

Women's Swimming & Diving secures ninth-consecutive BIG EAST title
The Wildcats won gold in five events Saturday to solidify the win
By Danielle Whaley
Feb. 27, 2022

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. — With seven medals on the final day of competition, five of those gold, Villanova women's swimming and diving won its ninth-consecutive BIG EAST Championships on Saturday, bringing the program to 14 titles since 1992.

The Wildcats won 14 events throughout the week and totaled 24 medals. They scored 1498 points throughout the four-day event, distancing itself from runner-up UConn by 75.5 points. The Wildcats swept relay action, taking gold in all five events on the week, adding on nine individual wins.

Kelly Montesi was named the Women's Most Outstanding Swimmer, her third title in the last four years and second in a row. She is the second Villanova swimmer to be lauded three times in her career, the other being Darby Goodwin from 2016-2018. The senior won three individual golds, the last one coming on Saturday night when she set the BIG EAST record in the 200 Back with an NCAA-B cut time of 1:53.25, besting the previous conference mark by three-tenths of a second for her second title in the event. She also won her fourth title in the 400 IM and a third 200 IM title. In relay action, she was a part of four victories, including the 200 Medley, 800 Free, 400 Medley and 400 Free.

Head coach Rick Simpson and his staff were tabbed the Women's Coaching Staff of the Year for the ninth season in a row. He accepted the honor alongside his assistant coaches Laura McGlaughlin, Nate Brown and Evan Anthony and diving coach Todd Michael.

The final day started with Montesi resetting a program record she set for the 200 Back at the WVU Invitational earlier this season. She clocked in at 1:54.93, besting her previous record by two-hundredths of a second to lock in the top spot in the prelims. With her latest time, she now holds five of the top 10 fastest times for the event in team history. She, Audrey Pastorek and Hannah Wasmuth all turned in times good enough for A-Final spots. In the final, Montesi was joined by Pastorek at the top of the podium, taking bronze with a 1:58.67 to become the third-fastest performer in program history while Wasmuth became the fourth-fastest with a fourth-place 1:59.30.

Nicole Welch won the second 1650 Free gold of her career with a time of 16:42.08. Brenna McLaughlin was fourth at 16:55.90.

Milly Routledge won the 100 Free for a third-straight year, this time touching in 50.00. She was followed closely by Abbey Berloco who tied the mark of tenth-fastest performer in Villanova history with a silver time of 50.41. Lexi Elkovitch touched the wall seventh with a 51.55 time.

In the 200 Fly prelims, Elizabeth Bailey had the leading swim with a 2:01.36 time, making her to ninth-fastest performer in Villanova history. In the championship final, she jumped up to fourth on that list with a 2:00.28 showing.

The 400 Free Relay team of Berloco, Cara Stapleton, Montesi and Routledge cemented the win for the 'Cats with a winning time of 3:20.68. That mark now sits at the fifth-fastest time in Villanova history.

Kaitlin Gravel became the sixth-fastest 200 Breast performer in Villanova history with a fourth-place time of 2:16.73. Perri Stahl reset her personal record in fifth at 2:20.52.

Eagles throttle 'Splitters for spot in SAC semis

By Danielle Whaley

April 5, 2021

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. -- Carson-Newman used a sixth-straight clean sheet to punch its ticket to the South Atlantic Conference Spring Championship semifinals for the first time since 2018, taking down Lincoln Memorial 4-0 in Monday night's quarterfinal at McCown Field.

This marks the first SAC quarterfinal win at home for Carson-Newman (7-1-1) since 2015, snapping a two-match losing skid in such matches. On the year, C-N extends its winning streak to six-straight. It is now 1-5 in postseason meetings with Lincoln Memorial (2-5) all-time.

The four goals scored Monday are the most by the Eagles in a SAC Tournament game since they won 4-0 over Brevard on Nov. 3, 2015, also in the quarterfinals. It matched the most for the group this year, also scoring four in the win over Belmont Abbey in the season opener on February 13. C-N has scored three or more goals five of the last six matches this season, four-in-a-row during that span.

