

Cohen, Davidson Too Much For Elon in SoCon Semifinal

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South Division No. 1 seed Davidson rolled into the Southern Conference Basketball Championship title game with an 83-67 win over North No. 2 Elon Saturday night. It marks the first finals appearance for the Wildcats since winning the crown in 2008 in North Charleston, S.C. Jake Cohen (24) and

De'Mon Brooks (20) combined for 44 points for the Wildcats. Brooks had a team-high six rebounds. Chris Czerapowicz added 12.

Jack Isenbarger led Elon with 22 points. Lucas Troutman chipped in 18 points, while Ryley Beaumont grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds. Davidson had a six-point lead coming out of halftime. Elon closed to within one point twice. It was 39-38 after Isenbarger's jumper at 18:13. Two Sebastian Koch free throws at 16:20 trimmed the Wildcats lead to 41-40. But a cold spell doomed the Phoenix.

Elon went without a field goal for more than 11 minutes of clock time. The Wildcats out-scored the Phoenix 27-9 during that span leading by as many as 20, 64-44, on Brooks' layup with 8:34 to play. The lead was never less than 16 the rest of the way for Davidson. The Wildcats shot 51.9 percent (14-27) in pulling away from Elon, while limiting its opposition to 37.0 percent (10-27).

The Wildcats take on North No. 3 Western Carolina in Monday's championship game at 9 p.m. The game can be viewed on the ESPN2.

Catamounts Win Third Straight, Advance to Championship

North Division No. 3 seed Western Carolina held off North No. 1 UNCG 82-77 in the semifinals of the Southern Conference Basketball Championship Sunday night to claim its first finals berth since 1996 when it defeated Davidson 69-60 to advance to the Big Dance. Four Catamounts scored in double figures led by Keaton Cole and Harouna Mutombo with 17 apiece. Trey Sumler had 16 points, eight rebounds and five assists, while Preston Ross came off the bench to chip in 10 points and seven boards.

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UNCG's Trevis Simpson tallied a game-high 24 points leading a quartet of Spartans in double digits. Derrell Armstrong added 14 points, seven rebounds and four assists, while Drew Parker and David Williams scored 11 and 10 points, respectively. Western went up 12 three different times in the second half the last coming with 7:54 to go on Ross' tip-in of a Mutombo miss. However, the Spartans had an answer.

Back-to-back three-pointers by Parker sliced the lead to six before Armstrong made it a four-point game, 69-65, on a jumper with 5:29 left. After a Sumler jumper, Simpson made it a four-point deficit again at 4:43 with a layup. Western retook momentum scoring five straight capped by Cole's trey from the right corner at 2:15 for a 76-69 lead forcing a UNCG timeout. The Spartans did not wilt.

Simpson hit four free throws on consecutive possessions to cut the margin to five. Armstrong's circus-shot layup with 1:09 remaining making it a three-point ballgame, 76-73. The Catamounts would not be denied hitting all six free throw attempts (Mutombo, Cole and Sumler) in the final 36 seconds to cement the five-point win.

Western Carolina will take on the winner of Davidson-Elon in Monday's championship game at 9 p.m. The game can be viewed on the ESPN2.

Photo Courtesy: De'Mon Brooks of Davidson, Southern Conference Athletics