



UIS upsets Quincy without its Prairie star

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The University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars, playing without leading scorer and rebounder Richard Oruche, beat a nationally ranked NCAA Division II opponent for the first time with a 69-64 victory over the No. 18 Quincy Hawks on Saturday at The Recreation and Athletic Center.

The Stars avenged a 94-69 loss at Quincy on Feb. 4. Oruche, a senior guard, wore a walking boot Saturday on his sprained left ankle.

"We knew we had to step up being Rich, our best player, was out," UIS junior guard Kendall Burrage said. "Everybody knew they had to bring it just a little bit more."

It was Burrage who stepped up in Oruche's absence. The East Moline native poured in a team-high 19 points in only his second start.

Burrage stole the ball underneath Quincy's basket, raced down the court and drained a 3-pointer that put UIS up 65-59 with 1½ minutes to play in the Great Lakes Valley Conference game. The six-point advantage was the game's largest lead.

Quincy quickly cut into the deficit with a 5-0 run that got the Hawks within 65-64 on a layup by Mookie Pierre with :34.5 remaining.

Quincy forward Justin Brock missed a potential game-tying 3-pointer with :05.6 left on the clock. Brock led Quincy with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Burrage and junior teammate Brandon Farmer sealed the win with 4-of-5 shooting from the free throw line in the final 30 seconds. Farmer finished with 17 points. UIS senior guard Zach Lewis added 13 points.

"We didn't know what was going to happen with Richard out and we have 20 points sitting on the sideline," UIS men's basketball coach Kevin Gamble said. "Kendall Burrage played a solid ballgame. Zach Lewis gave us great minutes off the bench and hit some key shots. Brandon Farmer got into the paint and was aggressive."

Gamble, who has been critical of the Stars' defense, praised their performance Saturday.

"Surprisingly, our defense was pretty good most of the second half," he said. "They weren't able to get what they wanted and we looked to try to get the ball out of Brock's hands. We tried to double-team him because he's so big and strong."

"I would have to say it's our best defense (this season) because we beat a very good team and we held those guys to 64 points, especially after the drumming we got over at their place."

Saturday's game was a tug-of-war from start to finish. The lead changed hands five times and the score was tied on 11 occasions.

UIS (10-11 overall, 6-9 in the GLVC) was a totally different team than the one that lost by 25 points nine days earlier to Quincy (19-5, 10-5).

"They did a good job of taking our low-post threat away," Quincy coach Marty Bell said of the latest contest. "They were just more active than we were. They really made adjustments to our inside game and pushed us out. We didn't do a very good job of recognizing and attacking what they'd done. Offensively, they were a lot more patient and worked the ball a lot more in rhythm."

The Stars won in front of a crowd of 1,103. That's the second-largest home crowd of the season. Drury beat UIS 75-62 in a Dec. 5 GLVC game in front of 1,121 spectators at TRAC.

UIS hosts 15-9 Saint Joseph's in a GLVC game Monday at 7:45 p.m. Oruche, who is third in the GLVC in scoring at 19.9 points per game and averages 5.9 rebounds, hopes to play in the Stars' final home game. Gamble isn't as optimistic.

Marcia Martinez can be reached at 788-1547.

AT UIS

Quincy 33 31 - 64
UIS 30 39 - 69

QUINCY (64) – Justin Brock 3-6 9-10 15; Billy Baptist 5-13 0-0 13; Courtney Belger 3-4 6-9 12; Mookie Pierre 5-10 2-3 12; Josh Edmonds 3-8 0-0 7; Tyler Burke 1-3 0-0 3; Andrew Kueker 1-4 0-2 2; Andreas Coleman 0-1 0-0 0; Tyler Thompson 0-1 0-0 0. Totals: 21-50 17-24 64.

3-point goals: 5-21 (Billy Baptist 3-6, Tyler Burke 1-3, Josh Edmonds 1-5, Justin Brock 0-1, Andrew Kueker 0-3, Mookie

Pierre 0-3). Rebounds: 32 (Justin Brock 11, Billy Baptist 9, Courtney Belger 3, Josh Edmonds 2, Mookie Pierre 2, Tyler Burke 1, Andrew Kueker 1, Tyler Thompson 1, team 2). Fouls: 14. Turnovers: 9.

UIS (69) – Kendall Burrage 6-10 3-5 19; Brandon Farmer 6-10 4-4 17; Justin Sims 2-6 0-0 6; Chigozie Umeadi 2-4 2-2 6; Matt Reynolds 0-3 0-0 0; Zach Lewis 6-9 0-0 13; DeAndre Miranda 2-6 1-2 5; Derrick Tribble 1-1 0-0 3; Carl Hayes 0-0 0-0 0; Caleb Sutton 0-0 0-0 0; Ryan Thornton 0-5 0-0 0. Totals: 25-54 10-13 69.

3-point goals: 9-20 (Kendall Burrage 4-6, Justin Sims 2-2, Derrick Tribble 1-1, Brandon Farmer 1-2, Zach Lewis 1-3, Ryan Thornton 0-3, Matt Reynolds 0-3). Rebounds: 31 (Brandon Farmer 6, Zach Lewis 5, Kendall Burrage 4, DeAndre Miranda 3, Chigozie Umeadi 3, Matt Reynolds 2, Justin Sims 2, Derrick Tribble 2, Carl Hayes 1, Ryan Thornton 1, team 2). Fouls: 18. Turnovers: 10.

Officials: Jason Dohrmann, Gary Hamilton, Mark Winters.

Records: Quincy, 19-5 (10-5). UIS, 10-11 (6-9).

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