"The guys have been a different class, really, back to front," Carson-Newman coach Stephen Lyons said. "There at nil-nil in the first half, Bram (Kaarsgaren) came up with a huge save, and you know, building on clean sheets is always going to be a positive thing. I actually thought the second half was where we really started to connect a little bit better and play some better football. I think we created more opportunities in the second half and did a good job of putting them away."

Thaylan Silva (Sao Paulo, Brazil) played a part in three of the goals scored by Carson-Newman, scoring one and assisting with the following two for a four-point outing. His two assists in the contest move him into the top 10 of the program's career assists list, currently in a tie for sixth with Sindre Welo (2012-15) at 15.

His goal opened up the scoring attack with the rest being scored in a second half that saw C-N send out 12 of its 17 shots on the night. It was just the second time in the past five games that the Eagles did not face a scoreless stalemate at the break. The last time was at Tusculum on March 29 where C-N was up 1-0 at the break, as well.

Bram Kaarsgaren (Den Bosch, The Netherlands) picked up his seventh clean sheet of the season, moving him to standalone seventh for single season shutouts in program history. He also moves to the fourth-most in career history among C-N keepers with 11.1, putting him six away from a top-three position. He is now 7-1-1 on the year,

Silva's opening goal came in the 28th minute after Harry Whitehead (Oxford, England) passed into the box 18-yard box to find the open senior. He quickly tapped in a chance past a standing Robin Hermann from six yards out. His goal for the 1-0 advantage marks his fourth of the season.

"To be honest, we were thinking the past few games that we needed to score in the first half. That was the mentality," Silva said. "So, as soon as I played the ball to Harry over the top, I said, 'I have to get it into the box,' because we need an early goal. As soon as I saw the ball crossing in, I just put my body in and it was a goal. It's good to score in the first half. Just makes the game easy."

Just two minutes into the second half, Silva turned around an assist to push the Orange and Blue lead to two. The senior delivered a through pass to Theo Hardenby Öhrwall (Stockholm, Sweden) steps inside of the penalty box. He sent a shot skidding past a falling Hermann and into the back left corner for his fourth goal of his freshman campaign.

Silva provided another helping hand, this time in the 64th minute. He lined up for a corner on the right side of the pitch, sending an arching shot past the left post where Whitehead found the available ball. His subsequent shot deflected off the foot of a 'Splitter and into the net, giving C-N a 3-0 lead with the only shot he landed on frame. Much like the two goal-scorers before him, Whitehead is up to four goals this year.

That was the first goal for the Eagles off of a corner since Oct. 2, 2019 when Kensho Yoshikoshi netted one against Lenoir-Rhyne.

The Orange and Blue dagger came in the 89th minute as Benjamin Stein (Berlin, Germany) capitalized on an empty LMU net for his second goal of the season. Hermann got off his line in an attempt to make a sliding steal near the midfield, but Stein was able to get past him, regain control of the ball and sail past a few oncoming Railsplitters to send a shot in easily from 18 yards out.

Carson-Newman led the shot tally 5-3 by the halftime break, 2-1 for shots on goal. In the end, C-N outshot the 'Splitters 17-6, 8-2 for those on frame. Whitehead led everyone on the pitch with five shot attempts. Silva and Öhrwall trailed him with four and three shots, respectively, both landing two on frame.

Lincoln Memorial had the strongest chance of either side to score first in the sixth minute as Kaarsgaren quickly pushed away a header from Josue Camacho near the right post. The next best chance LMU had at scoring ended with another Kaarsgaren save in the 67th minute after an attempt by Hunter Stroble. They both led their team with two shots each.

The Eagles forced the Railsplitters to make four saves in the contest, three of those by Hermann in net.

With the win, Carson-Newman advances to the semifinal round of the SAC Spring Championship Tournament, hosting fourth-seeded Wingate, the No. 11 team in the nation, on Thursday. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. from McCown Field.

SAC awards Yoshikoshi as Men's Soccer Scholar-Athlete of the Year

By Danielle Whaley

Dec. 11, 2019

ROCK HILL, S.C. – The postseason accolades continue to pour in for Kensho Yoshikoshi, newly tabbed with South Atlantic Conference Men's Soccer Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors, as announced by the league on Wednesday.

