

Dykstra leads Jacks to Legends Classic Title

box score

South Dakota State's Jordan Dykstra scored a career-high 32 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in leading the Jackrabbits to a 74-61 win over Lehigh in the championship game of the Progressive Legends Classic, Brookings Subregional, on Tuesday night at Frost Arena.

The Jacks improve to 3-4 with the win, while the Mountain Hawks fall to 2-5.

Dykstra earned tournament MVP honors after posting a double-double in both games, while Cody Larson earned all-tournament team honors with nine points and nine rebounds on Tuesday, after scoring a career-high 24 on Monday to go along with his 10 rebounds.

"We finally shot it a little bit, which felt better, we went through some lulls and I didn't like the turnovers, we need to stop that, but I think we're better offensively with Jordan at the four, we're harder to guard," head coach Scott Nagy said. "I think it makes it more difficult, and really defensively it allows us to do some things that we couldn't do otherwise."

The Jackrabbits opened an early 10 point lead less than seven minutes into the game, and led by as many as 14 points in the first half before taking a 35-23 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Chad White hit a 3-pointer on the Jacks first possession of the second half to give SDSU its largest lead to that point at 38-23, but that lull that Nagy spoke of quickly followed, as Lehigh responded with a 12-0 run that got the Mountain Hawks to within three at 38-35 with 13 minutes, 27 seconds left to play.

Dykstra snapped the skid with a 3-pointer to push the lead back to six points and the Jacks quickly pushed the lead back up to double figures before putting the game away with a flurry of Dykstra free throws down the stretch, as he went 12 for 13 from the charity stripe in the game.

In addition to Dykstra, White scored 11 points in the win, while Brayden Carlson finished with 10 points and a career-high nine assists.

All-tournament team selection Mackey McKnight led Lehigh with 21 points, the only Mountain Hawks player to score in double figures.

The Jackrabbits look to even their record on Friday, when they travel to Southern California to take on UC Santa Barbara in the Thunderdome. The Jacks and Gauchos tip at 7 p.m. PT, 9 p.m. CT.

