

# A Game of Runs Ends with LA Tech on Top 85-72

Ashaolu's 22 and Brown's 18 lead the Bulldog's hot shooting night.

[box score](#)

**IRVINE, Calif.** - Junior forward Olu Ashaolu recorded his third double-double of the season as the Louisiana Tech men's basketball team beat Seattle 85-72 on Friday at the Bren Center in Irvine, Calif.

Tech improved to 3-1 on the season while Seattle fell to 1-4. Both teams will continue play in the 2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer as Tech faces Navy on Saturday at 7 p.m. CT and UC-Irvine at 7:30 p.m. CT.

Ashaolu recorded a season-high 22 points on 8-of-12 shooting from the field and added 11 rebounds, four offensive, for the 14th double-double game of his career.

Senior guard DeAndre Brown scored 18 points and a season-high seven rebounds to go along with five rebounds. Sophomore guard Brandon Gibson scored 13 points and was 3-of-6 from three-point range. He also added eight rebounds, four steals and three blocks.

Tech shot a season-best 51.6 percent from the field including 57.1 percent in the second half. The Bulldogs also shot a season-best 41.2 percent from three-point range.

Louisiana Tech led most of the game and every time the Bulldogs extended the lead with a scoring run, the Redhawks answered with a run of their own.

Tech trailed 11-4 early on before a 10-2 run over the next minute and a half gave the Bulldogs a 14-13 lead with 15:25 remaining. From there, the lead changed four times till the end of the half. The final lead change came when Tech was down 36-32 with three minutes till halftime when the Bulldogs scored eight unanswered points capped off by a Gibson three-pointer to lead 40-36 at half.

Louisiana Tech led 48-43 before going on a 13-2 run to take a 61-45 lead, it's largest of the game with 11:24 remaining. However, Seattle turned up the pressure with a zone trap and forced Tech into turnovers in six straight possessions. The Redhawks capitalized on the opportunity and went on a 14-2 run to pull within four points, 63-59 with 6:38 remaining.

"When they got behind they came after us and pressured us and it took us a while to get organized and be in the right positions," said Tech head coach Kerry Rupp. "It was a matter of us being in the right spots, getting spacing and then using ball fakes to beat their pressure."

The Bulldogs held a 70-67 lead with 3:34 remaining. However, Tech then closed the game on a 15-5 run. During the run, Tech received two dunks from sophomore Darius Redding and one from Ashaolu. Freshman Kenyon McNeaill was 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final 1:16 of the game as he recorded 13 points, four rebounds and five assists, all season highs.

"Defensively I thought we made some good stands and I was proud of the way our guys battled on the boards," Rupp said.

Tech had 39 rebounds, 14 offensive compared to Seattle who had 33.

Sterling Carter led Seattle with 22 points on 3-of-6 shooting from three-point range.

Saturday's game will be broadcast on KXKZ 107.5 FM and Sunday's game will be on 99.3 KPCH with the "Voice of the Bulldogs" Dave Nitz calling the action. There is no livestats for this weekend's games. For men's basketball live twitter updates, follow @LATechSSchoon.

