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Lady Muleriders Win Road Test

Hawkins, Tex. - Southern Arkansas University completed a sweep of Jarvis Christian College here Thursday night by trimming the Lady Bulldogs, 72-65. Southern Arkansas had routed the Lady Bulldogs earlier in Magnolia, 73-38. The Lady Muleriders (8-1) are through until after Christmas. The Lady 'Dogs fell to 5-3.

Sophomore Kim Davis poured in a game-high 23 points and pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds for another double-double performance for SAU, her fourth of the season. Sophomore Brooke Grigsby collected a season-high 15 points, senior Valeri Turner pumped in 12, and junior Sharonda Davis chipped in 10 to give the Lady 'Riders four players in double-figures.

JCC got 18 points from Jennifer Crutcher and 11 each from Louise Ukele and Melinda Perea. No player had over five rebounds for the Lady 'Dogs.

Southern Arkansas hit 46.4 percent from the field (26-56), 46.2 from behind the arc (46.2), and an excellent 77.8 percent from the free throw line (14-18). Jarvis Christian shot 42.6 percent from the field (23-54), 31.3 from three-point range (5-16), and 63.6 from the charity stripe (14-22). The Lady 'Riders had a huge margin on the boards with 42 rebounds compared to only 26 for JCC, had a 19-13 assist lead, but suffered far too many turnovers, 26, compared to 22 for the home team. JCC had 13 steals and SAU 11.

Brooke Grigsby's three-pointer put SAU in the lead at the start, but JCC took a 4-3 lead and extended it to 6-3 on baskets by Perea and Ukele. The Lady 'Riders came back to lead 7-6 on a jumper by K. Davis, only for baskets by Crutcher and Ukele to put the Lady 'Dogs ahead 10-7. Brooke Grigsby's twin sister, Beth, also a soph, hit a three-pointer to tie it 10-10, and S. Davis' lay-up, senior Shayla Canady's jumper, another K. Davis shot, and a basket by Turner finished an 11-0 Lady 'Rider run, 18-10, 8:32 left in the first half.

The SAU lead reached double-digits when sophomore Kristian Tester meshed two free throws, and a steal by true freshman Stefanie White led to a trey by sophomore Jessica Kelly, 25-15, 6:58 before the break. Two free throws by Karendia Smith brought JCC as close as 27-24 at the 3:19 mark, but Southern Arkansas pushed the margin to 33-26 at the half.

In the first three minutes of the second half, SAU led by as much as nine points and as little as three before Brooke Grigsby completed a conventional three-point play, 43-33, another 10-point lead at the 17:03 mark. S. Davis hit a lay-up off a Brooke Grigsby assist, 45-33, and a lay-up by S. Davis, two more by K. Davis, and still another by Brooke Grigsby put SAU up 51-36, the biggest margin of the game for a 15-point Lady 'Rider lead with 13:50 remaining.

Southern Arkansas kept a double-digit lead until Perea sank a pair of free throws with 5:28 to play that trimmed the lead to 68-59. Baskets were swapped the rest of the way until JCC's final basket led to the final 72-65 score, leaving the Lady 'Dogs still seven points shy.

The next Lady 'Rider games are December 29th and 30th against the University of Central Oklahoma and Tougaloo College (Miss.), at Conway, in the University of Central Arkansas Classic.