Yoshikoshi is just the second Eagle in program history to receive the accolade. The last one to do so was Arthur Barnes back in 2000. In terms of school history, he is now the 16th SAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year Carson-Newman has seen across its teams since 1998 and the first since men's basketball player Sawyer Williams in 2017.

"I don't think there is a more deserving candidate than Kensho as he epitomizes what you expect from a student-athlete," Carson-Newman coach Stephen Lyons said. "What he has achieved off the field is a testament to his hard work and perseverance. The first day he arrived on campus his English was very limited so to prove himself in the classroom and on the field at such an elite level is simply phenomenal.

"I am very proud of his achievement and congratulate him setting a new level of expectation across the board for the returning players by receiving this honor."

This is the second time this season that the senior has been awarded for his work in the classroom. He was tabbed an Academic All-District first-team selection back in November by the College Sports Information Directors of America, marking the third-straight year that an Eagle had received the honor.

Of the six awards he has received this postseason, three have come from the SAC. He adds this latest plaudit to being a first-team All-SAC selection and the Defensive Player of the Year. Outside of the conference, he was named a first-team All-Southeast Region selection by both the Division II Conference Commissioners' Association (D2CCA) and the United Soccer Coaches, the latter coming earlier this week.

The last Carson-Newman men's soccer player to rack up six or more postseason accolades was Sindre Welo. Welo and Ross Frame still sit as the most decorated players in team history, both receiving seven awards throughout the postseason in 2015 and 2013, respectively.

Off the pitch, the Tokyo, Japan native holds a 3.89 GPA as a graduate student and is currently pursuing a Masters in Business. He was tabbed a Platinum Eagle Scholar in September after maintaining a 4.0 GPA through his first year at C-N. Additionally, he is on the SAC Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Away from the classroom, Yoshikoshi joins his teammates in serving for Appalachian Outreach and volunteering with the Lakeway Soccer Club.

Yoshikoshi scored three goals on the season to push his career total to five, all coming on headers. He logged a career day in the 4-2 loss to Lenoir-Rhyne on Oct. 2, scoring both of C-N's goals in the match. His five goals paired with three assists, one coming this season against Lincoln Memorial, gave him 13 points in his career. For a second-consecutive season, the defender started in all 17 matches played by C-N this season, giving him 34 starts in all 34 of C-N's matches during his career. He was honored during the season as the SAC AstroTurf Defensive Player of the Week on Nov. 5, his first weekly honor from the league in his career.

He led a C-N backline that allowed a mere 1.11 goals per game with five clean sheets, including over then No. 15 Coker, as the Eagles went on to collect the program's tenth regular season SAC title.

The South Atlantic Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year award is presented annually to one student-athlete in each of the Conference's championship sports, and is voted on by the SAC's Faculty Athletic Representatives Committee. The winners are selected based on their achievements in academics, athletics, service and leadership.

Hayes nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year

By Danielle Whaley

June 27, 2019

INDIANAPOLIS – Carson-Newman finds itself with an Eagle in the running for the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year with former women's golfer Taylor Hayes earning a nomination for the award on Thursday.

She is the first Eagle to be nominated for the award since swimmer Nancy Claire Smith in 2017.

With her nomination, Hayes is one of the record 585 female collegiate athletes across all three NCAA divisions with 131 coming from Division II. Among those from the Division II realm, nine hail from the South Atlantic Conference.

Established in 1991, the NCAA Woman of the Year award recognizes graduating female college athletes who have exhausted their eligibility and distinguished themselves in academics, service and leadership throughout their collegiate careers.

This latest national distinction comes just a month after Hayes became the program's first-ever Kim Moore Spirit Award from the Women's Golf Coaches Association. That honor recognizes and honors a student-athlete or coach who exemplifies a great spirit toward the game of golf, a positive attitude on and off the golf course, a role model for her team and mental toughness in facing challenges.

Hayes wrapped up her final year at Mossy Creek this season as the team's only four-year senior. She racked up the fifth-best scoring average for the program at 78.78 through 78 rounds of play. A mainstay for the team since she arrived, Hayes played in 30 regular season events, two South Atlantic Conference tournaments, picking up second-team and honorable mention All-SAC accolades as a freshman and sophomore, respectively, and serving as a team captain as a junior and senior.

