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Bears Race Past Kennesaw State, 93-59

[box score](#)

Tyrone Wallace wasn't having much luck getting to the basket against Kennesaw State's defense. A few key perimeter shots from Jordan Mathews and Jabari Bird helped loosen things up in the lane for California's new point guard.

Wallace had 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, Mathews scored 16 and the Golden Bears beat the Owls 93-59 on Sunday night at Haas Pavilion in a regional round game of the 2K Classic benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project.

"I had like one point in the first half," Wallace said. "They did a good job of clogging the lane. Jordan and Jabari were able to loosen it up for guys like me to drive."

Committing 15 turnovers, the Bears (2-0) weren't as crisp offensively as they were in a season-opening win over Alcorn State.

Cal, which ran freely and scored easy transition buckets in the opener, didn't get into rhythm until midway through the second half then pulled away for its second consecutive lopsided win.

The Bears still shot 60.3 percent from the floor and led the entire way _ but first-year Cal coach Cuonzo Martin was more concerned with his team's slow start.

"I thought it was too much one-on-one play, not making the extra pass," Martin said. "I don't think the ball flowed like it should flow when you got guys open. But other than that, guys settled down and we played the way we're capable of playing."

Cal led by 26 at halftime then made seven straight shots coming out of the break.

Wallace scored seven consecutive points and 11 of 12 to push the Bears lead to 79-43 late in the second half.

"He had a smaller, quick guy underneath him and that was great for him," Martin said. "He just settled down, made the adjustments and did what he needed to do."

Nigel Pruitt scored 16 points for Kennesaw State (0-2).

The Owls, who flew 2,800 miles on a cross-country flight on Saturday, played without coach Jimmy Lallathin, who was serving a one-game NCAA suspension.

"We got plenty of rest," Kennesaw State assistant coach David Rivers said. "It's about being disciplined, about being focused and coming out and doing the job."

Bird added 15 points and seven rebounds while Dwight Tarwater had 10 points for Cal.

The Bears scored the first nine points then slowly pulled away and built a 41-15 halftime lead.

The Owls were out of sync offensively all game. They committed eight turnovers in the first 10 minutes of the first half, were whistled for three offensive fouls early and failed to score on consecutive possessions until Pruitt's back-to-back buckets with 15 minutes left to play.

Delbert Love, Kennesaw State's leading scorer a year ago, had 11 points on 3-of-8 shooting.

TIP-INS

California: Kingsley Okoroh had four points and four rebounds. The 7-foot-1, 254-pounder is easily the biggest post player on a Cal team that is extremely thin inside. "I like the way King is playing," Martin said. "He's really improving." ... Both of the Bears' wins this season have been by 34 points.

UP NEXT

California plays No. 23 Syracuse on Thursday at 6 p.m. PT in New York's Madison Square Garden in the next round of the 2K Classic.