

Spiders Bite Badgers In Roman Legends Classic

NEW YORK (AP) -- To hear Chris Mooney, his Richmond Spiders spent the days and weeks and months after their 2018-19 season came to an end working on defense and toughness.

And in a gym on the corner of Flatbush and Atlantic Avenues in Brooklyn, New York, the results of that work borne out.

"(We) just had a strong will and toughness about us," Mooney said after Richmond topped Wisconsin 62-52 in the first game of the Roman Legends Classic presented by Old Trapper Monday night at the Barclays Center. The Spiders will meet Auburn in the championship game Tuesday.

Blake Francis scored a game-high 19 points to lead Richmond (5-0). Grant Golden added 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Nathan Cayo had 10.

The loss snapped Wisconsin's (4-2) four-game winning streak. Nate Reuvers led the Badgers with 17 points, and Kobe King finished with 10.

"We got to want it," Reuvers said.

The second all-time meeting between the Big 10 and A-10 programs would not have been out of place at any of New York City's playgrounds, as both teams played unyielding defense. Wisconsin held Richmond to 35.3% shooting from 3 (6 for 17), while the Spiders limited the Badgers to 34% shooting from the field (17 for 50).

"I'm not surprised that maybe we didn't shoot it as well," Wisconsin coach Greg Gard said. "I was more disappointed (in) how we took care of the ball - or didn't take care of the ball - and how we settled for quick threes."

The Badgers committed 15 turnovers.

After Brad Davidson drilled a 3 to tie the game 50-all with 4:44 left, Richmond scored 10 of the next 12 points to open a 60-52 advantage. Souleymane Koureissi's tip-in of a Gilyard missed layup capped the run.

Gilyard knocked down two free throws with a minute left to end the scoring.

Despite Tyler Wahl drilling a running one-hander before the halftime buzzer sounded, the Badgers went into the break trailing the Spiders 31-29.

"I think that was just a good momentum booster coming into the second half," D'Mitrik Price said.