Hayes was a Carson-Newman Gold Eagle Scholar throughout her career, an honor given to student-athletes who maintain a 3.75 GPA or higher. She also made the university dean's list every year of her career and was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, an honor society for first and second-year students with at least 15 credit hours in the first semester and a 3.5 GPA. As a junior and senior, she was a part of Alpha Chi, an honors and service organization open to juniors and seniors from every academic discipline made up of the top 10-percent of each class. She graduated in May with a degree in Accounting/Finance while also receiving credit in Masters-level courses during her senior year, allowing her to work toward the next milestone.

From her junior year on, Hayes was a member of the Student Ambassador Association, a group that facilitates meetings between prospective and current students as well as alumni representing Carson-Newman. This past year, she served as the social chair, putting on campus events such as homecoming and other networking opportunities.

Next, conferences will select up to two nominees each from the pool of school nominees. Then, the Woman of the Year selection committee, made up of representatives from the NCAA membership, will choose the Top 30 honorees – 10 from each division.

The selection committee will determine the top three honorees in each division from the Top 30 and announce the nine finalists in September. From those nine finalists, NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics then will choose the 2019 NCAA Woman of the Year.

The Top 30 honorees will be celebrated and the 2019 Woman of the Year will be named at the annual award ceremony Oct. 20 in Indianapolis.

SAC Semifinal pits Eagles and Pioneers in rivalry match

By Danielle Whaley

Nov. 1, 2018

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. – Seventh-seeded Carson-Newman gears up for its first trip to the South Atlantic Conference semifinals since 2015 as it will face a third-seeded Tusculum side on Friday night at Manchester Meadows in Rock Hill, S.C.

The Eagles (9-4-3) obtained a spot in the second round of the tournament after a 2-1 upset over second-seeded Queens on Tuesday night in Charlotte. It was the second time this season that Carson-Newman defeated the Royals on their home pitch.

"I feel like we've turned a corner," coach Stephen Lyons said. "We had a few games there where we weren't getting the results we wanted, but the performances were still good. I think now we are getting the results that we deserve."

Carson-Newman was the only lower seeded team to win its quarterfinal match. That win came with a solid offensive performance from All-SAC first team selection Tobias Solem Karlsen (Kongsvinger, Norway) who netted both of the goals for the Eagles.

The Orange and Blue side has made it to the semifinals 12 times since 1999 with a 4-6-2 record in such games. It has not seen a victory in the second round of the tournament since a 2-0 win over Catawba in 2006. They have lost four of the last five semifinal matches they have played in since, the other result being a 3-3 tie with Queens in 2015 in which the Royals advanced on penalty kicks, 5-4.

Tusculum (10-6-1) defeated sixth-seeded Wingate in the quarterfinal, 3-1, at Pioneer Field. Ayuke Tambe netted a pair of goals in the win including a go-ahead penalty kick in the second half. Jonny Winter scored in the final minute to secure Tusculum's spot in the semifinal.

The Pioneers garnered a third-seeded position in the SAC Tournament after a 6-3-1 finish in the conference regular season schedule. They have gone 8-1-1 in its last 10 matches, outscoring opponents 23-5 in that run.

"We do know that Tusculum is going to be a very tough opponent," Lyons said. "They've actually had some great results after the last couple of weeks so it will be another great matchup, but, again, our guys should be confident going in, go in with a good game plan and look to execute."

Tusculum is in the top-five of eight statistical categories in the SAC including the most assists with 27 and the most shutouts at eight. Its eight shutouts in the regular season were enough to win that specific statistical title within the conference.

Four Pioneers were All-SAC selections this season. Ayuk Tambe and Georgios Charkoutsakis were voted to the second team at forward and defender, respectively. Edgar Cervantes and Mathias Grimstad were honorable mentions at the midfielder and defender positions, respectively.

Tambe leads the team with eight goals this season, three of those being game-winners. He has sent out 34 shots with 18 falling on frame.

