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Lady Muleriders Power Past Lady Buccaneers

Magnolia, Ark. - Leading 11-0 before Christian Brothers University could score, Southern Arkansas University raced to a 31-11 halftime lead and coasted past the Lady Buccaneers here Saturday night, 63-41. The Lady Muleriders evened their Gulf South Conference West Division record at 4-4 and improved to 13-6 for the season while the Lady Bucs dropped to 3-5 in conference play and to 11-6 overall.

Led by a tenacious defense, SAU opened the game with an 11-0 run with Brooke Grigsby starting the scoring by chasing down a pair of rebounds and putting them in, 4-0. Kim Davis finished a steal by tapping in a rebound, 6-0. Kristian Tester took her only three-point attempt and drained it, 9-0, and K. Davis finished the run with an easy basket, 11-0, 15:25 on the clock. The Lady 'Rider offense fed off a determined defense.

Chereny Woodard put CBU on the scoreboard with two free throws with 14:57 left in the half. Sharonda Davis finished a three-point conventional play for a 16-5 SAU lead before the Lady Bucs cut it to 16-9. K. Davis scored, Valeri Turner added a free throw, Stefanie White hit from the top of the key, S. Davis and K. Davis added a pair of free throws each, and K. Davis scored off an assist from Shayla Canady, 27-9, to finish another 11-point run by SAU. Mary Shea Hackett interrupted the run with a CBU basket before Turner and White meshed a pair of free throws to put the Lady 'Riders ahead at halftime, 31-11.

The Southern Arkansas lead reached 30, 48-18, on two K. Davis charities with 12:50 to play. When CBU cut it to 55-31 on a three-pointer by Carley Wright, Brooke Grigsby and Canady hit short jumpers and K. Davis dropped in two free throws, 61-31, a 30-point lead again at the 5:32 mark.

K. Davis had 18 points, Brooke Grigsby 13, and S. Davis 11 for Southern Arkansas. S. Davis led the way on the boards with 10 rebounds while K. Davis had eight. K. and S. Davis had four steals each. The Lady 'Rider defense denied any Lady Buc reaching double figures in scoring. CBU's Kristen Kirkland tied S. Davis for rebound honors with 10.

SAU shot 34.6 percent from the field (18-52) compared to 27.3 (15-55) for CBU, the Lady 'Riders were only 18.2 percent from three-point range (2-11) compared to 11.8 percent for CBU (2-17), and Southern Arkansas was an impressive 83.3 percent from the free throw line, meshing 25 of 30 attempts, while CBU was only 50 percent (9-18). CBU had a narrow 43-40 rebound edge, neither team did well in assists, CBU suffered 26 turnovers to only 16 for SAU, and the Lady 'Riders had twice as many steals, 16-8.

The Lady 'Riders begin the second half of conference play at Ouachita Baptist University Monday at 6 p.m.