sparked a 20-5 scoring run to put the Bulls ahead, 80-66. The final five points of the run came courtesy of freshman Jawaan Alston (Uniontown, PA/Albert Gallatin).

Ohio Valley made a late run to cut the lead to 84-81 with 1:44 remaining. However, the Bulls converted 5-of-6 free throws down the stretch to seal the victory.

"We came out anxious and tried to score more than two or three points on one possession," head coach Reggie Witherspoon said. "Once we settled down we started to do some good things."

A healthy Sean Smiley (Erie, PA/McDowell) returned to the UB lineup and scored a career-high 11 points. Smiley led a Bulls' bench that scored 57 of Buffalo's 89 points. Calvin Betts (Rochester, NY/Rush-Henrietta) scored nine points and Alston added seven.

Defensively, the Bulls forced 31 turnovers and had 12 steals. Gamble led the way with four pilfers.

Buffalo (1-0) will face the winner of the Connecticut/Morgan State game on Thursday night at 9:00 pm. The game will air on ESPNU.