Alejandro Quiriti has made 15 starts in as many games this season with a 9-5-1 record. He has saved 40 shots that have come his way for a .741 save clip. Teams have scored 14 goals against him this season. His eight saves on the year lead the conference and are tied for 11th-most in the nation.

The semifinal match with Tusculum will be the 35th overall meeting between the two teams with Tusculum leading 17-12-5 since 1990. In their six postseason meetings, Tusculum holds a slim 4-3 lead. In terms of SAC Tournament matches, the Pioneers possess a 3-2 advantage. The Pioneers and Eagles have faced off in the semifinals just two other times in 2003 and 2009 with an even 1-1 record in those matches. The last meeting was a 2-1 victory for Tusculum.

Tusculum handed C-N its first home loss of the season back on Oct. 3 with a 1-0 decision. Neither team could capitalize through the first 45 minutes. A red card on C-N's Ben King (Hertfordshire, England) in the 72nd minute forced the Eagles to play a man down for the rest of the evening. The ensuing penalty kick was saved by Twan Verweij (Utrecht, Netherlands), giving a shift in momentum to C-N. That spurt of energy did not last long with Roy Deutekom heading a bounce pass back that Ayuk Tambe raced toward, beating out Tobias Solem Karlsen. From nearly 10-yards out, Tambe sent a shot toward the back left of the net, just getting past a diving Verweij.

It was the first shutout loss to the Pioneers since 2011 and the first shutout loss at home since falling to Lincoln Memorial 1-0 at McCown Field on Oct. 26, 2016.

Friday's match is slated to begin at 7 p.m. from Manchester Meadows in Rock Hill, S.C. A live stream of the match can be found through the SAC Website thanks to the folks at Wingate.

Back-to-Back Champs! Forster, #20 Eagles earn first place honors at SAC Championship

By Danielle Whaley

April 10, 2018

ANDERSON, S.C. – An outstanding 68 score that put Tom Forster (Oundle, England) at five-under in the tournament helped him secure the individual title while the No. 20 Eagles notched their second-straight South Atlantic Conference Championship title on Tuesday.

This marks the fourth conference title in program history, making Carson-Newman the first team to win it in back-to-back years since Newberry in 2008 and 2009. C-N becomes just the second team this decade to capture the title thrice, also winning back in 2014.

In their second consecutive tournament win of the season, the Eagles as a group were the only team to shoot under par in the final round of play with a one-under score of 287, pushing them to an 878 total at +14.

"The team fought hard all week," head coach Randy Wylie said. "I am extremely happy for the guys in general. They have fought all year and to have this happen in front of a lot of Eagles fans makes it that much better."

Forster was lights out on Tuesday at five-under par to become the tournament MVP. He started the morning at three-under thanks to a trio of birdies in the front nine before a bogey and two birdies stopped him from mirroring his score in the later portion of the day. The sophomore clinched the victory with a putt for par on the 18th, giving him a 211 total through the three rounds of competition.

Forster now has two tournament wins this season.

"Tom played really well winning the individual trophy," Wylie mentioned. "He did a great job building on the Bobby Nichols Intercollegiate win."

The last time Carson-Newman won the title and had a player win the individual title was 2004 when Tanner Davis was named the SAC Tournament MVP.

Anthony Marcinelli (Knoxville, Tenn.) was the next closest Eagle on the leaderboard falling to 12th with a 222 total. Tuesday saw the junior shoot a +4 score of 76. He ended the front nine at two-over thanks to a trio of birdies and bogeys along with a double bogey on the sixth hole. In the back nine, he recorded another +2 outing, this time coming from a birdie on 10 before shooting three-straight bogeys.

Two strokes behind Marcinelli sat Jake Headrick (Maryville, Tenn.) and Jackson Tyler (Wilmington, N.C.) in a tie for 13th at eight over par with a 224. They both moved seven spots up the leaderboard from the second round.

Headrick shot his best round of the tournament on Tuesday with an even 72. The junior was on par for all but the eighth hole in the front nine to land at one-under at the turn before facing another birdie and a pair of bogeys in the back half.

Tyler also saw improvement in the final round of play with an even 72 of his own. The freshman shot a trio of birdies and bogeys on Tuesday.

