

LEBANON -- A putback by Yolanda Davis with three-tenths of a seconds remaining was the difference, as No. 7 Cumberland survived for a 66-64 victory over 21st-ranked Georgetown College Saturday at the Dallas Floyd Recreation Center.

The Bulldogs (14-1, 5-1 Mid-South) started the game with a 20-5 run and led 44-30 at the half before extending the lead to 61-40 with 4:50 to play on a breakaway layup by Samantha Harper. But the Tigers (9-6, 3-3), who entered the game attempting more than 17 3-pointers per game, caught fire from behind the arc, making six consecutive trifectas, including three by Kourtney Tyra and a pair from Andrea Howard, the last one tying the contest with 13.7 seconds remaining.

Cumberland called timeout with 5.0 seconds left and ran a play for Casie Cowan, whose baseline jumper sailed over the rim into the arms of Davis and the senior's putback gave the Bulldogs the win. Davis' driving layup with 1:10 to play ended an 18-0 spurt by the Tigers, but Tyra answered with her third 3-pointer in just over four minutes before Briannica Tye was fouled underneath CU's goal and was down for several minutes after hitting her head on the floor.

Cowan came on to make 1-of-2 foul shots before Howard's 3-pointer from the wing tied the contest, part of a 24-3 run by Georgetown before the final bucket for the Bulldogs. CU played without leading scorer and rebounder Jessica Pace and Josette Campbell, another starter, played just eight minutes because of sickness that is running through the squad right now.

Davis, London Elie and Calamity Jane Coley each scored 12 points to lead the Bulldogs, while TaCouya Allen chipped in nine points and eight rebounds and Elie blocked a season-best five shots and grabbed nine boards.

Tyra led all scorers with 19 points and handed out six assists, Howard and Lizza Jonas each netted 12 and Devon Golden finished with 10. Jonas added 10 boards for her fifth double-double of the season and Golden added pulled down boards.

The Bulldogs started the game quickly, racing out to a 20-5 advantage just seven minutes into the contest thanks to great work in the paint by Elie and Coley, who combined for 12 points during the stretch. Allen also hit a pair of 3-pointers, breaking out of a shooting slump from behind the arc.

CU pushed its advantage to 30-10 after a putback from Coley at 8:01 of the first half, but the Tigers responded with a 13-2 spurt. Howard hit a 3-pointer and made two free throws and Jonas ended the run, hitting one free throw and then nailing a trifecta after GC got the offensive rebound on the second foul shot.

Tye quickly made a layup plus the foul on the other end, stemming the tide for the Bulldogs. The CU point guard made another jumper and Cowan hit a layup and a 3-pointer, as the home team took a 44-30 lead into the break.

The Bulldogs shot 57 percent in the half and Elie led the way with 10 points. Jonas also had 10 and Kourtney Tyra added nine for the Tigers.

Cumberland was in complete control of the game in the second half with a 61-40 advantage with just less than five minutes to play. Georgetown was just 4-of-21 from behind the arc before the game-ending run that nearly handed CU its second straight loss after 13 consecutive wins to start the year.

The Bulldogs hit the road for the next four games, starting with contests at UVA-Wise and the University of Pikeville next Thursday and Saturday, respectively.

ON THURSDAY -- Briannica Tye's 30-foot heave at the buzzer was no good and St. Catharine College held on for a 56-55 victory over No. 7 Cumberland in women's basketball action Thursday night at the Dallas Floyd Recreation Center. The loss ended the Bulldogs undefeated start to the season at 13-0 and the club played the final 12 minutes of the game without leading scorer and rebounder Jessica Pace, who was injured just before the first media timeout of the second half.

Josette Campbell led CU with 17 points and TaCouya Allen and Tye each netted 10, but the Bulldogs failed to score over the final 4:42 of the contest when London Elie made a pair of free throws to put the home team ahead, 55-52.

Reilly Poirier hit a lefthanded hook off the glass on SCC's next possession and Janae Howard's 18-footer with 2:51 to play put the Patriots (8-4, 2-3) ahead for good. Tye missed a 3-pointer from the wing on the next trip for CU and the club had a turnover and a missed layup by Allen as well, but still had the ball down just a point with 26.2 seconds remaining.

Tye drove right and her layup off the glass missed, but freshman Calamity Jane Coley found the rebound in her hands under the basket, but her putback also bounced off the rim and St. Catharine ended up with a long rebound after the ball was tipped out. Machera Calhoun made the first free throw but missed the second and CU rushed the ball up the court, calling their final timeout with 2.6 seconds remaining.

Tye fumbled the inbounds pass and never got a good look on the final shot, sending the Bulldogs to their first loss of the year. Cumberland shot just 32 percent from the floor, including 27 percent in the second half.

Elie made only 3-of-13 shots but stayed in the game with 20 second-chance points, winning the battle of the boards, 36-33. Both clubs were excellent from the foul line, combining to hit 28-of-35, including 17-for-21 by the Patriots.

Poirier and Howard led SCC with 16 points apiece, with Howard netting 11 after the break, including seven consecutive at one point in the period to give the visitors a 52-50 edge. Rianne Hofstraat chipped in 11 points and Calhoun finished with 10 points and eight rebounds along with three assists from her point guard position.

The Bulldogs started quickly thanks to a pair of 3-pointers by Tye, taking a 16-11 advantage after the second one with 11:56 left in the opening half. But the club was sluggish offensively over the next four-plus minutes and went scoreless for right at four minutes, including three straight shot clock violations, before a steal and layup by Casie Cowan ended the drought with 7:16 remaining in the period.

By then the Patriots had taken advantage and Cowan's layup tied the game at 20. A bucket from Poirier and two free throws by Alexiss Griffin gave SCC a four-point edge, but the Bulldogs reeled off eight of the next nine points with a layup and two foul shots by Allen. Howard's jumper from the top of the key cut the CU lead to 30-29 and that's how the teams headed to intermission.

Davis hits game-winner for CU women

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Each club committed 13 turnovers in the first half and the Bulldogs shot just 37 percent from the field but scored eight second-chance points, holding an 18-12 edge on the board at the break. Allen and Tye each netted eight in the period and Poirier led the Patriots with nine.