

Late Surge Lifts Cougars Past Lehigh

Daniel House Leads All with 22 points, TaShawn Thomas adds 18 pts, 13 rebs, 7 blks

[box score](#)

HOUSTON - Trailing by a point with just more than four minutes remaining, the University of Houston Men's Basketball program closed out the game on a 17-2 run to take an 80-66 victory against Lehigh during Game One of the Progressive Legends Classic inside Hofheinz Pavilion.

The game went back and forth in the second half before the Cougars took control of the contest late. Houston jumped out to a 37-28 lead at halftime after connecting on 53.1 percent of their shots from the field and limiting the Mountain Hawks to only 39.4 percent.

However, Lehigh took advantage of a sluggish start by the Cougars to open the second half and used a 10-1 run midway through the final period to take a 58-54 lead on Mackey McKnight's jumper with 7:41 remaining.

Houston scored nine of the next 10 points to build a 63-59 lead, but Lehigh answered with a 3-pointer from Jesse Chuku and a dunk from Austin Price for a 64-63 lead with 4:07 remaining.

On the ensuing possession, the Cougars worked the shot clock down to one second before sophomore guard Jherrod Stiggers buried his lone 3-pointer of the night to give the Cougars the lead for good.

After a block from junior forward [TaShawn Thomas](#) on Lehigh's ensuing possession, sophomore point guard [L.J. Rose](#) drained his lone trey of the contest. The Houston native and son of UH great Lynden Rose followed with an old-fashioned 3-point play and drained two more free throws with 47 seconds left for a 10-point Houston cushion.

Only a pair of free throws from Mackey during the final 36 seconds prevented the Cougars from tossing the shutout in the final 4:07 during the second all-time meeting between the two schools.

Houston sophomore guard [Daniel House](#) led all players with 22 points on 8-of-14 shooting and added five rebounds with two blocks and two steals.

Thomas posted 18 points with 13 rebounds for his second double-double of the season and the 27th of his career and moved higher in Houston's career scoring list. The Killeen, Texas native needs only 47 points to become the 43rd player in school history to reach 1,000 points during his career.

Rose added 18 points of his own on 6-of-10 shooting from the field and a perfect 5-of-5 afternoon from the free throw line. He also dished out team-high six assists with only one turnover in 33 minutes.

McKnight led Lehigh with 14 points, while Price added 12 points in the loss. Tim Kempton recorded 11 points, and Conroy Baltimore tied with Thomas for game-high honors with 13 rebounds.