Alex Hutson (Newport, Tenn.) made a six-spot improvement in the final round. The junior was even through the front nine with a bogey and birdie before going three-over in the back half due to a pair of birdies and five bogeys. He concluded the event at +13 with a 229 three-round total.

Eighth-ranked Newberry was the second-best team in the field with a +22 total of 886 while Wingate landed in third with an 891.

Anderson's Jake Miller who led the field through the first two rounds ended the tournament in second just one stroke behind Forster. Two shots out of the lead was Queens' Henry Bryden with a 213.

With the win, the Eagles secure an automatic bid into the NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championships for the South/Southeast Regional that will take place from May 7-9 in Conover, N.C. The rest of the team selections will be announced on April 27. For more information, be sure to follow @CNathletics on Twitter and check cneagles.com.

Vols Plan for Future with VFL Career Night

By Danielle Whaley

Feb. 24, 2017

Moving forward to a professional career in sports is an aspiration for any student athlete, but a career off of the field of play is just as important.

The Vol For Life Career Development Night on Thursday evening gave current Tennessee football players the opportunity to interact with former Vols and discuss future endeavors while potentially making a few business connections along the way.

VFL Coordinator Antone Davis planned the night with the players' futures in mind, making sure they truly value this chance to make connections with other former Vols who could be beneficial for them in the future.

"The whole idea of the program is to have former players that are now business owners or at least decision makers in their companies that can, one, tell them the do's and don'ts, what they did right, what they did wrong when they were here, and also tell them how they're going to best get that job," Davis said. "The reality is everyone is not going to the NFL. Even if you do, you still may want to partner in a business with some of these people, so it's good to get down there to network and meet them."

As sophomore Jack Jones mentioned, the players have strong expectations they must meet on the field, but they hold the same expectation in the classroom.

"We're here to get our degree first and, you know, football is second," Jones said. "Football isn't going to work out for everybody and you can't bank on it."

While life after college is important to think about, junior Jashon Robertson noted that life after a potential professional football career is just as imperative to have a plan for.

"Let's say you have a good, long career in the NFL; not everyone has the same opportunity to gain generational welfare to set them up for the rest of their lives," Robertson mentioned. "You have to be able to progress on what you have already or you'll need a job."

That message of football not lasting forever is what the VFLs hope resonates with the players, just as former offensive lineman and current judge Tim Irwin pointed out.

"The key message that we have to get across to very impressionable young men is that someday, even if you play for a long time, football ends and you have to start thinking about what else you're going to do in life, how you're going to contribute to society," Irwin said. "It's a very interesting night for both perspectives. We get to meet the young men we've watched on the field and they get to meet some guys who have gone before them."

Junior Todd Kelly Jr. was especially grateful for the chance to network with professionals who are familiar to Tennessee and this football program.

"It means a lot just meeting, knowing and shaking hands with people who have been through the university before and seeing people outside of football," Kelly said. "Just seeing all of the things you can do outside of football is just tremendous, and it encourages our teammates to not only go hard on the field but in the classroom."

"Guys always like to look back on their glory days, and hopefully one day, you know, whether I play football in the NFL or not, I'll be able to come back and shake the hands of future VFLs."

White Takes 44-29 Win in DISH Orange & White Game

By Danielle Whaley

April 22, 2017

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.-- The offense had its day as the White team took a 44-29 win over the Orange team in the 2017 DISH Orange and White Game at Neyland Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The game was shortened to one half due to inclement weather.

Junior quarterback Quinten Dormady went 10-for-10 for 120 yards and two touchdowns. Redshirt freshman Jarrett Guarantano finished 4-for-5 for 41 yards. Redshirt sophomore Sheriron Jones was 1-for-4 for two yards.

Senior right end Ethan Wolf had three receptions for 28 yards. Junior receiver Jauan Jennings had three catches for 23 yards and one touchdown.

Eleven different receivers caught passes on the day for 163 total yards. Guarantano hit redshirt freshman Latrell Williams for a 23-yard completion in the first quarter for the longest completion of the day.

Sophomore Carlin Fils-aime rushed seven times for 32 yards (4.6-yard average) and sophomore Taeler Dowdy had eight carries for 22 yards.

