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College basketball: Offensive-minded Wranglers blow past Western Texas

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[BY LEE SCHEIDE](#)



With just under eight minutes to play in the second half, in a brief moment of silence at the Odessa College Sports Center, Western Texas College men's basketball coach Jason Sautter's voice carried over the court toward his team:

"You make it like we don't practice defense at all," he yelled.

The Odessa College men's team has a way of making opposing coaches think that way.

After watching the Westerners tie the game at halftime with consecutive 3-pointers, the Wranglers blew the game open in the second half en route to a 75-63 victory in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

Desmond Woodbery led Odessa College (16-1 overall, 1-0 WJCAC) with a game-high 19 points, with Josh Brown adding 15 and Rashad Savage 12. The Wranglers will travel to Roswell, N.M., on Thursday to face New Mexico Military Institute in WJCAC play.

"When we got in the locker room after the game, I told the team two things," Odessa College coach Dennis Helms said. "One, 'Welcome to the conference' and two, 'You did a great job.'"

"The only thing I was worried about was that we got a little careless with the basketball in the second half. But this was a very good win, very good."

Jeremy Jones led the Westerners (0-1 WJCAC) with 17 points, while Malcom Herron added 11 in a losing effort.

With the game even at the half after the consecutive long-distance shots by Lonnie Robinson, Western

Texas took a brief lead when Herron hit a jump shot with 18:30 left in the second half.

The Wranglers responded with an 11-2 run that put them ahead, 47-40 after Brown gathered a rebound of his own missed shot and converted the field goal with 13:50 remaining in regulation.

A pair of baskets by the Westerners cut the lead to five, but Woodberry drove the baseline and hit a jump shot that started an 18-5 run to break the game open.

Brown capped the run with a dunk and a pair of free throws with 5:53 left to play.

“We talked in the locker room at halftime about playing better team defense,” Woodberry said. “We didn’t do a very good job in the first half and our offense feeds off our defense and you could tell in the second half.

“Western Texas is a good basketball team, they have some good shooters, so this was a good win for the team.”

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