

Ramey Leads Texas Past California Baptist 67-54

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) -- During Shaka Smart's first four seasons as Texas coach, the Longhorns lost four games at home to mid-major opponents, including Radford last November.

Courtney Ramey would not allow that to happen again. After Texas led California Baptist by only four points at halftime, Ramey rallied his team. He scored 15 of his 19 points in the second half, and Texas defeated the Lancers 67-54 Tuesday night in the 2K Empire Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project.

"It was like this is our Radford game," Ramey said. "We can't lose this one."

Texas (3-0) shot just 28.6% in the first half. But the Longhorns made a 15-5 push to start the second half, Ramey contributing five baskets and an assist. The Longhorns shot 64% in the second half, with Ramey hitting six of seven.

Ramey, a sophomore, matched his career-high while helping Texas extend a winning streak to eight games, the first five while winning the NIT last season.

"When you are training defensively to start the year, you tell players you are ultimately gonna run into players who can shoot it, drive it and make shots off the dribble," California Baptist coach Rick Croy said. "He's that. He's very confident and they give him space."

Jericho Sims had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Longhorns. Andrew Jones scored 11.

Milan Acquah led Cal Baptist (2-1) with 17 points and Ferron Flavors Jr. added 14.

Texas led by 14 early in the second half, but Cal Baptist cut the deficit to three with consecutive 3-point baskets by Acquah and Flavors with 7:23 left.

Texas responded with a 3-pointer by Jase Febres, a dunk by Sims, and two free throws by Ramey. Febres' 3-pointer from the right corner, assisted by Matt Coleman, came after a timeout.

"He stuck a big one," Croy said. "At that point of the game they were struggling to make field goals. That kind of opens things up for them. We couldn't really touch them after that."