

Vermont beats New Orleans 82-65

Joe Tripani scores 20 points to lead Catamounts

[box score](#)

COLLEGE PARK, Md. -- Joe Tripani scored 20 points, and Vermont cruised past New Orleans 82-65 Tuesday night in the opening round of the 2K College Hoops Classic.

Vermont used an early 23-2 run to take control, led by 12 at halftime and never let the margin slip into single digits. The Catamounts (1-0) will next face Maryland, which beat Hampton 102-75.

Tripani, a 6-foot-7 freshman forward, made all three of his 3-pointers and finished 6-for-9 from the floor in his college debut. Mike Trimboli added 11 points and 8 assists, and Kyle Cieplicki scored 10.

Bo McCalebb led New Orleans (0-1) with 18 points and Jamie McNeilly had 10. The Privateers went 3-for-12 from 3-point range and were outrebounded 39-25 by the taller Catamounts.

New Orleans scored the game's first five points before Vermont made eight straight shots to take a 23-7 lead. Tripani contributed seven points to the surge, and Trimboli and Cieplicki had five apiece.

The Privateers answered with eight successive points to make it 23-15, but would get no closer. Two free throws by Tim McCroy and a 3-pointer by Tripani put Vermont up by 13, and the Catamounts led 40-28 lead at the break.

It was 63-47 with 8:23 left before New Orleans made one final run, closing to 65-55 to 7 minutes to go. Chris Holm followed with a basket for Vermont, and Tripani added three foul shots for a 13-point cushion.

