

Toros control Grizzlies in Bankers Classic final

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By CHRIS DAY

ALAMOSA — Cal State-Dominguez Hills remained unbeaten in the early season with a dominating 83-58 win over the Adams State Grizzlies in Saturday night's unofficial championship men's game of the ASC Bankers Classic Tournament in Plachy Hall.

Tournament MVP Rodney Yearby and his All-Tournament teammate Michael Hernandez combined for 24 points and the Toros put together a tough team defensive effort to send the Grizzlies to their second loss of the season.

The Toros came up with 11 steals while holding the Grizzlies to just a 32.1 percent (18-56) shooting effort as they improved to 3-0 overall and to 2-0 in the tournament.

The Grizzlies, facing the Toros for the first time in school history, fell to 2-2 overall and 1-1 in the weekend classic as junior point guard Adrian Davis, Lubbock, Texas, was the only Grizzly in double figures with 10 points.

Chadron State, which posted a 82-61 win over Colorado College earlier in the afternoon, also went 1-1 in the tournament while the Tigers, the lone NCAA Division III team in the tourney, finished with an 0-2 mark.

The Toros, who hail from the Los Angeles suburb of Carson, controlled the tempo for much of the game as they trailed only once, that coming at 3-2 before a 9-0 run in which Yearby scored the first four of his 11 points, put the visitors up for good, 11-3.

Davis then hit one of his game-best three long distance calls before a Vitor de Zoppa, Sorocaba, Sao Paulo, Brazil, jumper cut the deficit to just 11-8.

The Grizzlies would get within one at 13-12 and

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were down just three after a pair of Sean Amos, Philadelphia, free throws with 8:28 to go in the first half, but then watched a Hernandez layup and old-fashion 3-point play spark a 15-2 Toro run that put the game firmly in the California team's control.

Down by 16 at that point and 41-27 at the half, the Grizzlies were never able to get much going in the second half as another 13-7 run that featured a Yearby trey and two by Shaun Engle put the Toros up by 20 (54-34) with 14:51 left. The game was never really close again as the Toro lead fluctuated between 14 and 25 points the rest of the way.

Hernandez, who came of the bench, led all scorers with 13 points on a 5-for-8 shooting effort. Yearby scored 11 points and had five rebounds while Marvin Bettis chipped in a fairly quiet 12 points.

The Toros shot 49.1 percent (28-57) from the field throughout the night and were a respectable 5-for-12 (41.7 percent) from 3-point land. They also committed just 11 turnovers and dominated the inside game, outscoring the Grizzlies 42-22 in the paint.

Cal State-Dominguez Hills coach Damaine Powell used 13 players, all of whom scored, in the victory. None of the Toros saw more than 21 minutes of action as Powell used frequent substitutions to control the tempo while countering the effects of the elevation (7,544 feet).

Sophomore forward Seth Heinbaugh, Prescott, Ariz., and junior Erick Seaman, Colorado Springs, who played his junior college ball in California at DeAnza College, were the Grizzlies' selections to the All-Tournament Team. Heinbaugh had seven points and six assists in Saturday's setback but had 15 points and nine boards in Friday night's 85-72 win over Colorado College. Seaman, who had an 11-point, 11-rebound double-double in the victory over the Tigers, finished Saturday's game with six points and five rebounds, three of which came on the offensive end.

In the earlier game, the Chadron State Eagles never trailed as they built a double-figure lead over College College, just 7:19 into the game. They led by 21 at the break and by the same margin at the final buzzer.

Tyler Coffman launched the Eagles' flight with 12

points while Moala Tautuaa pitched in another 11 to go along with eight rebounds. Tim McLaurin finished with seven points, six rebounds and four assists to earn a spot on the All-Tournament Team after going off for a game and tournament-high 32 points in a 79-75 setback to the Toros on Friday afternoon.

Colorado College's Lance Jacobs, also named to the All-Tournament Team, paced the Tigers with 16 points and eight rebounds.

The Grizzlies are now off for Thanksgiving before returning to the floor on Thursday, Dec. 4, at No. 19 ranked Tarleton State (Stephenville, Texas), currently 4-0 on the young season.

That game will tip-off at 8 p.m. (CST) and can be heard live on KSPK-FM (104.1) and via the Internet at www.kspk.com.

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM

MVP, Rodney Yearby, Cal State-Dominguez Hills

Seth Heinbaugh, Adams State

Michael Hernandez, Cal State-Dominguez Hills

Lance Jacobs, Colorado College

Tim McLaurin, Chadron State

Erick Seaman, Adams State

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