

GCSU basketball splits homecoming doubleheader

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Georgia College basketball took on Georgia Southwestern on Saturday, Feb. 22. The girls took down the Hurricanes by a score of 65-58 before the boys fell in overtime, 87-90.

The girls kicked off the action in front of a packed homecoming crowd. The Bobcats forced 10 turnovers in the first half, including three travel calls that negated a relatively dominant half inside the paint for Georgia Southwestern, scoring 18 of their 27 points inside the paint.

Jada Warren, the PBC's leading rebounder, secured eight rebounds in the first half. A late 7-0 run helped the girls take a seven-point lead into halftime.

Early in the third quarter, Georgia Southwestern's Detavia Salter fouled out with 8 points. After a spirited dispute from Georgia Southwestern head coach Missy Tibber, the referee's confirmed that Salter had fouled out. Georgia Southwestern would finish the third quarter only down two, despite losing a big presence in the middle.

The Bobcats opened the 4th quarter with back-to-back three-pointers from Nylah Nuri and Miracle Parker. Despite comeback efforts from Georgia Southwestern, the Bobcats repeatedly found clutch buckets, hanging on to win.

The Bobcat's largely neutralized Georgia Southwestern's Destiny Garrett and Ndidiamaka Ndukwe, the PBC's leading scorers. GCSU head coach Ross Jolly was happy with how the girls defended the Georgia Southwestern stars.

"Georgia Southwestern has, probably, the player of the year. I was very happy with how we defended her," Jolly Said. "They have the conferences two leading scorers, and we held them both below their averages. "

Parker and Hannah Cail led GCSU with 14 points each. Warren, GCSU's all-time leading rebounder, ended the game with 16 boards. The Bobcats improved to 16-10 and 9-7 in PBC play.

Later in the evening, the boys took their shot at Georgia Southwestern.

The Bobcats struggled early as Georgia Southwestern took the lead off a 9-2 run. GCSU's Zyair Greene started 3-5 from beyond the arc. Outside of Greene, the Bobcats were 0-6 from three-point range in the first half. GCSU head coach Ryan Aquino highlighted the early offensive struggles.

"Obviously, slow start offensively," Aquino said. "That's on me for not getting the guys ready to play."

The Bobcats turned it around offensively in the second half. Sophomore Oscar Lynch had a career day, notching 18 points, 13 rebounds, and burying three crucial three-pointers in the second half. A late 9-1 GCSU run helped the Bobcats force overtime.

Georgia Southwestern made nine free throws and buried two big threes in overtime that created a lead that was too much to overcome for the Bobcats.

Greene, the PBC's third leading scorer, paced all scorers with 28 points.

Saturday marked the seventh loss by five or fewer points and the fourth overtime loss for the boys. The Bobcats fell to 9-17 overall and 3-13 in the PBC.

Bobcat basketball will pick up at Columbus State on Sunday, March 2. The PBC tournament begins on March 5.