## William Goodwin

WACO, Texas- Number 5 ranked Baylor rolls over Mississippi Valley State in the men's basketball home opener 117-53.

Coming into the season ranked at number 5 along with Big XII rivals the Kansas Jayhawks. The expectations were high for the home opener this Monday.

Baylor junior and men's basketball team manager Johnny Gierat said "We have a very talented group of guys and this is their first time to show out, I would be shocked if we didn't win by double digits."

Even with all the offseason hype, the Bears got out to a relatively slow start, starting off an ice-cold 0-for-7 from behind the arch.

After Baylor's lead got cut to 16-10 with around 10.5 minutes left in the first half, Baylor Head Coach Scott Drew was livid with their shooting performance and gathered his team on the bench.

"It was clear we were not shooting well, and our first look at this team was kind of a flop," said Baylor sophomore and Ferrell Center employee Ryan Catanzarita.

After breaking the huddle, the Bears launched a 45-11 run to close the half while shooting 7-for-9 from the three-point line, and allowing just 4 made field goals from their opponent.

After entering the break with a 61-21 Lead it was all bears in the second half suffocating Mississippi valley with their defense and winning the points off turnover battle 23-3.

The scoring was led by the veterans, with senior guard Adam Flagler scoring 21 points in 25 minutes and junior guard LJ Cryer scoring 16 points in 20 minutes.

Former 5-star prospect, freshman point guard Keyonte George also got his first taste of college ball. He shot a lackluster 4-for-13 from the field but impacted the games with his court vision and defense, putting up a final stat line of 13 points, 7 rebounds, and 6 assists adding a block and only one turnover in 28 minutes.

The spirits were high leaving the Ferrell Center with some students even talking about winning another national championship after the big blowout win.

While a championship is always the goal, the Bears are focused on their matchup with the Norfolk State Spartans this Friday night.