

Balanced Scoring Attack Leads #14 VCU Past Oregon, 77-63

box score

NY native Melvin Johnson led all scorers with 19 points as the 14th-ranked VCU men's basketball team used a balanced offensive attack to get by Pac-12 foe Oregon, 77-63, in the consolation game of the Progressive Legends Classic. Treveon Graham (13), Jordan Burgess (12), Briante Weber (11) and Mo Alie-Cox (10) also finished in double-figures for the Black & Gold. The Rams scored 26 points off of 20 Oregon turnovers.

Graham and Johnson sparked a 12-0 start to the game for the Rams. Johnson hit back-to-back 3-pointers to cap the run with 16:47 to play in the first half.

Oregon was kept scoreless for the first 4:27 of the game.

The Ducks would chip away and get within two, but a putback from Alie-Cox capped off an 8-0 run that sent VCU into the locker room with a 35-27 advantage.

Once again Oregon would make a run, getting within one with just over 14 minutes to play, but a coast-to-coast layup and foul by Weber ignited a 9-3 spurt that gave VCU a 48-41 lead.

The Rams would hold the Ducks at bay, never allowing the lead to shrink to less than four the rest of the contest.

"Our guys did a great job following the plan that we put in place. Obviously it was a quick turnaround coming off of last night's game. We talked about Oregon this morning, and what we would need to do against them. At the end of the day, these two guys (Burgess and Johnson) along with the other guys that played big minutes, made a lot of "toughness" plays and that made the difference for us." – Head Coach Shaka Smart

"Honestly I think we've been playing really well, especially on offense. But we can definitely get better on defense. I'm sort of glad we got slapped in the mouth yesterday, because you could feel the tension in the locker room. Everyone was humbled by it. We needed to get better as a unit, and I think today we showed a good example of that. We needed to start putting emphasis on every single stop, and we did that today." – Junior Melvin Johnson

VCU is back on the road on Saturday taking on in-state rival Old Dominion. Game time in Norfolk is set for 2 p.m. on CSN+ and SNY.