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(S.D.)- Jackets Come Back From 15, To Beat WSCU By 10



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/09/2014 10:13 AM

(Spearfish, SD)- With 14:54 left remaining in the game, the Yellow Jackets men's basketball team found themselves down to Western State College University, 44-29.

Thirty seconds later, BHSU guard Joey Mitchell hit two free throws and the comeback was on. After an old fashioned 3-point play by senior Julian Holliday cut the lead to 11, it was Riley Ryan who made a jump-shot and a pair of foul shots in consecutive possessions to get the Jackets within seven.

After a WSCU missed 3-pointer, Holliday grabbed the rebound and moved the ball up the court to then find Mitchell on the left side of the zone to drop-in another 3-point shot to put his team within four, 46-42 with 11:53 left to go.

WSCU then inbounded the pass and approached mid-court before Mitchell came up with a steal and drive to the basket for a layup – Jackets down 46-44 with 11:37 left.

Almost two minutes later after another WSCU missed shot, it was senior Tommy Earl who made a 15-foot jumper to give the Yellow Jackets a 47-46 advantage with just over 10 minutes to play.

The loudest moment from a raucous BHSU crowd on Military Appreciation Night came with 8:34 left to play as senior, Cameron Anderson, drove the baseline from the left side of the hoop to drive home a two-handed dunk to give the Jackets all the moment for the final stretch of the game.

In the next possession for WSCU, Holliday came up with a steal near midcourt and went coast-to-coast for the bucket to give the Jackets a 52-46 lead.

A minute later, Mitchell hit his third 3-pointer of the game to help establish a five-point lead the rest of the way before winning by 10 after hitting key foul shots to close out the comeback.

BHSU's Mitchell led his team with 18 points (6-10 FG), Holliday finished with a season-high 14 points (6-6 FT), four rebounds and two steals. Sophomore Riley Ryan also scored 14 points to go with his six rebounds. WSCU's point guard, Mason Biddle, led all scorers with 25, which included going 4-of-7 from 3-point range.

The Yellow Jackets largest advantage came to light in the second half after having gone to the free-throw line 44 times to just 10 by WSCU. BHSU hit 30-of-44 (68-pct) free throws as WSCU went 8-for-10. The Jackets also outrebounded WSCU 43 to 27, which included 16 offensive boards to WSCU's five.

WSCU shot almost 43-percent as a team (23-54 FG) as they went 6-of-22 from beyond the arch.

As a team, BHSU improved from a 5-for-25 (20-pct) first half where they went 1-of-11 on three-pointers land all the way to a 50-percent second half after going 13-of-26 to put them at 35.3-percent shooting for the game.

With the win, BHSU moves to 9-12 overall and 7-10 in the RMAC. The men are now 6-6 on their home floor and

will look to improve their 3-6 road record beginning next Friday, Feb. 14, at Colorado School of Mines at 8 p.m.