

## Coleman, Jones Lead Texas Past Prairie View A&M 70-56

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** -- Texas coach Shaka Smart says he has the components of a good offensive team. Until they are assembled and working properly, the Longhorns will rely more on defense.

On Friday night, Texas forced 21 Prairie View A&M turnovers and limited Chancellor Ellis, a dangerous shooter, to two 3-point baskets while defeating the Panthers 70-56 in the 2K Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project.

"We want our defense to be our anchor," Smart said. "The last two games, we scored 26 points in the first half, but our defense allowed us to have a lead going into halftime both times."

Indeed, in this game, and a 67-54 win against California Baptist on Tuesday, Texas led 26-22 at the break. In each, Texas improved offensively in the second half.

Matt Coleman III scored seven of Texas' last eight points against Prairie View, finishing with a game-high 17. Andrew Jones did more damage in the first half, scoring 10 of his 15.

Donovan Williams added 13 points and four steals for the Longhorns, and Jase Febres scored 10. He made two 3-point baskets in a span of less than two minutes in the second half, enabling Texas to create some separation.

Jericho Sims grabbed 10 rebounds.

Texas (4-0) has won nine consecutive games, including five while winning the NIT last spring.

Lenell Henry led Prairie View (1-3) with 12 points but he committed eight turnovers. Ellis scored 11. Ellis made eight 3-pointers against Central Florida on Nov. 9, putting Prairie View's next two opponents, Texas State and Texas, on alert. He hit 2 of 6 in each of those games.

"I think it's called a scouting report," Prairie View coach Byron Smith said. "It's not gonna be easy to get a shot off."

Texas and Prairie View spent the first half matching frenetic effort but also striking inefficiency.

Neither team achieved 40% shooting accuracy. Prairie View missed six of its seven 3-point attempts, while Texas hit 4 of 18. The Panthers committed 11 turnovers, the Longhorns nine.

Both teams improved in the second half, Texas shooting 50% and Prairie View 48.

Texas hit 5 of 14 from distance in the second half, and relied more on driving to the basket. Smart move considering Texas has shot 3-pointers with less than 30 percent accuracy this season.

"We wanted to come out more aggressive," Jones said. "We played a little timid, shot a lot of threes in the first half. We just decided we were gonna play to our advantage and get stops and pound the ball into the paint."