

15th-Ranked Texas Rolls on Abrams' Career Day

Junior guard scores 31 points to lead Longhorns past Aggies

[box score](#)

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) -- A.J. Abrams had career bests of 31 points and nine 3-pointers to lead Texas (No. 16 ESPN/USA Today, No. 15 AP) to a 102-87 victory over New Mexico State in the semifinals in the StubHub! Legends Classic on Friday night.

D.J. Augustin added 25 points, Connor Atchley had 15 and the Longhorns (4-0) hit 16 3-pointers in a wide-open contest that paired schools that played a first-round game in the NCAA tournament in March.

Jonathan Gibson had 21 points to lead New Mexico State (2-3) in the game at the new Prudential Center. Justin Hawkins added 19, Paris Carter had 14 and Hatila Passos 13 for the Aggies, who never overcame an early 21-point deficit that resulted when they had trouble handling Texas' pressure defense.

Texas will play the winner of the second game between West Virginia and No. 7 Tennessee for the title on Saturday.

Abrams hit 9-of-12 from long range and came five days after he set career highs with 30 points and eight 3-pointers against Arkansas Monticello. Abrams came within one of the school record for 3-pointers, set by Al Coleman against Kansas State in 1997. The junior guard might have tied or broken the mark but he had to leave the floor for a couple of minutes with 10:54 to play when he seemingly developed a cramp in his right calf.

It marked the second straight game that Texas has scored at least 100 points. It is 93-9 in those contests.

The Aggies shot almost 61 percent from the field in the first half and still trailed 57-46.

The difference was Texas' pressure defense and its ability to hit the 3-pointer. The Longhorns forced 14 turnovers and hit 11-of-19 from long range, with Abrams tying a school record with six in the half.

Abrams hit three 3-pointers and Justin Mason had two and a layup in a 23-3 spurt that turned an 8-7 deficit into a 30-11 lead that the Longhorns never lost.

New Mexico State made a couple of runs in the second half but each time they got close, Abrams and Augustin stepped up. Augustin scored 20 points in the final 20 minutes.

The two also combined on a 9-0 run after New Mexico State got within 62-55 with 16:12 to play. Augustin hit two jumpers and Abrams made a 3-pointer.

