



UIS Prairie Stars hold off Lewis in men's basketball

By Staff Report

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ROMEOVILLE — The University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars built a 17-point lead in the second half and held off a late rally to defeat the Lewis Flyers 75-74 in a Great Lakes Valley Conference men's basketball game Thursday.

UIS shot an eye-popping 57.7 percent (15 for 26) in the first half, including 9 for 17 from 3-point range to take a 43-31 lead into halftime. The Stars (11-12 overall, 7-10 in the GLVC) finished with 14 3's on 24 attempts and made 17 of 20 from the free throw line.

Senior guard Richard Oruche scored a game-high 22 points on 5-of-10 shooting. He buried four 3's and hit 8 of 8 foul shots. Ryan Thornton added five 3's for 15 points and Brandon Farmer scored 12 for UIS, which shot 57 percent from the field in the second half against Lewis in a 77-71 win over the Flyers on Jan. 9.

The Stars had their biggest lead — 60-43 — with 9 minutes 32 seconds remaining in the second half. But a 24-8 run by Lewis got the Flyers to within 68-67 with 2:10 left. UIS made its free throws down the stretch and led 73-69 with :12 showing. The Stars drained 7 of 8 charities in the final 38 seconds.

Chris McClellan finished with five 3's and scored a team-high 21 points to pace Lewis (15-11, 7-10).

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