

Samford Dumps Davidson, Advances To Finals

Written by SoCon Sports Information
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The number four seed Samford held off No. 1 seed Davidson, 62-51, in the opening semifinal game at the Southern Conference Women's Basketball Championship. The Bulldogs used a strong first half to out-distance the Wildcats. Shelby Campbell was

hot off the bench leading Samford with 24 points. She made eight of her 10 field goal attempts including three-for-four from three-point range. Ruth Ketcham added 11 points and seven rebounds.

Laura Murray had 18 points and three steals for Davidson. Sophia Aleksandravicius had 13 points and nine rebounds.

It was a dominant first half for the Bulldogs. The ladies built a 20-point halftime advantage, 36-16, behind Campbell's play off the bench. She scored 15 in the opening frame while defensively Samford allowed the Wildcats just five field goals on 23 attempts (21.7%).

Samford broke open a five-point game midway through the half. Leading 15-10 with 9:39 to go, the Bulldogs out-scored the Wildcats 21-6 the rest of the way holding Davidson to one-for-12 shooting in the final nine minutes of the half.

The Wildcats charged back after intermission. They opened the second frame with a 15-2 run of their own closing within seven, 38-31, at 12:08. It was an eight-point deficit with four to play after two Murray free throws, but the Bulldogs held on making nine-for-10 from the charity stripe over the next three minutes to take a 13-point lead into the final minute before claiming the 62-51 win.

Samford, which is looking to win its second consecutive SoCon Tournament title, will play the No.2 seed Appalachian State on Monday.. The championship game will air at 5 p.m. Monday on SoCon Sports Network and ESPN3.com.

Photo Courtesy: Shelby Campbell of Samford, Southern Conference Athletics