

USC Aiken Eliminates Bears In Regional Opener

Written by Staff Reports
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USC Aiken (22-7) rode a hot hand into the semifinals of the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Southeast Regional Tournament with a 94-71 win over Lenoir-Rhyne (19-10) in the opening round Friday night at the Athletics & Fitness Center.

USC Aiken, which shot 60 percent (36-of-60) for the game, will face top-seeded Clayton State (30-0), the No. 1 team in NCAA Division II, in the semifinal round on Saturday at 7 p.m. Clayton State beat eighth-seeded Mount Olive, 91-58, in the first round. Lenoir-Rhyne came into the contest as the fourth seed in the tournament while USC Aiken was seeded fifth.

The Pacers' Mackenzie Reese (Madison, Wis.) was one of five USC Aiken players to score in double figures and finished with 20 points on eight-of-12 shooting. Meanwhile, Daniela Tarailo (Crown Point, Ind.) added 19 points and connected on seven-of-nine field goal attempts as the Pacers raced to a 52-31 halftime lead and cruised to the win.

Lenoir-Rhyne sophomore guard Jazmine Charles (Lexington, N.C.) and junior guard Danielle Bongiorno (Wilmington, N.C.) each scored 16 points but the Bears fell behind by a 9-1 score to start the game and never got within four points the rest of the way.

USC Aiken led by as many as 34 points in the contest while the Pacers' Brittany Hill (Mechanicsville, Va.) dished out 10 assists in the victory. L-R junior guard Krystal Patton (Chilhowie, Va.) also scored in double figures, tallying 10 points and the Bears did hit 10 three-pointers in the losing effort. Lenoir-Rhyne wrapped up the 2012-13 campaign with its seventh consecutive winning season.

Photo Courtesy: Krystal Patton, L-R Athletics