

Cornell Advances Past Saint Francis, 75-54

Ryan Rourke scores 25 to lead Big Red in opener of 2K Sports College Hoops Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer

[box score](#)

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) -- Ryan Rourke had 25 points and nine rebounds, Lenny Collins had 17 points, and Jason Hartford added 16 to lead Cornell past Saint Francis, Pa. 75-54 on Tuesday night in the first round of the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer.

Ryan Rourke led the Big Red with 25 points and nine rebounds.

It was the first game of the Division I season, and the Big Red took advantage of the cold-shooting Red Flash, who went long stretches in each half without a field goal in the unfamiliar surroundings of the Carrier Dome.

Cornell will play the winner of the game between No. 16 Syracuse and Bethune-Cookman on Wednesday.

Rahsaan Benton and J.R. Enright each had 12 points for Saint Francis, and Jelani Lawrence and Darnell Evans each had 10. The Red Flash shot 32.2 percent for the game.

Saint Francis was 1-for-10 on 3-pointers in the first half, but Lawrence, Steve Profeta and Benton hit 3s early in the second and three free throws by Benton pulled Saint Francis to 42-40 with 14:22 to play.

Cornell then took control with a 17-3 run as the Red Flash made just two baskets in a 5:36 span.

Adam Gore, who finished with 11 points, had a three-point play and drained a 3-pointer from the right wing to give Cornell a 51-43 lead at 10:08. A backdoor cut by Collins, a hook in the lane by Andrew Naeve and two free throws by Rourke completed the spurt, giving the Big Red a 59-43 lead with 6:00 left.

Cornell rallied from a 12-6 deficit with a 14-0 run as Saint Francis went 6:14 without a field goal.

The Big Red led 30-16 at 4:41, but Evans scored eight points for Saint Francis in the final four minutes as the Red Flash closed to 32-26 at halftime.

