

Sacramento 5 edges Miami 5, will play Toronto 5 in The 5 Tournament Championship Game

The Rochester Royals won the 1951 NBA title. By virtue of relocation, the Sacramento Kings are considered to own that championship as the franchise's lone one. Now, the city of Sacramento has the opportunity to claim one of its own basketball crowns.

Sacramento 5 defeated Miami 5 81 to 74 during the semifinal round of The 5 Tournament on Monday at The Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

The team from Northern California avenged their earlier round-robin loss to Miami 5, and will now play Toronto 5 in the title game on Wednesday. Sacramento 5 gained the win by leaning on 31 points and 16 rebounds from Donte Greene, and a third-quarter scoring drought from Miami 5.

NBA veterans Mario Chalmers and Greene got into a game of "can you top this" in the first quarter, as Miami 5's Chalmers, the former Heat starting point guard and two-time NBA champion, scored 13, and Greene, a former 2008 first-round pick, scored 16 points and had 7 rebounds.

Sacramento 5 took a 29-26 lead into the second.

The second quarter was just as close, but only this time, Chalmers and Greene cooled down to score a combined 6 points. Neither team led by more than five points in the half, and Miami 5 walked into the break with a 45 to 43 lead.

Miami 5 came into the game as a 2-point favorite, according to BetOnline.AG, and they were following the script perfectly early in the game.

The ebb and flow of the first half was similar to their previous encounter last week, when Miami 5 sneaked by with a one-point win.

Miami 5 walked onto the floor after halftime ice-cold, going on a field goal drought that lasted nearly five minutes. Sacramento 5 converted that to their own 8-0 run, which opened up a 60-54 lead and prompted Miami 5 to take a timeout. Chalmers stopped the bleeding shortly after the break by connecting on a corner three, but the game seemingly got away from there on out.

Dahntay Jones, a 13-year NBA veteran and former NBA champion, and Greene, each scored 8 points in the quarter, and they led Sacramento 5 to a 63-57 lead into the final period.

Sacramento 5 carried the momentum into the fourth quarter and scored the first seven points of the frame. It was part of a 10-0 run that grew the lead to 70-57, the largest of the game.

Miami 5 dropped the lead down to as low as five with less than two minutes to play, but Sacramento 5 never relinquished their advantage.

"Toronto is a tough team. They have a solid squad. Hopefully we will bring it on Wednesday," Greene said afterward.

Jones complemented Greene and scored 26, best for second on the team.

Jermaine Taylor, the all-time leader in points scored in a season at UCF, added 18 points, while longtime Kings mainstay Mike Bibby was held scoreless.

Chalmers finished the game with 26 and 9 rebounds. Six-year NBA vet Craig Smith added 19 in the losing cause.

The inaugural round-robin The 5 Tournament concludes July 29 on pay per view on Dish Network, DirecTV and Fite TV. On Tuesday, an on-court tussle between the men and the ladies will ensue during "The Battle For HoopQuality."

For more information, go to www.The5Tournament.com.

Toronto 5 defeats Texas 5, advances to The 5 Tournament Championship Game vs. Sacramento 5

Canada has a chance to win back to back basketball championships.

One year after the Raptors won their first NBA championship, Toronto 5 has the opportunity to win their own title in The 5 Tournament after defeating Texas 5 82 to 74 on Monday at The Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

Toronto 5 led by as many as 18 points in the third quarter, and Texas 5 brought the lead down to as low as two in the fourth, but a six-plus minute field goal drought toward the end of the game from the Lone Star State team ultimately did them in, as they allowed Toronto 5 to recover from an 0-2 start in the tourney and bounce back for a shot at the title.

Toronto 5 avenged their earlier round-robin loss to Texas 5, and will now play Sacramento 5 in the title game on Wednesday.

Mike Taylor started the game off with instant offense much like he had the previous five games. He scored 13 points and connected on three 3s in the first quarter.

The No. 2 seed Texas 5 used a collective effort from the team to withstand Taylor's onslaught with a 10-0 run before the final whistle to hold on to a 26-22 lead.

The first quarter was a back and forth encounter between both teams. The second quarter was no different, as both sides equally traded blows.

Alan Anderson and Jamario Moon, once a high-flying NBA Slam Dunk Contest competitor and a Harlem Globetrotters alum, got in on the offensive action by scoring 7 points apiece to help give the No. 3 seed Toronto 5 a 43 to 39 lead.

The pair of squads returned from halftime and delivered a bucket barrage, but Toronto 5's was ultimately better, highlighted by a 13-0 run that lengthened the lead to 61-46. Anderson, an eight-year NBA vet and overseas star, sparked the scoring spree with 13 points.

For one stretch, Texas 5 was held scoreless for over three minutes, which contributed to its 66-48 deficit.

However, Texas 5 answered right back with a 14-0 run to make sure the game did not get out of hand.

James White, a 2007 NBA Champion with the Spurs, and three-time international champion David Hawkins scored a combined 21 points in the quarter.

With all of the scoring done in the period, Toronto 5 only edged its opposition by two points in the frame due to its defensive lapses toward the end. They took just a 71-65 lead into the final quarter.

Texas 5 brought the lead down to as little as 71-69, but that's as close as the game got after an over six-minute field goal drought all but ended their chances.

Taylor, the first player in NBA history to be drafted out the G League, came into The 5 Tournament as the MVP frontrunner, as he averaged 32.6 points 11 rebounds 4 and assists a game. He finished with 20 points.

On this night, Taylor played second fiddle to Anderson, who went off for 30 points on 11 of 17 field goals.

The extremely effective Moon contributed a healthy stat line of 19 points, 16 rebounds and 7 assists.

"We finally figured to cut out the one-on-one basketball and played team ball," Moon said after the game. "Isolation basketball let us give away the first two games of the tournament."

White finished with a team-high 28 points for Texas 5.

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