On the defensive side, Landon Knoll led the Orange team with five tackles. The redshirt sophomore linebacker had five tackles (two solo). Redshirt sophomore defensive lineman Darrell Taylor sacked Guarantano twice for eight yards.

Tennessee recognized 11 Vols during the awards ceremony and also honored VFL Derek Barnett. Team 121 presented Barnett with his spring jersey as well as framed photos commemorating his Tennessee all-time sack record. Barnett broke Reggie White's all-time UT record when he posted the 33rd sack of his career against Nebraska in the 2016 Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl on Dec. 30.

The White team jumped out to 2-1 lead in the Circle of Life drills. After sophomore defensive back Nigel Warrior got the best of sophomore receiver Marquez Callaway in the second one-on-one test of strength and leverage for the defense's first point, redshirt sophomore Eli Wolf defeated freshman Deandre Johnson and senior tight Jakob Johnson defeated redshirt sophomore linebacker Austin Smith.

Dormady led the White team on a 10-play, 70-yard drive, going 5-for-5 for 51 yards and capped the series with a one-yard touchdown pass to Jennings on the left side of the end zone. The White led 20-3 at the end of the opening drive.

In the second quarter, Dormady threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to Eli Wolf that extended the White's lead to 42-21 after an extra point.

In the quarterback competition, each quarterback targeted a series of stationary and moving targets that covered three-quarters of the field. All five quarterbacks then attempted the "Dobbs Hail Mary," throwing the ball from midfield to a cutout of Jennings in the front left corner of the end zone. Freshman Will McBride had a strong showing scoring nine points in the drill, but Dormady earned the win with 10 points.

Late Surge Pushes Vols Past Rebels, 75-66

By Danielle Whaley

Feb. 8, 2017

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- After going into the second half down by four and struggling to contain the Ole Miss Rebels, Tennessee turned around a close game to win, 75-66, Wednesday night in Thompson-Boling Arena.

Tennessee (14-10, 6-5 SEC) took control of the game with 3:49 left, finishing on a 17-2 scoring run. Robert Hubbs III was the hero the Volunteers were looking for, as he ignited two major back-to-back plays under the basket, one of those being a layup that would give the Vols a 66-64 lead with 1:52 left, their first lead since the 5:54 mark of the first half. Jordan Bowden drained a huge 3-point dagger with under a minute to play. The Rebels (14-10, 5-6 SEC) were plagued by fouls in the second half, with 27 of their 46 coming in the closing half.

Grant Williams led the way for the Vols with 18 points and seven rebounds. Three Vols found themselves in double-digit scoring in the win, including Hubbs with 18 points, while Bowden added 12.

After a fast-scoring start by both teams, Tennessee enjoyed an 8-0 scoring run two minutes into the game that was sparked by a slam dunk from Kyle Alexander. The run left the Rebels struggling to score for four minutes. The Vols would find themselves holding their largest lead of the first half during that run at seven points.

Ole Miss turned things around after spending a majority of the first half shooting less than 30 percent. The Rebels went on a 15-6 scoring run nearly halfway through the first, highlighted by three 3-pointers. Tennessee struggled from the free-throw line but made them when they were needed in the second half. After making all eight attempts in the first half, Tennessee was 16-of-25 over the final 20 minutes. The Vols made eight of nine in the final four minutes.

UP NEXT: Tennessee hosts Georgia on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 4 p.m. ET at Thompson-Boling Arena. The game will be televised on ESPNU.

WILLIAMS SHOOTING STRONG: Grant Williams' 18-point performance was the second-highest scoring output of his career. Fourteen of those points came in the second half. He had four major blocks in the second half, with three coming in the final 1:22. He now has 46 blocks on the season, tying C.J. Black from the 1998-99 season for 11th most in a season in Tennessee history.

SEEING DOUBLE: Bowden has scored in double figures in five of his last seven games. He had 12 points tonight with 10 of those coming in the second half.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME: Hubbs' 18 points tonight brings him to an average of 16.9 points at home, shooting 57.0 percent from the floor. In 12 road games, he has averaged 12.0 points with a .440 shooting percentage.