

**LEBANON** -- Simone Ryan posted her 12th career double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds and Katie Smith added 10 first-half points, as Cumberland ran its winning streak to five with a 61-53 victory over 24th-ranked Lyon College in women's basketball action Thursday at the Dallas Floyd Recreation Center.

The Bulldogs (10-11, 5-4 TranSouth) started the game quickly but led by only three at halftime. Lyon (17-6, 6-3) took its only lead of the game early in the second half but CU answered with a 9-3 spurt led by a pair of buckets from Ryan and a 3-pointer by Courtney Atkinson.

Debbie Onukwube's two free throws with 5:33 remaining in the game cut the Bulldog lead to 44-42, but the next sequence for CU may have been the difference in the contest.

Jessica Pace was fouled but missed both free throws. Casie Cowan gathered the rebound and fed Ryan, who missed a shot in the lane, but Pace got another rebound and was fouled again. She made one foul shot but this time, Ryan grabbed the carom on the second miss, made the putback and was fouled, hitting the free throw for a 48-42 advantage.

Casie Cowan added buckets on the next two trips for the Bulldogs and Ryan's jumper just before the shot clock expired put CU ahead, 54-47, with 1:43 left. Cumberland added 5-of-6 foul shots in the final minute to ice the victory.

Pace finished with seven points and seven rebounds and Cowan netted eight off the bench.

Christine Smith led the Scots with 18 points, including four 3-pointers, while Phagen Altom recorded 15 points and Onukwube posted 11 points and six boards.

The Bulldogs started the game 6-of-9 from the field and led 16-5 with 11:33 to play in the first half after a Smith jumper in the lane. But CU missed its next nine shots, most of them good looks that would not go down, and went more than eight minutes without a point.

Lyon took advantage, scoring eight consecutive points despite poor shooting themselves. Whitney Keith made a 3-pointer and two free throws before a steal and layup by Altom cut the deficit to 16-13 with 4:23 left. Smith's runner off the glass broke the scoreless stretch for CU and the freshman added two free throws and another basket before the end of the period, as CU took a 24-21 advantage to intermission.

Smith poured in 10 points of 4-of-4 shooting while the rest of the Bulldogs were just 5-for-17 from the floor. Lyon finished the half only 6-of-21 from the field but stayed in the game because of the drought by the home team.

Cumberland travels to second-ranked Freed-Hardeman Saturday for a 2 p.m. contest.